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Partnerships in Support of Literacy

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Over the past few years, an increasing number of organizations, businesses and media are coming together in support of literacy in Saskatchewan. Some of the newest and most promising partnerships include our joint efforts with SaskEnergy on *Share the Warmth*, CanWest Global on *Raise-a-Reader*, and most recently, CBC Radio on *Canada Reads*.

Through each of these partnerships, we have been able to increase broad public awareness of literacy needs and issues in addition to increasing the resources and funds directly available to literacy programs throughout the province. This year alone, SaskEnergy collected over 30,000 children's books that were distributed to over 100 family literacy and related programs across Saskatchewan – including communities from Weyburn in the south to Ile a la Crosse in the north.

CanWest Global generated approximately \$30,000 through *Raise-a-Reader* events in Regina and Saskatoon. These funds are being made available to family literacy and related programs across the province through an application and grant disbursement process led by CanWest Global.

Our newest partner, CBC Radio, will be organizing a series of fundraising events at the community level as part of their *Canada Reads* programme. The funds generated from these events will be used by the SLN to continue to provide a broad range of supports and services to the over 500 individuals and organizations within the province with which we work and serve. These partnerships demonstrate incredible win-win situations for everyone involved.

In addition to the partnerships that are intended to raise awareness and resources for literacy, the SLN is currently exploring a number of new partnerships and links with other provincial organizations and government departments. Recently, the SLN made the commitment to partner with the Saskatchewan Library Association and a number of other provincial organizations and agencies, to plan a joint conference in the spring 2005. The theme of the conference will be "Linking Communities" with the ultimate goal of creating links between organizations, sectors and communities working toward common goals. As an organization, we are very excited about this opportunity and will be providing additional information as the conference date approaches.

The SLN also recently had the opportunity to make a presentation on the SLN's role in promoting and supporting family literacy in Saskatchewan to the Community Schools Working Committee meeting in Saskatoon. At this meeting, we were able to enhance our links with community schools across the province. A number of community schools are currently providing adult and family literacy programs at the community level. It is essential that we continue to work together and support community-based efforts to address literacy needs.

The examples cited here offer merely a glimpse of some of the new and exciting partnerships that have been formed in support of literacy in Saskatchewan. Where this can lead is yet to unfold!

Debbie Purton - Executive Director



Results from Two SLN Partnerships



This year, SLN continued its partnership with SaskEnergy, the United Way, the Lions Club and many others to collect and distribute books and

warm clothing through the *Share the Warmth* campaign.

Though faced with a few minor setbacks such as little advertising due to the provincial election and less collection time this year (the campaign was two weeks instead of three weeks), the campaign was still a success.

Through *Share the Warmth*, SLN was able to collect and distribute over 30 000 books to over 100 programs and projects around the province. These books were given to families, used during Family Literacy Day activities, and kept for use in programs and lending libraries.

Books were distributed to programs like:

Aboriginal Headstart programs

ECIP programs

Daycares

Community Schools

SLN tried to distribute books to as many locations around the province as possible. Many thanks to the literacy practitioners who assisted with this process including:

April Dahnke - Regina

Glenda James - Moose Jaw

Lawrence Finlayson - LaRonge

Dierdre Creighton - Yorkton

Bula Ghosh - Swift Current

Holly Neufeld - Meadow Lake



This is the second year SLN has been involved in CanWest

Global Communications Raise a Reader fund-raising project. On October 5th, volunteers, employees of CanWest, celebrities, and literacy workers took to the streets in Saskatoon and Regina to give away special literacy editions of the Regina *Leader-Post* and Saskatoon *Star Phoenix* for donations. Again the citizens of both cities came through with great generosity. But the *Raise a Reader* campaign did not stop there.

CanWest continued to hold special events and other fund-raisers to help boost the total dollars raised for family literacy in Saskatchewan. At the end of 2003, there was over \$25 000 available to family literacy programs around the province. And next year will be even better!

At the time of this printing, proposals are being considered. Watch our Web site for a listing of the successful programs.

Articles Wanted

- Has your organization developed an innovative program or resource?
- Is your community getting more involved with literacy?
- Have you recently won a literacy related award?
- Do you know of any learners who would like to write about their literacy experiences?

If so, we would love to publish them in the next *Literacy Matters*. Send submissions to Kim at: kblevins@accesscomm.ca

(Pictures are welcome too!)

Next deadline: April 16, 2004

Learner Support Group Report Prince Albert

We had 12 learners at our February 4th meeting. We had Brenda Lee there to do a "how to use story sacks session." We also launched the Riverside Community School Story Sacks Lending for the whole school.

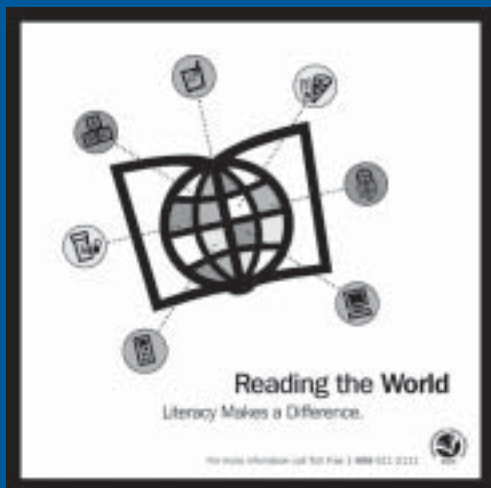
Instead of celebrating for one day on Family Literacy Day, we did a week. The learners were involved in giving family packages to students to take home, and putting up a display at the school. We also convinced Prince Albert Mayor Jim Stiglits to come to our school. He went to the Pre-K class and read stories to Pre-K class, Kindergarten and Grade One. They were in the Prince Albert newsletter. On the last day we handed out books from Share the Warmth to learners too.

March is an exciting month for us learners. On the 1st, 8th, 15th and 27th from 6:30-7:30p.m. we will have conversational Cree classes. On March 11 at 6:30-8:00p.m. will be learning how to use a computer. We are all so happy. A lot of the learners' objectives are being met. It's going to be so awesome.

Neune Selinger

Literacy Posters Available

Posters are available to SLN members upon request in both English and French. To get your copies, call the Saskatchewan Literacy Network toll-free at: 1-888-511-2111.



Design donated by Bradbury Branding and Design Inc.

New SLN rep for MCL-LAN

The SLN board of directors is pleased to announce that Carey Rigby-Wilcox from Saskatoon is the new Movement for Canadian Literacy-Learners' Advisory Network (MCL-LAN) representative.

Carey has been an adult learner with READ Saskatoon for 13 years. She is the facilitator for the Saskatoon Learner Support Group and a member of the provincial Learners' Focus Committee. She sits on the READ Saskatoon board of directors and has won the Canada Post Award and the Saskatchewan Literacy Award of Merit.

Congratulations Carey!

In the SLN Resource Collection

A Dream that Walks: A Goal Setting Workbook.

Myrna Hanna, Action Read Community Literacy Centre, Garlic Press. 2000.

The workbook is written for low level adult literacy learners who are working with tutors/teachers. It can be adapted to any level learner.

The workbook uses clear language and informative graphics to illustrate how to set goals by breaking them down into steps.

Activities include: constructing a life line, personality typing, learning styles, setting goals, and setting a goal plan.

The video includes real learners talking about their life experiences and how they worked on setting goals.

Aboriginal Literacy Gathering 2004

As you may be aware the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network (formerly the Provincial Steering Committee) organized and hosted *Mamawenig "Sharing and Celebrating Our Knowledge"* May 2002 at Fort San, Saskatchewan. This was the first Aboriginal Literacy Gathering ever in Saskatchewan.

At the Gathering, over 250 participants from all over Saskatchewan and across Canada, came together to develop a vision for Aboriginal Literacy in the province. The Aboriginal Literacy Strategic Plan Report was a direct result of the input provided by the Gathering participants. Several key elements of this action plan have already been incorporated into Saskatchewan Learning's Provincial Literacy Strategy (currently in draft form).

The energy, enthusiasm and momentum generated at the Gathering are still very much alive. We are pleased to announce that the second Aboriginal Literacy Gathering will be held on September 27, 28, 29, 2004 at Echo Valley Conference Center at Fort San, Saskatchewan.

The Gathering's objectives are to:

- Share best practices in Aboriginal literacy and to learn from one another;
- Provide opportunities for Elders, Learners, Practitioners, Youth, Community Members and Political Leaders to gather and create a strong network for Aboriginal literacy in Saskatchewan;
- Enhance awareness of the connection between Aboriginal literacy, language, culture and healing;
- Encourage First Nations, Metis and Non-Aboriginal communities to commit to working together to enhance Aboriginal literacy;
- Assist individuals and organizations to find and claim their place in realizing the shared vision for Aboriginal literacy in Saskatchewan;
- Develop a networking tool that will assist and support participants in their current and future

contributions towards Aboriginal literacy;

- Acknowledge an Elder, a Practitioner and a Learner for their contributions towards the advancement of Aboriginal Literacy.

Registration has been limited to 225 and is open to Elders, Learners, Practitioners, Youth, Political Leaders, interested community members and others. The registration fee for the Gathering is \$350.00. This includes workshop sessions, lodging, meals, banquet and cultural activities. We hope that this allows you sufficient time to include these expenses in your 2004 budget.

It is our intention to invite 30 Adult Learners and 15 Youth to participate in the Gathering at no charge. However, any Learner or Youth selected to attend will require organizational or community support to cover travel expenses.

We are seeking **Volunteers** to help organize and facilitate The Gathering. We plan to recruit approximately 40 volunteers to assist in all aspects of the planning process. In recognition of these volunteers, the Registration fee will be waived. You will find enclosed a list of committees with job description.

In March 2004, you can expect to receive a package of information that will contain:

- Flyers with detailed information about The Gathering
- Call for Presentors
- Learner/Youth application form
- Registration form
- Trade Show and exhibitors information and application forms

In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact

The Project Director, Carmen Bussiere at (306) 934-2632 or E-mail aboriginal.literacy@sasktel.net

We look forward to your support and involvement in The Gathering, September 2004.

NLS Call for Proposals

This year, the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) will make the grant application packages available **online only**. Paper copies of this application will **NOT** be sent in the mail. To get a copy of the package, please go to one of the following Web sites:

- www.nald.ca/sklitnet.htm
- government of Sask
- NLS

Following are the NLS timelines for 2004:

January 23

NLS call for proposals to be posted on NLS Web site.

March 12

Deadline for proposals to be submitted.

May 12-14

NLS Review Committee to meet, review proposals and make recommendations for funding.

2004 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards

The Literacy Awards will be held at Government House in Regina on April 21, 2004. Hosted by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, the evening promises to be special to all.

Nominations for the Saskatchewan Literacy Awards are open until March 19, 2004. Please take the time to nominate a person or organization in the following categories:

- *Learner (2 Cameco bursaries of \$250)*
- *Volunteer*
- *Practitioner*
- *Program*
- *Corporate*

Please visit the SLN Web site for more information: www.nald.ca/sklitnet.htm or call toll-free: 1-888-511-2111

HRDC Splits in Two

Human Resources Development Canada has recently split into two separate departments. They are:

- Social Development
- Human Resources and Skills Development

The National Literacy Secretariat, the main federal government funding source for literacy, has become part of Human Resources and Skills Development.

The mandate of the Human Resources and Skills Development department is: to promote human development through a healthy labour market and effective learning systems.

What does this mean for literacy?

The split means that the National Literacy Secretariat becomes a more substantial part of a smaller department. However, its budget and mandate won't be affected. By becoming a larger part of a department, literacy as a policy issue may rise and more funding might be made available.

However, on the down-side, with this split, literacy may become too narrowly linked with the labour market.

Quote of the Day

This quote comes from Prime Minister Paul Martin's response to the Throne Speech.

"We want a Canada where every child arrives at school ready to learn. A Canada where everyone has the opportunity for post-secondary education regardless of geography or means. A Canada where universal literacy and lifelong learning are part of the national fabric."

2004 Family Literacy Day Celebrations

Prince Albert Literacy Network

On Feb. 4, in conjunction with family literacy activities, SIAST Woodland students had a family literacy facilitator speak on how family literacy has enhanced her family's life, including how she once sat in the same upgrading class as them and now is a Kids First support worker who helps other families develop family literacy and good parenting practices.

Prince Alberts Mayor Jim Stiglitz and City Council officially declared February 27 as Family Literacy Day in the city.

Vincent Massey Pre-Kindergarten class had 7 children and parents attend their warm Family Literacy Day Celebration. The wind chill is what kept the other 7 children at home that day. The big drawing card was the Weyerhaeuser Backpacks children were borrowing for the first time that day. The backpacks contain books and toys, games and colouring pages related to different themes. Parents attended an orientation about the backpacks and their role as their child's first teacher while the school librarian read a Robert Munsch story to the children. Then, everyone took part in story time, using the ***Five Little Ducks*** storysack borrowed from the Prince Albert Literacy Network. At the end of the day, all children and family members had warmed up to the idea of families reading, writing, singing and surfing together.

The PALN Family Literacy Day activities included interviews, promotions and prizes on all 3 local radio stations. Throughout the city, over 1200 students and staff spent time sharing books by Robert Munsch. Three schools, St. Michael's, Arthur Pechey, and Prince Charles, and one preschool, L'Ecole des Petites, had 100% participation. 164 Family Literacy bingo cards were turned in and 10 draws for prize bags were made. Riverside Community School had a special activity each day, including Mayor Jim Stiglitz stopping by to read a story.

John M. Cuelenaere Public Library had a Family Literacy Day Munsch-a-thon on Feb. 27. Despite bone-chilling temperatures (it was TOOOOOO cold to read *50 Below Zero!*!), the hardy Robert Munsch fans who attended enjoyed the stories, *Thomas Snowsuit* and *I Have to Go*. We watched the video, *Pigs, Pigs, Pigs*, and had a great time with *The Paper Bag Princess* Storysack, borrowed from Prince Albert Literacy Network. Two door prizes were awarded and everyone went away with Family Literacy Day giveaways. Children attending regular library story times throughout the week also received Family Literacy Day giveaways.

Compiled by Janet Gray
Prince Albert Literacy Network
jgray@jmcpl.ca

Regina

The Regina Family Literacy Project promotes National Family Literacy Day every year. This year we adopted February as Family Literacy Month! Many celebrations took place around the city, including the ***2nd Annual "Read In on Robert Munsch"***. Some highlights included:

AI Ritchie Family Wellness Centre – A special Family Fun Reading family literacy program took place, highlighting the Read In on Robert Munsch. Families received a free Robert Munsch book and special guest readers attended from the Regina City Police, and AI Ritchie Community Service Centre.

Athabasca Elementary School – celebrated National Family Literacy Day during their Reading Week. They hosted writing workshops with authors such as Paul Kropp, puppet shows, cartoon workshops, storytelling from the Regina Public Library's Storytellers in Residence, many guest readers, and a Books for Breakfast event with parents!

Regina Early Learning Centre – Besides the fantastic ongoing family literacy programs at the school, there was a Reading Corner set up for children, special guest speakers, a "Read In" on Robert Munsch, and the ELC KidsFirst Home Visitors ran special family literacy activities with each of their families!

Dr. George Ferguson School and Rosement Elementary School - Students created Family Literacy Day posters and held a Read In on Robert Munsch in each of the classrooms.

Henry Braun Elementary School – They celebrated Family Literacy Day with a special reading buddies time and DEAR program, Drop Everything and Read!

Massey Elementary School – They hosted special celebrations highlighting the nominated Willow Award categories, bagel and book breakfast, and special guest readers!

Regina Public Library – There are many activities going on with the libraries in Regina. They are going out to schools to participate as special guest readers, performing puppet shows, and storytelling. The RPL's very own, Storyteller in Residence, will be hosting a "Read In on Robert Munsch" for staff on Family Literacy Day, many workshops on literacy and a special English as a Second Language Family Fun Fair for tutors and learners!

ST, Wascana Campus - Basic Education sponsored a "Read to Readers Write" event. This event took place over the month of February and all of the stories were submitted to the Day Care for their reading pleasure.

YMCA – They promoted Family Literacy Day and month to tutors and students in the Achievement Plus program, and had a display set out on Jaunaury 27th and throughout the month of February.

Lloydminster



Mayor Ken Baker signed a proclamation for Family Literacy Day in Lloydminster.

The community of Lloydminster celebrated Family Literacy Day at the LloydMall on Sunday, Jan. 25. Lloydminster LEARN displayed information about Family Literacy Programs, and 8 pattern stories written by the local elementary schools that participated in their Family Literacy Day Pattern Story Activity. (Each school that participated received 20 books for their school library.)

Incentives to attend this event included:

- Free Books for the first 100 children
- Free Door Prize Draws
- Free Family Literacy Day promotional items
- Mini storytime sessions & rhyming demonstrations for children
- Bandits Hockey team autographed the books

The support for this event was wonderful:

- 8 elementary schools wrote pattern stories
- parents and children were lined up before 1:00
- over 100 children received promo items and entered their names in the door prize draws
- 5 family literacy facilitators read books and did rhyming demonstrations
- 3 hockey players signed autographs

SLN Book bags for Sale

Get your attractive, functional and durable book bag today.

Cost: \$15.00

Call toll-free

1-888-511-2111 for more information.

SLN Family Literacy Update

Congratulations to everyone involved in Family Literacy Day events. I have heard of some new and innovative activities. Each year more and more people are becoming involved in celebrating Family Literacy Day. Every activity increases awareness of the importance of literacy in general and family literacy in particular. Keep up the good work.

Family literacy training continues to be offered throughout the province. *Come Read With Me* has been offered in La Ronge and Meadow Lake and will be offered in Weyburn April 27 to 29. Storysacks training has been offered in Balcarres, Yorkton and Prince Albert, with excellent attendance and participation in each community. A-LAPS training will be offered in Yorkton March 9 to 11. Proposal Writing workshops will be held in a number of communities over the next few weeks as organizations complete their proposals for NLS funding (deadline for proposals is March 12). If you would like training in your community and have 10 people interested in the training, we can provide the training you would like.

I would like to highlight some of the activities that have been happening in Yorkton through Parkland Regional Library and the work of Deidre Crichton. Last year Deidre organized *Come Read With Me* training for practitioners in the region. This year there will be 4 *Come Read With Me* programs offered in the community. *Storysacks* training has been offered twice at the library and once at Dr. Brass Community School. Deidre has been able to obtain funding to make a total of 60 *Storysacks* and there will be *Storysacks* work bees at the library over the next few months. Deidre and the regional library have worked in partnership with community schools and other organizations to raise awareness of literacy issues and to offer family literacy programs and activities to the larger community. This is a good example of how one organization can be the catalyst for program development and delivery in a community.

If your community is involved in family literacy activities, please let us know, so that we can share the information with other practitioners.

Lynne Mourot, Family Literacy Coordinator

Family Literacy Research

by Dr. Pat Campbell

A large-scale study conducted in 1999 looked at the reading beliefs and proficiencies of young children and parents from low-income families in Newfoundland. The researchers, Julia O'Sullivan and Mark Howe, conducted the study with 702 low-income parents and 539 children, aged 4 to 8 years. As a group, the children had pre-reading and reading skills well below national averages. Although the majority of the children were not proficient readers, the sample included children who were among the most outstanding readers in Canada. This study examines why some children became excellent readers, while others did not.

The findings suggested that before Grade 2, proficient readers follow one of two independent paths to reading excellence: skill vs. will. The skill path is based on knowledge of print conventions while the will path is based on the child's confidence in their reading ability. This article focuses on the skill path.

In this study, outstanding readers on the skill path knew a great deal about book and print conventions. For example, these children knew that English is read from left to right. This type of knowledge comes from interaction with books. The implication of this finding is that even small increases in exposure to print for children living in poverty could result in considerable benefits for their reading.

The parents of the proficient readers on the skill path were distinguished by their extremely positive beliefs about their child's competence. In every grade level, small increases in parents' beliefs about their children's competence went together with increases in the children's knowledge of print conventions and, in turn, with an increase in children's reading proficiency. This finding suggests that professional development (PD) for parents involved in family literacy programs should include an in-depth exploration of their beliefs about competent reading.

For the full-text document, go the Directory of Canadian Adult Literacy Research database at <http://www.nald.ca/crd/>

Reference :O'Sullivan, J. & Howe, M.L. (1999). *Overcoming poverty: promoting literacy in children from low-income families*. Thunder Bay, ON: Lakehead University.

Family Literacy Day: A Brief History from



Family Literacy Day (FLD) had its beginnings on January 27, 1999, when ABC CANADA created *Penny's Odyssey*, a made-for-TV movie, which was broadcast nationally on CTV. The movie was developed by ABC CANADA, and presented by Honda Canada Inc. To help promote it, posters and bookmarks were distributed to the general public by literacy organizations across Canada. The movie and the materials met with such a favourable response that ABC CANADA decided to create an annual, national initiative to celebrate the importance of reading and learning as a family.

Here's a sample of some of the Family Literacy Day highlights over the years:

1999

Swiss Chalet includes a Family Literacy Day message in its menus, and its restaurant staff wears Family Literacy Day buttons on January 27; Winnipeg's famous Assiniboia Downs racetrack features a special FLD message on all its television screens.

2000

Lire et écrire pour la vie, a 40-minute documentary, written and directed by Marthe Métayer that examines the issue of literacy, is broadcast in prime time on TFO. The documentary broadcast is followed by a panel discussion; ABC CANADA's first-ever FLD television Public Service Announcement (PSA), *Learn Anywhere*, is created by Brandworks International and aired by broadcasters across Canada; The first FLD radio PSAs, featuring Canadian folk singer Valdy, are produced and aired across Canada.



2001

Basics Office Products Ltd., Indigo Books, Music and More, Chapters and Coles support the initiative by distributing promotional materials in their outlets; Out-of-home advertising company, the Elevator News Network (ENN) agrees to display a FLD message on its 800 video screens located in the elevators of large office towers across Canada.

2002

ABC CANADA develops a family literacy-themed Sixty-Second Report, in partnership with Canada NewsWire. It airs across Canada on Global television, on the evening news, the week before Family Literacy Day. ABC CANADA's FLD TV Public Service Announcement is aired on a giant electronic billboard located in downtown Toronto during the months leading up to January 27; Viacom Outdoor features a life-sized FLD poster in a high-traffic, underground walkway at King subway, in the heart of Toronto's financial district.

2003

Family Literacy Day appoints its first Honorary Celebrity Chair - best-selling children's author, Robert Munsch; A special FLD story time at BCE Place in Toronto garners a front-page, above-the-fold photo in the city's major daily newspaper, *Toronto Star*; For the first time, outdoor media companies Astral Media and OMG Media donate billboards and poster space to FLD ads across the Greater Toronto Area; The Family Literacy Day message is transmitted over the Web, thanks to the first-time support of major Web sites like yellowpages.ca and canadapost.ca.

2004

Credit Union Central of Canada (CUCC) develops a special 2004 calendar with a sharing/learning with children theme, which includes a Family Literacy Day ad, family literacy tips, and a special notice on the January page; 250,000 calendars are distributed in CUCC branches across Canada, along with FLD promotional materials; A record sixty-three magazines agree to support Family Literacy Day by donating space for an ad - up from 9 in 2001, the year magazines were first approached for FLD support; Celebrities agree to help promote the importance of Family Literacy Day, by appearing in FLD television Public Service Announcements.

For more information on ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation, please visit their Web site at: www.abc-canada.org

Founding sponsor

HONDA

Strengthening the Learning Circles

The Nokee Kwe Professional Development Institute
June 20th – 24th 2004 London, Ontario

An Invitation to Canada's Aboriginal Literacy Practitioners

Nokee Kwe Occupational Skill Development located in London is southwestern Ontario's premier Aboriginal not-for-profit facility offering training programmes for job-readiness including an excellent Aboriginal literacy programme. With assistance from the National Literacy Secretariat and a number of provincial governments Nokee Kwe will be offering a national professional development training programme for Aboriginal literacy practitioners in June of this year.

"Strengthening the Learning Circles" is an exciting 5 day professional development training institute focused exclusively on the learning needs of Aboriginal literacy practitioners. It will offer an excellent opportunity to improve your professional skills by participating in intensive training with some of Canada's best experts and facilitators in the field of adult literacy. You will be able to participate in as many as 8 different training workshops over the 4 day period. It will also provide you with a chance to discuss and share information, and network with other literacy practitioners. The Institute will be complemented by a number of guest speakers and thematic luncheons as well as a curriculum fair. Elders will also be present to guide the learning experience.

We have been working with an advisory committee of Aboriginal literacy practitioners who have selected 8 workshop themes that they believe would be of interest to the broadest number of practitioners. They are:

Monday, June 21 – Tuesday, June 22

- Essential Activities in Basic Literacy Programming
- Holistic Education and Aboriginal Learners
- Design and Use of an Aboriginal Curriculum
- The Creative Use of Curriculum

Wednesday, June 23 – Thursday, June 24

- The Training and using Volunteers in Literacy Programmes
- Using Elders in the Learning Environment
- Working with FAS Adults in the Learning Environment
- Burnt, Fried; Toast: Avoiding Burnout in the Workplace

Nokee Kwe is negotiating with a post-secondary institution to allow participants to receive certification for their participation at the Institute.

The registration fee for this event is \$200 and *includes* accommodation, all meals and Institute materials. Substantial travel subsidies will also be available to registered participants.

For more information, please write send an email to:

The Nokee Kwe Professional Development Institute, 137 Dundas St., 2nd Floor, London, ON N6A 1E9

Email: bernice@nokeekwe.ca

Congratulations!

Congratulations go out to Mark Willament and his school, La Loche Community School, for winning two prestigious awards:

- Mark won a Saskatchewan Reading Council Award for Administrators for literacy support and leadership in his community.
- La Loche Community School has won the Exemplary Reading Program Award sponsored by the International Reading Association. This award recognizes outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school). Its purpose is to call the public's attention to outstanding programs in schools throughout North America. La Loche Community School will receive this award at the International Reading Association Conference to be held in Reno, Nevada in May of 2004.

It's wonderful to see the innovative programs and people of Saskatchewan recognized for their efforts!



SLN Resource Collection

New materials are arriving at the SLN office frequently. The SLN resource collection contains one of the most comprehensive collections of literacy-related material in the province and is open to SLN members. For more information, please visit the SLN web site at: www.nald.ca/sklitnet.htm or call toll-free 1-888-511-2111.

SLN staff recommend:

Seeing the Need: Meeting the Need

A Report on Recruitment and Retention Issues in Literacy and Basic Skills Programs
 Author: Yvonne Roussy & Doug Hart
 Publisher: Ontario Literacy Coalition
 Date: July 2002

This report contains information gathered by the Ontario Literacy Coalition project of the same name. The goal of the project was to talk to people who were starting to attend literacy programs and ask them a number of questions. Although the report uses formal language and technical descriptions, the information contained is useful in that it gives a good snapshot of why people begin attending literacy programs, what barriers they face, and how programs can realistically overcome these barriers.

Real Writing: Functional Writing for Intermediate Students.

David Mendelsohn, Joan Beyers, Maureen McNerney, Mariah Tyacke, Michael Carrier.
 Dominie Press Inc. 1997.

Real Writing is a workbook designed for use in an ESL literacy classroom or for ESL literacy tutor/learner pairs. It contains 20 units ranging from simple activities to more advanced activities, covering a variety of functional writing tasks like: expressing opinions, giving instructions, writing letters, understanding cartoons, following procedures, writing reports, etc. The book also helps learners understand the differences between written and spoken English, the levels of formality found in English and when to use them and various other general language skills.

Each unit is broken into the following parts: text, glossary, comprehension analysis, discussion, language practice, writing practice, and writing tasks.

New ESL Literacy Resources

These resources have been developed to prepare ESL / Literacy learners for the workplace using actual documents from the workplace. The documents were collected from local businesses and organizations that hire entry level workers.



The activities in the manuals provide learners with the opportunity to work with authentic documents while improving English reading, writing and numeracy skills. The suggested activities in the workbook start with

fairly predictable question-answer mode. As the questions progress critical thinking and problem solving skills are needed.

These workbooks could be used in the classroom or tutorial sessions.

Instructors who are working with ESL learners in Employment Readiness program or any related programs will find these manuals very useful.

To get your copy, contact Bula Ghosh or Bonnie Stevenson at Cypress Hills Regional College at 773-1531.



Need Resources?

Get what you need in a Traveling Trunk from SLN. We have trunks dedicated to several subjects relating to literacy. Call toll-free 1-888-511-2111 for information.

Keep in Touch...

If you're changing your job or changing your address, please let us know so that we can continue to keep you up-to-date on literacy events and activities.

You can send us your new contact information by:

Mail
Saskatchewan Literacy Network
206 - 220 - 3rd Ave S
Saskatoon SK S7K 1M1

Phone
Call 1-888-511-2111 or 653-7368
between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30p.m.
CST.

Fax
306-653-1704

Email
Send to saskliteracy@sasktel.net

In person
Visit our office in downtown
Saskatoon... we might even have
the coffee on.

Don't forget to visit our Web site:
www.nald.ca/sklitnet.htm

Send submissions to
Literacy Matters to Kim at:
kblevins@accesscomm.ca

Calendar of Events 2004

- Mar 2-3 *Tutor Training*, La Loche. For information contact Katrina at: katrina_ham@elit.ca.
- Mar 4 *Computer Assistive Technology*. Regina. Monthly sessions - please check with the LD office 352-5327 for times.
- Mar 6 *Provincial Learners' Focus Committee* meeting, Saskatoon. For more information, contact Katrina at: katrina_ham@elit.ca or 379-4897.
- Mar 8 *Proposal Writing* workshop, Saskatoon. For more information, contact Katrina at: katrina_ham@elit.ca or 379-4897.
- Mar 9-11 *A-Laps* Training, Yorkton. For more information contact Lynne Mouroit at: lmouot@sasktel.net or 764-6183.
- Mar 10 *Proposal Writing* workshop, Meadow Lake. For more information, contact Katrina at: katrina_ham@elit.ca or 379-4897.
- Mar 22-24 *KEYS to Family Literacy*, Saskatoon. Preference will be given to those working with adults in conflict with the law. For more information contact Lynne Mouroit at: lmouot@sasktel.net or 764-6183.
- Mar 27-29 *Come Read With Me*, Weyburn. For more information contact Lynne Mouroit at: lmouot@sasktel.net or 764-6183.
- Mar 29 *Learning Disabilities - Transitions to the next stage?? Help!!* What do you need to know and how to receive help in a post - secondary environment when you have a learning disability? *Call 352-5327 to register or for information.*
- April 16 ***Next Literacy Matters deadline***

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