



## Ranch Ehrlo celebrates 60 years

On June 1, Ranch Ehrlo Society celebrated 60 years of innovation, growth, and an unwavering commitment to supporting individuals, families, and communities.

What first began in 1966 as a single group living program near Pilot Butte, has expanded to become a multi-service agency that has programs and campuses in southern Saskatchewan and in and around Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

As we mark this incredible milestone, we invite you to become acquainted with our work and the people who make it possible. In the weeks ahead, our Faces of the Ranch series on our website and social media will introduce audiences to some of Ranch Ehrlo’s staff, stakeholders, and participants.

We look forward to celebrating the people who are at the heart of Ranch Ehrlo Society – the individuals who have grown alongside us, who carry our mission forward, and who continue to shape our legacy.

As part of our 60th anniversary, guests are invited to our 9th annual powwow on August 27 and take part in a self-guided campus experience at the Kesten Centre. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. with the start of the feast, the space will remain open throughout the day for visitors to come and go.

Former youth, staff, and their families, along with community partners, are encouraged to attend. If you plan to attend, you’re welcome to RSVP by emailing [ranchehrlo.news@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:ranchehrlo.news@ranchehrlo.ca).

If you’re unable to join us in person, we encourage you to join the celebration by following us on Facebook. Here you will see our staff and participants embrace the values that have anchored Ranch Ehrlo in



The executive team kicked off the “60 Acts of Kindness” campaign by providing fresh vegetables to the tenants at Lakeshore Village.

care and community for six decades as they complete “60 Acts of Kindness” this year – brightening neighbourhoods and elevating communities across the province.

## Staff deepen understanding of MMIWG2S+ crisis



(l to r) Stacey Frey, Myrna LaPlante, Jeanette Duncan

Southern staff had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Plus (MMIWG2S+) issues with a special presentation hosted by Knowledge Keeper, educator, and advocate Myrna LaPlante.

Youth care leaders, managers, and a handful of support services staff gathered on April 23 at St. Mary’s Parish Hall in Regina to learn more about MMIWG2S+ and advance their understanding of the crisis and the role they can play to protect and prepare youth in care.

This immersive learning opportunity was arranged by a planning committee, composed of Jeanette Duncan, Ryan Wingert, and Stacey Frey, with support from Director Randy O’Shaughnessy and Indigenous Advisor Jamie Lerat.

“Staff at Ranch Ehrlo are already doing a lot of great work, and opportunities like this afternoon of learning, strengthen cultural competency and support our Indigenous engagement,” Lerat addressed the crowd.

Myrna LaPlante, from Day Star First Nation, has extensive experience supporting and advancing awareness of MMIWG2S+ issues, working as an advocate and family information liaison officer with Métis Nation–Saskatchewan.

LaPlante’s presentation explored the interconnected nature and systemic impacts of the MMIWG2S+ crisis, spoke about the increased risk to youth in care, and discussed how staff, in their line of work, can help protect youth in care – who are, statistically, at greater risk. She also shared her personal experience of having her aunt go missing; alongside her work coordinating search efforts across Saskatchewan to help bring others’ children home and provide answers for their families.

“When someone goes missing it is terrifying,” she explained, speaking from personal experience. “People stop eating, they stop sleeping. They cannot cope – it’s panic when someone goes missing.”

A group activity during the presentation invited attendees to reflect on how their work at Ranch Ehrlo supports and advances some of the 231 Calls for Justice outlined in *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. Staff considered their responsibilities within the child welfare system, the importance of collaborative partnerships and consultation with First Nations communities, and the role of family, Elders, and community involvement.

“The key outcome I hope staff take away from this presentation is a deeper understanding of the MMIWG2S+ community, including the barriers and systemic impacts that influence the work we do,” shared Stacey Frey, co-organizer.

## Track and field day brings Ranch community together



Athletes from across Ranch Ehrlo came together on May 16 for a day of competition, teamwork, and connection at the second annual Track and Field Day.

Postponed from last fall because of poor weather, the highly anticipated event was worth the wait as

youth, participants, staff, and volunteers filled the day with energy and encouragement.

Group living programs in Regina were joined by youth from Welke House

and participants from Falcon, creating a strong sense of camaraderie throughout the event. Staff also joined in the fun, competing head-to-head in a short-distance race, while volunteers from across the agency helped make the event a true Ranch community effort.

Organizers also expressed appreciation to RBC for generously sponsoring food and prizes for the day.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported the event, including Kolton Zepick for assisting with the event and photography, and Sean Forsythe for again organizing the event.

## Eric's dream brought teams together



Person-centred care is about listening to what matters most to someone and finding a way to make it happen — even when it means rethinking routines, bridging programs, and going beyond what's typical.

Eric Black, a participant in the Supported Living Program, inspired staff at Ranch Ehrlo to do just that.

For Black, wrestling is more than entertainment. It's a connection point and the foundation of meaningful relationships with Ryan Donald, therapeutic vocational worker, and Curtis Brooks, personal support worker. Though they supported Eric in different programs, they became connected through his passion for wrestling.

“When Eric and I first started working together six years ago, we really bonded over wrestling and it's been part of our lives ever since,” said Brooks.

Donald had a similar experience. Though he hadn't followed wrestling in years, Eric's enthusiasm drew him back in.

“He would talk about it every week, so I started watching it so I knew what he was talking about,” Donald laughed. “Eventually I was watching every Wednesday so I could talk to Eric about it on Thursday.”

When an All Elite Wrestling (AEW) event was announced in Winnipeg, Black decided he wanted to go — alongside Donald and Brooks, the two biggest wrestling fans he knew.

While it's common for group living staff to accompany participants on trips, it's less typical for vocational staff to join. Still, staff and managers across programs worked together to make it happen.

“Instead of saying, ‘no, we don't do it this way,’ everyone came together to make it happen,” said Donald. “We talk about person-centred care, and this really was that. Eric wanted Curtis and I to go with him, and they made it happen.”

The trip quickly became more than an outing — it felt like a road trip between friends. Black took over as DJ while the group talked baseball, hockey, and wrestling on the drive to Winnipeg. Wearing matching “EB All Elite” t-shirts, they spent the night enjoying the show, pizza, and plenty of laughs.

“It was awesome,” said Black. “The whole thing.”

“It wasn't Eric and his staff — it was Eric and his wrestling buddies,” Brooks agreed. “This will be a memory we share forever.”

The Supported Living Program provides group living, educational, and vocational programs for people with multiple, complex developmental needs, with care focused on person-centred and strength-based services.

## Join us for our 9th annual powwow

Ranch Ehrlo Society invites the community to its 9th annual powwow on August 27, 2026, at the Pilot Butte campus on Treaty 4 Territory. This year's event is especially meaningful as part of the Ranch's 60th anniversary celebrations.

Explore the vibrant inclusion of  
**Ranch Ehrlo Society's**

A celebration of cultural  
connection, tradition, and  
togetherness.

# 9th annual powwow



**August 27, 2026**  
Treaty 4 Territory  
Pilot Butte campus

Pipe ceremony at 8:30 a.m.  
Feast at 10:30 a.m.  
Grand entry at 1 p.m.



The day begins with male and female pipe ceremonies at 8:30 a.m., followed by a feast at 10:30 a.m. Grand entry starts at 1 p.m., with competitive dancing, dancer registration, and family carnival activities throughout the afternoon. Rain or shine, festivities will go ahead. We encourage everyone to bring a lawn chair.

## Thank you to our sponsors and donors

Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors who helped Ranch Ehrlo in the past several months:

- \$10,000 City of Regina Community Investment grant for ESV
- KLM Ventures Ltd. \$20,000 donation
- Sasktel \$3,000 Awards Night sponsorship
- SaskTel and Kings Park Speedway donated 40 race day tickets

## Regina Pride parade



Members of the True Colours group joined Ranch Ehrlo staff, participants, and supporters in celebrating inclusion, pride, and community during the organization's first-ever float in the Queen City Pride parade in Regina.

## Awards nights



Youth and adults from across Ranch Ehrlo Society were recognized throughout June during awards celebrations in Regina and at Wanuskewin, highlighting achievements in education, leadership, creativity, citizenship, and personal growth.

## ESV volunteer appreciation



Ehrlo Sport Venture proudly hosted its volunteer and partner appreciation event, bringing together the dedicated individuals who help make its mission and impact possible.

## Southern and northern 3 mile



Participants and staff took on the 3-Mile race in May in Pilot Butte and Corman Park. Hosted by Tarrant Crosschild and the Prairie Run Crew, the race celebrated perseverance and crossing the finish line together.

## SGI \$500 grant



This funding, made possible through SGI's community safety and Acquired Brain Injury initiatives, will help ensure the children and families in our family programs can ride their bikes safely this spring. We're grateful for their commitment to local injury prevention and for helping us create safer moments of joy and connection.