



Southwest Alberta Sustainable Community Initiative Box 1297, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0  
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## **SASCI Presentation to M.D. of Pincher Creek #9**

**December 8, 2020**  
**via GoToMeeting**

The Southwest Alberta Sustainable Community Initiative (SASCI) welcomes this opportunity to update the M.D. of Pincher Creek on its current status and plans.

### **SASCI Board and Staff**

James Van Leeuwen	Chairperson
Kevin Van Koughnett	Vice Chairperson
David Simmons	Treasurer
Dan Crawford	Director
Connie Simmons	Director
Marie Everts	Director
Steve Holly	Director
Carrie Cooley	Administrator
Liza Dawber	Community Grant Specialist

SASCI presently has five members at large in addition to the above nine members.

### **SASCI Mandate**

- SASCI will enter its eighteenth year of operation in 2021.
- SASCI's charitable objects (purposes) are:
  - To educate people on economic, environmental and social issues that affect the sustainability of life in southwestern Alberta through forums, discussions, workshops, and other learning opportunities;
  - To undertake research into economic, environmental and social issues that affect the sustainability of life in southwestern Alberta, and disseminate the results to the public;
  - To undertake activities that are ancillary and incidental to the above charitable objects.
- Community development has always been an *implicit* role for SASCI, and will now become an *explicit* role.
- We understand community development to mean **growing people**.
- We understand 'community' to be a verb, not a noun.

## SASCI in 2020

### SASCI improved its business efficiency, effectiveness and capacities in 2020:

- Settled into a new office in the Pincher Creek Annex.
- Hired a part-time Administrator.
- Migrated to cloud-based bookkeeping and telecommunication solutions.
- *<A few words of welcome from SASCI's Administrator, Ms. Carrie Cooley>*

### SASCI established its **BRIDGEBuilder** Initiative in 2020:

- BRIDGE = ***B***uilding ***R***egional ***I***vestment, ***D***evelopment & ***G***overnance ***E***xcellence.
- Took responsibility for Community Grant Specialist position after merging with Pincher Creek Community Development Initiative (PCCDI). Position supported under SASCI's **BRIDGEBuilder** Initiative since January 1, 2020.
- *<A few words of welcome from SASCI's Community Grant Specialist, Ms. Liza Dawber>*

### SASCI supported several Agents in 2020:

- **Grasslands Restoration Forum** - raised, held and disbursed charitable funds for education programs and events (most programs and events cancelled in 2020).
- **Maker Centre Working Group** - managed and disbursed charitable funds for Pincher Creek Maker Centre initiative (inactive for much of 2020).
- **Pincher Creek Watershed Group** - received and held charitable funds for Blueweed Blitz event (event postponed until 2021).
- **Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association** - received and processed charitable funds for Carnivores and Communities program.
- **Twin Butte Community Society** - received and processed charitable funds for Twin Butte Community Hall renovation and expansion project.
- **Adaptable Outdoors** - received and processed charitable funds for Paddling Program.
- **Chamber of Commerce** - invested SASCI funds in Business Recovery Support Program.

**SASCI is currently crafting an 'umbrella' Agency Agreement** to cover all future projects that an Agent undertakes with SASCI's support, providing a more convenient alternative to SASCI's project-based Agency Agreement.

**SASCI looks forward to onboarding three new Agents before the end of 2020** with the help of its new Agency Agreement:

- **Pincher Creek Family Resource Society**
- **Pincher Creek Health Professional Attraction & Retention Society**
- **Pincher Creek Trail Breakers**

## SASCI in 2021

- Funds in place to cover operations and *BRIDGEBuilder* Initiative through 2021.
- Undertake a robust strategic planning exercise early in 2021.
- Work with the Town, M.D., Chamber of Commerce and other organizations in the community in responding to challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID pandemic.
- Establish a committee and program for communication and outreach.
- Promote SASCI's bookkeeping, administrative and charitable fundraising services.
- Support active Agents, including fostering collaboration among Agents.
- Onboard new Agents.
- Support the Community Grant Specialist under the *BRIDGEBuilder* Initiative.
- Contract a Fund Development Specialist to start building a **Community Legacy Fund**, using funds already secured for the position under the *BRIDGEBuilder* Initiative.
- Establish a leadership development program under the *BRIDGEBuilder* Initiative.
- Engage key community stakeholders in the *BRIDGEBuilder* Initiative.
- Secure longer-term funding support for the *BRIDGEBuilder* Initiative and for operations.
- Foster and facilitate community and collaboration (Build Bridges).

***GROW PEOPLE.***

***GROW COMMUNITY.***