



## Saskatoon Youth Soccer excited to kick off the 14<sup>th</sup> summer of O'Reilly Insurance and Financial Services and The Co-operators Kids In the Park!

**Saskatoon, SK, June 29, 2021** – Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. is proud to announce our 14<sup>th</sup> summer of the O'Reilly Insurance and Financial Services and The Co-operators Kids In the Park summer soccer program, which will run from Mon July 5<sup>th</sup> to Thurs August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will take place at 47 City of Saskatoon playground sites daily from Monday to Friday, 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM, completely free for all ages. The program is returning to its traditional drop-in style format, after a short break in 2020 where modifications were made due to the pandemic. With the progress of vaccines we are seeing the removal of more and more restrictions. The program will however be adhering to certain safety precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As such there will be a one-time online registration required to assist with contact tracing, hand sanitizer will be provided before and after each session, equipment will be disinfected between sessions, and participants will be asked not to participate if they are feeling unwell or have been deemed a close contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 within 14 days. Masks will be optional for coaches and participants, sessions will involve full contact scrimmages and fun drills, and the program will take place strictly outdoors rain or shine.

The program was developed in order to create soccer programming during the summer months free of charge in parks close to home for boys and girls of all ages. This program is intended to keep kids active and increase the enjoyment and participation of soccer by eliminating financial & transportation barriers and providing positive mature role models. This program also aims to increase the soccer "hype" during the summer leading into the indoor season for current and potential future soccer players. We see upwards of 2,600 participants take part in the program each summer.

To kick off the summer program, the first 200 participants will receive a FREE soccer ball, compliments of Tim Hortons and each child or youth will receive a participant certificate throughout the summer. The program will be coordinated by four certified soccer coaches with the ambition to make soccer fun and enjoyable in your neighborhood park! To find out when the program will visit your neighborhood, please click on our website for a schedule at <http://saskatoonyouthsoccer.ca/content/kids-in-the-park!>

**Title Sponsor:** Saskatoon Youth Soccer is pleased to continue a third summer with O'Reilly Insurance and Financial Services and The Co-operators as the program title sponsor and their financial contribution of \$6,000. "Our donation helps address important community needs," explains Declan O'Reilly, financial advisor for The Co-operators. "Guided by our co-operative principles, we invest our profits into action and advocacy that makes the world a better place." The funding was provided by O'Reilly Insurance and Financial Services with the support of The Co-operators Advisor Community Fund which provided the following sentiments: "We demonstrate our commitment to sustainability and showcase our leadership in the community. The Co-operators staff and financial advisors have been making Canadian communities safer, healthier and more resilient for decades. As a co-operative, our commitment to communities is an operating principle that inspires us to act, provide support and raise awareness when there's a need."

**About The Co-operators:** The Co-operators Group Limited is a Canadian co-operative with more than \$44.0 billion in assets under administration. Through its group of companies, it offers home, auto, life, group, travel, commercial and farm insurance, as well as investment products. The Co-operators is well known for its community involvement and its commitment to sustainability. The Co-operators is ranked as the Corporate Knights' #1 Best 50 Corporate Citizen in Canada and listed among the Best Employers in Canada by Aon Hewitt. For more information, visit [www.cooperators.ca](http://www.cooperators.ca)

**Funding Partners:** Saskatoon Youth Soccer would like to thank our corporate sponsors and grant providers for making this program possible: O'Reilly Insurance and Financial Services and The Co-operators (title sponsor), Affinity Credit Union, Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker, Virtus Group LLP, Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc., Sherwin Williams Paint, Merlin Ford Lincoln, Tim Hortons, Rawlco Radio, CTV Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Soccer Association, Saskatchewan Lotteries, City of Saskatoon, and the Government of Saskatchewan's Community Initiatives Fund.

We hope everyone has a fun and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing many participants in the parks playing soccer with our leaders this summer!