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12 Ways SLN Meets Your Needs

1. Since September, we provided training to 172 people in 11 communities (with seven trainings left to go).
2. We continue to edit and refine the provincial Adult Literacy Benchmarks. Over 100 adult literacy practitioners are providing suggestions.
3. We have one of the strongest learner voices in Canada with learners sharing their perspectives on every SLN committee and board.
4. In time for Family Literacy Day, the SLN distributed 39,855 ABC Canada promotional materials to 70 literacy programs throughout Saskatchewan.
5. Our new website (www.sk.literacy.ca) is more interactive than ever with a "What's New" page for organizations to share their upcoming events and newly printed resources.
6. We are developing an on-line database of literacy programs in Saskatchewan that learners, practitioners and the general public can access.
7. Our board of directors regularly reviews how we are "connecting with our owners" (learners, practitioners, funders and the general public).
8. We have been invited to facilitate community literacy meetings for six different communities.
9. We regularly meet with politicians to share literacy statistics on provincial and regional levels.
10. Upon your requests, we are exploring new areas of literacy such as Research in Practice and Family Literacy Foundational training.
11. The PGI Golf Tournament and Literacy Awards are getting bigger and better every year.
12. We have distributed funding information for Raise a Reader, Saskatchewan Learning and National Literacy Secretariat to literacy programs across Saskatchewan.

New SLN Board Members

Debbie Fleming

I am a stay at home mom of two children who has always loved to get involved and want to make a difference. After a couple of invites to meetings and get togethers from my children's school, I finally became involved. I am currently a member of the Sask Literacy Speaker's Bureau and hold a position on the Prince Albert Literacy Network. I have started my second term as vice-chair of the Riverside Community School Parent Council. I am always available to help others and volunteer what free time I have. I love being a stay at home mom with my kids. My Daughter has mild autism so literacy impacts our life greatly. My son has no troubles with learning and is eager to be in his class. I have a positive outlook on life and enjoy getting out and getting involved.



Mark Williment

Mark Williment is an assistant principal at the Ducharme Building of the La Loche Community School. He is an advocate of literacy focussed school and educational change. Through improvements in instruction, student engagement and parent involvement, his school was the recipient of the International Reading Association's Exemplary Reading Program Award. He was presented the award in May, 2004 in Reno, Nevada. He received the Administrator's Award in 2004 from the Saskatchewan Reading Council. A father of two, Mark enjoys travelling with family and of course, reading.



Denise Nordin

Denise has taught Basic Education programs in various rural communities for some twenty-five years. She is presently employed by North West Regional College.

Denise is also a SABEA executive member and is presently acting as the liaison between this organization and the SLN. Literacy is a passion for her as she continues to work towards stable funding for literacy both within her college and the province at large.



SLN Announcements

Executive Director Contact Information

Debbie Griffith, Executive Director of SLN is working primarily from the Saskatoon office. She can be reached at:

Tel: 306-653-7368

Her Email remains the same at:
debbie.griffith@sasktel.net

New Special Event Co-ordinator/Fund Developer

Hilary Dahnke joined the SLN team on January 10th, 2005. In her capacity as the Special Event Coordinator/Fund Developer for the SLN, Hilary has begun to implement a Fund Development Strategy for the SLN and will be organizing the special events for 2005 including the Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit and the PGI Golf Tournament.

As well, Hilary will be doing research into the funding trends/gaps/opportunities in the field of literacy in our province and across the country. Her findings will be put into a report and distributed to the field this fall.

Hilary has experience working with local, provincial and national non-profit organizations in Canada in the areas of fund development, governance, planning, marketing, promotions and event coordination.

New Finance Manager

SLN would like to welcome Mr. Ollie Glemser as our new Finance Manager. We are confident he will bring great skill to this position.

New eLit.ca Administrator

Rachelle Moberly returns to the SLN as the eLit.ca Administrator. She can be reached at:

rachelle_moberly@elit.ca

Maternity Leave

As of March 14, 2005, Katrina Ham will be on maternity leave. The positions of Learner Coordinator and Communications Coordinator have been advertised and will be filled as soon as possible.



Want to learn to speak in public? Are you an Adult Literacy Learner?

The next Learners' Speakers' Bureau training will be held on April 16&17 in Saskatoon. Adult learners will learn how to write and share a speech about their learning experiences. All expenses are paid (including travel, childcare and accommodation) and learners will receive \$25 for each speech they share about literacy after they have been trained.

Please contact Katrina at (free) 1-866-756-7323.

Adult Learner Support Groups

With financial support from Saskatchewan Learning, Adult Learner Support Groups are available in the following areas:

- Prince Albert
- Saskatoon
- Regina
- Swift Current
- North Battleford

Please call 1-888-511-2111 for more information.



Saskatchewan Council of Educators of Non-English Speakers

Strength in Diversity: Celebrating Saskatchewan's Centennial

Saturday, April 23, 2005 in Regina

Keynote Speaker and Facilitator: Hetty Roessingh, University of Calgary

Focus: Instructional Needs of K-12 ESL Learners

Registration Fee (includes lunch)

\$40.00 (SCENES members); \$60.00 (non-members)

For information: Tel. 731-3118

E-mail: scenes@sasktel.net

Website: www.scenes.sk.ca

Provincial Learners' Meeting Postponed

The Provincial Learners' Focus Committee meeting has been postponed to March 12, 2005.

Learners from around Saskatchewan will be meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming mini-conference "The Wisdom Within". If you are interested in participating, please contact Katrina.

Greetings...

I would like to introduce myself and provide a little of my background so we can get to know each other. My name is Shirley Penner and I am honoured and thrilled to have such an exciting opportunity to serve as Director of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. I started in the Director's position on December 1, 2004 and have the greatest desire to promote and support all Aboriginal literacy initiatives and programs in our great province.

Prior to coming to SALN, I lived in Prince Albert for thirteen years. Living in Prince Albert, I gained a great appreciation of the richness and diversity of Aboriginal culture and how it is promoted and supported in every area.

I am grateful to have had so many educational and employment opportunities presented to me in my life. I have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated my work in the areas of program development, counseling and mediation. My philosophy has always been to have the clientele I served in the driver's seat, using a holistic approach and a larger community to assist them in the healing process.

I also have had wonderful and rewarding experiences sitting on many boards and committees at both the community and provincial levels.

Throughout the process, I have always included an Aboriginal perspective and an Aboriginal voice and will continue to do so. From these experiences I have been rewarded as I have developed deep and lasting relationships.

I have been blessed with a Great Grandmother who always encouraged me to continue with my education. My Great Grandmother would emphasize the importance of continued education and how vital education was for the survival of Aboriginal people. My Grandmother would always say that by educating ourselves, we as Aboriginal people would only benefit. My Grandmother always promoted the idea that all Nations should work together in order to understand and appreciate all the similarities of our cultures. She would always say that we have different gifts and that by working together we can make a better life for all communities and Nations.

From both a professional and personal perspective I can truly understand and appreciate the importance of supporting and promoting Aboriginal literacy, especially how Aboriginal Literacy looks beyond the concepts of reading and writing and towards a community development process.

Please feel free to drop by the office, call or email me at aboriginal.literacy@sasktel.net, as I would love to meet with you.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Shirley Penner - Director
Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network
Tel: (306) 934-2632 Fax: (306) 934-2633

Gathering Update

I am thrilled to provide an update on Nikanihk mesa kanahkewina "Pathways to the Future," which will be held on May 17 to 20, 2005 at the First Nations University of Canada in Regina.

FNUC was chosen as the facility to host Pathways to the Future, as it will accommodate all the cultural events and workshops the committee has planned.

Registration will take place on May 17th, 2005 at 6:30 pm with opening ceremonies starting at 9:00 am on May 18. FNUC is also a wonderful site to share best practices and to support higher learning.

SALN has hired two Coordinators for the Gathering. Barb Schindelka and Michael Gosselin, will be extremely busy with preparations in the next few weeks,. Mike and Barb will provide you with updates on SALNs Web site as they become available. Currently a tentative schedule, the registration form, a call for volunteers and presenter forms are available on the SALN Web site: www.aboriginal.sk.literacy.ca

"Pathways to the Future" is a participatory event. SALN hopes to have 225 people throughout the province come together to network and share best practices in Aboriginal Literacy. As a result of the Gathering, participants will be better equipped with knowledge, understanding and additional tools to assist them in their Aboriginal literacy role.

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New Minister Responsible for Literacy:

Lucienne Robillard

Judy Sgro's resignation from the federal Cabinet in early January led to a mini-Cabinet shuffle that could have important implications for literacy.

Joseph Volpe left Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD) to become the new Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and Lucienne Robillard has taken on the HRSD portfolio. As a nine-year veteran in the federal Cabinet, Mme. Robillard has developed a reputation as a capable and effective Minister. She has served as Minister of Labour, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Industry. Along with taking on HRSD, she will retain her current position as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Before entering federal politics, Mme. Robillard held a variety of Ministerial posts in the Quebec Legislative Assembly. Her tenure as Quebec's Minister of Education may be of most interest to the literacy community. While in that position she introduced major reforms to Quebec's college system, which some praised as a necessary modernization of the college structure and others critiqued for linking education too closely to the goals of enhanced competition in the global economy. Mme. Robillard has a Masters of Social Work, and has worked in health and social services. For more information on Lucienne Robillard, including her full biography, visit her official website at: <http://www.luciennerobillard.parl.gc.ca/>

Important Time for Literacy

Mme. Robillard's appointment comes at an important time for literacy. A review of the NLS mandate is underway. This review will shape the NLS' future structure and operations and is expected to be finalized in the Spring of 2006.

International statistics related to the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS) are due to be released in May, and the Canada-specific data is expected in the Fall. There is little doubt that the release of ALLS will raise questions regarding

national literacy levels and what is currently being done to raise those levels. Also, as a follow-up to promises made after the release of the House of Commons all-party committee report on literacy and in response to the federal Innovation Agenda, the department is adopting various strategies in support of a Workplace Skills Strategy and federal literacy policy in general.

Some speculate that the fact that Minister Robillard retains responsibility for Intergovernmental Affairs may make it necessary to shift some responsibilities over to her Minister of State, Claudette Bradshaw. In the past, Mme. Bradshaw has expressed an interest in taking on the literacy file. Stay tuned to see how this plays out.

Source: Movement for Canadian Literacy, Federal Literacy Facts, January 2005.

NLS Call for Proposals

As part of the federal government's commitment to support the advancement of literacy in Canada, the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada, has allocated \$648,050 in 2005 - 2006 to support adult literacy development projects in Saskatchewan.

The call for proposals for 2005-2006 is now open. Applicants may apply for multi-year funding (up to three years). However, organizations recommended for multi-year funding are subject to committee recommendations, NLS availability of funding and accountability requirements. As in previous years, applicants should also demonstrate how their project would support one or more of the goals and objectives of The Provincial Literacy Strategy.

The deadline for submission of project applications is Monday March 14, 2005 (postmarked).

All applications will be reviewed taking into account the needs and priorities at the national, provincial and regional levels, as well as the number of applications received and the funds available. A Review Committee will examine all project proposals, and will make recommendations to the National Literacy Secretariat.

See page 12 of this newsletter for contact information.

A Research-in-Practice Project

By Pat Campbell

What happens when a group of women come together to share, learn, and reflect about the impacts of violence on learning? The answer to this question is documented in a recently published book called *Violence and Learning: Taking Action (VALTA)*. Together, the women explored ways to “break silences about violence and to create environments to support learning for all” (p. 3).

The first phase of VALTA unfolded with a two-and-a-half-day residential workshop, followed by a 12-week online course. In the second phase, a total of eight women engaged in *Changing Practices* research projects. The projects enabled the women to apply what was learned in phase one to their practice. The book celebrates the writing of five participants; unfortunately, three participants were unable to complete their project due to the multiple demands of work and life. Throughout the VALTA project, Jenny Horsman, Mary Norton, and Judy Murphy facilitated the professional development activities and supported the participants’ research through visits, discussions, reflections, and feedback.

This brief review focuses on the experiences of Janet Bauer, the coordinator of a literacy program in Camrose, Alberta. Janet’s *Changing Practices* project involved co-facilitating two-hour writing classes for ten weeks with a group of four women. For her research, Janet examined how safety was created within the writing group. Recent research findings have stressed the importance of creating a safe environment so that students can learn and take risks. Yet, most of these findings do not inform the practitioner about *how* to create a safe place.

In the findings, Janet explains how sharing control through activities such as setting group guidelines promotes safety. The women also took comfort in knowing that they could say “no” and decline to participate in an activity.

Janet also found that the four women in the class were more relaxed and felt safer when set routines were established. Familiar routines meant that the women knew what was going to

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Saskatchewan Literacy Awards 2005

Each year, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan hosts an awards ceremony, with the support of the Saskatchewan Literacy Network, to honour those people in our province who demonstrate a spirit of dedication and commitment to literacy and learning.

The **Awards Ceremony** will take place on **April 21st, 2005** at the Delta Bessborough Hotel **in Saskatoon**.

A formal invitation from the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan will be issued separately.

The awards are intended to:

- Recognize learners who have demonstrated exceptional performance and progress;
- Recognize individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the cause of literacy; and
- Recognize significant accomplishments in service or professional activities in literacy, outstanding initiative, and leadership in support of literacy.

Please take the time to nominate someone from your community in one or more of the following categories:

Merit Awards

- Volunteers
- Professional
- Corporate, Associations and Others
- Programs/Projects

Achievement Awards

- Cameco Learner Literacy Awards

Completed nominations must be submitted by March 18th, 2005.

For more information on the 2005 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit, or to download a nomination package please visit our website: www.sk.literacy.ca or call us at 1-888-511-2111.

Issues of Literacy Reach Deep

by Carol Skelton, Member of Parliament
Saskatoon, Rosetown, Biggar

Each year since my 2000 election, I have taken time to highlight literacy issues in my riding and amongst my colleagues on Parliament Hill. I feel the issues surrounding literacy reach deep into all parts of government and community life. The inability to communicate with ease is a social, safety, economic and health related problem that can no longer be ignored.

When I meet people who learned to read late in life, I am filled with many mixed emotions. I feel sorry for them - for the things they missed out on for many years. I feel happy for them - that they now enjoy things like books and the internet. I admire them - for their courage in stepping forward, asking for help and then making the best of the help they do get. I try to imagine what it must be like to walk in their shoes, but I honestly believe it is one of those experiences that you have to be a part of to completely understand.

I have used my office resources to encourage those with literacy difficulties to step forward, ask for help and better their lives. I have encouraged those who can, to offer help and better the lives of those around them.

Literacy is a curable problem. With community determination, we can overcome this obstacle for so many people.

As a nation, a province and a community, we are all better off when Canadians from coast to coast step forward to do their part in addressing literacy issues. I want to close by congratulating those who already have.



Debbie Griffith, Carmen Bussiere, Tara Sutherland, the Honourable Carol Skelton, Conservative MP for Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar, and Carey Rigby-Wilcox.

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 saskliteracy@sasktel.net (Pictures are welcome too!)

Gathering update continued from page 4

Pathways to the Future will also assist in the development of a resource centre. We hope to have the resources presented at the Gathering. They should also be on the Web site shortly after the event.

SALN is expecting to include 45 learners (30 adult, and 15 youth) at the Gathering. The Learners selected for the Gathering will come from north, south, east and western parts of the province to ensure equal representation from each of the four directions of Saskatchewan. The call for learner representatives will be announced shortly, as the criteria and forms are currently being developed. Because transportation is a barrier for the learners, Luther College has been chosen to accommodate them. Luther College is located on the University of Regina and is within walking distance to FNUC.

If you require further information regarding the Gathering or SALN's mission to promote and support Aboriginal literacy, please feel free to contact me at (306) 934-2632 or email me at aboriginal.literacy@sasktel.net. I look forward in hearing from you in the near future.

Shirley Penner - SALN Director

SLN Family Literacy Update

Another Family Literacy Day has come and gone. The SLN distributed over 39, 855 pieces of promotional materials from ABC Canada, to 70 programs across the province who further distributed these materials to 318 literacy groups/individuals.

Storysacks continue to generate interest in most areas of the province. The SLN board and staff recently constructed a Storysack together at the board/staff retreat.

Nineteen students in the grade six class at W.F.A. Turgeon School in Prince Albert were involved in an interesting Storysacks project in November and December. Each student chose a children's book and read it, then developed a backdrop for the book. On December 20, when the backdrops were complete, each student presented his or her backdrop and explained why the particular backdrop had been developed. Following this presentation, the kindergarten class was invited to join the grade six students, who then shared a Storysack with the kindergarten students. The morning ended with a pizza party for the grade six students.

Thanks to classroom teacher Jan Olesko and student intern Kendra Harrison for their work with the students during the six weeks of the project.

There has been a high demand for family literacy training during this entire year. Upcoming training includes 2 supplementary modules to the *Foundational Training in Family Literacy*, to be offered at Elkhorn, Manitoba in May. Participants will be receiving their workshop materials some time in April.

Leona Harasym, Carmen Bussiere and Lynne Mourot have developed a new workshop, based on requests from the field. This workshop, *Understanding and Respecting Aboriginal Culture*, will be offered in Saskatoon on April 20, the day before the provincial literacy meeting. Registration is limited to 15 participants. To register, or to request further information, contact the SLN office.

2005 Family Literacy Celebrations in Saskatchewan

Information was compiled January 24, 2005 from submissions to the Saskatchewan Literacy Network (SLN). Please call 1-888-511-2111 (free) for contact information for the organizations.

Cumberland Regional College - Hudson Bay

Basic Education students brought their pre-school children to class with them.

Families participated in activities such as reading children's books, doing a craft and having a snack.

At the end of the 2-hour session, each child received a book and promotional items from the SLN (and ABC Canada).

North West Regional College - Meadow Lake

The Meadow Lake Literacy Partnership organized an afternoon of activities that were advertised through local cable, radio and posters.

SIAST Palliser Campus - Moose Jaw

Three community members (Yvette Moore, Dave Richards and Glenda James) made presentations at Macoun Lounge.

Northlands College

La Ronge: drop-in from 1-3 pm with Nutrition display, afternoon refreshments, door prizes and giveaways.

Buffalo Narrows: elders visits to daycare/ preschools

Pelican Narrows: Diabetes & Family Literacy Day displays were held at Northlands College Classroom located at the town hall.

The following communities were sent Family Literacy Day promotional material: La Ronge, Buffalo Narrows, Green Lake, Hall Lake, Turnor Lake, Pinehouse Lake, Beauval and La Loche.

A North-wide promotional campaign took place, using radio and newspaper ads. Radio ads ran in English, Cree and Dene.

Prince Albert:

Mayor Jim Stiglitz and city council officially proclaimed January 27th as Family Literacy Day in Prince Albert.

The Prince Albert Parkland Health District offered ABC Canada's promotional items, family literacy information and tips at baby clinics, parenting drop-in programs and provided some children's books for parents participating in a weekly cooking program at Cedarbrook Apts. They also started to distribute the books that were purchased with a Community Initiatives grant to each family that comes to their clinic for their child's 18 month immunization. Each book will have a tip sheet on reading to a child.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten children at Vincent Massey Community School in Prince Albert celebrated Family Literacy Day by doing activities that involve family and literacy fun. Together, family members and children read a recipe and made cookies, they played board games and were involved in story telling and singing. Families saw the importance of interacting in a variety of situations to encourage literacy and language skills that go beyond the covers of books. Pre-K children also started taking their Books & Backpacks out this week to encourage reading and playing at home.

The John M. Cuelenaere Public Library hosted a book launch on January 27th for Prince Albert author and Wapiti Regional Library staff member, Glenda Goertzen, who has written a novel for ages 7 to 12 called *The Prairie Dogs*. Following the reading, books were for sale courtesy of Venturoso Books and Glenda was on hand for book signing. There were door prizes and all kinds of great giveaways! ABC Canada's promotional items were given out at Storytime programs and library tours during that week.

The Prince Albert Literacy Network had almost 300 families take part in a Family Literacy Treasure Hunt. Draws were made for ten treasure bags. Seven hundred and fifty copies of the *For the Love of Reading* brochure were distributed throughout local schools. Three local radio stations did family literacy promotions and contests with book and family literacy materials as prizes.

Many special and creative activities were held at local daycares, preschools and schools to celebrate Family Literacy Day.

Regina

Albert Branch Library: Dedicated "Story Time" during the last two weeks in January to National Family Literacy Day by reading favourite books, talking about family literacy and providing hand-outs for all the children. By January 29th, they will have shared the love of family literacy with approximately 25 classes, some daycares and childcare centres.

Circle Project Children's Centre: At 3:30 pm on January 27, children, families and staff celebrated with a Traditional Storyteller, Iron Horse Drum Group and Dusty Horn Dancers.

Regina Family Literacy Project: Organized a city-wide National Family Literacy Day Read-in for January 27, 2005. Schools, organizations, and families were invited to participate by stopping what they are doing and reading a children's book for 15 minutes. Last year there were over 3000 participants.

Saskatoon

Frontier College: Starbucks agreed to support Frontier College by donating \$1.00 from every latte or cappuccino purchased on January 27, 2005.

Lakeridge School: Classrooms celebrated Family Literacy Day. The School division recognized the importance of reading through an initiative called "Just Read".

READ Saskatoon: Hosted the Family Literacy Day Bingo Game with the Saskatoon StarPhoenix. The game was featured in the Raise a Reader article on January 3, 2005.

ABC Canada material and the game were distributed to elementary schools and agencies throughout Saskatoon.

READ also hosted a "Weaving Literacy Workshop".

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National Assessment Practices Project

How would you rate the importance of assessment? If you could wave a magic wand, what changes would you make to assessment practices in your class, program, or institution? What, if anything, would you like to learn about assessment? In your opinion, what is the most critical or burning issue pertaining to assessment that needs to be addressed by Canada's literacy community?

These questions and more will be part of a national survey that will be distributed to over 600 adult basic education practitioners across Canada. The on-line survey will be conducted in the spring of 2005 and the findings will be available through an on-line report in the fall of 2005. The purpose of the survey is to:

- 1 inventory the tools that are used in colleges, community-based programs, schools boards, and workplaces.
- 2 identify the strengths and weaknesses of these tools.
- 3 examine whether the existing tools are meeting the needs of the Adult Basic Education (ABE) community.
- 4 gather information about the issues around assessment.
- 5 provide a platform to move issues surrounding assessment from private conversations to public discourse.
- 6 inform accountability frameworks and literacy strategies.

The assessment practices project is funded by the National Literacy Secretariat and sponsored by the Centre for Education and Work. The end products will include an edited book on assessment practices, a video showcasing three assessment tools, and a written report based on the national survey. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Campbell, the project director at pcampbell@interbaun.com

Family Literacy Day events continued from page 9

SIAST Kelsey Campus: Basic Education students received prizes and give-aways. Literacy Centre and Adult 10 classes held celebration activities including learners reading their personally written stories to their children.

Service francsaskois de formation aux adultes

A reading activity for 15 adults and children was organized. Adults were invited to phone in and register their reading activity for a chance to win children's books. ABC Canada materials were distributed throughout the Francophone School Division.

On January 25, 2005, the SEFFA in partnership with the Societe canadienne francais de Prince Albert and L'Ecole Valois launched a preschool program with parents and children aged 0 to 5 years old. Language, pre-reading development and parenting skills will be the focus for the group "Parents & Petits".

Yorkton

Parkland Regional College: Fun-filled family activities included story-telling, puppetry, prizes, craft activities and refreshments at the Yorkton Public Library.

www.sk.literacy.ca

SLN has a new address (www.sk.literacy.ca), a new look and a new approach for our website. In partnership with the National Adult Literacy Database, we have updated our website so that it will be an ever-changing resource for programs, learners and the public!

Some of the new features include:

- A "What's New" section on the home page: If you want to advertise an event, view information on upcoming trainings or download forms, this section is for you.
- Learners' Page: the provincial Learners' Focus Committee is working to make this section a must-see for adult learners.



Snapshots from Around the Province from the SLN Board of Directors

Family Literacy Day (FLD) involved many board members across Saskatchewan! Saskatoon board member and Treasurer Joan Elliott, set up a Family Literacy display in the Stewart Resources Centre in the month of January. Resources ranging from SLN pamphlets to FLD materials, books and videos were available for distribution and lending.

The Piapot First Nation Reserve was a hub of activity through the organization of Regina/Piapot board member, Leona Harasym. The Piapot Headstart Daycare program facilitated many FLD readings and distributed FL materials and prizes for the children to take home. Leona also promoted the SLN's role in literacy at the National Headstart Conference in Winnipeg. She provided a literacy workshop to the File Hills, Qu'Appelle Tribal Council at Good Spirit, and offered the newly created Aboriginal P.R.I.N.T.S Training, which is currently being facilitated at the Early Learning Centre and will be offered at the Kahkewistahaw First Nation Reserve this spring.

Prince Albert board member, Debbie Fleming, presented on "Literacy in a Community School Setting" at the Community School's Conference and continues to attend the Prince Albert Literacy Network meetings. She assisted with FLD activities, displays, and contests, as well as spear heading a new weekly program for adult learners!

Govan board member, Tam Miller, was busy with nine FLD guest readings on behalf of the Regina Family Literacy Project and 22 FLD guest readings for the Regina Public Library. She facilitated Family Literacy presentations and distributed materials throughout the area, as well as, the SLN's "For the Love of Reading" and the new YMCA's "Raising Kids Who Read" booklets. Tam is also on the Organizing Committee for the Regina Literacy Association's 2005 "Literacy for All Ages" conference.

The community schools, pre-k and early childhood groups in Regina are very fortunate to have Regina board member, Peggy Adamack, promoting and distributing information on literacy. She organized and facilitated several FLD activities at Herchmer Community School and a new

partner in literacy, the Regina Conservatory. She has recruited and trained four parents from her community to work with the television program, "Indigenous Circle", to promote family literacy activities and their upcoming "Bannock and Books" program! Peggy also continues to represent the SLN on the Regina Family Literacy Project Advisory Committee.

Regina board member and Secretary, April Dahnke, recently facilitated a workshop at the SLN Board and Staff retreat in February on the Outcome Measurement Framework and a new Vision Statement for the Network. She also continues creating partnerships and opportunities for organizations in Regina to support the new "Keys to Family Literacy" program created by the SLN adapted for use in a community setting which will begin in March 2005.

Shellbrook board member, Denise Nordin, recognized FLD in her classroom by distributing promotional items, hanging posters, and talking about her passion for literacy!

Mark Williment, La Loche board member and Vice-President, continues presenting on literacy. He spoke at the Community Schools conference. He also presented to the Jans Bay parents and school staff on parent involvement and the effects family literacy can bring in engaging students in academic achievement.

Respectfully submitted by April Dahnke

Research in Practice continued from page 6

happen next and there were no "frightening surprises."

Finally, the very act of writing itself helped to create safety. When the women released their experiences through writing, there was a sense of liberation. In the findings, Janet reflects that "perhaps by allowing some of those pains and blockages out, there was room for light and learning" (p. 93). To learn more about this research, check out the Directory of Canadian Adult Literacy Research at <http://www.nald.ca/crd/>

Norton, M. (Ed.) (2004). *Violence and learning: Taking action*. Calgary, AB: Literacy Alberta.

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.sk.literacy.ca

Send submissions to
Literacy Matters to
saskliteracy@sasktel.net

Calendar of Events 2005

- Mar 14 *Deadline for NLS Proposals.* Further information and printed funding application packages are available on request to the National Literacy Secretariat and Saskatchewan Learning. Please contact either Carri Hammond, Program Officer, National Literacy Secretariat, by telephone (613) 957-9804, by fax (613) 946-5822 or Donna Woloshyn, Program Manager, Adult Literacy, Saskatchewan Learning, telephone (306) 787-2513, fax (306) 787-7182.
- Apr 8 Rainbow Youth Centre's *Comedy Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction*, Queensbury Centre, Regina. Features Aboriginal comedian Moccasin Joe. For tickets contact Danielle or Maya at: 757-9743.
- Apr 12-15 *Essential Skills Job Profiling Training and Certification Workshop.* SIAST Kelsey Campus, Saskatoon. Please contact Lou Charlebois, Extension Education Consultant at (306) 933-5789 or by email at charlebois@siast.sk.ca for more information.
- Apr 16-17 *Learners' Speakers' Bureau Training.* All expenses are paid (including travel, childcare, and accommodation) and learners receive \$25 for each speech they share about literacy after they have been trained. Please contact Katrina at (free) 1-866-756-7323.
- Apr 15 ***Deadline for Literacy Matters.***
- Apr 21 *Saskatchewan Literacy Awards.* Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon. Call 1-888-511-2111 for more information.
- May 16-17 *Essential Skills in the Workplace Conference.* Fairmont Winnipeg Hotel, Winnipeg, MB. Practitioner's Conference on Essential Skills. For more information visit the Web site at: www.skillplan.ca
- June 2,3 *Measuring Success: International Comparisons and Bottom Lines: Calgary.* For more information, please contact the conference organizer at: megardner@shaw.ca.

Please return all undeliverable addresses to:
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