



Saskatchewan Literacy Network

A N N U A L R E P O R T
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L to R: Phaedra Hitchings, Andrea Iron, Andrea Fosseneuve, Honourable Don Morgran, Janet Uchacz-Hart, Marilyn Stearns, Gordon Li, Shirley Larson

Our Team

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Andrea Fosseneuve, Interim Executive Director / Adult and Workplace Learning
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Andrea Iron, Aboriginal Family Literacy Development
Marilyn Stearns, Family Literacy Development

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Randy Belanger, Ile-a-la-Crosse

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Alice Samkoe, Family Literacy Contracted Trainer
Joanne LaBrash, Family Literacy Contracted Trainer
Bonnie Simpson, Graphic Designer
Leighton Tebay, Computer Systems Consultant
Allan Quigley, Saskatchewan Action Research Network

Funders and Supporters

Cameco Corporation
Community Initiatives Fund
Goodlife Kids Foundation
Government of Saskatchewan, Provincial Library and Literacy Office, Ministry of Education
Government of Saskatchewan, Apprenticeship and Workforce Skills, Ministry of the Economy
Postmedia Raise-a-Reader sponsored by
The StarPhoenix and Leader-Post



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Message from the President

The 2015- 2016 year has been a rewarding with successful partnerships and programming with organizations and communities around the province. We are thankful for the staff of the Saskatchewan Literacy Network for their commitment to providing leadership in the areas of literacy and essential skills. Thank you to Karen Danielson, who is currently on maternity leave and to Andrea Fosseneuve, Interim Executive Director, for their leadership and dedication. At this time, I would also like to thank the Saskatchewan Literacy Network Board of Directors and acknowledge their contributions and support of the SLN, especially to outgoing board members Randy Belanger and Delaney King.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is grateful for the support and ongoing commitment from our funders as we continue to promote literacy and lifelong learning in Saskatchewan.

- Janet Uchacz-Hart



Message from the Interim Executive Director

For the 2015-2016 year, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network strengthened its existing partnerships and saw the successful development and completion of various projects in adult and family literacy. Adult literacy resources – *The Circle of Learning, Practitioners Guide to Numeracy Levels 1 and 2*, and *Learner-Centred Intake and Assessment* were updated and received fresh new looks. The Family Literacy resource – *Introduction to Family Literacy* – also underwent revisions. We saw an increase in our work family as positions in Aboriginal Family Literacy and Adult and Workplace Learning were filled.

Thank you to Karen Danielson for her leadership and mentorship and to the Saskatchewan Literacy Network Board and Staff for your support, hard work, and dedication throughout this year.

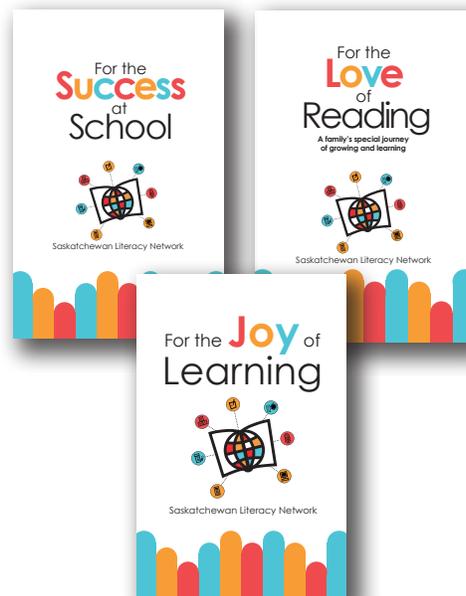
- Andrea Fosseneuve

Literacy @ HOME

Family Literacy Resource Series

A total of **17,074 copies** (print and electronic) of the Family Literacy Resource Series were provided to Saskatchewan communities in 2015-2016.

For the Love of Reading is a booklet for anyone who cares for or works with children and gives suggestions on how to help children discover the love of reading. *For the Joy of Learning* is a booklet for anyone who cares for or works with young children and gives ideas to help children enjoy learning. *For the Success at School* provides families with encouragement and practical ideas to help their child be successful from preschool through high school.



Inspiring PLAY

Supported by a grant through the Goodlife Kids Foundation, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network along with a team of professionals developed the Inspiring Physical Literacy and You (PLAY) program. *Inspiring PLAY* is a 6-week family program designed to increase awareness of the importance of family involvement in supporting physical literacy for differently-abled children. The project was introduced in Regina, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Moosomin (township), and Swift Current.



Aboriginal Family Literacy

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network has been focusing on culturally responsive resource development, outreach and increasing family literacy capacity within Aboriginal communities.

This work was accomplished by sharing information on family literacy services and programs at events such as the FSIN Early Learning and Childcare Summit and Awasis Education Conference. Professional development opportunities in Aboriginal communities were coordinated and delivered. Aboriginal family literacy practitioners were connected to training opportunities. Existing family literacy resources were reviewed for Aboriginal content and three new Aboriginal-themed Storysacks were created. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network also promoted Family Literacy Day in the Métis village of Ile-a-la-Crosse in partnership with the Ile-a-la-Crosse Friendship Centre and Aboriginal Headstart.

Postmedia Raise-a-Reader

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network worked in partnership with the Postmedia Raise-a-Reader this year to provide **36 communities** across Saskatchewan with funds to enhance family literacy programs or initiatives. The Postmedia Raise-a-Reader campaign exists to empower today's children and families with tools to improve their reading skills.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network supported the Postmedia Raise-a-Reader campaign through various events including the Health and Wellness Expo and Queen City Marathon.

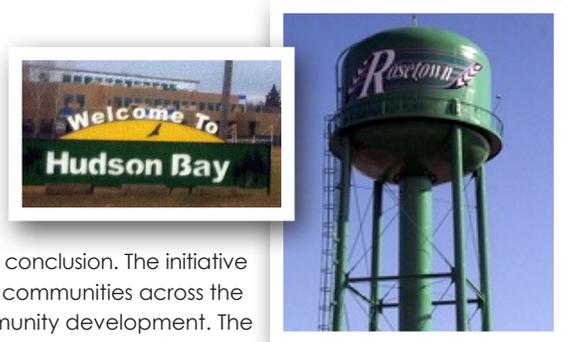


Literacy @ WORK

Strengthening Rural Canada

The Strengthening Rural Canada – Renforcer les communautés rurales du Canada research project, examined the human and social capital of rural, small towns and remote communities in Canada is drawing to a conclusion. The initiative explored the connections between human capital and rural growth in six communities across the country, to examine how literacy and essential skills are a factor in community development. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network with their partners, Decoda Literacy Solutions and Le Réseau pour le Développement de L'alphabétisme et des Compétences (RESDAC), met in Vancouver to discuss the results of the research, which will be posted on the Strengthening Rural Canada website: www.strengtheningruralcanada.ca.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network was honoured to work with the communities of Hudson Bay and Rosetown on this project.



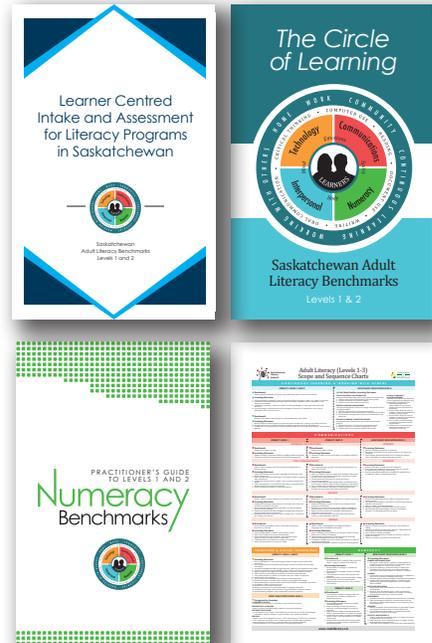
Literacy in the Community

Adult Literacy Resources

Revisions to *The Circle of Learning* (Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks Levels 1 & 2) began in 2014 and completed in March 2016. Revisions to the *Practitioners Guide to Levels 1 and 2 Numeracy Benchmarks* and *Learner Centre Intake and Assessment for Literacy Programs in Saskatchewan* were also completed during this period.

In October 2015, the *Adult Literacy (Levels 1-3) Scope and Sequence Chart* was developed as an extension of *The Circle of Learning*. The chart offers practitioners a snapshot of all the essential skills adult learners need to participate fully at home, work, and in the community, Benchmarks and learning outcomes learners need to achieve at each level. During the period of this report, **355 copies** (electronic and print) were distributed at various trainings and downloaded from the website.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network and the Benchmarks Project Management Team wishes to thank the many contributors for their feedback, and the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education, Provincial Library and Literacy Office and Ministry of Economy, Apprenticeship and Workforce Skills Branch for their financial support.



Saskatchewan Community Literacy Fund

In partnership with the Provincial Library and Literacy Office, Ministry of Education, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network provided mentoring, leadership, and support to Saskatchewan Community Literacy Funded projects. Network staff connected with each project on a monthly basis and performed site visits. The projects included adult and family literacy projects delivered in various communities across the province.

Adult Basic Education – Essential Skills for the Workplace

In partnership with Apprenticeship and Workforce Skills, Ministry of the Economy, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network provided professional development training and support to approved ABE-ESWP projects across the province. Professional development including sessions in the *Circle of Learning*, *Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks Level 1 and 2*, *Portfolio Development*, and *Learner-Centred Intake and Assessment for Literacy Programs in Saskatchewan*.

Special Events

2016 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit

The Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Saskatchewan citizens, organizations and businesses for the improvement and development of literacy and essential skills in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is pleased to acknowledge the recipients of the 2016 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit:

- **Business Leadership in Literacy Award** – Brightrock Financial, Saskatoon
- **Outstanding Literacy Project Award** - Early Childhood Education Level 1 & 2 and Security Officer Applied Certificate Supported Programs, Prince Albert
- **Professional Leadership in Literacy Award** – Ms. Alice Samkoe, Regina Public Library, Regina
- **Volunteer Service Award** – Ms. Gert de Laforest, Regina
- **Cameco Literacy Learner Award and Bursary** – Mr. Rick Langlais, Saskatoon

A special thank you to Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, for hosting the event on May 18, 2016 at Government House in Regina. We would also like to acknowledge the 2016 Selection Committee for their contributions to this year's Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit. In addition, thank you to those who attended and celebrated the achievements of literacy and essential skills in Saskatchewan with us.



Back L-R: Andrea Fosseneuve, Andrea Iron, Dorothy Hyde, Rhonda Kayseas, Marilyn Stearns, Shirley Larson

Front L-R: Janet Uchacz-Hart, Delphine Melchert (Outstanding Literacy Project Award), Janea Diemo (Business Leadership in Literacy Award), Laura Ross (MLA for Regina Rochdale Constituency), Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Karen Lendzyck (Cameco), Mr. Rick Langlais (Cameco Literacy Learner Award), Alice Samkoe (Professional Leadership in Literacy Award), Gert de Laforest (Volunteer Service Award).



Top: Mr Rick Langlais, recipient of the 2016 Cameco Literacy Learner Award.

Bottom: L to R: Board Members Rhonda Kayseas and Dorothy Hyde provided the Learner Address at Literacy Awards of Merit ceremony.

2015 Literacy Symposium

On October 29th and 30th, the Saskatchewan Literacy hosted a Literacy Symposium for members of the Family Literacy Hubs and recipients of the Saskatchewan Community Literacy Fund. This learning exchange provided an opportunity for literacy stakeholders to engage in continuous learning, share expertise and build partnerships that will support the successful delivery of their literacy and essential skills programs their communities throughout the province.



Promoting Public Awareness of Family Literacy

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network is dedicated to the important work of promoting the importance of family literacy and the value of participating in family literacy programs in the province. This work is done in many ways and last year included; hosting an informational booth at the Health and Wellness Expo prior to the Queen's City Marathon in Regina, creating the Families Matter monthly electronic newsletter to support the work of the provincially designated Family Literacy Hubs, developing the Inspiring PLAY program which reaches out to families with differently-abled children, and delivering a Families Matter presentation to the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference 2016.

Promoting Literacy in Saskatchewan

The theme for International Literacy Day 2015 was, "Literacy and Sustainable Societies." The Saskatchewan Literacy Network celebrated International Literacy Day in Moose Jaw with the Moose Jaw Literacy Network, William Grayson Elementary School and Education Minister Don Morgan.

