

Annual Report
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009



Literacy and Learning for Life

1989 - 2009



**Saskatchewan
Literacy
Network**

Message from the President – Greg Fleet

It has been my honor to serve as the President for the Saskatchewan Literacy Network over this past year. I wish to acknowledge the terrific work being carried out by the very dedicated staff at the Saskatchewan Literacy Network. I also want to thank our Board of Directors for their hard work, dedication and support. A special thank you to Carol Vandale and Charlotte Schindelka for their four years of service on the Saskatchewan Literacy Network's Board of Directors.

We have had some staffing changes at the Saskatchewan Literacy Network earlier this summer. Helen Woodhouse our Administrative Assistant has retired. We welcome our new Administrative Assistant Shirley Larson. Grant Young, Interim Executive Director, resigned at the end of June and has move to British Columbia. We wish them well. We are very excited that Elaine Ebenal has accepted the Interim Executive Director's position. Elaine brings a wealth of experience as a current Saskatchewan Literacy Network employee and the Benchmarks Coordinator.

In late August former Montreal Canadiens Head Coach Jacques Demers was appointed to the Senate, by Prime Minister Steven Harper. MR Demers was able to win a Stanley Cup but admitted there was one skill he was unable to master: how to read. MR Demers says that he can write his own name and a few other words, he is functionally illiterate, unable to read most sentences. In an interview with Canada AM Demers is quoted as saying "They say there's a million people in the province of Quebec that can't write or read. Man, if I could just help 10 people..."

Today's messaging society will affect the literacy world of the future. Computers, cellular phones and Blackberry® Smartphones allow us to communicate rapidly by way of text messages, emails or through Social Network sites like Facebook and Twitter. A new vocabulary has resulted in which multiple words are replaced with abbreviations.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary for the Saskatchewan Literacy Network. Significant progress has been made and a lot of groundbreaking work has been done. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network provides leadership, vision and support to learners and a variety of groups across Saskatchewan. The passion of the Saskatchewan Literacy Network has never been stronger and the desire to do more will never wane. Congratulations!

Message from the Interim Executive Director – Elaine Ebenal

The past year at the SLN has been marked by many successful partnerships and projects. We started the year with a very successful fall literacy conference, The Spirit of Community, which brought together over 90 practitioners, learners and stakeholders from across the province. We also held two Literacy Cafés with practitioners in central Saskatchewan communities, and one Café with learners. In the spring, we came together in Saskatoon as guests of the Lieutenant Governor, to honour provincial literacy champions with the Literacy Awards of Merit. These and so many other initiatives were successful because of a strong Saskatchewan literacy community, a committed and tireless staff at the SLN and a board of directors who provide strong leadership.

Feedback from across the province this year continued to express the need for networking opportunities for literacy stakeholders and the need for presentation of concerns and needs at the provincial and national level. The SLN has been working hard to be a strong provincial voice for literacy and will continue to do so. The feedback from the field, gathered over the past year, has been valuable in planning steps towards serving you better. We continue to welcome the field's comments and suggestions for advancing literacy in the province. We look forward to the coming year, as we anticipate continued commitment and opportunity at the SLN and across the literacy field in Saskatchewan.

Field Development

- Hosted 2 Literacy Cafes in central Saskatchewan
- Literacy Awards of Merit gathered 200 stakeholders and literacy champions to recognise excellence in the field
- Provided support to 11 groups receiving Innovation Funds through the Saskatchewan Literacy Office
- Provided 29 family literacy training events and distributed 24,000 Family Literacy Day materials
- Provided 17 professional development workshops, including 13 in support of the implementation of Levels 1 & 2 Literacy Benchmarks
- Worked with Can West Global to distribute \$194,290.00 in Raise-a-Reader funding to 92 programs
- Distributed 42,906 Family and Adult Literacy Resources and had 10,985 resources downloaded off the web-site.

Resource Development

- Completed revisions of the Benchmarks' *Intake and Assessment* and *Numeracy* manuals
- Completed revisions of *Program Planning and Proposal Writing* and *Plain Language* manuals
- Created New Literacy Horizons, a handbook for literacy coordinators
- Revised *Rhymes, Songs and Storytelling Manual*
- Created an *Introduction to Family Literacy Train the Trainer Guide*

Communications

- Timeline created on-line to gather History for the 20th Anniversary Celebration
- Displays set up at 4 events across the province
- Distributed 4237 promotional items such as mouse pads, magnet, post-its and brochures
- e-News sent to 268 subscribers each month
- New publications included: *Make it Work, a Literacy and Essential Skills Newsletter*, 2 issues of *Learner Journeys*, and a *Learners' Café Report*

Learner involvement

- Facilitated 3 Learner Focus Committee meetings
- Adult Learners represented on Literacy Benchmarks project management team, Learner newsletter committee, the SLN board of directors, AEE & L learner focus group
- Provided funding and support for 5 regional adult learner support groups
- Distributed 320 copies of the Learner Newsletter
- Supported 1 learner representative to the MCL-LAN



Funders and Donors

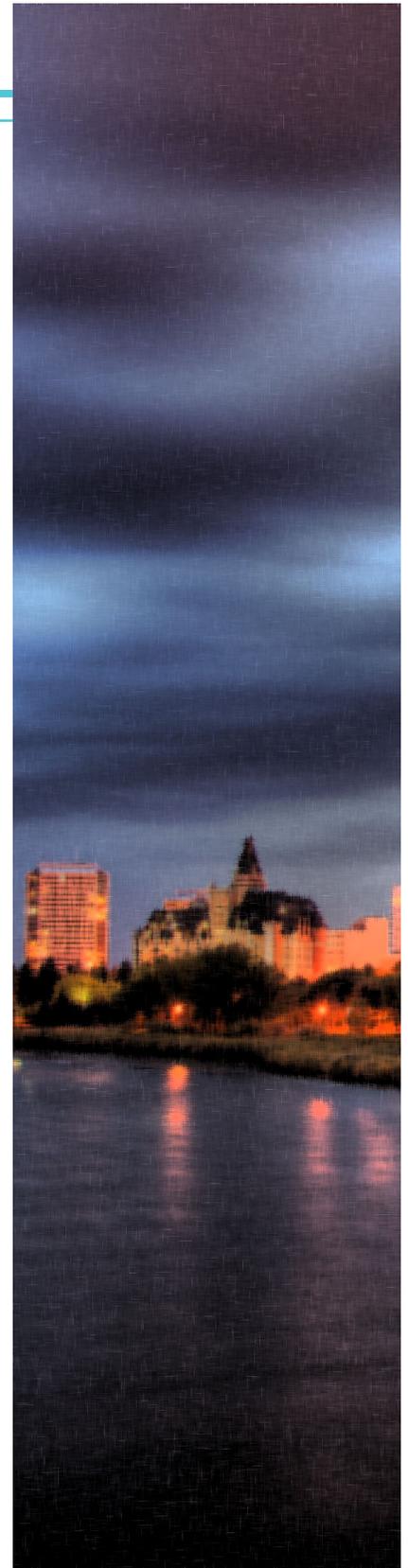
- ABC Canada Literacy Foundation
- Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
- Cameco Corporation
- Can West Raise-a-Reader
- Health Canada
- Human Resources and Social Development Canada
- Institute for Cross Cultural Exchange
- Ministry of Education, Literacy office
- SaskEnergy
- Sterling McDowell Foundation

Volunteers

- Debbie Griffith
- Tim Stearns
- Allan Woodhouse

Staff

Interim Executive Director	-----	Grant Young
Finance Manager	-----	Ollie Glemser
Administrative Assistant	-----	Helen Woodhouse/ Shirley Larson
Communications Coordinator	-----	Sheena Summach
Adult Literacy Coordinator	-----	Connie Jones
Family Literacy Coordinator	-----	Marilyn Stearns
Benchmarks Coordinator	-----	Elaine Ebenal



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