

Saskatchewan Literacy Network Annual Report 2013-2014



Our Team

Our work is made possible through the tireless work and dedication of the team at the Saskatchewan Literacy Network.

Board of Directors

Dorothy Hyde, President
Debora Rutherford, Vice-President
Lisa Vargo, Secretary
Gordon Li, Treasurer
Ruth Barker
Randy Belanger
Rita Denis
Lynda Richards

Staff

Karen Rosser, Executive Director
Shirley Larson, Administrative Assistant
Ollie Glemser, Finance Manager
Desiree Harrison, Workforce & Community Literacy
Naome Soleil, Benchmarks and Special Projects
Marilyn Stearns, Family Literacy Development
Bonnie Zink, Communications and Knowledge Mobilization

Learners

Randy Belanger, Île-à-la-Crosse
Gordon Li, Regina
Ming Xiang Pan, Regina
Lynda Richards, Swift Current
Ngeune Selinger, Prince Albert
Lin Ling Yan, Regina



L to R: Gordon Li, Dorothy Hyde, Lisa Vargo, Rita Denis, Randy Belanger, Ruth Barker, Debora Hyde

Contractors

Joanne LaBrash, Family Literacy Contracted Trainer
Allan Quigley, Research-in-Practice
Alice Samkoe, Family Literacy Contracted Trainer
Bonnie Simpson, Graphic Designer
Leighton Tebay, Computer Systems Consultant
Desiree Tirk, Family Literacy Contracted Trainer
Liz Thompson, Clear Language Editor
Lorraine Thompson, Content Writer
Shannon Wright, Website Designer

Funders and Supporters

ABC Life Literacy Canada
Cameco Corporation
Community Initiatives Fund
Essential Skills and Development Canada,
Office of Literacy and Essential Skills
Essential Skills Ontario
Government of Saskatchewan, Provincial
Library and Literacy Office, Ministry of
Education
Government of Saskatchewan,
Apprenticeship and Workforce Skills, Ministry
of Economy
Institute for Cross-cultural Exchange
Postmedia Raise-a-Reader
Prosper Canada
SaskEnergy



L to R: Karen Rosser, Brett Waytuck, Desiree Harrison
at the Saskatchewan Literacy Network
Knowledge Exchange 2013

Message from the President

The year of 2013-2014 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Literacy Network. Twenty-five years ago on November 1st, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network opened its doors in the basement of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology Kelsey Campus. Today, our office remains in Saskatoon at 11-2155 Airport Drive and I encourage you to visit our new location.

"Literacy in Action" was this year's theme, showcased through the diversity of projects carried out by the organization. This work could not be done without the invaluable partnerships and literacy and essential skills champions in Saskatchewan.



On behalf of the 2013-2014 Board of Directors, I would like to thank the team at the Saskatchewan Literacy Network for their dedication and commitment to providing a high standard of quality in literacy and essential skills support throughout the province. Furthermore, I want to acknowledge Bonnie Zink for her communications expertise with the organization.

As we celebrate our Silver Anniversary, the organization is proud of its accomplishments and looks forward to continuing engagement with individuals, communities and organizations in Saskatchewan at HOME, at WORK and in their COMMUNITY. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is grateful for ongoing commitment and support from its funders and looks forward to another twenty-five years of literacy in action.

~ Dorothy Hyde, Board President

Message from the Executive Director



As the theme for this year at the Saskatchewan Literacy Network was "Literacy in Action," our organization experienced a lively year with funding changes, expanding partnerships, and new projects.

The 2013-2014 year gained momentum with the development of a new family literacy resource, *For the Success at School*, a financial literacy project dedicated to agencies working with newcomers in our province, and a revised copy of *The Circle of Learning* Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks Levels 1 & 2. This work could not be done without the time, dedication and superior work done by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network staff.

In November, our Board remained strong with the return of Board members, Ruth Barker, Debora Rutherford, and Dorothy Hyde. We welcomed Gordon Li and Rita Denis as new Board members. As we are moving to the end of this 2013-2014 year, I would like to extend my gratitude to the knowledge and skills that outgoing Board Members, Lisa Vargo and Lynda Richards brought to the Saskatchewan Literacy Network team.

Finally, I want to thank our community supporters, stakeholders, friends of literacy and essential skills, and funders for supporting the work that we do in the province. We look forward to building on the success of 2013-2014 and working together in 2014-2015, as we *learn and grow together*.

~ Karen Rosser, Executive Director

Literacy @HOME

Throughout the 2013-2014 year, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network worked to incorporate the many ways that families learn, work and grow together.



Marilyn at the Saskatchewan Community School Education Conference 2014

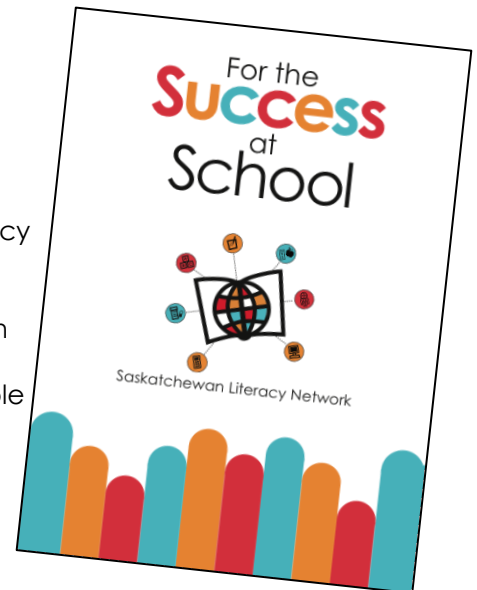
Engaging Children and Families in Learning Fun – Family Literacy Training

This year, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network developed new family literacy training. “Engaging Children and Families in Learning Fun” is a half day, hands-on workshop. This training provides participants with practical resources and fresh ideas for developing their own learning experiences for children and families. It also allows for participants to explore the world around them and incorporate intergenerational learning.

For the Success at School

In 2013-2014, our organization developed and published a family literacy booklet, *For the Success at School*. This family literacy resource is available for family use across the province, encourages family engagement throughout the school years and supports successful high school completion. More importantly, this resource supports families to expand the activities that take place at school as well as other valuable learning opportunities.

This booklet is companion booklet to *For the Love of Reading* and *For the Joy of Learning*.



L to R: Marilyn Stearns, Sian Hodges (intern), Desiree Harrison, Karen Rosser and Sian Hodges, Shirley Larson and Naome Soleil

Family Literacy Day 2014

On January 27, 2014 the Saskatchewan Literacy Network team celebrated family, fun, and learning on Family Literacy Day. We took a few moments out of the start of our day to celebrate our office family and participate in a Book and Bagel Morning.

Literacy @WORK

In 2013-2014, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network broadened its reach of Literacy @Work with the development of new partnerships and the launch of new initiatives that strengthen essential skills and workplace literacy foundations.



Strengthening Rural Canada – A New Initiative Aimed to Revive Rural and Remote Communities across Canada

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is pleased to be part of a Pan-Canadian initiative that is hoping to find solutions to the challenges experienced by rural Canadians. We are working closely with five Saskatchewan communities in this project – Humboldt, Rosetown, Kipling, Fort Qu'Appelle and Hudson Bay. Strengthening Rural Canada aims to determine if local strategies for skills development can lead to economic growth and community resiliency by building a community's human and social capital.



We are working closely with colleagues from Decoda Literacy Solutions in British Columbia, Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador, Essential Skills Ontario and Réseau pour le développement de l'alphabétisme et des compétences (RESDAC). Together we will be working closely with 11 remote and rural communities in four provinces - including at least three francophone communities.



Preparing for the first round of meetings with newcomers in Regina, SK

Cultural Foundations for Financial Literacy – Training Resource Development

Work has begun on the development and delivery of a trainer-focused financial literacy program for agencies working with newcomers. This project started in the 2013-2014 year and works to address the growing need to build the capacity of service providers in assisting newcomers with increasing their knowledge of financial literacy.

This initiative focuses on mentorship and incorporates input from newcomers, to provide Saskatchewan agencies with the knowledge and skills to deliver basic financial literacy training to their clients.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is excited to be working with new and existing partners in this project including training institutions, community organizations, financial agencies and newcomers to Saskatchewan.

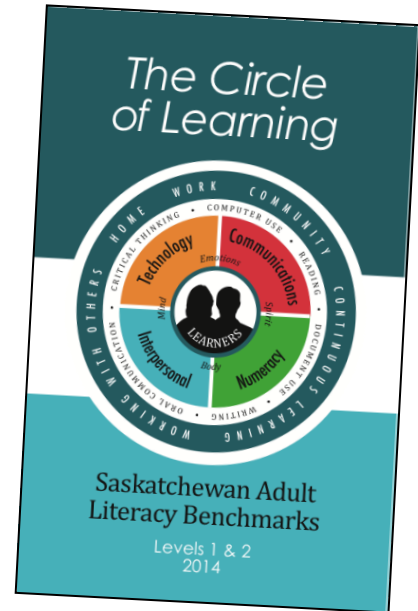
Literacy in the COMMUNITY

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network revised a quality resource which supports adult learners and practitioners in the province, promoted learning opportunities, and encouraged continuous lifelong learning in 2013-2014.

The Circle of Learning

Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks Levels 1 & 2 revisions

With the support of a project management team, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network worked to produce a revised copy of *The Circle of Learning* Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks Levels 1 & 2. In support of adult literacy learners and practitioners, the benchmarks and learning outcomes in *The Circle of Learning* focus on foundational skills that learners need in order to participate fully at home, at work, and in the community. The development of digital literacy across content areas is reflective of skills that adult literacy learners need for the 21st century.



Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart at the Saskatchewan Literacy Network Knowledge Exchange 2013

Saskatchewan Literacy Network's Knowledge Exchange 2013

Thank you to all of you who attended the Saskatchewan Literacy Network Knowledge Exchange 2013. This two-day provincial knowledge exchange took place on November 13 & 14 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Delegates in attendance included practitioners, educators and other leaders working in the field of literacy and essential skills across Saskatchewan had the opportunity to participate in various learning, networking and professional development opportunities.

Together, we learned:

- about the Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) from Brett Waytuck, Provincial Library and Literacy Office, Ministry of Education with the Government of Saskatchewan,
- the role of digital and social media in promoting ideas, connecting with people and businesses courtesy of Albert Jame with zu.com communications,
- about the success of the Youth Leaders for Literacy program in the Northern Lights School Division, and
- how inspiration and dedication results in success when we commit to lifelong and continuous learning from the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart.



Saskatchewan Literacy Network 2013-2014 Display



2014 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit Recipients



Lin Ling Yan and Ming Xian Pan provide the Learner Address for the 2014 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit

Literacy in Action

Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, hosted the 2014 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit on Monday on April 23, 2014, in Regina, Saskatchewan at Government House. The Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit acknowledge the outstanding contributions by Saskatchewan citizens, organizations, and businesses for the improvement and development of literacy and essential skills in our province.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is pleased to acknowledge the
2014 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit recipients:

- **Workplace Training Excellence Award** – Gordon Retail Centre, George Gordon First Nation
- **Outstanding Literacy Project Award** – Workplace Literacy Program for Newcomers, Regina and District Food Bank
- **Professional Leadership in Literacy Award** – Carol Cundall, Executive Director, Estevan Diversified Services Inc.
- **Volunteer Service Award** – Sylvia Obrigewitsch, Global Gathering Place, Saskatoon
- **Cameco Literacy Learner Award and Bursary** – Lindsay Brittain, Youth Worker and Culture Program Coordinator, Nipawin Oasis Community Centre Cooperative Ltd.

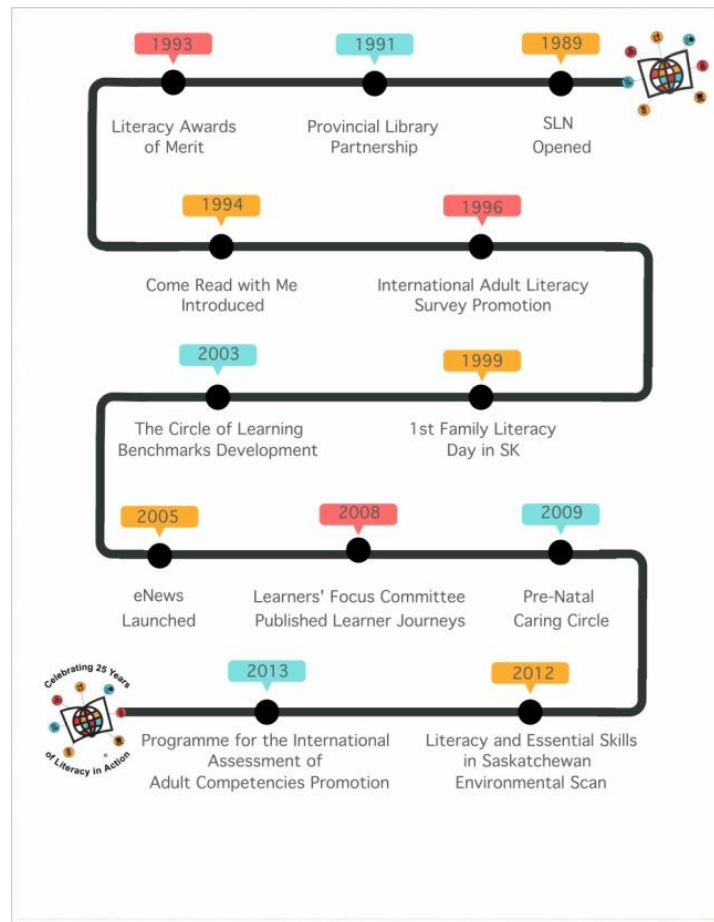


Map of Where We Have Been in Saskatchewan for 2013-2014

In 2013-2014, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network:

- Provided 12 family literacy, essential skills and workplace, and community literacy trainings throughout the province to 137 participants
- Distributed a total of 31,839 literacy and essential skills resources

Literacy in Action for 25 Years



The Saskatchewan Literacy Network's new office location is:

11-2155 Airport Drive

Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M5

www.saskliteracy.ca