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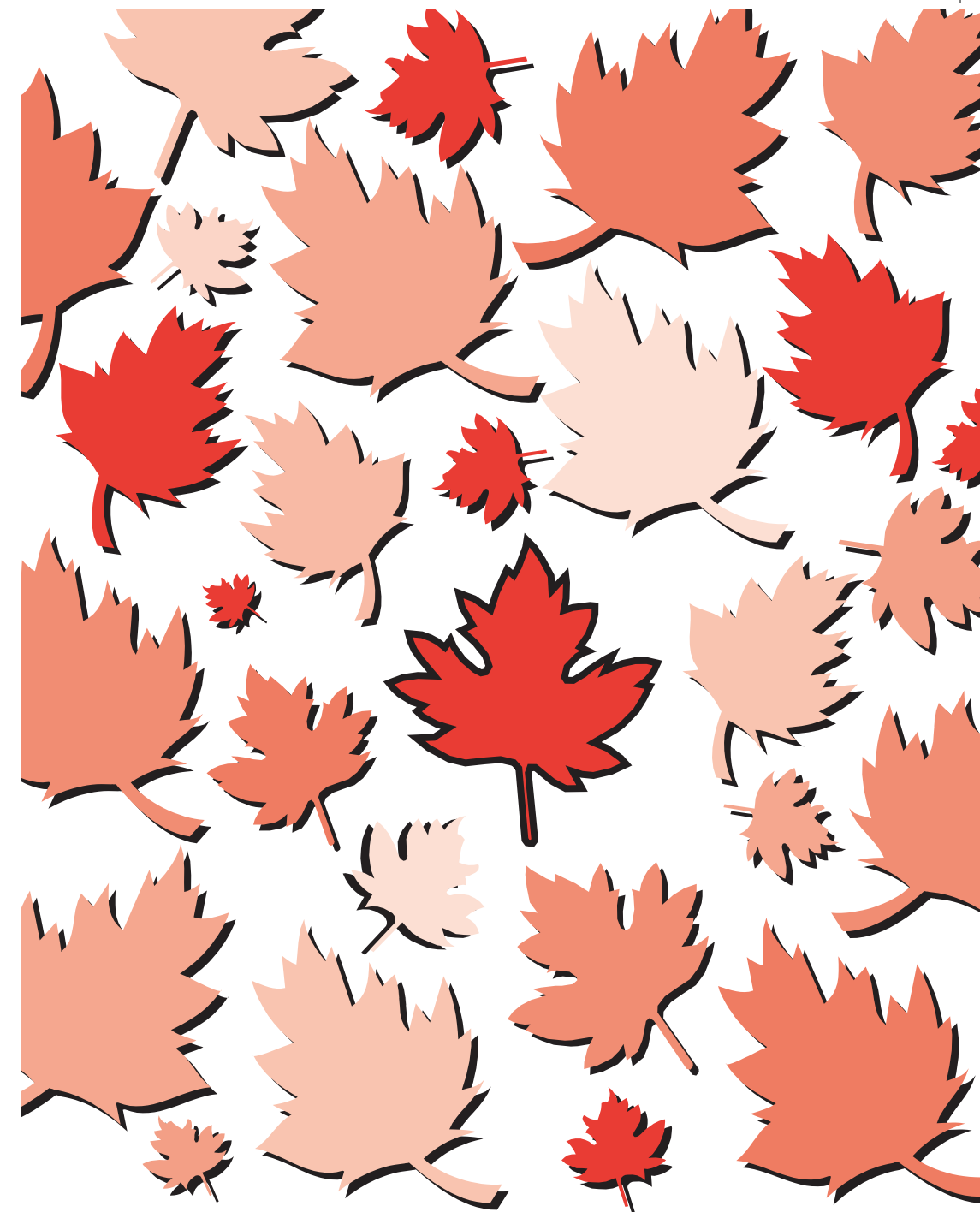
Mission Statement:
The Saskatchewan Literacy Network
promotes and supports literacy in
Saskatchewan.

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CALL THE SASKATCHEWAN LITERACY LINE:
1-888-511-2111**
READING THE WORD...READING THE WORLD



Annual Report 2005-2006



SASKATCHEWAN LITERACY NETWORK

SLN Board of Directors

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Reading the word...

Reading the world.

SLN Staff & Contractors

Debbie Griffith, Executive Director

Sherry Neufeld, Administrative Assistant

Helen Woodhouse, Office Assistant

Lynda Richards/Katrina Hamm, Learner Coordinator

Leona Harasym, Family Literacy Coordinator

Lynne Mourot, Family Literacy Training Coordinator

Deborah Todd/Lisa Erickson, Benchmarks Project Manager

Hilary Dahnke/Lisa Erickson, Communications

Maha Kumaran/Arlene Reid, Librarians

Nancy Cooper, Field Development Coordinator

Ollie Glemser, Finance Manager

Terri Peters, IALSS Kit Developer

Letter from the Executive Director

Literacy has received unprecedented attention during the past year and the SLN, along with our literacy partners, has played a role in raising levels of awareness. We took the lead in organizing International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS) presentations at the regional and provincial levels. We provided input on the 10 year action plan for a Pan-Canadian literacy strategy. We kept the field informed of new developments through monthly eNews bulletins, and learners from our Learners' Speakers' Bureau played a key role in putting 'a face' on literacy issues.

An abundance of professional development opportunities were available to the field over the past year. We began the year with a successful Provincial Literacy Conference. Our partnership with Saskatchewan Learning and the Saskatchewan Community School Association enabled us to provide family literacy training to Community School personnel. We distributed children's books and other materials received through the generous donations of others to family literacy programs across the province. Lastly, as a result of a highly successful Raise-a-Reader campaign, we assisted our partners, CanWest Global, in distributing over \$75,000 to the field.

In collaboration with Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment and the Literacy Commission, we made significant advances in revising *The Circle of Learning: Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks Levels 1 and 2*. The revised document was piloted within a variety of literacy program settings. We extend a sincere thank you to pilot test sites for their willingness to work with the document and to provide valuable feedback.

Finally, we worked with long-standing regional family literacy groups to create a new vision for a decentralized model of family literacy coordination within the province.

We look forward to the possibilities and opportunities that stem from these efforts.

Debbie Griffith

Letter from the President

The 2005-2006 year has been productive for the SLN. Throughout the year, the SLN board and staff continued to grow as an organization in learner involvement, resource development, communications and field development. Throughout this annual report, you will find numerous examples of the activities and efforts of SLN that illustrate our mission of promoting and supporting literacy in Saskatchewan.

This year has presented opportunities for partnerships. By partnering with the Saskatchewan Community Schools Association and Saskatchewan Learning, the SLN has new opportunities to work with organizations that provide direct services to families and communities. It is at this level that we make the greatest impact in literacy. By working with organizations such as CanWest Global, we have assisted in raising and distributing financial resources for family literacy programs in Saskatchewan. Another partnership highlight is the role the SLN took in working with the Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar, in collecting and distributing 10,000 books for the Children's Book Drive for Literacy.

As many people are aware, partnerships require a lot of hard work and effort. We are most fortunate to have a dedicated and committed staff at the SLN. On behalf of the SLN board, I would like to express sincere gratitude for the leadership of Debbie Griffith and the hard work of all staff members at SLN for making this year a tremendous success.

Mark Williment

Highlights of 2005-2006

Communications

- Distributed 12 monthly issues of SLN eNews and 4 issues of *Literacy Matters* newsletter
- Responded to over 5000 requests for literacy information
- Celebrated and promoted International Literacy Day and Family Literacy Day
- Developed a new family literacy brochure and revised literacy fact sheets
- Developed 3 targeted IALSS presentations and facilitated 5 IALSS workshops with 130 practitioners

Learner Involvement

- Supported and involved learners through regional groups, Learners' Speakers' Bureau, provincial Learners' Focus Committee and board membership
- Facilitated information sharing between the members of the Learners' Focus Committee and Elections Canada, Saskatchewan Literacy Commission, members of the Government of Saskatchewan, the National Literacy and Health Initiative, and a Senate Committee on Literacy
- Compiled feedback from 76 adult learners from around the province about how to enhance service for learners in a report titled *What Learners Want*
- Assisted members of the Learners' Speakers' Bureau to share their personal testimonials at 16 speaking engagements
- Referred over 100 adult learners to literacy programs in SK
- Worked directly with and responded to requests from over 235 learners

The Learners' Focus Committee:

*...keeps me connected to a lot of people, organizations, and programs
increased my self-worth and confidence gave me pride in my life experiences
- members of the LFC, January 2006*

Field Development

- Continued the successful implementation of the SLN Literacy Professional Development Plan
- Offered literacy professional development opportunities in the areas of Family Literacy, Adult Literacy, Evaluation, Understanding and Respecting Aboriginal Cultures, Program Planning and Proposal Writing, Creative Writing, and IALSS. A total of 552 practitioners attended our training events
- Supported community literacy initiatives in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Duck Lake
- Conducted a final pilot test of Level 1 & 2 literacy benchmarks and began to finalize the Circle of Learning, Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks document
- In partnership with the Saskatchewan Community Schools Association and Saskatchewan Learning, implemented the family literacy training strategy for community schools personnel
- Worked with the regional literacy groups to develop a vision for the future of family literacy in the province

Resource Development

- Assisted with the collection and distribution of over 10,000 children's books and resources to literacy programs and schools in Saskatchewan
- Partnered with CanWest Global in distributing \$76,250 dollars to 41 family literacy programs through their Raise-a-Reader initiative
- Connected and shared information with the Standing Committee on Finance on literacy and productivity, Members of Parliament, key federal officials, Madame Bradshaw's National Advisory Committee on Literacy and Essential Skills, the Saskatchewan Literacy Commission and the provincial Minister of Learning
- Facilitated two Literacy Program Planning and Proposal Writing workshops