

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM



MAY 14TH, 15TH & 16TH, 2024
SASKATOON, SK CANADA



SSHRC  **CRSH**
Partnership Project 895-2019-1007



You're Invited!

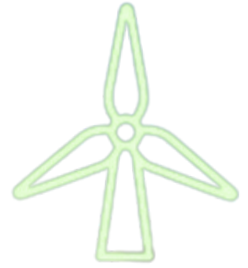
The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is excited to host the International Energy Forum together with collaborators on the Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security (CASES) partnership. This event will take place on May 14th, 15th and 16th and will be located on the beautiful USask Campus in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The final day will be located at the Wanuskewin National Historic Site. The event will showcase panel presentations from academic, industry, community and government representatives and facilitate opportunities for partners from Alaska, Canada, Sweden, and Norway to connect and build relationships for future collaboration.

We are happy to host this in-person event and welcome you to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.



Signature Area of Research

Energy and Mineral Resources for a Sustainable Future



As Saskatchewan and the world transition from fossil-fuel-based energy systems, innovative solutions are needed to meet energy needs in a sustainable manner that goes hand-in-hand with public policy development to ensure all communities receive equal access to affordable and secure energy sources. Learn more at:
<https://research.usask.ca/about/signature-areas/energy-and-mineral-resources.php>

SSHRC Energy Security Partnership



The CASES Partnership, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, is an international research initiative involving 17 northern and Indigenous communities and public and private sector project partners from Canada, Alaska, Sweden, and Norway. The overarching goal of the CASES initiative is to facilitate the sharing of experiences so that communities can learn from each other and avoid recreating solutions to common challenges, thereby expediting and accelerating renewable energy innovation. Learn more at:
<https://renewableenergy.usask.ca>

Energy Forum Agenda

May 14th Day 1

Open to the Public 1:00pm – 4:30pm CST

Location: Convocation Hall, USask

Opening Remarks: Bram Noble & Jackie Martin

Elder Welcome: Joan & Larry Beatty

Welcome: Baljit Singh, University of Saskatchewan

Welcome: Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, K.C., Minister of Advanced Education

Signature Area (Energy & Mineral Resources) : Andrew Grosvenor (USask)

Signature Area (Health & Wellness) : Jennifer Lang (USask) video

Musical Performance - Darrin Oehlerking (USask)

break to reset the stage

CASES Partnership: Video, Greg Poelzer (USask)

Panel # 1 – *Innovations and Energy Transitions/Futures*

Moderator Saurabh Biswas (CASES Post Doctoral Fellow)

Panelists:

1. Gwen Holdmann (Alaska) - UAF Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Industry Partnerships
2. Noel Voykin - First Nations Power Authority (FNPA)
3. Charlotta Söderberg - LTU (Sweden)
4. Randi Lervik - Lofotkraft (Norway)



Agenda (continued)

May 15th Day 2

Open to the Public: 9am – 4:30pm CST

Location: Convocation Hall, USask

Panel #1 – Utilities and Industry

Moderator: Doug Opseth, SaskPower

Panelists:

1. Ryan Makela, ATCO
2. Alex Love, NTPC
3. Kjell Richardsen - Berlevåg (Norway)
4. Bill Stamm - Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC)

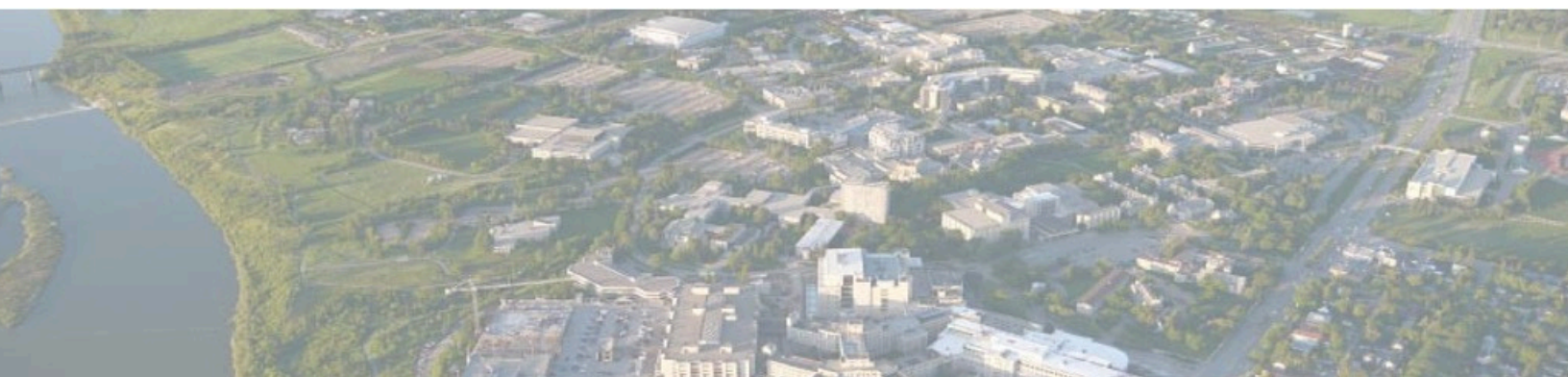
Panel #2 - *Northern & Indigenous Communities Energy Transition*

Moderator: Diane Hirshberg, UAA

Panelists:

1. Simon Hagen & Maggie Mills, Gwich'in Tribal Council
2. Melissa Beatty, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation
3. Tim Kalke, Sustainable Energy for Galena Alaska Inc., SEGA
4. Mayor Rolf Laupstad (Norway)

- Break for Lunch -



Agenda (continued)

Panel #3 – *Critical Minerals & Energy*

Moderator: Martin Boucher, JSGS USask

Panelists:

1. Kevin Ansdell, USask
2. Muhammad Imran, VP of Rare Earth Elements at SRC
3. Leslie Robbins, Geology, University of Regina

Panel #4 - *Micro Modular Reactors (MMRs) and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)*

Moderator: Michael Ross

Panelists:

1. Gwen Holdmann (Alaska) - UAF Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Industry Partnerships;
2. Breann Whitby (Crowns Investment);
3. Mariia Iakovleva (CASES Post Doc, USASK)

May 16th Day 3

9am – 4pm CST: closed, by invitation only

Location : Wanuskewin National Historic Site

Academic Workshop: NordForsk Application



About Us

The University of Saskatchewan

At the heart of **Saskatoon, Saskatchewan** on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis, is the University of Saskatchewan (USask). USask is one of the top research-intensive universities in Canada, and is home to world-leading research in areas of global importance, like water, food, and energy security.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Saskatoon is a growing, friendly city. The Saskatoon area has been inhabited for over 8000 years, first by First Nations people who have left evidence of their lives in the form of tipi rings, medicine wheels, and bison kill sites. The name “Saskatoon” comes from the Cree word misaskwatomina, which refers to a sweet, purple berry which still grows in the area.

The first settlers of European ancestry arrived in the early 1880's. Chief White Cap advised them to build their colony on the east side of the river; this colony was called Nutana, and was located where the neighbourhood of Nutana is today. By the early 1900's, a settlement called Saskatoon had developed on the west side of the river, and Riversdale (still a neighbourhood today) had sprung up on the west bank, further south from Saskatoon. In 1906, the three villages joined together to create the town of Saskatoon. Throughout its history, it has welcomed people from all over Canada and the world. We can't wait to show you around.

Our Partners



QUEST

Mitacs



 **SaskPower**
Powering the future

 **Valard** | Connecting People.
Powering Communities.



ACEP
Alaska Center for Energy and Power

ONEC



Finnmark Kraft



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MUSÉE CANADIEN POUR LES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE


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OF TECHNOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

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**For more information,
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Jackie Martin
CASES Project Manager
jackie.martin@usask.ca

WWW.RENEWABLEENERGY.USASK.CA



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Panelist Bios:

May 14th, 2024 Panel # 1 – Innovations and Energy Transitions/Futures

Moderated by: Saurabh Biswas, USask



Gwen Holdmann

UAF Associate Vice Chancellor
gwen.holdmann@alaska.edu

ACEP's founding director Gwen Holdmann currently serves as the associate vice chancellor for research for innovation and industry partnerships for UAF. Through this role, she manages UAF's innovation and technology transfer programs and helps guide strategic partnership opportunities with the State of Alaska and industry. She continues to maintain an affiliation with ACEP as a senior researcher, focusing on energy policy and planning, and small-scale nuclear energy.

She has been inducted into the Alaska Innovator's Hall of Fame, was selected as a member of Alaska's Top Forty Under 40, and is a former Arctic Fulbright Scholar. Holdmann has a B.S. in physics from Bradley University and an M.S. in energy engineering and policy from UAF. She is the mother to three children, ages 13 (twins) and 11, and has completed the Yukon Quest and Iditarod sled dog races.



Noel Voykin

First Nations Power Authority
nvoykinefnpa.ca

Noel has focused on electrical utilities and the nuclear fuel cycle throughout his career. He has worked extensively as an executive in the public and private sectors in union and non-union environments both regionally and internationally in developing and developed economies. Noel has held senior roles at electrical utilities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Canada's North as well as a vertically integrated Canadian nuclear company.

Noel served as the President & Chief Executive Officer of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) where he led the corporation through a significant change in strategic direction, dealt with COVID-19, and led the organization through a ransomware attack all while focusing on improved relationships with customers, Indigenous Nations of the Northwest Territories, and the company's labor union.



Charlotta Söderberg

Associate Professor, LTU
charlotta.soderberg@ltu.se

Charlotta Söderberg is Associate Professor in Political Science at the Division of Social Sciences at Luleå University of Technology. She has a PhD in Political Science (2011) from Umeå University. Charlotta is coordinating the Centre for the Arctic and Antarctic (CAA) at LTU and has a leading role within the Secretariat of The Arctic Five (2023-2025).

Charlotta Söderberg's research is mainly focused on environmental policy integration, multi-level governance, policy learning and institutional analysis with an empirical focus on environmental policy in general and energy-, climate-, and water policy in particular. Charlotta has a long experience of research in both political science based research projects and in multidisciplinary research projects, she participates regularly in both Swedish and international research conferences and is currently active in a number of Swedish and international research projects.



Randi Lervik

Lofotkraft Muligheter AS
randi.lervik@lofotkraft.no

Randi Lervik is a day-to-day project manager at Lofotkraft Muligheter AS, where she works with the development of solutions for the future's low-emission society, and in particular infrastructure and services that come from increased electrification and the use of digital and smart solutions. She has extensive experience in development work through a number of projects and involvement, particularly in Nordland, and among other things an MBA in ecological economics from NORD University.

Randi was born and raised among fir trees in Trøndelag, but became a northerner about 30 years ago. Today she lives in a cove in Kabelvåg.



Panelist Bios:

May 15th, 2024 Panel # 1 – Utilities and Industry Moderated by: Doug Opseth, SaskPower



Ryan Makela
ATCO
Ryan.Makela@atco.com

Ryan has been working in the energy industry for over 20 years, with more than 15 years of experience in utilities and renewables. Throughout his career in the utility sector, he has progressed through a variety of roles that had him overseeing the construction of some of the largest electricity transmission and distribution projects in western Canada. Ryan is an Electrical Engineering Technologist and Power System Electrician by trade, with a background in project management. Ryan's most recent role at ATCO, as Senior Manager of Northern Development, has had him managing the delivery of ATCO's Off-Diesel Program; an initiative that leverages ATCO's wealth of experience in integrating renewables into the remote communities they serve, by providing support to other communities to help them accomplish the same. This service has been enabling Indigenous communities in their transition to clean renewable energy, and more importantly, Indigenous ownership and participation in the energy sector.



Alex Love
NTPC
ALove@ntpc.com

Alex Love is a Professional Electrical Engineer with 35 years of experience, 25 of which are with Electric Power Utilities. Alex has Operational, Capital Construction and Regulatory experience in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and British Columbia. Highlights of Alex's career include leading his team to develop Canada's first Community Solar Garden, guiding a utility through a major infrastructure renewal, developing an award-winning energy efficiency program for customers, helping a city achieve a 25% reduction in GHG emissions and helping a utility reduce their power supply costs by 15%. In 2016 Alex was the President of the NWPPA (Northwest Public Power Association), which represents utilities from California to Alaska that provide power to over 5 million homes. Alex assumed the role of Chief Projects and Engineering Officer in 2022 after serving as Director, Hydro Operations, for several years.



Kjell Richardsen
Municipality of Berlevåg, Norway
kjell.richardseneberlevag.kommune.no

Kjell Richardsen, has been working with issues related to hydrogen and 'stranded wind power' since 2010. He has worked on projects to assess the potential that stranded wind power can offer to a region without sufficient grid capacity. He has also been the project manager responsible for finance and personnel for two major 132kV line developments. Since 2019, he has been working as a business developer in Berlevåg Municipality, with primary responsibility for the Berlevåg Industrial Park project where there is a focus on sustainability, circular economy, and symbiosis.



Bill Stamm
President and CEO, AVEC
bstamm@avec.org

Bill Stamm is the President and CEO of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, (AVEC). AVEC operates 47 isolated G&D (Generation and Distribution) microgrids to serve 58 communities throughout remote, rural Alaska and has integrated wind, solar and energy storage on its primarily diesel generation systems. Since joining AVEC in 1993 Bill has contributed to the development, operation and maintenance of the cooperative's infrastructure and business systems as a Laborer, Assistant Construction Manager, Line Superintendent, and Engineering Manager. Bill has two grown children living in Alaska. He and his wife, Linda, are living happily ever after in the family home they built together in Anchorage. Bill earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Connecticut and is a professional engineer registered in the State of Alaska.



Panelist Bios:

May 15th, 2024 Panel # 2 – Northern & Indigenous Communities

Energy Transition Moderated by: Diane Hirshberg, UAA



Simon Hagen
Gwich'in Tribal Council
simonjhagen@gmail.com



Maggie Mills
Gwich'in Tribal Council
pnwmaggiemills@gmail.com

Simon Hagen is the Vice chair of the Nihtat Gwich'in renewable resource council. At 17 years of age Simon started his career as an electrician. In his position on the Council, he helps oversee and coordinate community harvests, private land cabin registry, and research project licensing to improve traditional ways of providing life to northern families and offset the cost of living. Simon, himself is highly active and connected to the land – and is an avid hunter/harvester. // Maggie Mills is a first-generation Danish settler who has been working with First Nations to advance economic, environmental and food sovereignty for the past ten years. She is pleased to be supporting the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the development of their Gwich'in Energy Strategy.



Melissa Beatty
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation
melissa.beatty@pbcn.ca

Melissa Beatty is from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN), Deschambault Lake, which is in northern Saskatchewan. She completed her bachelor's degree with a major in Indigenous Studies in 2006 from the University of Regina and obtained her Masters in Northern Governance and Development from the University of Saskatchewan in 2013. She has over twenty-one years of professional management experience in working for PBCN and is currently working as the PBCN Band Manager/Administrator. She takes great pride in providing the best service she can for her Nation and as a graduate student with CASES. Melissa has a personal goal of working hard for the betterment of PBCN in everything that she does..



Tim Kalke
SEGA
tim.kalke@sustainablegalena.org

Tim is a PhD student in the Environment and Sustainability program at the University of Saskatchewan. Born and raised in Wyoming, U.S.A, Tim received an undergraduate degree in History; Secondary Education at the neighboring University of Northern Colorado and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army. After military service, he and his wife settled in Galena, Alaska, a remote Native Athabascan village located on the banks of the Yukon River in the interior region of the state. While employed as a public educator at the local Galena high school, Tim obtained a Master of Natural Resources degree with an emphasis in Sustainable Development. He now has transitioned to a career in the sustainable energy field and manages a locally owned non-profit organization, Sustainable Energy for Galena, Alaska (SEGA). Tim's research interests are in collaborative energy planning and sustainable development with the goal of bringing a wider range of benefits to his community and region.



Mayor Rolf Laupstad
Berlevåg Municipality, Norway
rolf.laupstad@berlevag.kommune.no

Mayor Rolf Laupstad has been a politician for the Labor party in Berlevåg for 28 years. His occupation is as a policeman since 1988. Mayor Laupstad's vision for Berlevåg is one of building strong communities in the Arctic, leveraging new renewable energy technologies. Recognizing the pressing need to address the renewable energy transition, Laupstad is steadfast in his commitment to advancing the municipality's climate goals while minimizing the impact on the surrounding natural environment.



Panelist Bios:

May 15th, 2024 Panel # 3 – Critical Minerals & Energy

Moderated by: **Martin Boucher, USask**



Kevin Ansdell
Professor, USASK
kevin.ansdell@usask.ca

Dr. Kevin Ansdell is a Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan (30+ years), with expertise in mineral deposits, and Precambrian geology. He has supervised research projects on many critical minerals, such as uranium, base metals, lithium, nickel, and rare earth elements, developed a successful Mineral Exploration team project for undergraduate students, and a new course on the “Geoscience of Green Energy and the Digital Economy”. He is a Professional Geoscientist in Saskatchewan, and recently served the professional community as Saskatchewan Director and President of Geoscientists Canada. At the University of Saskatchewan, he is a member of the Steering Committee for the Energy and Mineral Resources for a Sustainable Future signature area, and has just started a new NSERC Alliance Missions project on the “Life cycle assessment of critical minerals in a copper-zinc system”.



Muhammad Imran
Vice President, SRC
muhammad.imran@src.sk.ca

Dr. Muhammad Imran is Vice-President of the Rare Earth Element Division at the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC). With a PhD in Chemical Engineering, he has a strong focus on the rare earth sector. Dr. Imran has consistently demonstrated an ability to navigate complex challenges and identify strategic opportunities drawing from his keen understanding of various business landscapes. His proficiency in technology solutions has enabled him to lead innovative projects that optimize operations, drive efficiency, and enhance overall productivity. Dr. Imran fosters a culture of innovation and collaboration within the organizations he leads. His leadership skills inspire high-performance teams, facilitating the execution of ambitious projects and driving transformative change.



Leslie Robbins
Department of Geology, UofR
Leslie.Robbins@uregina.ca

Leslie Robbins is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology at the University of Regina. He obtained his PhD ('18) from the University of Alberta, following which he was a Donnelley Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences at Yale University. Leslie's current research is focused on novel sources (e.g., coal combustions by-products, subsurface brines) for critical minerals such as rare earth elements and lithium, as well as the co-evolution of Earth's surface environments and biosphere from the Archean to the modern.



Panelist Bios:

May 15th, 2024 Panel # 4 – MMRs & SMRs Moderated by: **Michael Ross, Yukon University**



Gwen Holdmann

UAF Associate Vice Chancellor
gwen.holdmann@alaska.edu

ACEP's founding director Gwen Holdmann currently serves as the associate vice chancellor for research for innovation and industry partnerships for UAF. Through this role, she manages UAF's innovation and technology transfer programs and helps guide strategic partnership opportunities with the State of Alaska and industry. She continues to maintain an affiliation with ACEP as a senior researcher, focusing on energy policy and planning, and small-scale nuclear energy.

She has been inducted into the Alaska Innovator's Hall of Fame, was selected as a member of Alaska's Top Forty Under 40, and is a former Arctic Fulbright Scholar. Holdmann has a B.S. in physics from Bradley University and an M.S. in energy engineering and policy from UAF. She is the mother to three children, ages 13 (twins) and 11, and has completed the Yukon Quest and Iditarod sled dog races.



Breann Whitby

Crown Investments Corporation (CIC)
bwhitby@cicorp.sk.ca

Breann Whitby is a Nuclear Analyst in the Crown Energy Security Division at Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan. Breann is part of a team that is responsible for modelling, planning, and coordinating provincial policy on electricity, natural gas, and nuclear energy. Previously, Breann was a Senior Analyst, Uranium, with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources. Prior to moving to Saskatchewan, Breann completed a Bachelor of Arts, Honours, in Economics from the University of Manitoba and a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Toronto, where she held a SSHRC Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship.



Mariia Iakovleva

CASES Post Doc, Usask
mariia.iakovleva@usask.ca

Mariia Iakovleva is a Postdoctoral Fellow conducting research related to policy and regulatory issues in energy transitions in the Circumpolar North, including Canada, Alaska, and Russia, specifically on Small and Micro Modular Nuclear Reactors and Renewable Energy. Mariia is Sakha (Yakut), an Indigenous group from the northeastern region of Yakutia, Siberia. Her background impacted her research interests including interest in energy security for northern, remote and Indigenous communities. Mariia has a background in Circumpolar and Indigenous studies and Sustainable Territorial Development of the Arctic. She gained her Bachelor's degree in English philology from the Northeastern Federal University in Russia, her Master's degree in Arctic studies from the University of Versailles (Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines) in France and a second Master's in Northern Governance and Development from the University of Saskatchewan. She also has experience working for the regional government of Yakutia in the area of scientific and innovation project development.

Things to do in Saskatoon



Western Development Museum. Visit the largest human history museum in Saskatchewan with a collection of over 75,000 artifacts ranging from pins to locomotives and four locations in the province. The WDM shares the Saskatchewan story from the beginning of settlement to present day.

Hours: Tuesday to Wednesday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Thursday from 9:00 am – 8:00 pm and Friday to Sunday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Website: <https://wdm.ca/>

Remai Modern Museum. Remai Modern is a direction-setting art museum and gathering place for culture and community. The building includes 11 gallery spaces, a 150-seat theatre, a restaurant, outdoor terraces and rooms with stunning views of the South Saskatchewan River.

City of Saskatoon Walking tour – Explore the city of bridges. This tour follows the South Saskatchewan River through Saskatoon's major life events and growth. Max of 5 people per group. Duration: 1h 30m

Booking: [https://www.tripadvisor.ca/AttractionProductReview-g155043-d18973294-](https://www.tripadvisor.ca/AttractionProductReview-g155043-d18973294-Explore_the_City_of_Bridges_with_Walking_Tours_in_Saskatoon-Saskatoon_Saskatchewan.html)

[Explore_the_City_of_Bridges_with_Walking_Tours_in_Saskatoon-Saskatoon_Saskatchewan.html](https://www.tripadvisor.ca/AttractionProductReview-g155043-d18973294-Explore_the_City_of_Bridges_with_Walking_Tours_in_Saskatoon-Saskatoon_Saskatchewan.html)

Meewasin Valley Trail. The Meewasin Valley offers over 105 km of trails across 67 square km of land. It provides year-round recreation and wonderful sightseeing opportunities in the heart of Saskatoon and beyond. Website: <https://meewasin.com/locations/>

Prairie River Cruises. Discover Saskatoon... differently. Exploring Saskatoon from the South Saskatchewan River is like discovering the city all over again. Join Prairie River Cruises on one of their many cruises through the Meewasin Valley and take in the beauty of the living river, the friendly city and the prairie sky.

Website: <https://theprairielily.com/wp/>

For other attractions, go to <https://www.tourismsaskatchewan.com/>



Places to Eat in Saskatoon



Filosofi Wise Cuisine: A contemporary experience with cool vibes, Filosofi delivers authentic food with a West Coast vibe.

Address: 414 Cumberland Ave N, S7N 1M6

Opening hours Thursday/Friday: 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Website: www.filosofi.ca

Odla:

Address: 801 C Broadway Ave, s/N 1B5

Opening hours Thursday/Friday: 5 pm – 10 pm

Website: www.odla.ca

Cactus Club Café: A casual restaurant serving global cuisine using local, fresh ingredients.

Address: 140 Idylwyld Drive South, S7L 0Y7

Opening hours Thursday/Friday: 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Website: www.cactusclubcafe.com/locations/saskatoon/

Taverna Italian Kitchen: Taverna seeks out the best imported Italian ingredients, complemented by local products whenever possible.

Address: 219 21st St E, S7K 0B7

Opening hours Thursday/Friday: 4 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Website: www.tavernaitaliankitchen.com

Granary: Steakhouse, Canadian. Food, Fun, & Folklore. With a bountiful menu that ranges from house specialty steaks & prime rib (all western beef) to fresh salmon and pasta dishes, a salad wagon with all the trimmings, and a dessert menu even for the most choosy sweet tooth.

Address: 2806 8th St E, S7H 0V9

Opening hours: 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Website: www.thegranarysaskatoon.ca



Tour of SRC



SASKATCHEWAN
RESEARCH COUNCIL



May 14th, 2024 10am - 11:30 am

Guided Tour with Ryan Hill, SRC COO

820 51st Street East, Saskatoon, SK

Please arrive at 9:45am

**Spaces are limited,
Please register with Jackie**

For those that need transportation, we will leave from in front of the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express, 1838 College Drive at 9:15 am and the Park Town Hotel at 9:30am (meet at the corner of 24th and Spadina).





Dinner at Boffins



BOFFINS
PUBLIC HOUSE

May 14th, 2024 6pm - 10pm
109 Research Drive, Saskatoon, SK

