



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

THE PREP SOCIETY
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

INTRODUCTION

In the past year, PREP has been profoundly grateful for the steadfast support of our community, the dedication of our staff, and the resilience of the families we serve. Our 2023-2024 Annual Report showcases the remarkable achievements and milestones achieved during this time, highlighting our unwavering commitment to empowering children with Down syndrome and fostering inclusivity. Despite facing new and ongoing challenges, we remained resolute in our mission, and this report delves into the impact of our programs, stories of triumph, and collaborative efforts that have propelled us forward. Together, we've made significant strides toward a brighter, more inclusive future. Thank you for being part of this journey and for your continued support as we chart the course ahead.

ORGANIZATION REVIEW

MISSION

PREP provides individuals with Down syndrome, their families and community members with the information, resources and skills they need to create the best possible opportunities for inclusion.

VISION

Individuals with Down syndrome are active and included members of their communities.



This year at The PREP Society has been one of growth, expansion, and transformation. Thanks to the support of our community, dedicated staff, and passionate families, we have launched new programs, enhanced existing services, and reached even more individuals with Down syndrome across Calgary.

We also unveiled an ambitious new strategic plan - a bold roadmap focused on greater connection, empowerment, and inclusion. This plan will guide us as we continue to adapt, collaborate, and meet the evolving needs of the families we serve.

Looking ahead, our vision remains clear: to build a sustainable future where individuals with Down syndrome can reach their full potential. Together, we are creating new opportunities and breaking down barriers. Thank you for being part of this important journey.

With gratitude,

Curtis Slater
Executive Director

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total Revenue = \$2,306,922

Government and Grants
\$1,409,552

Donations
\$402,691

Fee for
Service
\$219,595

Fundraising
\$199,965

Investments
\$43,869

Other
\$31,250

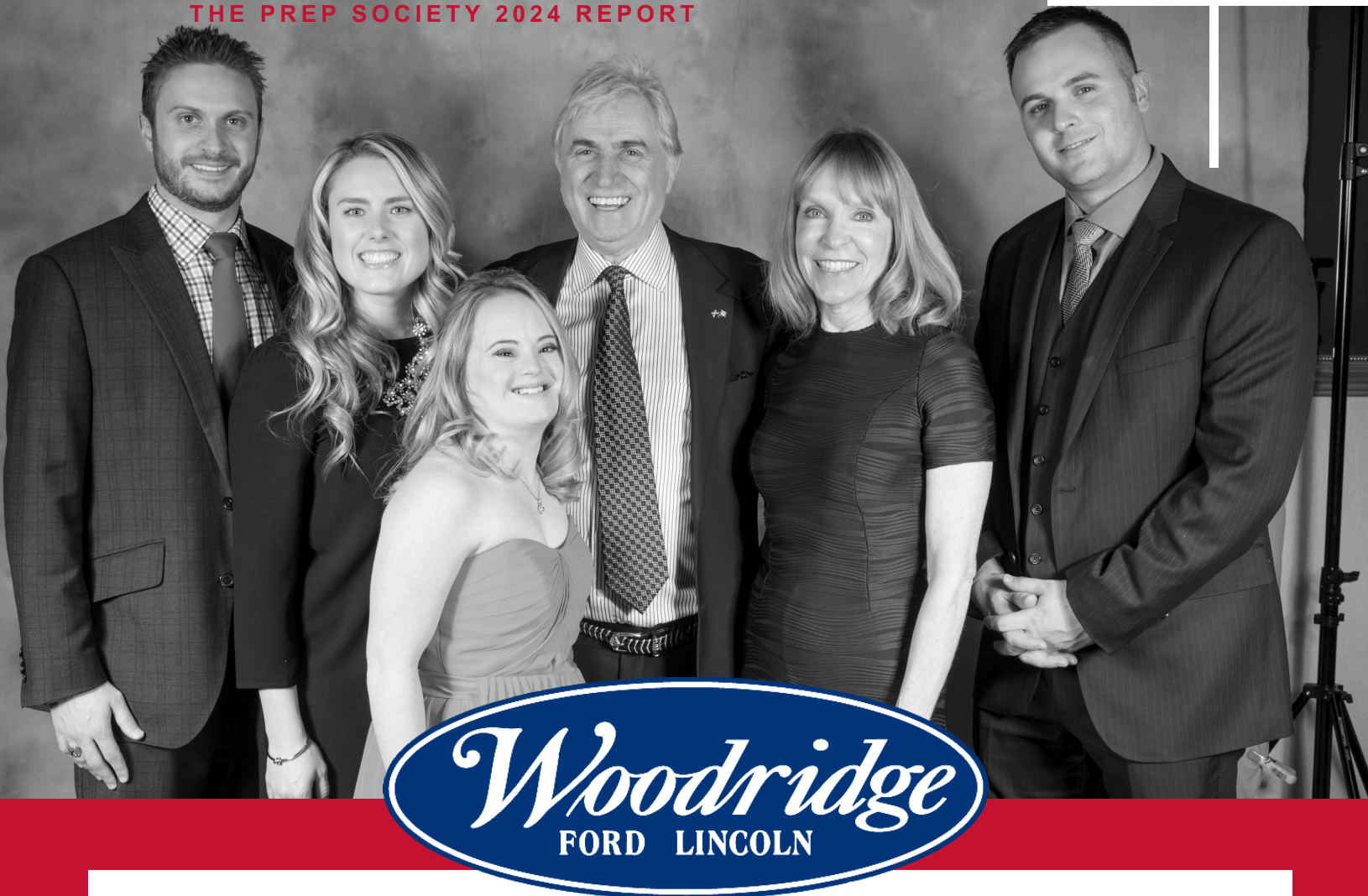
Total Expenses = \$2,392,591

Program
\$1,634,595

Administration
\$587,668

Operations and
Maintenance
\$98,165

Fundraising
\$54,704



The Wood Family: Champions for PREP

The Wood family and Woodridge Ford have been unwavering supporters of The PREP Society's mission to empower children with Down syndrome. Through generous event sponsorships like Let's Talk Hockey and direct contributions to our programs, their commitment has made a profound impact on the educational and therapeutic services we provide to our students and their families.

Beyond their financial contributions, the Woods actively engage with the PREP community, attending events and advocating for our cause. Their dedication inspires others to join in, amplifying their influence and support. We are truly grateful for their steadfast belief in our students' potential and their role in helping us build brighter futures!

EARLY LEARNING

Our weekly parent-child classes for children ages 0-3 provide a warm and welcoming introduction to PREP. Parents value the opportunity to meet and share with other families who are also starting their journey of parenting a child with Down syndrome. Parents build a network of support as they learn through class time, workshops, and individual therapy consults. Children enjoy the structured play based activities designed to introduce skills, which will help and support them in their transition to ECS and preschool.

Funding by:



Enrollment: 16



Highlights for 2023/24

- Continued community outings, including swimming, science centre, and Aggie days.
- Parents were invited to attend ECS workshops, providing an opportunity to connect with parents of children who are further along in their journey.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

As an approved ECS operator, PREP is dedicated to supporting each child's journey in an inclusive educational environment. During the first year, the program emphasizes building foundational classroom skills and introducing preschool concepts. In the second year, the focus shifts to fostering independence and encouraging social interactions with peers. PREP delivers outstanding programming through our compassionate and skilled multidisciplinary team, which includes a Speech-Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, and Child Development Facilitators.



Enrollment: 19

Funding by:



Highlights for 2023/24

- ECS had one of our largest years of enrollment with 19 students attending.
- ECS re-introduced Music Therapy back into our program
- ECS was able to update our classrooms with some much needed renovations including a sensory room / painting / extra storage / new baby toilets
- ECS provided teacher or therapeutic workshops for families on a monthly basis
- ECS provided "open house" days for parents to join in on learning in the classrooms

PROGRAMS - MIDDLE YEARS

PREP's Middle Years Program now offers specialized programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 2 and Grades 3 to 6. These programs focus on developing executive functioning, social skills, language, and behavior in an engaging, supportive environment. With guidance from a multidisciplinary team, including an instructor, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, and childhood development facilitators, students build essential skills and social connections that enhance their inclusion in community classrooms.



Funding by:



Kin Canada
Kinsmen Club
of the Stampede City

Enrollment: 16

Highlights for 2023/24

- PREP created a Kindergarten to grade 2 program - This was new to PREP for 2023/2024
- PREP created a grade 3 - grade 6 program - This was new to PREP for 2023/2024

PROGRAMS - TEEN YEARS

Our Teen Years Program, now tailored for Jr. High and Sr. High students, emphasizes independence, self-advocacy, and social development. Teens participate in 15 sessions each year, working with a collaborative team to strengthen their executive functioning and communication abilities.

Through Teens on the Go, our teens also practice these skills in real-world settings, gaining confidence and fostering meaningful relationships with peers—all with the support of PREP's dedicated staff and volunteers.



Enrollment: 45
Teens on the Go
Attendees: 132

Funding by:



Highlights for 2023/24

- PREP expanded our successful teen program by extending the classes to the younger years
- The Teen Team revamped our Teens on the Go program practicing skills learned out in the community

READING PROGRAM

Learning to read is an essential life skill, which is why PREP offers an individualized and personalized reading program designed specifically for students with Down syndrome in grades K-12. Our highly skilled reading team modifies each lesson based on the interests of each student and coordinates goals with families and teaching teams. Parents also learn literacy strategies and work on reading goals at home using the resources and materials our instructors have prepared for each student.



Enrollment: 51

Funding by:



**Big Hearted
Mavericks**

Highlights for 2023/24

- We started a field trip to the library
- We welcomed a new instructor to our team
- We had the help of a Reading Assistant for the first time



The Big Hearted Mavericks: Fueling Literacy at The PREP Society

The PREP Society's Reading Program has received a wonderful boost from the generous support of The Big Hearted Mavericks. Their commitment ensures that children with Down syndrome have access to tailored literacy resources that meet their unique learning needs, fostering a love for reading and opening doors to new opportunities.

We are deeply grateful for their partnership, which helps us enhance our program and create a brighter future for our students, one page at a time. Thank you, Big Hearted Mavericks, for supporting our mission!

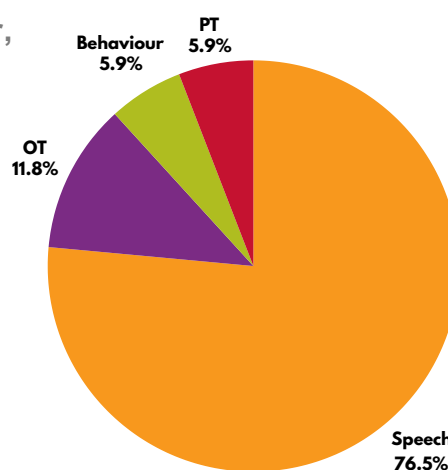
THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

PREP's Therapeutic Services provide personalized support for children and teens with Down syndrome, focusing on communication, independence, and life skills. Speech-Language Pathologists target speech clarity, vocabulary, and social interaction, while Occupational Therapists enhance self-care, school readiness, and recreational abilities. PREP's Physiotherapist improves strength, coordination, and movement skills and our Behaviour Therapist supports functional communication, engagement, cooperation, task persistence, and emotional regulation. Together, these services empower students to thrive at home, in school, and in their communities.

Funding by:



Enrollment: 40



Highlights for 2023/24

- PREP introduced a new position of therapeutic lead in 2023 / 2024 to support all therapies at PREP
- The PREP SLPs have made meaningful connections with Providence's Expanding Capacity and Learner Supports (ECLS) program and Calgary's network for Complex Communication Needs. This has allowed our students to access support for Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) across multiple environments
- PREP's OT team completed 11 applications successfully for incontinence supplies through the AADL program during the 2023-2024 school year
- PREP's Physiotherapist supported a number of families with education on AADL funding process for custom orthotics, recommendations for adjustments/fitting, and monitoring of proper wear
- PREP's Physiotherapist collaborated with the vendor Maximum Health and Mobility for pediatric mobility equipment reviews for 2 children

FSCD

PREP partners with the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program to provide specialized services for children with Down syndrome and their families. Our multidisciplinary team works with families to develop personalized plans that focus on communication, behavior, social skills, and independence. Through a goal-oriented approach, we empower families with the resources and strategies they need to support their child's growth at home, school, and in the community.



Funding by:



Enrollment: 47

Highlights for 2023/24

- Provided in-home Therapeutic support to over 40 families, including Behaviour Developmental Services contracts and Specialized Services contracts
- Therapy included Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Behaviour Strategies

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support services are available to any Family in the Calgary and outlying region looking for the knowledge, skills, and resources required to best support their child with Down syndrome from birth to 18 yrs of age. Liaisons are also available to provide support and clarity as parents navigate complex systems. Workshops and webinars are offered to families who want to learn more about specific topics related to their child's journey and to learn from other families. Families have access to individual consults, home visits, mentoring, transition planning and much more.



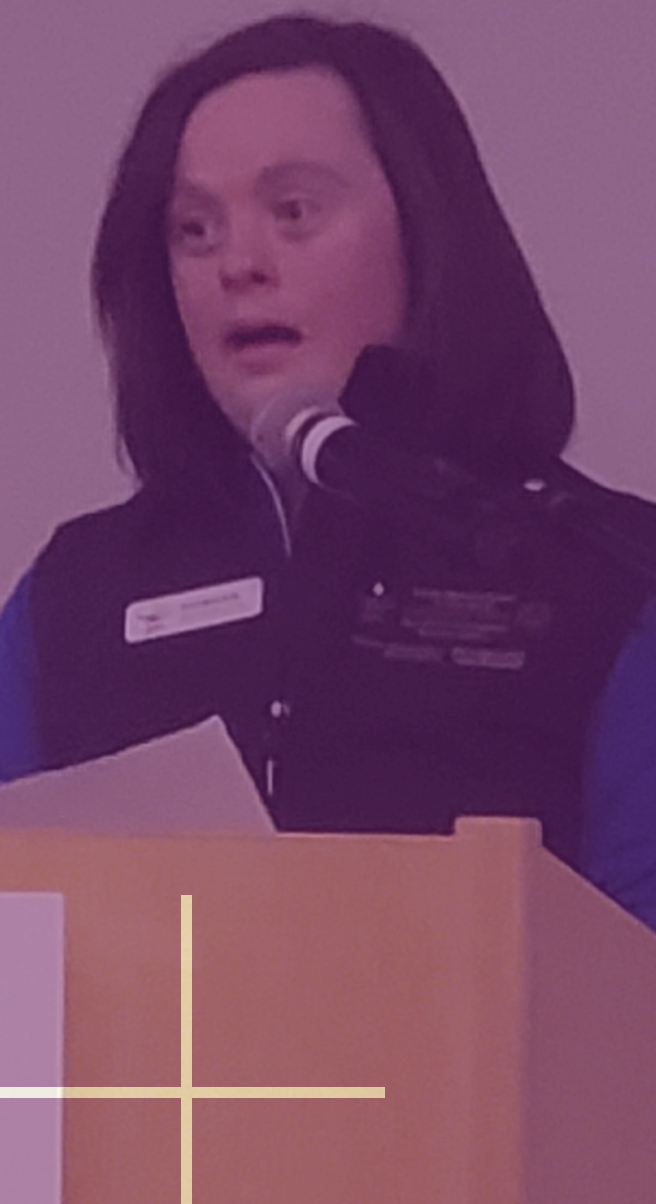
Enrollment: 266
Member: 153
Non-member: 113

Funding by:



Highlights for 2023/24

- Reconnected with families seeking therapeutic and reading support
- Welcomed a surge of Early Learning families in June seeking guidance
- Saw a positive increase in our membership numbers
- Hosted a successful and well-received Mother's Day celebration
- Expanded our services by increasing home visits



Meet Siobhan: Championing Inclusion in Sports, Community, and Employment

In February 2024, Calgary hosted the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games, with Siobhan as one of five Special Olympic athletes selected as Athlete Ambassadors. Her preparation at PREP helped her secure this paid role, where she advocated for inclusive employment and the importance of sports.

Over ten months, Siobhan spoke at events, participated in the Calgary Stampede Parade, and cheered on athletes during the Games. Her work as an Ambassador showcased the capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Today, Siobhan balances two part-time jobs, competes in Special Olympics sports, and pursues her love for theatre. She remains an inspiration to everyone who knows her.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

PREP offers supports to educators and families through our Education Support services to ensure everyone has the knowledge, resources, and capacity to create successful learning environments for students with Down syndrome. With the right supports in place, we believe that every individual with Down syndrome is able to thrive throughout their education careers. Our Education Support Coordinator works directly with families and teaching teams through consultations, workshops, professional development, webinars, and resource development.



Workshops: 4

Highlights for 2023/24

- Delivered three Introduction to Down Syndrome webinars, fostering new relationships and strengthening connections with schools in the Calgary Catholic School District, Calgary Board of Education, and across the province
- Provided program support to over 20 schools across Alberta, including developing program plans, creating meaningful social opportunities, and implementing strategies to enhance student success
- Expanded our collaboration with the Yellowknife Catholic School Board by offering in-person consultations to support students and educators

CAMPS

PREP's Specialized Camps provide children and teens with Down syndrome the opportunity to build skills, foster friendships, and explore their independence in a fun and supportive environment. Tailored to meet the unique needs of each age group, our camps offer a mix of structured learning and engaging activities. This year, we extended our Grade 3–6 summer camps to full days, a change that was warmly welcomed by families. Our Teen Camps included exciting outings to places like the Calgary Zoo, SAIT, Stadium Nissan, and Lil' E Café, where participants practiced navigating Calgary Transit and developed valuable life skills. These camps are an important extension of PREP's mission, giving students hands-on opportunities to grow socially, academically, and personally while having a blast!



Attendees: 104

Highlights for 2023/24

- Extended the Grade 3-6 summer camps to full days, which was greatly appreciated by parents.
- Teen summer camps featured outings to the zoo, SAIT, Stadium Nissan, and Lil'E Cafe, with teens gaining valuable experience using the C-Train and Calgary Transit.



Wyatt's Journey: From Entrepreneur to MRU Student

In Calgary, Wyatt (@wyatt_in_the_world), a young entrepreneur with Down syndrome, redefined possibilities with his pop-up Western shop. His love for cowboy culture and dedication to his business gained national attention, highlighting the power of inclusivity.

Wyatt later passed his business to another entrepreneur with Down syndrome, Stampede Sam (@stampede.sam), symbolizing a supportive community. Now, Wyatt is thriving as a student at Mount Royal University (MRU) and playing on the MRU intramural basketball team, showing the limitless potential when individuals are given the right opportunities.

Wyatt's journey reflects The PREP Society's mission to empower individuals with Down syndrome to thrive. His story challenges stereotypes and inspires us to create a world where every dream is within reach.



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