



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE POSSIBLE

We're all about *you*

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Access Communications Co-operative is proud to serve the people of Saskatchewan. We strive to provide leading-edge technology to connect our customers' daily lives to the possible, while being committed to improving the quality of life in the communities we call home. The 2024 Annual Report shines a spotlight on how we do our part to make Saskatchewan a better place. This report also contains our full financial reporting for our fiscal year, which is from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024, which follows our broadcasting license year.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Access Communications Co-operative is dedicated to advancing the path of truth and reconciliation. As we embark on this journey, we recognize the significance of the lands on which our offices are situated—Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 lands, the traditional and ancestral territories of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, and the homeland of the Métis. Looking forward, we commit to honouring the history, spirituality, and rich culture of the Indigenous Peoples in these regions. Our goal is to foster relationships rooted in respect, peace, and prosperity as we collectively shape a future of unity and understanding.



Your award-winning co-operative is grateful for its members, customers, employees, volunteers, and communities!

OUR MISSION

We connect people by delivering exceptional communication and entertainment services, creating opportunities for local expression as a community owned co-operative.

OUR VISION

Connected communities, empowered people, and enriched lives through innovation.

OUR VALUES

Integrity

We live by our belief in honesty, respect and trust in everything we do.

Empowered-Employees

We foster involvement, growth and contribution in a challenging, safe, diverse and fun environment.

Customer-Focused

We deliver extraordinary value reliably, dependably and consistently.

Community-Oriented

We are an integral part of the communities we serve, contributing to their energy and progress.

Innovative

We create and embrace change that enhances customer service, the community and our organization.

Engaged-Volunteers

We create meaningful opportunities for volunteers to make a positive difference in the communities we serve.

Member-Driven

We are guided by committed and supportive members.



**24 COMMUNITIES
UPGRADED TO 1 GIG**



**22 ANALOG COMMUNITIES
CONVERTED TO DIGITAL**



**71% OF WIRELESS NETWORK
OFFERING 60 MBPS
OR HIGHER**



**OVER \$600,000 DONATED
BY THE CHILDREN'S FUND**



**OVER \$800,000 IN IN-KIND
SPONSORSHIPS**



**\$20,000 IN
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**



**70% OF ALL CONTENT
ON ACCESSNOW TV
LOCALLY PRODUCED**



**OVER 3,000
VOLUNTEER HOURS IN
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING**



**\$2.5M INVESTED
IN COMMUNITY
PROGRAMMING**



**VISITED 49 COMMUNITIES,
SERVING 10,000 BURGERS
AND HOTDOGS**



**TOTAL REVENUE:
\$91.1M**



**CAPITAL SPEND:
\$25.6M**

A message from our Board.

THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A TRANSFORMATIVE ONE FOR ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE (ACCESS), DEFINED BY STRATEGIC GROWTH, STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE, AND DEEPER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we revisited our mission, vision, and values to ensure they reflect the evolving goals of our organization.

Collaborating closely with our Senior Management Team, we refined these guiding principles to better capture our identity, values, and aspirations for the future. These adjustments strengthen their connection with our staff, fortify their alignment with our future direction, and reaffirm our commitment to our community and our customers. You can find the updated mission, vision, and values on the inside cover of this report.

The board also prioritized refining our governance framework to position Access for

long-term sustainability, innovation, and meaningful community impact. Collaborating closely with management, we advanced our strategic planning process, embedding flexibility to adapt to industry trends, economic shifts, and the changing needs of our customers. By incorporating valuable feedback from both employees and management, we've ensured our four-year plan is a shared vision, rooted in our values and responsive to the people we serve.



This year, we engaged with government representatives to champion Access' role in building a stronger Saskatchewan. Whether through advocacy days at the legislature or shaping our government relations strategy, we made certain that Access' voice was heard, advocating for policies that empower our company, plus the customers and communities we serve.

Looking ahead, the board remains mindful of the challenges and opportunities that lie before us. Our governance approach emphasizes ethical practices, effective risk management, adherence to co-operative principles and sound decision-making to ensure Access is well-equipped to navigate the future. We are steadfast in our commitment to policies that foster growth, enhance member engagement, and promote resilience across all aspects of our operations. I want to thank our departing board members, James Lainton, Steve Compton, and Kama Leier for their service and dedication to the co-operative. Your knowledge and expertise will be missed.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our members, volunteers, and staff. Your dedication fuels Access' success and amplifies our impact in the communities we serve. Together, we are creating a brighter, more connected future.

As we continue this journey, I encourage you to remain engaged, share your insights, and join us in shaping opportunities for innovation, connection, and growth in the year ahead.



Karen Smith
Board Chair (Regina)



Karen Smith
Chair (Regina)



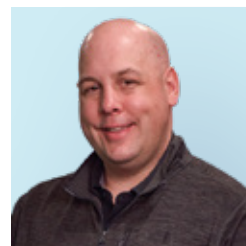
Lorna Knudson
Vice Chair (Regina)



Leslie Ciz
Secretary (Regina)



James Lainton
Past Chair (Estevan)



Regan Beck
(North Battleford)



Steve Compton
(Regina)



Ryan Janke
(Weyburn)



Kama Lier
(Regina)



Gina McGinn
(Regina)



Kyle Mitchell
(Regina)



Juanita Polegi
(Yorkton)



Collin Pullar
(Regina)

2024 BOARD COMMITTEES

Advocacy

Leslie Ciz (Chair)
Steve Compton
Lorna Knudson
Kyle Mitchell

Audit

Kama Leier (Chair)
Ryan Janke
Lorna Knudson
Gina McGinn

Governance

Gina McGinn (Chair)
Leslie Ciz
Kyle Mitchell
Juanita Polegi

Human Resources

Collin Pullar (Chair)
Leslie Ciz
Regan Beck
Lorna Knudson

Member Relations

Regan Beck (Chair)
Ryan Janke
Juanita Polegi
Collin Pullar

Representative to the Children's Fund, our registered charity

Steve Compton

A message from our President & CEO.

AT ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE (ACCESS), EVERYTHING WE DO IS GUIDED BY OUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING OUR CUSTOMERS. WE STRIVE TO PROVIDE THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THEY NEED TO THRIVE—NO MATTER WHERE THEY CALL HOME.

Over the past year, this commitment has been evident in our progress, innovation, and efforts to connect people and communities.

As President and CEO, I'm proud to lead a team that consistently delivers on our brand promise: providing best-in-class customer service, reliable products and services, and an unwavering commitment to our community. This achievement has been validated by an independent third-party review, underscoring our dedication to excellence.

Our investments in cutting-edge technology over the last year have elevated our services across the province. We expanded our 1 Gig internet service to 24 more communities, bringing our total number of communities upgraded so far to 82 and rising. Access continues to be a leader in providing

urban-like internet speeds across Saskatchewan. Additionally, we successfully transitioned over 82 communities from Standard Definition (SD) to High Definition (HD) television signals. This upgrade not only enhances the viewing experience but also helps us to provide higher upload speeds in the future.

Through our All About Rural Program, we converted 22 communities from analog to digital, unlocking a world of new opportunities for residents. These advancements ensure rural Saskatchewan remains connected and competitive in a digital age.

This year, we expanded our commitment to community programming by assuming ownership of Regina's only community radio station, CJTR 91.3 FM. We are proud to offer even more local content across both television and radio, solidifying our role as a platform for local expression. The CRTC approved the transfer of ownership in December 2024.

Our values continue to drive everything we do. Through the Access Communications Children's Fund, we donated over \$600,000 last year to non-profits that support Saskatchewan's most vulnerable children and charities.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on enhancing the customer experience and delivering solutions that make a difference. Whether through faster internet speeds, innovative TV services, or deeper community connections, our mission is to empower our customers to thrive in an ever-changing world.

To our valued customers, thank you for trusting us to be part of your journey. To the Board of Directors, thank you for your guidance, oversight, and support. To our incredible staff, volunteers, and management, thank you for your passion and dedication. And to our members, your voices guide our path forward. Together, we are creating a brighter future for Saskatchewan.



Carmela Haines

President & CEO



OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Carmela Haines
Chief Executive Officer



Sandy Bain
Acting Chief Financial Officer



Craig Van Ham
Chief Technology Officer



Carole Sauer,
Sr. Manager,
Human Resources & Safety



Wendy Hoffart
Sr. Manager,
Regional Systems



Ryan Howard
Sr. Manager,
Marketing & Sales



Megan Collier
Sr. Manager,
Customer Care



Wade Peterson
Sr. Manager,
Technical Operations



Tracey Mucha
Sr. Manager,
Community Engagement



Mark Rathwell
Manager,
Corporate Communications



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW.

Fiscal 2024 was an incredible year filled with several milestones. We upgraded our products and services to support our customer's needs. We continued to live our community-oriented value through our three pillars of giving and we empowered our staff and volunteers to achieve their best with Access.



NOV 2023

Access partners to broadcast the Knights of Columbus Carol Festival (*formerly Rotary Carol Festival*).



OCT 2023

Daniella Ponticelli becomes first woman to do Regina Pats Play-by-Play on AccessNow TV as part of 17 game broadcast schedule.



SEPT 2023

16th Annual Labour Day Show N Shine raises \$32,000 for the Regina Food Bank.



DEC 2023

Access **Business Smart Security** powered by Alarm.com launched.



JAN 2024

Access announces sponsorship of new Weyburn Theatre.



FEB 2024

Access launches gigabit internet speed in 24 more communities.



AUG 2024

The 2024 Community BBQ Tour ends in Biggar, serving almost 10,000 burgers and hot dogs.



JUL 2024

Upgraded 82 communities to HD only television signals and converted 22 analog communities to digital.



JUN 2024

Access is awarded \$4.6M from ISED for two projects.



MAR 2024

Access named one of Saskatchewan's Top Employers by MediaCorp – 14 years in a row.



APR 2024

The membership of CJTR, Regina's only community radio station, vote overwhelmingly in favour of transferring ownership of the station to Access.



MAY 2024

Access Communications Children's Fund announces single largest year for donations providing \$815,752 to 87 non-profit organizations.

Connecting our customers to the Possible.

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE OFFERS MORE THAN JUST INTERNET, TV, PHONE, AND SMART SECURITY SOLUTIONS.

Across over 200 communities and nearly 200,000 square kilometres of rural Saskatchewan, we provide the tools and support that inspire creativity, enable growth, and empower individuals and businesses to dream big and achieve more.

Over the past year, we have taken significant steps to support and help our customers and communities flourish. The work included expanding our 1 Gig internet offering to more communities, expanding our tower network along with launching faster internet speeds. We're continually enhancing AccessNexTV and AccessNexTV Stream, and undertaking some very large projects including our SD (Standard Definition) to HD (High Definition) signal conversion and channel lineup standardization, plus upgrading almost two dozen communities from analog to digital. These initiatives represent just a few examples of our ongoing efforts to ensure our customers have the services they need to thrive in an ever-changing digital world.



EXPANDING 1 GIG INTERNET TO MORE COMMUNITIES.

More of Access' customers now have the fastest download speeds available at their fingertips. In 2024, we expanded AccessHyperSpeed 1 Gig service to 24 additional communities. We now offer urban-like internet (1 Gig/450 Mbps) in over 116 communities and growing.

That means more people and businesses are connecting and flourishing across the province. This initiative was supported through partnerships that helped us access vital transport infrastructure to make these connections.

FAST CONNECTIONS NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE.

Access worked hard over the last year to expand our AccessRural Internet wireless tower network by adding seven new towers. In addition, we made faster connections possible for more of rural Saskatchewan. Over 71% of our network now offers download speeds of 60 Mbps or greater.

In addition, we introduced 350x350 Mbps symmetrical service on 20 of our towers. To support our rural customers even more, we developed and implemented an upgrade path, ensuring customers have the speeds they need when they need them.

ENTERTAINMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

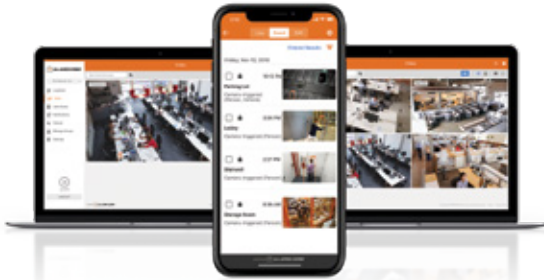
AccessNexTV/NexTV Stream delivers the future of television – watch anywhere, anytime. We're proud that it now includes 4K content and enhanced product features. Our team listens to customer feedback, continually working to improve the user interface and add the features and enhancements our customers want. We're excited to have launched Video on Demand (VOD) this past year, with further enhancements to be unveiled in Fiscal 2025.



PEACE OF MIND AT HOME & WORK.

Running a business is hard, and owners have enough to worry about. With the launch of AccessBusiness Smart Security powered by Alarm.com, business owners can rest assured their staff and property are better protected than ever.

Listening to the needs of our customers is what we do at Access. Customers in rural Saskatchewan asked for a reliable and affordable security monitoring product and Access delivered. We launched AccessRural Security, a self-monitored camera solution designed to support people in rural Saskatchewan. This innovative product empowers customers using smart analytics, enabling them to detect and understand activity on their property. Property owners can now rest a little easier knowing their property isn't left alone when they aren't around.



TELEPHONY THAT MATTERS.

Our team worked to expand sales of AccessBusiness Cloud Voice Services, which offers internet-based phone and voice solutions for businesses. In addition, we continue to offer SIP trunking with a focus on enterprise clients, and Digital VOIP Phone Systems to residential and business customers, which we expanded to 19 additional communities last year. We now offer the service in 119 Saskatchewan communities.

PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT OUR CUSTOMERS AND MAKE OUR ORGANIZATION STRONGER.

Technology can change in the blink of an eye, but it also represents an opportunity. That is why we embarked on a major project to convert our customers from SD to HD channel lineups. In Fiscal 2024, we converted 82 communities, and it's still ongoing. By undertaking this massive change, we are improving our customer's TV experience and supporting our infrastructure for future technology upgrades.

In addition, our All About Rural Saskatchewan Project upgraded 22 communities from an analog system to a digital one. Customers in these communities can now enjoy NexTV, NexTV Stream, Internet (up to 1 Gig or 450 Mbps), Phone and Security. These two major projects are making a difference in our customers' lives.

INVESTING IN RURAL CONNECTIVITY.

In Fiscal 2024, Access received \$4.6M from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) to support two projects. The first is to provide Fibre-to-the-Premise (FTTP) to the communities of Horseshoe Bay, Kivimaa-Moonlight Bay, and Indian Point-Golden Sands at Turtle Lake.

The second project is to expand fixed-wireless internet access in south-central Saskatchewan around the Coronach area with 22 new towers. With these two projects Access is going to be supporting underserved areas of our province with technology that allows people to thrive. These projects are expected to take two years to complete.

“Partnering with Access is the right fit”

Donny Uhren
Owner, Extreme Hockey & Sport

(AccessBusiness Solutions customer, Regina)

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s just the
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Connecting our communities to the **Possible.**

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE (ACCESS) IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE THROUGH OUR THREE PILLARS OF GIVING: THE ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (ACCF), COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING (TV/RADIO), AND CORPORATE INITIATIVES AND SPONSORSHIPS.

By investing in children and families, being a platform to reflect the communities we serve through our programming, and empowering communities, we create opportunities, nurture potential, and help build a brighter future for all of Saskatchewan.



“CJTR’s relationship with Access Communications offers a new level of managerial, programming, technical and marketing support. This support provides a solid foundation for CJTR’s role as a community radio station.”

Vince Murphy

Host: On the Air & Story Emporium

(First broadcast at the new Access Communications studio)




 Access Communications
Children's Fund

DATE 12/02/24

PAY TO THE ORDER OF YWCA Regina Inc. \$ 10,000
Ten Thousand XX/100 DOLLARS

MEMO Y's Kids: Children Exposed to Violence

Tom Boyko
 Tom Boyko
 Chair, Children's Fund Board of Directors



Access Communications
Children's Fund

**THE ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS
CHILDREN'S FUND (ACCF).**

The ACCF was established in 1992 and is our registered charity. It provides funding to non-profit and charitable organizations that help children at risk, in need, or the most vulnerable in the province. Its mandate is to ensure every child deserves a chance.

THE POSSIBLE FOR CHILDREN WHO NEED IT MOST.

It was a special year for the ACCF with more than 60 non-profits receiving over \$600,000 supporting youth in three key areas: health and wellness, education and literacy, and social inclusion. Donations now total almost \$4 million. Please note the numbers represented are to date for the ACCF Fiscal which began Jan. 1, 2024. Actuals will be released in the Community Impact Report which is released every spring.

The Children's Fund is supported mainly through The Access Communications Children's Fund TV Bingo, which airs on AccessNow TV at 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Thank you to everyone who bought a bingo card, supported the ACCF, or volunteered. Your contributions make all the difference.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING, LOCAL STORIES AMPLIFIED.

Since our launch in 1978, Access' Community Programming has showcased local stories, events, and culture, fostering engagement and representation. It remains a vital platform for connecting and empowering our communities with meaningful, locally focused content. In Fiscal 2024, we were presented with an opportunity to enhance our local expression. We were asked to consider assuming the ownership of Regina's only community radio station, CJTR. It has been on the air since 2001. It's almost entirely volunteer run, with two staff and 80 programmers creating 60 shows and 5,000 hours of original programming annually. The station was facing financial challenges.

The two organizations had a lot of similarities including their commitment to local expression, community producers, and being member supported. In the spring of 2024, our board approved moving forward with the acquisition. In April, the membership of CJTR voted overwhelmingly in favour of transferring ownership to Access. CJTR moved into Access' Park St. office in July and began broadcasting (*as shown on page 16*). The process involved many steps which concluded at the end of 2024 with CRTC approval of ownership. The goal of CJTR is to become a self-sustaining operation.

YOUR SASKATCHEWAN – ACCESSNOW TV.

AccessNow TV is committed to being a voice for local expression. Talented community producers locally produce 70 percent of our programming. It covers everything including children's interests, local and provincial sports, community events and activities, instruction or informative programs, arts, culture and entertainment. And at the heart of it all are the volunteers who commit over 3,000 hours annually.

Never miss a moment of any of your favourite local sports and entertainment with the AccessNow TV app. The app works on mobile and streaming devices, plus it's complimentary to AccessTV customers. Standalone subscriptions are available for everyone else.

SHOWCASING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

It was a night to remember at the 36th Annual Regina Humane Society Telethon. Fresh off their move into a new facility the event raised more than \$87,000, setting a record for the telethon. The Humane Society supports the care of homeless, abused, and neglected animals.

The 45th Annual United Way of Estevan Telethon was live for 33 hours on AccessNow TV and set a record raising \$380,676. The telethon brings people together to support the most vulnerable in the community.

The 43rd Annual Weyburn Communithon was live for 15 hours on AccessNow TV. It featured all types of performances, with the event raising over \$100,000. We're proud to highlight the generosity of Saskatchewan people.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY THROUGH SPORT.

AccessNow Sports has all the action from local minor sports to showcasing the stars of tomorrow. Access Communications is proud of its ongoing partnership with the Western Hockey League (WHL) and the Regina Pats, airing games throughout the season.



We also broadcast the home games of the Regina Thunder, a Canadian Junior Football League (CJFL) leader and the Regina Riot of the Western Women's Canadian Football League (WWCFL). We're on the diamond with the Regina Red Sox of the Western Canadian Baseball League (WCBL) and so much more.

AccessNow is where to go to watch high school sports finals from across the province. Our coverage includes Saskatchewan's largest cheerleading and dance competition, the Warman Cheer Classic.

SHOWING OFF SASKATCHEWAN'S BEST.

In 2024 AccessNow TV went on location to showcase Western Canada's best during the 2024 Canadian Junior Football (CJFL) National Semi-Final in Regina, and the U15 Western Canadian Championships (softball) in North Battleford.

We continued our partnership to celebrate the best in country music with the Saskatchewan Country Music Awards. We're the exclusive broadcaster for the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Treaty 4 Gathering and Powwow.

We were on-location for special events that celebrate the best of the best at the Yorkton Film Festival, WEYBEX Awards, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit Awards, and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame induction. Our province has so much to celebrate, and AccessNow TV is there to bring it to our viewers.



CORPORATE INITIATIVES & SPONSORSHIPS

17TH ANNUAL LABOUR DAY SHOW N SHINE SETS NEW FUNDRAISING RECORD.

This year's event, held on the Labour Day Weekend, was one to behold with almost 500 vintage and modern automobiles and motorcycles and over 5,000 people taking it all in at our Park St. location in Regina. The sun shone on a record setting day as \$51,805 was raised in support of the Regina Food Bank.

It's an incredible accomplishment that speaks to the passion of staff and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to make it all happen. In addition, none of it would be possible without the generous support of the title sponsor, CAA Saskatchewan, and our long-time planning partner the Collectors Car Club of Saskatchewan. Thank you to everyone who came out.

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS SPONSORS NEW WEYBURN THEATRE.

In Fiscal 2024, Access announced its sponsorship of the Weyburn Theatre Community Service Cooperative (WTCSC). The WTCSC is a non-profit leading the revitalization of a first-run movie theatre, the Credit Union Spark Cinema. Access will be the Showtime Sponsor, which includes the two theatre screens and projection room.





CONNECTING TOMORROWS LEADERS TO THE POSSIBLE.

Since 2005, nearly \$440,000 has been awarded to high school graduates committed to giving back to their communities through the Doug Alexander Scholarship Program, including \$20,000 in 2024. It's named after the late Doug Alexander, Access Communications Community Relations Manager.

Access Communications also awarded scholarships at Saskatchewan Polytechnic – two \$1,500 scholarships for the Computer Networking Technician and Telecommunications Network Technician certificate programs.

In addition, we provided University of Regina students with scholarship opportunities through the Access Communications Fred Wagman Scholarship Program, which includes two \$1,000 Entrance scholarships and one \$2,000 Film & Video scholarship. The program is named after the first CEO of Access, Fred Wagman.

SUMMER ISN'T SUMMER WITHOUT THE ANNUAL BBQ TOUR.

It was another whirlwind summer saying thank you to our customers visiting 49 communities, serving almost 10,000 burgers and hot dogs and sharing countless smiles and handshakes. This special program allows us to engage with residents, foster a sense of community, and demonstrate our commitment to enhancing the lives of those we serve.

Connecting our people to the Possible.

AT ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE, CULTURE ISN'T JUST A WORD—IT'S THE FOUNDATION OF WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE THRIVE THROUGH OUR VALUES. IT DEFINES HOW WE COLLABORATE, INNOVATE, AND ACHIEVE SHARED GOALS. A VIBRANT CULTURE, COMBINED WITH SKILLED AND ENGAGED EMPLOYEES, FOSTERS EMPOWERMENT, DRIVES OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE, AND STRENGTHENS CUSTOMER LOYALTY.

Our culture begins with fostering a deep sense of inclusion and engagement, ensuring every team member feels heard, valued, and inspired to contribute to our collective success. We prioritize creating an environment of enablement, where individuals are equipped to make decisions, have the tools, resources, and support they need to excel. Consistently living our values—we create a workplace where every individual can flourish, and together, we achieve extraordinary outcomes.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT.

We recognize that engaged employees are empowered employees. This year, we conducted our annual employee engagement survey, with 93% of employees sharing their feedback.

An engagement survey is conducted every couple of years by an independent third party.

Our employee engagement score was 80%; a 6% increase from 2022. Our ongoing commitment to listening to and acting on employee feedback ensures that we continue to foster an environment where everyone is motivated to contribute their best.

INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE.

Our greatest strength is our staff. We believe investing in our people is key to achieving long-term success. Our commitment to employee development includes providing a range of learning opportunities, from skills training to leadership programs, ensuring our team members have the resources they need to grow in their roles.

and advance their careers. By creating an environment that encourages professional development, we enable our employees to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the company's success.

WELL-BEING AND WORK LIFE BALANCE.

We are dedicated to supporting the overall well-being of our employees. To foster a positive work environment, we offer a range of initiatives aimed at promoting physical and mental health, as well as ensuring employees can successfully balance their work and personal lives.

These include wellness programs, flexible work arrangements, and mental health support services, all designed to help our employees thrive both at work and outside of it. By prioritizing health and work-life balance, we empower our employees to bring their best selves to everything they do.

DRIVING PROGRESS THROUGH INCLUSION.

Access Communications fosters a strong culture, thanks in part to our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. Our commitment is to cultivate an environment where everyone belongs, innovation thrives, and potential is fully realized. By ensuring all voices are heard and diverse perspectives are valued, we enhance creativity, innovation, and engagement.

A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE.

We're proud to be named a 2024 Saskatchewan Top Employer for the 14th consecutive year and to have received our COR Certification from the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association for building a safer workplace.



A SPIRIT OF GIVING.

Access employees embody the spirit of giving every day - volunteering at the 17th Annual Labour Day Show N Shine for the Regina Food Bank, supporting weekly Children's Fund TV Bingo, patrolling 14 communities during Pumpkin Patrol and donating to the Salvation Army during the holiday season. Our team consistently goes above and beyond.

Through contributions to the United Way Workplace Campaign, support for the Access Communications Children's Fund, and countless other initiatives, our staff live our commitment to community with passion and pride.

Connecting our members to the Possible.

BEING A CO-OPERATIVE IS A PORTION OF WHAT SETS US APART AND IT'S THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR MEMBERS THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE. WE REFLECT THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE THROUGH OUR MEMBERSHIP.

**The cost to join is \$1 per year (*\$5 per year for community organizations*).
Members have the chance to help guide the co-operative.**

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- ✓ **Test new services:** Test new technology before it launches.
- ✓ **Hear all about it:** Get advance notice on products and initiatives.
- ✓ **Tell us what you think:** We seek member feedback through surveys & focus groups.
- ✓ **Celebrate your community:** We'll invite you to our community events.
- ✓ **Enjoy insurance discounts:** Insurance benefits/discounts from the Co-operators.
- ✓ **Reporting back to you:** Through our quarterly Member Newsletter, Annual Report, and Annual Community Impact Report.
- ✓ **We'll see you there:** Members elect delegates at our bi-annual regional District Meeting.
- ✓ **We're accountable to you:** You'll be invited to participate in our Annual General Meeting.
- ✓ **Help shape the future of Access:** Become a voting delegate or run for the Board of Directors.

Membership applications are online at myaccess.ca/members.

QUESTIONS? Call **306-565-5308** or **1-866-211-6334 ext 5308** Or email member.relations@myaccess.coop

What does 2025 hold?

WE'VE BUILT A STRONG STRATEGIC PLAN THAT WILL FOCUS ON SEVEN MAIN OBJECTIVES. IT PROVIDES DIRECTION TO SUPPORT OUR CUSTOMERS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITIES. IT ALSO ALLOWS US TO BE NIMBLE TO CHANGING MARKET AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.

- ✓ **Enhancing the Customer Experience:** We will deliver exceptional service with improved tools and options.
- ✓ **Reliable Products and Services:** We will provide leading-edge products and services tailored to meet the evolving needs of our customers.
- ✓ **Empowering Our Team:** We will foster an engaging, inclusive culture that supports our employees and volunteers.
- ✓ **Bridging the Digital Divide:** We will connect Saskatchewan, narrowing the rural-urban gap and driving growth.
- ✓ **Strengthening Communities:** We will enrich lives through community programming, the Access Communications Children's Fund and corporate initiatives.
- ✓ **Ensuring Financial Resilience:** We will maintain financial strength for long-term success.
- ✓ **Sharing Our Story:** We will champion Access Communications through advocacy and public relations.

Our team is strong, resilient, and ready to meet the challenges of building Saskatchewan through our leading-edge products and services. We can't wait to serve our customers.

OUR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE.

Access reported a net income of \$2.1 million and generated \$19.5 million in cash flow from operations, with net assets growing by 2.8% to \$76.5 million. This was despite significant challenges including high interest rates, inflation and a weakening Canadian dollar against the US dollar.

Revenues saw a decrease of 0.3% or \$0.3 million, achieving \$91.1 million. The demand for higher internet speeds continued to rise, resulting in an increase in internet subscribers, while TV subscribers declined, reflecting the broader industry trend of cord cutting and cord shaving. Consequently, telecommunications revenue grew by 3.6% or \$2.0 million to \$57 million, whereas television service revenue dropped by 6.2% or \$2.2 million.

Access' direct distribution costs for delivering subscriber services decreased by 1.9% or \$0.6 million to \$31.1 million. This was a result of a decrease in TV subscribers offset by increased television network distribution fees and higher bandwidth costs incurred due to the growth in internet services. As a result, net revenues after distribution costs were \$60 million, an increase of \$0.4 million or 0.6%.

Operating expenditures amounted to \$36.4 million, down by \$2.2 million or 5.8%, due to investments in efficiencies and streamlining of operations. Our operating income before amortization was \$23.6 million, an increase of 12.2% or \$2.6 million. Amortization expenses increased by 5.8% to \$18.1 million due to higher capital spending. Additionally, interest costs rose by \$1.0 million, an increase of 35.7%, driven by higher interest rates and increased debt.

In 2024, net capital spending was \$24.9 million, focusing on enhancing the performance and capacity of our distribution network to support future service expansions. Access' long-term debt increased by \$5.9 million, reaching \$57.7 million as of August 31, 2024.

A bilateral agreement with our bank has secured a committed \$70 million credit facility, consisting of a revolving operating facility through Bankers' Acceptances or Prime Rate Loans. There are no debt repayment requirements for this revolving operating credit facility, which matures on September 10, 2026.

In our ongoing commitment to community programming, we invested \$2.5 million in AccessNow, our community channel, surpassing the CRTC condition of license minimum requirement. We proudly support a local channel in over 115 communities across Saskatchewan. As a not-for-profit, community-owned co-operative, we reinvest 100% of our earnings back into the co-operative, focusing on capital investment in plant and operations, community initiatives, and programming.

We are optimistic that your co-operative business model will continue to succeed in today's fast-paced competitive environment because of our investments in our customers, our employees and within the communities we serve.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS.

Revenue (\$ millions) ▼ -0.3%



Operating income (\$ millions) ▲ 12.2%



Net income (\$ millions) ▲ 63.8%



Distribution expenses (\$ millions) ▼ -1.9%



Capital spending (\$ millions) ▼ -2.6%



Net assets (\$ millions) ▲ 2.8%



RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING.

The accompanying summary of financial statements and all information in the annual report have been prepared by management and approved by the co-operative Board of Directors.

Management is responsible for the accuracy, integrity, and objectivity of the summary of financial statements within reasonable limits of materiality, and the consistency of financial data included in the annual report's text.

To assist management in the discharge of these responsibilities, the co-operative maintains a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance that its assets are safeguarded, that only valid and authorized transactions are executed, and that accurate, timely, and comprehensive financial information is prepared.

The summary financial statements have been examined independently by Deloitte on behalf of members, in accordance with Canadian auditing standards. The auditors' report outlines the scope of their examination and expresses their opinion on the summary of financial statements of the co-operative.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors meets with management and external auditors to satisfy itself that each group is properly discharging its responsibilities, and to review the summary of financial statements and independent auditors' report. The Board of Directors approves the summary of financial statements for presentation to the members.



Carmela Haines
President & CEO



Sandy Bain
Acting Chief Financial Officer

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

To the Board of Directors of
Access Communications Co-operative Limited

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary balance sheet as at August 31, 2024, and the summary statements of income and retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Access Communications Co-operative Limited (the “Co-operative”) for the year ended August 31, 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with the criteria disclosed in Note 1 to the summary financial statements.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor’s report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Co-operative’s audited financial statements and the auditor’s report thereon.

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The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

In our report dated November 27, 2024, we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements.

Management’s Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.



Chartered Professional Accountants
November 27, 2024

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET.

As at August 31, 2024

APPROVED BY THE BOARD



Karen Smith

Chair, Board of Directors



Kama Leier

Chair, Audit Committee

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts receivable	\$ 3,138,336	\$ 2,371,284
Inventory	3,221,723	4,084,950
Prepaid expenses	2,969,106	2,920,209
	9,329,165	9,376,443
INVESTMENTS IN CO-OPERATIVES	30,225	30,225
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	95,037,413	87,401,190
OTHER ASSETS	4,560,725	4,778,482
SUBSCRIBER BASE	45,105,621	45,105,621
	\$ 154,063,149	\$ 146,691,961
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Bank indebtedness	\$ 1,509,393	\$ 2,000,999
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12,783,525	12,743,658
Unearned revenue	5,571,409	5,765,511
	19,864,327	20,510,168
LONG-TERM DEBT	57,700,000	51,800,000
	77,564,327	72,310,168
NET ASSETS		
Shares	1,233	1,195
Retained earnings	76,497,589	74,380,598
	76,498,822	74,381,793
	\$ 154,063,149	\$ 146,691,961

See accompanying notes to financial statements

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS.

Year ended August 31, 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUE		
Television services	\$ 33,875,069	\$ 36,116,267
Telecommunications services	56,960,693	54,993,064
Advertising	169,639	153,078
Investment income	116,472	123,133
	91,121,873	91,385,542
DIRECT DISTRIBUTION COSTS	31,103,772	31,718,654
INCOME BEFORE OPERATING EXPENSES	60,018,101	59,666,888
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Community programming	2,482,458	2,416,911
Technical	14,210,357	15,195,786
Sales and marketing	5,528,726	5,280,846
Administrative	14,183,199	15,732,523
	36,404,740	38,626,066
OPERATING INCOME BEFORE AMORTIZATION	23,613,361	21,040,822
AMORTIZATION		
Property, plant and equipment	14,915,894	14,016,557
Deferred charges	3,138,964	3,047,655
OPERATING INCOME	5,558,503	3,976,610
INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT	3,777,956	2,783,881
GAIN ON SALE OF EQUIPMENT	(336,444)	(99,824)
NET INCOME	2,116,991	1,292,553
RETAINED EARNINGS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	74,380,598	73,088,045
RETAINED EARNINGS, END OF YEAR	\$ 76,497,589	\$ 74,380,598

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS.

Year ended August 31, 2024

	2024	2023
NET INFLOW (OUTFLOW) OF CASH RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES		
OPERATING		
Net income	\$ 2,116,991	\$ 1,292,553
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	18,054,858	17,064,212
Gain on sale of equipment	(336,444)	(99,824)
Changes in working capital components:		
Accounts receivable	(767,052)	310,029
Inventory	863,227	(274,126)
Prepaid expenses	(48,897)	(47,592)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(176,719)	632,520
Unearned revenue	(194,102)	109,453
	19,511,862	18,987,225
INVESTING		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(22,685,927)	(23,352,566)
Change in accounts payable relating to purchase of property, plant and equipment	216,586	1,008,429
Increase in connection costs	(2,921,207)	(2,926,189)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	470,254	429,873
	(24,920,294)	(24,840,453)
FINANCING		
Repayments of long-term debt	(6,000,000)	(9,000,000)
Proceeds of long-term debt	11,900,000	13,500,000
Credit facility arrangement fee	-	(157,500)
Issuance of shares	38	62
	5,900,038	4,342,562
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH POSITION	491,606	(1,510,666)
BANK INDEBTEDNESS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	(2,000,999)	(490,333)
BANK INDEBTEDNESS, END OF YEAR	\$ (1,509,393)	\$ (2,000,999)

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

NOTE TO SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Year ended August 31, 2024.

1. Basis of accounting

These summarized financial statements of Access Communications Co-operative Limited are derived from the complete financial statements as at and for the year ended August 31, 2024, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit entities, of Access Communication Co-operative Limited.

The preparation of these summarized financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in them so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

The complete financial statements of Access Communications Co-operative Limited are available upon request.



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