

SSCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2020-2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Bill Compton	President
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Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Inc.

1982-1989

FIRST STEPS

In the early 1980s, the Government of Canada developed "New Horizons", a program that provided financial assistance to community organizations that developed and operated programs of benefit to seniors. One such organization was Saskatoon New Horizons, an unincorporated not-for-profit community association.

The Saskatoon New Horizons Board took an interest in educational programs, and visited with the University of Regina, which was providing university classes for seniors. As a result of this visit and of its continued interest in education for seniors, Saskatoon New Horizons incorporated in January, 1983, as the Saskatoon Seniors Cultural and Creative Studies, Inc. (SSCCS), with the purpose of providing or ensuring "learning activities for seniors through university classes"

Shortly thereafter, the University of Saskatchewan's Extension Division agreed to co-sponsor a program of university classes for seniors with SSCCS. The organization and operation of the classes, and it would appear the majority of their financing, was borne by the University's Extension Division.

In 1989, SSCCS agreed to begin to take on a larger share of the program's costs. The Extension Division continued to manage the program and invoice SSCCS for costs. SSCCS advertised and promoted the program and the individual classes.

1989-2006

GROWTH AND MATURATION

The program continued to thrive, and the relationship between the Extension Division and the SSCCS continued to be positive and strong. Major changes in the program occurred in the late 1990s.

In 1995, SSCCS reorganized and reincorporated as Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Inc. The new organization and its articles of incorporation focused solely on university-level classes and excluded the possibility for direct government financial assistance. In other words, SSCL was established as a self-financing and stand-alone organization, although the Extension Division continued to absorb much of the overhead costs of the program.

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Inc.

SSCL continued to grow, with more than 200 members, and its need for more classes grew as well. The number of courses that the SSCL-Extension Division program offered grew in number and in enrolment, to about twelve courses in an academic year with an average enrolment of between 20 and 25.

2006-2015

CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON

In 2006, the Extension Division became the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE). SSCL's need for additional courses and larger spaces continued to grow. Formal contracts between CCDE and SSCL began to clarify the relationship and to move the financial responsibility ever more toward SSCL, although the course development, hiring and paying of instructors, and provision of classroom space continued to be the exclusive purview of the University through CCDE.

Some dissatisfaction developed between the parties: CCDE was protective of its internal administrative practices and costs and of the methods and amounts paid to instructors in the program; SSCL, which was paying the majority of costs of the program (or so it believed) more and more wanted to have significant input into the development of courses and the recruitment and hiring of instructors.

In 2013, the University of Saskatchewan went through a 16-month organizational review, resulting in a recommendation to dissolve CCDE. The review also strongly recommended that the SSCL program be eliminated since it was a cost centre and not a revenue centre. SSCL lobbied hard and successfully to prevent that from happening,

2015-2020

A NEW LOOK

In the last year of the 2010-2015 contract, SSCL was informed that CCDE would no longer have a relationship with either the organization or the program, and that the responsibility for the relationship between the University and SSCL was being transferred to the College of Arts & Science. Both SSCL and the College of Arts & Science spent the following year (from June 2014 through June 2015) discussing the future of the relationship and the program and negotiating the administrative and financial arrangements for the program to continue.

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Inc.

On July 1, 2015, a new relationship, a new program, and a new financial structure emerged. The program was “Non-Credit Courses for Seniors Program...a collaborative undertaking of the College of Arts & Science and the Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Inc.,” financed almost entirely by the SSCL. The College of Arts & Science role included the provision of suitable classroom space and marketing assistance through the College’s website. SSCL developed the courses, recruited, hired and paid instructors, undertook public marketing campaigns, managed course registration and collected tuition fees, and generally managed the program in its entirety. To replace CCDE’s program manager, SSCL also engaged a one-third time program manager who looked after the details of the organization’s responsibilities and oversaw the operations of the courses and the relationship between SSCL and the University.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, the program operated 23 eight-week courses with a total enrolment of more *than* 1200 seniors. SSCL membership had grown to more than 600 from the City of Saskatoon and surrounding area.

An innovative *addition* to the program began in the Fall term of 2014 *and has continued each year ever since*. **THE PRESIDENT’S LECTURE SERIES**, following a theme selected by the President of the University, *is* a series of lectures given by highly qualified academics and practitioners over an 8- to 10-week period. The first Lecture Series included eight lecturers, each of whom presented a two-hour lecture. The 2019 Series featured a total of 22 presenters each of whom gave a one-hour lecture over a period of 10 weeks.

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in 2020, the University of Saskatchewan responded by canceling on-campus learning and locking down all campus facilities. Regular university courses and examinations were moved online during Spring 2020; later this response was extended to include the Fall 2020 term. SSCL courses in the Spring were also canceled. As a result, and given the uncertainty of when normality would return, SSCL decided to explore the online delivery of its programs. The first SSCL online class will be The President's Lecture Series in Fall 2020. SSCL's first online event was its 2020 AGM during Summer 2020, attended by nearly 400 SSCL members.

Approved by the SSCL Board July 2020

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