

## Page One

### "Join the Voices": Highlights of Provincial Literacy Consultation Project

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In cooperation with the Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training and the Provincial Literacy Steering Committee, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network organized and facilitated sixteen community consultation sessions during May and June. All groups wanted to obtain input from a broad range of stakeholders to help shape the development of a provincial literacy strategy. The response has been phenomenal!

Through the consultation sessions, over 235 participants including learners, practitioners, program managers, funders and representatives from related sectors and specific target groups (Aboriginal, ESL, special needs, etc.), came together to support a vision for literacy within the province. Although further consultations are planned for this fall, several key themes have begun to emerge.

Adult learners expressed a profound need for understanding and acceptance plus the need to be treated honourably; respecting "the whole person". They feel more regard should be given to their willingness to face the challenges of learning **and** also surviving very trying personal and economic situations. They wish to be recognized for the deep commitment they make to their personal improvement and the impact of this commitment on the entire community.

Some of the key recommendations for a provincial strategy made by learners include:

- increased training and awareness of learner needs for literacy practitioners;
- a realistic appreciation for the amount of time and personal energy required for an individual to move through the process of learning how to learn, learning, and then applying those learned skills;
- a greater voice in the planning and promotion of literacy programs and services; and
- the need for more practical social skills and quality of life learning opportunities to accompany practical literacy and academic learning programs.

Facilitators and program coordinators shared a sense of pride in their work and the fact that they are "making a difference". They define themselves as dedicated and resourceful. They communicated the desire to serve the needs of learners and not the system.

Practitioners and program coordinators expressed the need for:

- adequate and consistent funding that provides for long-term programs and services;
- ongoing training and professional development opportunities;
- integrating literacy programs with other education programs and services within the community;
- preventative measures such as training in identifying learners who require special attention and the provision of early intervention and adequate support services within the education system; and
- providing a greater sense of community and continuity within the multiplicity of literacy service providers.

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## Welcome to New Staff

### Terri Peters

#### Adult Literacy Coordinator



Hi, my name is Terri Peters and I am the new Adult Literacy Coordinator. Let me tell you a bit about myself before I share what I can do for you. I have an Honours Degree in English Literature as well as a Bachelor of Education with Great Distinction. I have spent 6

years teaching and training: one year teaching a Grade 7 class in Chicago, 3 years working as a Literacy Programmer at the Regina Public Library, and 2 years teaching high school in Buffalo Narrows and Melville. I have always wanted to get back into the grassroots of adult literacy, so I'm thrilled to be working for the SLN.

Here's a brief outline of what I can do for you as Adult Literacy Coordinator:

- organize training and help in Proposal Writing and Plain Language
- organize training in the use of the Adult Assessment Kit soon to be released
- assist with the implementation of new literacy initiatives and project proposals
- serve as a researcher/consultant for needs expressed by you as adult literacy practitioners

This is a thumbnail sketch of what I have been hired to do. Think of me as a Jane-of-all trades. I realize time is often at a premium for all of you and part of my mandate is to provide help in any way possible.

I look forward to meeting all of you in person, by phone, or electronically over the next year. Thank-you for making me feel welcome in this educational community.

*Terri Peters - Adult Literacy Coordinator  
Tel: 306-525-9623 Fax: 306-525-9526  
email: [terripeters@accesscomm.ca](mailto:terripeters@accesscomm.ca)*

### Donna Zaleschuk

#### Learner Support Coordinator (part-time)



I bring to the network over eight years experience in adult education and training in Saskatchewan and abroad. This includes: curriculum planning and instruction in ESL/EFL; first hand experience working with adult learners and their literacy needs; and facilitating seminars and training programs on customer service. I also bring extensive experience in coordinating and managing numerous projects and events at local, provincial and national levels.

I have a BA from the U of S, Train the Workplace Trainer certificate, and am now pursuing a Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE). I have participated in workshops and seminars on adult literacy through the Saskatchewan Literacy Network.

I have always had a strong interest in meeting and working with people of various cultural backgrounds. That interest prompted me to expand my work overseas and spend five years teaching EFL in Japan and traveling to other parts of Asia. At the local level, I enjoy volunteering with community groups and coordinating fund raising projects for my church. My husband, Murray, and I live in Saskatoon.

I am very pleased to be working with the Saskatchewan Literacy Network. I look forward to assisting all adult learners increase your involvement in support and training activities at regional and provincial levels.

Donna is responsible for organizing and/or facilitating a Provincial Learners' Group, assisting regions in establishing learner support groups, coordinating and/or providing training and support for learners as leaders, and providing information on programs available in Saskatchewan.

*Donna Zaleschuk - Learner Support Coordinator  
Tel: 306-382-0312 Fax: 306-382-1931  
email: [donnaz@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:donnaz@sk.sympatico.ca)*

## Returning SLN Staff

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network continues to grow and change, and this is reflected in the staff and their duties. Some familiar faces have returned to their desks this fall. Some continue to do the same job, while others find their job duties for this year to be very different. Below is the list of returning staff, their locations, and a brief description of their duties for this year.

**Shirley Silburt** - Manager of Finance and Operations  
*SLN Headquarters, Saskatoon*  
[ssilburt.sklit@nald.ca](mailto:ssilburt.sklit@nald.ca)

Shirley continues to provide financial, administrative and technical support to the Executive Director, other SLN staff and the Board of Directors. If you have a question about money, or about computers (as they relate to SLN of course), Shirley is the person to call.

**Bonnie Vangool** - Executive Assistant  
*SLN Headquarters, Saskatoon*  
[bvangool.sklit@nald.ca](mailto:bvangool.sklit@nald.ca)

Bonnie continues to manage the office in Saskatoon including reception, correspondence, mailing, database management, filing and assisting the Executive Director. Her new duties include the management of SLN's provincial literacy collection, now housed at SLN's offices. If you have any questions about SLN's new library, the provincial literacy program database or any other general literacy question, Bonnie is the person to call at SLN's head office.

**Lynne Mouro**t - Provincial Family Literacy Coordinator  
*Prince Albert*  
[lmouro@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:lmouro@sk.sympatico.ca)

This year, Lynne is responsible for family literacy promotion, information sharing, advocacy, training, consultation and support in Saskatchewan. If you have a question about family literacy in the province of Saskatchewan, Lynne is the person to call. Please note that the Family Literacy telephone number in Regina is no longer in service.

**Kim Blevins** - Communications Coordinator  
*Regina*  
[kblevins@accesscomm.ca](mailto:kblevins@accesscomm.ca)

This year Kim is responsible for the development and implementation of a marketing and public awareness strategy. She is also now responsible for the design, development and layout of all Network promotional materials and publications (**including "Literacy Matters"**).

### "Join the Voices" continued from page 1

At the community level, the profound and immediate need to address systemic attitudes and barriers that create the social stigma attached to literacy learning was echoed repeatedly. There is a need to create an appreciation of the "big picture" of literacy and lifelong learning with an emphasis placed on the impact of literacy on an individual's well-being and benefits to the whole community. The involvement of new partners, such as business, education and community service organizations, would also generate greater awareness and support. Finally, participants voiced the need to provide accessible distribution of resources to serve the diversity of needs.

Above all else, voices have joined together to share the message that literacy *must* be viewed as much more than a political or economic issue. Literacy represents a basic human need that extends to and influences every aspect of life from the individual to the community to the nation. Our collective challenge is to develop strategies at the provincial and national levels that will lead to the realization of a vision for literacy based on this premise!

*Debbie Purton, Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Literacy Network  
[d.purton@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:d.purton@sk.sympatico.ca)*

**To obtain a copy of the *Join the Voices for Literacy!* Report on the Provincial Literacy Consultation Project or the executive summary, please contact Bonnie Vangool at 653-7368**

## Upcoming Training

### **The Power of Adult Literacy Education: Moving From the Margins to the Mainstream of Education**

Dr. Tom Sticht will present an overview of the effects that adult literacy education programs can have and give practical suggestions on how adult literacy can be moved into the mainstream of education. He will discuss the Action Agenda on adult literacy currently being implemented in the United States and relate it to increasing the profile of literacy within Canada.

Date: Nov. 15, 2001

Time: 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Starlight Room, Sheraton Hotel, Saskatoon

### **Family Literacy**

To promote the importance of families learning together and to support family literacy programs, the SLN will:

- develop family literacy promotional and public awareness materials for provincial distribution
- promote and support Family Literacy Day activities (January 27th)
- plan and implement a major family literacy event in partnership with business, government and other key partners
- provide training, consultation, support and coordination to family literacy programs
- encourage the implementation of best practices
- plan for a Summer Institute in partnership with Manitoba Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit

### **Adult Literacy**

To raise awareness of adult literacy issues, and to support the development of quality programs, the SLN will:

- develop adult literacy promotional and public awareness materials for provincial distribution
- promote and support International Literacy Day Activities (September 8th)
- provide training, consultation, support and coordination to new and existing adult literacy programs
- organize and conduct workshops on portfolio-based learner assessments using SLN's newly developed Assessment Kit
- encourage the implementation of best practices

### **Support for adult learners**

In order to increase support for and involvement of learners in the literacy movement in Saskatchewan, the SLN will undertake the following activities:

- support and coordinate activities of the Provincial Learners' Focus Group
- encourage and support the learner support groups at the regional level
- explore options for a 1-800 Learner Hot-Line
- ensure learner representation on the SLN board
- mentor and support learners who participate on provincial and national boards and committees

### **Coordination, communication and support for SK literacy community**

To encourage information sharing and networking among practitioners, and to encourage development of new initiatives, the SLN will:

- provide leadership and support for an electronic conferencing and communication network in SK
- provide a relevant and responsive provincial literacy resource and information centre
- promote the availability of traveling resource trunks
- support the development of the field through workshops on proposal writing and provide assistance with project proposal development
- promote the importance of plain language through workshops and conference presentations

### **Public Awareness**

To meet the ever increasing demand for information on literacy in SK and to heighten awareness of literacy issues, the SLN will:

- develop a series of literacy fact sheets
- plan and begin implementation of a long-term comprehensive public awareness strategy
- undertake a direct mail campaign that will focus on related public sector agencies and government representatives
- participate in Literacy Action Day activities on Parliament Hill (October 25th)

### **Influence public policy on literacy issues in Saskatchewan**

To support the efforts by both the provincial and federal government to develop comprehensive literacy strategies, and to move key issues forward, the SLN will:

- participate on the Provincial Literacy Steering Committee
- inform the field of recent developments
- organize community consultations to encourage input from a broad range of stakeholders on the development of provincial and national literacy strategies
- consult with key officials in the health, social services, justice, and early childhood sectors to encourage strategic alliances and inter-sectoral approaches

## National Roundtable Update

On June 22, 2001, Executive Directors from provincial and territorial literacy coalitions, along with representatives of national literacy organizations, attended a National Literacy Roundtable in Ottawa. Senator Joyce Fairbairn, Special Advisor for Literacy, began the day with words of welcome and comments about the prominence that literacy is being given at the national level as one of six streams within the Skills and Learning Agenda.



J.D. O'Leary, Lise Labonte, Debbie Purton

Each representative in attendance had an opportunity to share two or three key issues or needs from their provincial/territorial or national perspective that should be considered in a national literacy strategy.

- *Funding*: the need for infrastructure support and stable funding.
- *National strategy/vision*: literacy is both an economic and a social issue; need for adult learning system that is as well recognized and accepted as the K-12 and post-secondary education systems; need to develop a true learning culture where literacy is embedded, not viewed as separate
- *Involve stakeholders*
- *Literacy and community development*: treat literacy as a community development issue; focus beyond the labour market; support learners networks at the local level
- *Family literacy*: truly links generations; involve parents, children, grandparents and others.
- *Cultural recognition and support*: recognition and support of culture and literacy (Francophone, Aboriginal); recognize need for Deaf literacy; need a national Aboriginal literacy organization; first language support is basic foundation for official language literacy.
- *Address barriers*: provide supports that will enable people to attend and learn; offer a range of programs designed for special streams and special needs; analyze policies to identify and overcome access barriers; recognize informal learning

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## Canada Post Literacy Awards



The Canada Post Literacy Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, September 20th at the Delta Regina Hotel in Regina. Saskatchewan Winners are:

*Weyburn and Area Supportive Employment Services Inc.*, Weyburn SK (category of Community Leadership)

*Carey Rigby*, Saskatoon (category of Individual Achievement - English)

## Gzowski Award Winner

At the August 9th 2001 PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy, in Regina, Donna Woloshyn was presented with the Gzowski Award. This award-named for Peter Gzowski - is presented at each of the PGI's across the country to the person who we feel best reflects Peter Gzowski's spirit, enthusiasm and commitment to literacy.



## Laubach Literacy International (LLI) and LVA Merge

Laubach Literacy International (LLI) and Literacy Volunteers of America Inc. (LVA), two of the oldest and largest volunteer literacy organizations in the world announced their intention to merge on May 21, 2001. The organization resulting from the merger will be named later this year and will commence operations on or about January 1, 2002.

LLI and LVA are nonprofit educational organizations, managed by professionals, who support local literacy services through national networks of approximately 160,000 volunteers and 1,450 local, state and regional literacy providers in the United States.

For more information go to either: [www.laubach.org](http://www.laubach.org) or [www.literacyvolunteers.org](http://www.literacyvolunteers.org)



Yvette Souque, Senator Joyce Fairbairn, Ann Marie Downie and Debbie Purton at National Roundtable.

## International Literacy Day

As in the past, literacy providers across the province came out in support of International Literacy Day and Saskatchewan Literacy Day. Many communities raised flags, held book readings and asked community leaders for their support. The following are pictures and stories from communities that have chosen to share their experiences:

### Saskatoon



The above picture is from the SIAST Kelsey Campus International Literacy Day flag raising celebration on September 7, 2001. Evelyn Halkett was the student speaker from the Literacy Centre. Evelyn did a tremendous job sharing her life journey and was inspiring to everyone who attended.



MLA Graham Addley raising the Literacy Flag in Saskatoon.

The Saskatoon Literacy Coalition hosted a celebration of Saskatchewan Literacy Day on September 8th in front of City Hall. Graham Addley, MLA Southerland brought greetings from the province, read the proclamation, and raised the literacy flag. A learner told her story, a volunteer expressed the importance of learning, books were given out, then everyone indulged in cake.

### Regina



left to right: Sandy Cameron (RPL), City Councillor Bill Wells, Margaret Dodson (RPL), Hilary Craig (RLA), Minister Glenn Hagel, Debbie Purton (SLN) at the Literacy flag raising ceremony.

Many literacy programs in Regina celebrated International Literacy Day. Regina Public Library unveiled a new Web site to a large gathering of literacy workers, tutors, learners, and dignitaries. This Web site is dedicated to adult literacy tutors and learners. ([www.readthis.ca](http://www.readthis.ca)) and was sponsored by Steamdrive Media, Rediger Communications, Saskatchewan Literacy Foundation and Regina Public Library.

After the demonstration, the crowd joined another at Regina's City Hall for the annual raising of the Literacy Flag, organized by the Regina Literacy Association. Groups represented were: Home Economics for Living Project, Neil Squire Foundation, Learning@work Project and Saskatchewan Labour Force Development Board, Regina Literacy Association, Regina Public Library, SIAST - Adult Learning Centre, Saskatchewan Literacy Network.

The Adult Learning Centre at SIAST also distributed an article describing the history of the founding of the day to the students in the Learning Centre. They discussed the article with the students, and the students completed worksheets based on the article. They distributed information to all instructors in Adult Basic Education to promote awareness of literacy.

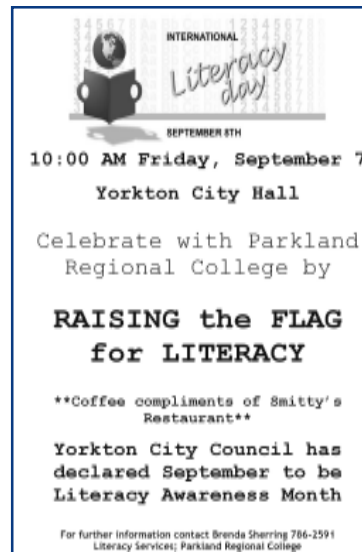


Raising the Literacy Flag in Regina.



Debbie Purton, Executive Director of SLN, receiving the Certificate of Recognition for Saskatchewan Literacy Day (seen below) from the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, Glenn Hagel.

## Yorkton



The flyer to the left was used to promote International Literacy Day events in Yorkton.

## Prince Albert

International Literacy Day was celebrated with a variety of activities, including a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall, lunch, and the Prince Albert Literacy Network's first meeting of the 2001/02 season.

Books for Babies gift bags were presented to parents of infants born at Victoria Hospital on September 8.

Literacy murals from the Great Millennial Wall of Canada project are on display at various locations throughout Prince Albert during September.



## 2001 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards Recipients

### Learners

Michael Lalonde  
Ramona Natowcappo

### Tutor

Jeff Park - Canadian Mental Health Association

### Literacy Leadership Awards

Sask Power  
Sask Tel  
Sask Tel Pioneers  
The StarPhoenix

### Corporate/Association

Pinegrove Correctional Centre - Prince Albert

### Professional

Susan Emson - Saskatoon Public Library

### Program/Project

"Adult Managing, Surviving & Celebrating AD/HD", Parkland Regional College





## Landslide Victory for Book Drive

It was a landslide – and it brought 14,000 books worth of trees with it! These trees, in the form of books, came crashing in as a show of support for family literacy in the second “Share a book for family literacy” book drive, organized and sponsored by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network and Saskatchewan credit unions, held April 16 – May 5, 2001. This second drive was even more successful than the first, collecting 1,000 more books than last year.

Some local credit unions involved their school(s) in the book drive, with amazing results. In Moose Jaw, seven elementary schools collected 1,700 books. In St. Louis, the high school with an enrollment of 116, collected 575 books, and in Moosomin, in one day, the high school collected 1,000 books!

The books were distributed to over 100 community organizations throughout the province that promote literacy, from parent and children reading programs to schools, daycares, and libraries. Many locations also forwarded materials to Northern communities that did not have local drop-off boxes.

In one community, books from the drive were distributed just in time to be used as give-aways at a year-end picnic, so everyone went home with a prize. If a family you know of has received books and has a story to tell, we would be interested in hearing it. Please forward the story to the main SLN office.

This event was successful due to the many volunteers across the province who sorted, labeled, and distributed the books to other organization and individual families. This was a great event to promote literacy and to redistribute resources. It is also a great base to build upon to continue to promote family literacy in your community.

Thank you for your support and involvement.

*Arlene Scott-Stinson  
Book Drive Coordinator*

**Sponsored by:**



## Family Literacy Online

Parkland Regional College in Yorkton has been running a Rural Access Program (RAP) in Kamsack. Home to about 2500 people, the town is surrounded by several Aboriginal First Nations and a large provincial park.

The Kamsack RAP is a computerized learning centre used by a dozen full-time adult education students enrolled in the ten/twelve program. An on-site facilitator supervises the modular instruction offered by an on-line teacher.

A Family Literacy component was part of program requirements. Because of the common characteristics in the RAP students' backgrounds, we adopted the Writing Out Loud write-to-heel philosophy but had to modify the format to effectively evoke response in an on-line learning environment. We call this program The Writing Circle. The idea is that all the participants, including myself as moderator, pass knowledge on to each other as well as to our children, friends and other family members: the circle symbolizes the continuous action as well as unity.

We discussed what safety nets should be built in. One biggy was that each person would have a choice about whether to send writing to the whole group or just to me. (Because this course had to be graded, I had to see all writing in order to do an evaluation) Indeed, at the beginning, a few chose just to send their work to me; by the third exercise, I rarely got an exclusive view. Also, no one had to do all of the exercises; however, missed exercises had to be made up with Freewriting.

On-line, they were encouraged to do lots of Freewriting as well as respond to “assigned” ideas. I posted an exercise and then waited until most responded before posting another; I found it akin to knowing when popcorn was ready! The students replied to the exercises at their leisure. They also did Freewriting when they wanted to; I would receive Freewriting at any time of the day and on any subject! The challenge was to instill trust, confidence and respect.

Following is a writing sample:

*First I would like to introduce myself properly. My name is Kerrie Michelle Norton. My closest friends know me as Kerrie F'N Norton. Well you get the notion. I think that my name suits me just fine. I have no objections, at least I wasn't named something like Henryetta Fart In The Wind, or something like that. I have another nickname that was given me from my uncle Arnold. I didn't exactly want it. I used to get so shy and*

## New Regina Family Literacy Coordinator



April Dahnke has been hired to this half-time position.

April can be contacted at:

Tel: 798-2029 Fax: 798-4109

Her office will be located at SIAST Wascana Campus.

Please note that April is currently recovering from an accident, so may not be in the office. She will, however, be checking messages daily.

*embarrassed whenever someone would call me by my nickname. But now I don't mind so much. 'Cause I will only answer to certain people if they use it. Otherwise you will get denied. Anywho, I'm not going to tell you my nickname. What do you think my nickname would be?*

*There have been so many decisions that I have made in my life, I really don't know what was the hardest one I ever had to make? I think the one that was the hardest would be, when I was in a foster home I was being abused. I had to decide if I should tell on them and risk being split up from my brothers. It was probably the hardest and most hurtful thing I ever experienced. In the end I decided that I must tell because I was really being hurt. In that decision I don't recall reading a horoscope, but I was only 12...*

The Writing Circle was a valuable experience. It taught me that we could design an on-line writing program that promoted self-awareness and enhanced self-esteem as well as gave parents other communication tools that they could use with their families. It isn't enough to just hand out exercises. What made the Writing Circle valuable was constant feedback and interaction. It also worked because the participants directed the course. Through careful observation, an exercise was assigned as a response to the exercise before. In subsequent Writing circles, other exercises and thoughts might be explored, depending on the group.

I would welcome the opportunity to do another on-line Writing Circle. It is well suited to students living in small isolated communities who need a vehicle for self-expression and disclosure. It is also well suited to students who are not able to get to a face-to-face classroom, even if they are in the middle of an urban centre! Ideally, students should be familiar with the computer, and keyboard. I can see benefits to having a virtual classroom of students from a variety of backgrounds and geographic locations. It took the full two months before we, the students and I, could really see the benefits and feel progress occurring. At this point, the students have expressed a wish for it to continue and a regret to have it end. I could see it continuing longer and even being a part of regular programming.

*Brenda Sherring, Parkland Regional College*

*Tel: 306-786-2591*

*Email: [b\\_sherring@mcs.msd.sk.ca](mailto:b_sherring@mcs.msd.sk.ca)*

### My First Teacher

A young immigrant mother curls up on her couch crying with feelings of failure as a mother, feeling the hurt and disappointment of her child. Has there been some tragedy? Many of us wouldn't think so, but for this refugee family who is trying to make a new life in Canada and trying to help their children "fit in" and be accepted at school, similar disappointments have been accumulating. The child, a daughter in grade two, brought home a newsletter which included "the notice," but her mother was overwhelmed with "all the words" and threw it out. A form came home from school to be filled out and returned, but the mother didn't understand what it was for, or how to fill it out, or that she should return it with money, so she ignored it. Now her daughter has come home crying. She was the only child in her class who didn't order a special Halloween donut for lunch. Again, she had stood out, been left out over something so small.

In Canada, a significant amount of communication from the school is in written form. As you empty your child's knapsack, the abundance of paper covering your table is always impressive. The papers are not only samples of your child's school work, but they may also be newsletters from both teachers and the school, calendars, information about school activities, notes, report cards, various forms to be filled out and returned, requests for volunteers, etc. Many immigrant parents struggle with English and struggle with understanding a new educational system. They don't know the expectations of school or what their role in their child's schooling should be. When English is not their first language and literacy skills are not strong, communication with the school can be intimidating. It was to bridge this communication gap that the Saskatoon Open Door Society started a program called "My First Teacher" (MFT).

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September 2001



**HONDA**

## Saskatchewan based family Literacy Programs receive funding

**2001 is the second year that Honda dealers have generously supported family literacy. The following programs received donations:**

### **LaLoche Healthy Moms and Babies program**

\$1797.25

Funds requested to start a reading circle for young parents and to provide books for parents to build home libraries.

### **Lloydminster Reading Council Association**

\$797.25

Funds requested to purchase books to give to parents as part of the *Come Read With Me* program.

### **Aboriginal Family Services Centre**

\$2027.25

Funds requested to deliver an Aboriginal Literacy and parenting Skills Program.

### **Prince Albert Literacy Network**

\$2297.25

Funds requested to purchase books for an expanded Come Read With Me program.



## Family Reading Club 2001: A Family Literacy Initiative

John M. Cuelenaere Public Library in Prince Albert launched the Family Reading Club in June. For years, young library patrons had eagerly joined the Saskatchewan Library Association-sponsored Summer Reading Programs, but families were telling us that they wanted a way for the whole family to be involved in a reading club for the summer months—young siblings were complaining that they were left out of all the reading fun! The Library is an active member of the Prince Albert Literacy Network and supports the Network's efforts to promote literacy and family literacy in the community. Network members had often discussed the value of a family reading room at the Library.

The family reading Club was promoted through the Library's newsletter, posters, newspaper ads and by word-of-mouth. During school tours and book talks, staff members talked about the Family Reading Club and each child went home with a hand-out inviting the whole family to enjoy all the Library's summer activities, including entertainer Bonnie Logan and Summer Matinees each Thursday.

Beginning June 1, patrons signed up for the Family Reading Club at the Circulation Desk. They received a brochure explaining why the Club started and listing ways for families to read together and the advantages of doing so. The brochure also listed all library events for the summer. When the family had read ten books, they listed them on the brochure, returned it to the drop-off box at the Library and took home another brochure.

Response to the program surpassed our expectations—70 families registered. At the end of August, Family Reading Club participants had read a grand total of 1, 490 books!

A wind-up party took place on Saturday, September 8. Everyone watched a movie and enjoyed some snacks. Prizes were given to the top five families who read the most books and all participants received certificates.

Library staff and all the enthusiastic Family Reading Club members are looking forward to next summer!

Janet Gray  
Program Services Coordinator  
John M. Cuelenaere Public Library  
Email: [gray@jmc.panet.pa.sk.ca](mailto:gray@jmc.panet.pa.sk.ca)



## Report from Prairie West Regional College

A very successful Family Literacy Project, Family Reading Connections, was held at Prairie West Regional College in Biggar from March to May 2001.

Various programs were organized that involved many different families in the community. Two different groups, Rhyme Time Connections for young children and Story Book Connections for children 5-8, were held at the library. In total there were 22 children with 13 parents in 16 sessions.

In the schools Donna held Lunch Time Connections at both St. Gabriel's School and Biggar Central 2000 for students in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2, and their parents. A total of 75 children with up to 45 parents or caregivers attended 12 sessions where lunch was shared and a celebrity reader presented a story.

Other projects included a Watch Me Learn Group in conjunction with Greenhead Health, Nursery School Connections, Biggar Food for Thought, Books for Babies, and Mother Goose for Babies and Toddlers. In addition to reading to children, crafts were completed in many of the sessions, tours of the local library were conducted, snacks were provided, and books were distributed to children.

Many different groups were targeted and attendance at the sessions demonstrated the need for such projects.

*Doreen Dubreuil, Program Coordinator  
Prairie West Regional College*



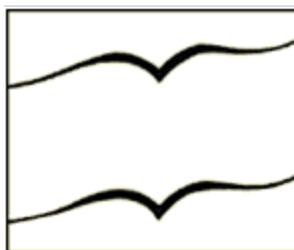
On January 1, 2002, the General Education Department (GED) Testing Service will launch the 2002 GED test. The new test represents a revision of about 30% of the content found in the current test. These changes will require intensive training for administrators and instructors as well as students. Visit their website at: [www.gagelearning.com](http://www.gagelearning.com) to download a 2002 GED Sampler.

### GED Testing Schedule

**September 30, 2001** - cutoff for administering current GED test series without waiver to first-time test takers.

**October, 2001** - Official Practice Test becomes available

**January 1, 2002** - fourth generation of GED test launched



PEI  
Literacy  
Alliance

### New Family Literacy Poster

Dale MacNevin, a Charlottetown illustrator, designed the poster. The National Literacy Secretariat funded the project. Order posters for \$5.00 each at:

[www.wordmonster.net](http://www.wordmonster.net)

PEI Literacy Alliance also produced a TV and radio commercial on the theme "Parents are great teachers". Four new cartoons were developed as well and should be available at [www.wordmonster.net](http://www.wordmonster.net)



## My First Teacher continued from page 9

Parents met twice a week for 35 classes to work through topics related primarily to elementary education. The class schedule was largely determined by parents' needs and abilities and by what was happening at school at any particular time. The class would initiate a topic such as "understanding report cards" and through practical exercises, use of school report cards, and relevant activities, increase student confidence and skill level. An MFT student laughed as she recounted to the class her reaction after her son brought home his report card. She was familiar with the grading system A, B, C, D, F and was horrified when her son's report card was filled with S's. He must be failing terribly with grades so far down the alphabet, she thought, and she grounded him from TV for a month. Now, in class as we looked at sample report cards from Saskatoon schools, and how to decipher the "key," she had just realized her mistake; "S" means Satisfactory."

A major strength of this program has been that it met the needs of individual families. Not only were daycare and transportation provided for those needing them, but also time was allowed for home visits and personal support by the instructor. This greatly strengthened the program by permitting time for individual concerns to be met. This personal attention encouraged parents and increased their confidence in their own abilities to communicate and find solutions to problems. A key objective of MFT was to build relationships within the group so that when the program was finished there would be at least one other parent each student could contact for support. Within this group of friends, there were lively discussions, ideas bantered about, lots of laughing, reading, deciphering, and writing, and all to make school a better place for their kids. MFT was a fun place to be!

*Jean Campbell, B.A., M.A., CTESL  
ESL Teacher - Saskatoon Open Door Society*

## Resource Reviews

**Tetra Pak Canada, Inc.** has produced a new craft book with many idea on using recyclable cartons. Projects include puppets, planters, model trains, boats, and animals. The ideas are designed for children 3 to 11, with varying skill levels. To receive a free copy of the booklet, write to:

Tetra Pak Carton Craft  
1075 Bay Street, Suite 810  
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2B1

### The New Books Kids Like

Eds. Sharon Deeds & Catherine Chastain  
American Library Association, Chicago and London,  
2001. ISBN 0-8389-3512-5

This is a great resource when you want to follow up on a topic. There are 44 topics identified as "the most frequently requested by kids". More than 500 books written for all ages are listed within the topic lists. If your library doesn't have this book, ask the librarian to order it.



### What Can You Do with a Paper Bag?

(Author: Judith Cressy)  
(Publishers: Chronicle Books, San Francisco and Metropolitan Museum of Art)  
ISBN 0-8118-3220-1 (Paperback: \$14.95US)  
In case you had difficulty finding a craft to go along with The Paperbag Princess, this book will give you plenty of ideas.

This book was inspired by works of art from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, so can also be used as a point of departure for looking at different historical times or the art of different cultures.

Projects include: Mayan mask, Pharaoh's headdress, crown, Fang (African) mask, and many others.  
To order: Online: [www.metmuseum.org/store](http://www.metmuseum.org/store)  
1-800-468-7386 (open 24 hours)

*Hilary Craig  
Phone: (306) 585-0981  
Fax: (306) 585-7936  
E-mail: [hcraig@accesscomm.ca](mailto:hcraig@accesscomm.ca)*

# What's New?

## Canadian Language Benchmarks Companion Document

Now available from the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks ([info@language.ca](mailto:info@language.ca)):

### The Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000: A Guide to Implementation

\$45 each or \$39.50 if you order ten or more\*

This document focuses on using the Canadian Language Benchmarks when planning for teaching and learning and builds on current directions and practices in ESL instruction. It includes numerous classroom and program examples from across the country.

### The Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000: ESL for Literacy Learners

Free of charge\*

This document lays out the progression of reading, writing, and numeracy skills for ESL adults who have little or no literacy skills in their first language. The document is also useful with ESL students who are literate in a non-Roman alphabet language and need to learn reading and writing basics in English. These benchmarks are descriptions of what ESL literacy learners are able to do at various stages of their development.

\*Shipping and handling will be additional and will depend on means of transportation, location and required delivery date.


## Assessment Special Collection

<http://literacy.kent.edu/Midwest/assessment/>

The Assessment Special Collection provides individuals dealing with assessment and evaluation in adult literacy programs a means to access a variety of resources electronically. At this site you can explore assessment and evaluation topics for both program and instruction. You will also discover professional development topics and current event information.



**Learner Centred**  
**Now Available**  
**Intake**  
and  
**Assessment Processes**  
For Literacy  
Programs in Saskatchewan

  
*Funded by  
the  
National  
Literacy  
Secretariat*

Training for literacy practitioners in the use of this kit is available. Please contact Terri Peters, Adult Literacy Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Literacy Network, at [terripeters@accesscomm.ca](mailto:terripeters@accesscomm.ca) or **(306) 525-9623**.

## WordQ Writing Aid Software

WordQ Writing Aid Software is a reading and writing tool for people of all ages and levels of writing ability, including those who have learning difficulties, such as Dyslexia, or who are learning English as a second language.

WordQ is used along with standard Windows word processors and other applications. State-of-the-art word prediction suggests words for learners to use and text-to-speech feedback provides helpful cues. WordQ also offers word-by-word highlighting with speech output directly within Microsoft Word, Wordpad, Notepad and Outlook.

The design of WordQ software was driven by advice from educators to keep it simple and to focus on providing cues to help learners choose words and self-detect writing errors. It is intended for use along with other compensation strategies that are taught.

WordQ is available from:

Quillsoft Ltd.

190 Silver Birch Ave.

Toronto, Ontario

M4E 3L5 CANADA

Tel: 416-698-0111

Fax: 416-698-1555

e-mail: [sales@quillsoft.ca](mailto:sales@quillsoft.ca)

[www.wordq.com](http://www.wordq.com) (download 30-day demonstration)



## New GED Chief Examiner

Anne Seguin has been appointed as the new GED Chief Examiner as of July 9, 2001. Anne has come to PSEST from Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management. While there, she worked on a number of files, including those involving climate change, treaty land entitlement, and ecosystem-based management inreach initiatives.

She has worked as a college instructor at the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, as well as an instructor at several universities. Anne taught undergraduate laboratories at The University of Western Ontario, Queen's University, and the University of Regina. Her work experience includes facilitating Project WILD and Project SOILS workshops to undergraduate education students and others since 1990.

Anne holds the following degrees: B.Ed. [A.D.], M.S., (Wildlife Management), and B.Sc. [Hon.], Zoology.

She can be reached at 787-5597 and is located in room 410, 2151 Scarth St.

## SLF Grant Recipients for 2001

READ Saskatoon

WFA Turgeon Catholic Community School

Learning Disabilities Association of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Literacy Network

Meadow Lake Community Literacy Partnership

Saskatoon Community Chaplancy Inc.

Saskatchewan Association for Community Living

SIASST Kelsey Campus Learning Centre

Lloydminster Learning Council

Regina Public Library Literacy Learning Centre

Parkland Regional College

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Total funds disbursed for 2001: \$51,800.00



## In Prince Albert

Prince Albert Literacy Network has received a grant from the National Literacy Secretariat to fund the Keeping Family Literacy on the Public Agenda project. Brenda Lee, Family Literacy Coordinator, will continue on as Project Coordinator for 2001/2002.

Brenda can be contacted at:

Tel: 922-6736

Fax: 763-8165 or

[pafamilylit@yahoo.com](mailto:pafamilylit@yahoo.com)

### National Roundtable continued from page 5

- *Build capacity:* need for a practitioner education system to professionalize the field; learning disabilities training for practitioners; support interaction between paid and volunteer educators
- *Communication issues:* need to make opportunity more attractive to potential learners; mobilize Canada to want to play a role; develop targeted messages; promote literacy as an investment
- *Technology:* address digital divides; embrace technology, i.e. tele-learning.
- *Research and evaluation:* evidence-based research; rethink measures of success; need a national research agenda with a dissemination plan; develop best practices.

The priority themes identified by participants:

1. Funding
2. A multi-stakeholder national strategy for literacy
3. Literacy as community development
4. Family literacy
5. Overcoming barriers
6. Basing literacy and learning in culture
7. A learning society/culture in Canada

As the day closed, participants were reminded that this session was just the beginning of the dialogue. We were also reminded that it is important to catch the "budget cycle". The question of how to best maximize this "window of opportunity" still remains!

Debbie Purton

## Learning At Work Project - Phase 3

The Learning at Work project is now into its third year, and we continue our focus on promoting the benefits of essential workplace skills training for people who are currently employed.

Our experience over the last two years shows us that the people of Saskatchewan understand how essential workplace skills impact their working lives. In particular, the warm reception given to our Guide to Essential Workplace Skills and pilot projects has helped us understand the need for resources and opportunities for communities to pull together in the delivery of essential workplace skills training.

We have developed an exciting action plan which includes:

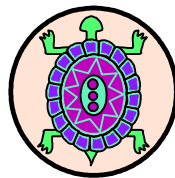
- A video with Saskatchewan people telling their stories of the importance of essential workplace skills (ready September 30)
- New resources such as a bibliography of practical resources for essential workplace skills training (ready September 30) and further components to the Guide to Essential Workplace Skills
- A capacity building initiative where community partners can receive financial and other support in their efforts to deliver sustainable essential workplace skills training (Call for Proposals due September 30)
- The report on our pilot projects which outlines solutions for the small workplace in the delivery of essential workplace skills training (available mid-September)
- Opportunities for professional development for those interested in the actual delivery of essential workplace skills training
- A Solutions for the Small Workplace Fair, open to the public, as part of the Saskatchewan Labour Force Development Board's conference in Saskatoon, the evening of November 14, and a breakfast meeting with Dr. Thomas Sticht, on the morning of November 15, who will speak on the Return on Investment in Training

I will be travelling around Saskatchewan this fall and would be happy to give presentations or to help organize and host special get-togethers so that people in your community can hear about our new activities and see our new products.

*Ann Curry, Project Manager*  
Tel: 306 - 790 - 1270  
Fax: 306 - 757 - 7880

Email: [learningatwork@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:learningatwork@sk.sympatico.ca)

## "What are You For?" Award Winner



The Prince Albert Council of Women honored the Youth Activity Center's Literacy Program with the "What Are You For?" award for youth activism.

The staff at the Literacy Program applauded the initiative for recognition of youth contribution to community development. Often today, youth (particularly "At-Risk" youth) are overlooked when people are recognized for the positive contributions they make to the community. "Giving back is a big part of what we do at the Literacy Program," say Mary LeRoy and Shari Daughton, teacher and out reach worker. "Our goal is to help the young people to feel good enough about themselves to believe that they have something worthwhile to give back to the community. This award really helps to prove to the youth that they have what it takes."

The Youth of this program have shown a commitment to our community in a variety of ways: by actively demonstrating in our 'March Against Racism,' contributing to the participatory research for positive community development around Sexually Exploited Youth issues and Youth Justice issues; presenting a brief at a city forum on Homelessness among teens; and sharing of themselves in their writings in citywide essay contests and in their youth newsletter, "Just Chillin'." These efforts have contributed to both provincial and federal initiatives for change. They also continually consider the entire community in the humble prayers that are offered at our weekly Sweat Lodge Ceremonies.

The Youth have done all of these things purely for the satisfaction of knowing they've done their part for positive change. Thank-you to the P.A. Council of Women for recognizing this generosity.

We are very proud of our students at the Youth Activity Center's Literacy Program.

*Mary LeRoy*  
Literacy Program (Youth Activity Centre) Prince Albert SK  
Telephone: 764-4266

## NoTiCe

### SLN Annual General Meeting

Thursday October 11th at 12 noon.  
Saskatchewan Room, Centennial Auditorium  
35 - 22 Street E. Saskatoon  
Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to SLN  
office: 306-653-7368.

*Moving on...  
moving out...  
or moving up?*

## Let us know!

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

## Five ways to contact SLN:

### Mail:

Simply send us your mailing label with correct information to:



Saskatchewan  
Literacy Network  
206 – 220 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S  
Saskatoon SK S7K 1M1

### Phone:

Call 306-653-7368  
between 8:30 a.m.  
and 4:30 p.m. CST.



**In person:** Visit  
our office  
in downtown  
Saskatoon—we  
might even have  
the coffee on!



### Fax:

Just write your name and correct information and fax to:

306-653-1704

**Email:** Send to:  
bvangool.sklit@nald.ca

**Don't forget  
to visit our  
website at:**



[www.nald.ca/sklitnet.htm](http://www.nald.ca/sklitnet.htm)

# Calendar of Events

# 2001

- Oct 4** Corporate Definition Derby, Regina.
- Oct 11** *SLN Annual General Meeting.*
- Oct 26 & 27** Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association Conference 2001, "Sharing our Success", at the Prince Albert Inn and Marlboro Hotel, Prince Albert.
- Nov 8** *Orientation for New Literacy Coordinators*, Room 205, SLN offices. Contact Bonnie Vangool at 306-653-7368 or [bvangool.sklit@nald.ca](mailto:bvangool.sklit@nald.ca) to register.
- Nov 9** Word Whiz, Saskatoon, Centennial Auditorium, Saskatoon.
- Nov 15** *The Power of Adult Literacy* workshop, Thomas Sticht presenter. Scheduled for 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Starlight Room, Sheraton Cavalier, Saskatoon. Contact Bonnie Vangool at 306-653-7368 or [bvangool.sklit@nald.ca](mailto:bvangool.sklit@nald.ca) to register.
- Nov 16** *Facilitation Refresher*, 9am - 12 noon, Saskatoon. Call Terri Peters, Adult Literacy Coordinator at 525-9623 for more details.
- Dec 31st** Deadline for SLF grant applications.
- Mar 16/02** Word Whiz in Prince Albert, Marlboro Hotel.

## Annual General Meeting Agenda

- Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held October 26, 2000
- Amendments to the SLN Bylaws
- Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation
- Approval of the Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2001
- Appointment of Auditor
- Elections to the Board of Directors
- Recognition of outgoing Board Members
- Other Business



## Share the Warmth™ Recycling Project



This year SaskEnergy, in partnership with the United Way and Saskatchewan Literacy Network, have added children's books to their province-wide sweater recycling program. Books will be collected alongside "warm fuzzies" (sweaters, touques, mittens, scarves, etc.) and will be distributed to family literacy programs around the province.

If your organization would like to receive books collected through this initiative, please contact SLN's head office at 653-7368 to be placed on the distribution list.

**SaskEnergy**  
YOUR NATURAL CHOICE®

