



SIEF

SASKATCHEWAN INDIGENOUS ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION INC.

Entrepreneurial Spirit Award Winner

Melody Kelts has been chosen by SIEF as its winner of this year’s Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

Kelts is a pharmacist and the owner of Sage Pharmacy in Yorkton. She was announced the winner at SIEF’s annual general meeting on November 9 at Dakota Dunes Resort and Casino at Whitecap, Sask.

Kelts has demonstrated drive and determination to achieve success in her educational and entrepreneurial journey. These are characteristics that SIEF looks for when selecting the winner of this annual award.



“My dream of pharmacy ownership started while I was still a university student,” said Kelts. She convocated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2011 and has worked for the past 12 years in community pharmacy. It took her over 10 years and a few attempts to find the ideal space in Yorkton and secure the capital she needed to open the pharmacy she envisioned.

Sage Pharmacy opened its doors in 2022 just in time to fill a local gap during the Canada-wide shortage of liquid acetaminophen, ibuprofen and amoxicillin. It was the only pharmacy in the Yorkton area with the knowledge, equipment, and infrastructure to compound the medications.

Kelts recognized others in the Yorkton area could benefit from having a compounding pharmacy closer to where they lived.

“The next closest pharmacy that does this level of compounding is in Regina,” said Kelts, who knows from personal experience how having to travel to Regina for a prescription can delay a person’s treatment by a couple of days. While some pharmacies opt to have specialty compounds shipped from other areas in the province, Kelts hopes that more people choose the local option.

(continued on next page)

Contents

JANUARY 2024

- New Board Chair 3
- Follow SIEF 3
- New Board Members 4
- Arrange a Community Visit 4
- Annual General Meeting 5
- MLA Reception 6
- Growing the Indigenous economy to \$100 billion 6
- Calling All First Nations Economic Development Officers 7
- All the best in 2024 8