



Literacy Matters

Reading the word...Reading the world.

Volume 7 Number 1 October 2005

In this issue

2 a word from the sln

3 sln board update

4 around The province

5 around the nation
aboriginal literacy

6 family literacy

7 sln events

8 fall provincial
mini-conference

NOTICE

This is the **last issue** of Literacy Matters that will be distributed **in print to non-members** of the network! If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter in print format, **please contact the Saskatchewan Literacy Network to determine your membership needs.**



Literacy ... on the move again!

A number of new and exciting things have happened over

the past few months. After months and years of meetings, advocacy efforts and a lot of waiting and hoping for some movement on literacy both federally and provincially, it appears that things are finally "on the move".

The SLN was asked to organize a **Literacy Roundtable for the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of State (Human Resources Development)** on July 12th in Prince Albert. This event was one of 12 roundtables held across Canada during the first phase of consultations. Additional roundtables will be held this fall. The purpose of the roundtables is to invite input on the development of a comprehensive pan-Canadian literacy and essential skills strategy.



Over the summer, the **Movement for Canadian Literacy and the other national literacy organizations** were asked by Minister Bradshaw to develop a **10-year National Literacy Action Agenda**. Provincial and territorial literacy coalition Executive Directors were invited to provide input on a draft action plan during meetings held in Ottawa in mid-September.

On September 7th, Premier Lorne Calvert presented the first ever **Council of the Federation Literacy Award** to SLN Board President, Lynda Richards, in recognition of her courage, perseverance and commitment to increasing her literacy skills. Congratulations Lynda!

During this awards presentation, a **new provincial literacy initiative, SaskSmart – Literacy for Life**, was announced. This initiative is designed to provide all Saskatchewan people with the basic literacies and essential skills they require in English, Mathematics and Science/Technology. The Saskatchewan Literacy Commission has been established to develop and coordinate this new literacy strategy. **Dr. Margaret Lipp, newly-appointed Literacy Commissioner**, will work with a broad range of stakeholders on this initiative. The SLN will be meeting with Dr. Lipp in early October to share information on adult and family literacy in Saskatchewan, and to ensure that the work of the commission builds on the draft provincial literacy strategy that has been developed with a high level of input from the field. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Lipp has also agreed to speak at our **upcoming Provincial Literacy Conference** on November 18th in Saskatoon (see page 8 for more information).



Continued on page 2...

Continued from page 1...

The momentum around literacy is sure to increase following the November 9th **release of Canadian data from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills survey.**

For those of us who have been working in the literacy field for a long time, this attention on literacy is heartening. Although it is impossible to know where all of these initiatives will ultimately lead, we will work to ensure that your concerns, hopes and desires are carried forward to decision-makers at each and every opportunity that presents itself!

Debbie Griffith
Executive Director

Employment Opportunities with the SLN!!!

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is currently looking to fill a vacancy in our fall team line-up!

Call for applicants for the position of Field Development Coordinator will close on Wednesday, October 19th, 2005.

Please visit our website at www.sk.literacy.ca or contact the SLN for more information.

ADULT LEARNER SUPPORT GROUPS

With the help of Saskatchewan Learning, Adult Learner Support Groups are available in the following areas:

- Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, Swift Current and North Battleford.

Please call 1-888-511-2111 for more information on the Learner Support Groups or to find a literacy program near you.

Articles Wanted!



- Has your organization developed an innovative program or resource?
- 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 have you submit your story to Literacy Matters. Send your submissions to saskliteracy@sasktel.net (Pictures are welcome too!)



CONTEST!!!

The SLN is seeking high quality photos for a Family Literacy Poster Contest! We will be having a series of Family Literacy Posters developed this year and would like to see your photos take centre stage!

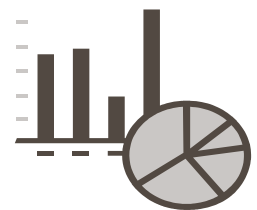
Photos must be mailed to the SLN office and must include a description of how it depicts family literacy and permission to use the photo for the purposes of this contest. Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

**Please send your photos by October 31st, 2005
Labelled: FL Photo Contest 2005!**

**Winner will receive a gift certificate to a local Book Store!

Update: Adult Literacy and Life Skills (ALL) Survey – Canadian Results

Originally scheduled for October, the release of the Canadian national report from ALL, with provincial results and specific national findings, has now been delayed until



November 9. The second international report on literacy levels, Learning a Living: First Results of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey was released by Statistics Canada and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in May. When available, the Canadian results will include a national snapshot that will dig deeper into the Canadian statistics, and provincial/territorial releases will provide regional analyses. Statistics Canada has renamed these upcoming releases the IALSS (International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey).



**ARE YOU DEDICATED TO LITERACY IN SASKATCHEWAN?
ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED NON-PROFIT BOARD MEMBER?
ARE YOU A LEARNER WHO WANTS TO TAKE ON A LEADERSHIP ROLE WITH THE SLN?**

General Information:

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network has a board of elected members.

Board Members are expected to:

- Be an advocate of literacy.
- Be committed to the work of the organization.
- Have knowledge and skills in one or more areas of Board governance: policy, finance, programs, personnel and advocacy.
- Be willing to serve on committees and attendance at meetings of assigned committees.
- Attend regular Board meetings (meetings are usually held in Saskatoon).
- Attend Annual General Meetings.
- Support special events.
- Support, and participate in, fundraising events.

Timelines:


Nomination Forms due October 31st, 2005
New Board announced, November 18th, 2005

To obtain a nomination form or for more information, contact one of the following:

April Dahnke (Secretary, SLN Board)
Phone: (306) 569-9373
E-mail: aprildahnke@sasktel.net

Saskatchewan Literacy Network
Phone: 1-888-511-2111 (toll free)
E-mail: saskliteracy@sasktel.net


*Please consider becoming a Saskatchewan Literacy Network Board member.
Board work is exciting, interesting, and a wonderful learning experience!*



Are you interested in having an adult learner speak at your event?

Adult learners from around the province are available to speak at your events or to community groups about literacy issues.

For more information on booking a member of the Saskatchewan Literacy Network's Learners' Speakers' Bureau or on becoming a member, contact us at 1-888-511-2111.



Saskatchewan's Literacy Community Thrives with Award Winners in 2005!

Saskatchewan Literacy Leadership Awards were presented by The Honourable Andrew Thompson, Minister of Learning on August 17th at the Delta Regina Hotel at the Inaugural Saskatchewan Literacy Network—Literacy Leadership Awards Ceremony.

There are six categories that the SLN felt it needed to recognize contributions specifically to the network in. The following winners received an award.

Staff—Debbie Griffith

Volunteer—SaskTel Pioneers

Learner—Lynda Richards

Board Member—Mark Williment

Member—Regina Family Literacy Project

Supporter—David Bouchard

The awards banquet also included a keynote address from David Bouchard and a fabulous centennial program from the vocal entertainment of Sound Investments Barbershop Quartet!



David Bouchard

The PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy also includes a couple of very special award presentations each year.

On August 18th, at the Delta Regina Hotel, a dedicated and enthusiastic participant of the tournament and a determined learner from the community were presented with awards.

The **Peter Gzowski Award** is presented

each year to an enthusiastic individual who has shown great dedication to the cause of literacy and the tournament. This year's recipient was Jeffie Anderson.



Jeffie Anderson & David Bouchard

Jeffie has participated two years in a row on the organizing committee of the PGI Tournament in Saskatchewan and has had a long standing history of commitment to the cause of literacy and literacy events in our province.

The Co-operators Learner Achievement Award

was created in 1992 to "reward and encourage individuals who distinguish themselves while engaged in literacy programs throughout Canada".

The Learner Achievement Award is a reminder to all participants of the real reason for their presence at the tournament:

The learner must be an adult who is presently enrolled in a basic literacy program, not to exceed the GED level. The learner must also:

- show exceptional progress,
- plan to continue in a program,
- have excellent attendance, and
- have a recommendation from a teacher or tutor.

The award includes a cash prize of \$200, a citation, and an engraved pen, courtesy of The Co-operators. **This year's award winner is Tuyet Thi Chu, from Regina Saskatchewan.**



Congratulations!!



Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Awards were also presented by The Honourable Andrew Thompson, Minister of Learning in addition to the Literacy Leadership Awards mentioned above. Category I went to a volunteer who has given a great deal to the organization and the field in the last one hundred years, and Category II is for an up and coming volunteer with the organization! Those selected to receive these very special awards were:

Category 1 recipient—April Dahnke

Category 2 recipient—Tam Miller

The first ever **Council of the Federation Literacy Award** was presented by Premier Lorne Calvert to SLN Board President, Lynda Richards on September 7th at a special ceremony in Saskatoon. Lynda received the award in recognition of her courage, perseverance and commitment to increasing her literacy skills.



Lynda Richards with Premier Lorne Calvert
**Photo courtesy of Gord Waldner

New Coordinator for SALN!

Hello! Tansi! My name is Carol Vandale and I am the new Project Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. For those of you that don't know about us the SALN is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to:

- Providing access to resources regarding Aboriginal literacy,
- advocating with government and agencies for better programming, and
- encouraging membership and participation from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals and organizations who support the advancement of Aboriginal literacy through the development of cultural and language-based approaches.

I look forward to working with everyone involved with literacy. Please check out our website: www.aboriginal.sk.literacy.ca for more information about our organization and our upcoming Gathering in May 2006, which will be announced soon!

Deadline for entries: December 9, 2005

National contest will see a lucky Canadian family get exclusive visit from author Robert Munsch

Beloved Canadian children's author Robert Munsch will make a special visit to one lucky Canadian family this January, thanks to a contest announced today by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation.

Robert Munsch is honorary chair of ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day™, held January 27, which encourages parents and their children to read and learn together, and this contest gives any family in the country the chance to have him visit their own Family Literacy Day™ (FLD) party on the Monday (January 23) to kick off a week of FLD activities.

"I can't wait to find out where I'll be going, and with what family and friends I'll be celebrating Family Literacy Day™," says Munsch.

To enter the contest, families only need to fill out a form, describing what activities they are planning for their FLD party. Entry forms are available on the ABC CANADA website, www.abc-canada.org, and must be received by ABC CANADA by 5:00 p.m. EST, December 9, 2005.

The contest winner will be announced the first week of January, 2006.

Welcome back to another year of excitement and activity in the area of family literacy. First, a bit of information about a training event that took place in May 2005, and then news about the upcoming year.

Successful follow-up training to Foundational Training in Family Literacy was held from May 10 to 12 in Elkhorn, Manitoba. Ten trainers and 22 practitioners (half from Saskatchewan and half from Manitoba) received training in two new modules: *Family Literacy from a Community Development Perspective* and *Adult Literacy Learning in Family Literacy Programs*. Feedback was very positive.

The SLN continues to work in partnership with Manitoba Learning and the Shilo Military Family Resource Centre to find ways to deliver Foundational Training in both provinces. We had submitted proposals to the NLS from both provinces, to develop and deliver "regional training over time", in which we would have delivered 3 modules one weekend a month, for four months, in a location that was accessible to both Saskatchewan and Manitoba practitioners. Funding was not available in either province, although we were encouraged to reapply next year. We will continue to work with our Manitoba partners to find ways to deliver Foundational Training and the two new modules that have been developed.

The Centre for Family Literacy in Edmonton, the creators of Foundational Training, have received funding to undertake a "Next Steps" Project that will examine what has taken place across the country since the national training in Pitou, NS in 2001. The project will also invite people to provide input into what should happen next. Leona Harasym and Lynne Mourot will be attending a national meeting in Edmonton October 13 and 14.

The Learning Opportunities Calendar for 2005-06 has been completed. This calendar outlines the learning opportunities that have already been scheduled. However, the calendar also lists all of the other training available from the SLN. If you have requests for family literacy

training in your area, please call Lynne Mourot at 306-764-6183. If there are at least ten people interested in training in a specific topic, we will arrange training for you.

As everyone is aware, family literacy is expanding at a remarkable rate. More and more individuals and organizations are involved in family literacy programs and activities across the province. The SLN recognizes the need for support for these programs. With only one staff dedicated to family literacy we have been unable to provide all the training and support that is needed.

The SLN has been able to develop an additional family literacy position. A new staff member will be hired to provide support and networking opportunities for family literacy practitioners. This staff member should be in place by mid October, enabling the SLN to provide enhanced service to the field.

This year's family literacy training plan includes a focus on building capacity for training in all areas of the province. We will be meeting with our ten *Come Read With Me* trainers and trainers in other modules to discuss capacity building. We are planning a train-the-trainer session for ALAPS/LAPS, in cooperation with the Further Education Society of Alberta, the developers of LAPS and ALAPS. This training will take place in March 2006, and will be limited to **six** participants who have taken the ALAPS/LAPS training **and** have facilitated ALAPS/LAPS groups. There will be a comprehensive application process. The application forms will be available by the end of October.



The *Understanding and Respecting Aboriginal Culture* workshop, developed last year, and piloted in April will be expanded to two days, based on feedback from practitioners at the April training. We will pilot the training on two more occasions, in Regina and North Battleford. After these pilot sessions, we will be in a position to revise the workshop and hopefully develop a train-the-trainer session.

Continued on page 7...



Golf Tournaments for Literacy

A division of ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation.
Founded by Peter Gzowski.

With your help the PGI Regina 2005 Golf Tournament
and



Supporting Events

FOR LITERACY



sln events

Were held on August 17th & 18th

At Deer Valley Golf & Estates And the Delta Regina Hotel

Thank You for Raising Funds and Awareness for Literacy!

Silent Auction at the Evening Before Event!



PGI Regina Golfers out on course!

PGI Regina Presenting Sponsors

LEADER-POST



PGI Regina Evening Before
Event Presenting Sponsor

SaskTel

Thanks also to the many companies and organizations that sponsored or donated items to the events, David Bouchard, the golfers, the volunteers, the organizing committee and the many individuals sending private donations to support literacy in our province!

[Continued from page 6...](#)

The SLN has been developing a new module, entitled *Introduction to Family Literacy*, designed for new practitioners and for Community School personnel who are becoming involved in family literacy activities and programs. This module has been developed by Leona Harasym and Lynne Mourof, with input from Janice Thomas Gervais, a long time family literacy practitioner. READ Saskatoon staff and Tam Miller of the Regina Family Literacy Project have graciously agreed to review the material that has been developed. The module will be piloted in several Community Schools this fall.

The fall Provincial Literacy Conference will be held November 18, in Saskatoon. We hope that family literacy practitioners will attend to discuss plans for the upcoming year.

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 AM and 4:30 PM
CST.

Fax

1-306-653-1704

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 new site on the
web! www.sk.literacy.ca

Send submissions to Literacy Matters to
saskliteracy@sasktel.net

Calendar of Events

2005

OCTOBER 27

Literacy Action Day

NOVEMBER 18

Fall Provincial Literacy Mini-Conference
SLN Annual General Meeting
(Saskatoon)

Fall Provincial Literacy Mini-Conference

November 18—9am – 4pm

Non-Members = \$65.00/SLN Members = \$40.00

Fees include lunch and refreshments.

Saskatoon Travelodge Hotel, 106 Circle Dr. W., Saskatoon, SK

Description: This gathering will provide an opportunity to connect with others in the field and to participate in workshops and presentations related to literacy work. Highlights include:

- An evening before "wine and cheese" to connect with colleagues
 - Keynote speaker, Dr. Margaret Lipp, newly appointed Saskatchewan Literacy Commissioner
 - A workshop on "sharing what you know about literacy work" by Tannis Atkinson, Editor, Literacies
 - A panel of family literacy practitioners will share new and innovative approaches to programming
- Much more - please check our website in mid-October for more details!

For whom: The mini-conferences are open to anyone involved with or interested in literacy in Saskatchewan.

Please return all undeliverable addresses to:

Saskatchewan Literacy Network
206—220—3rd Ave S
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1M1