

# The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering 2010

## FINAL REPORT



# Literacy: An Aboriginal Cultural Tradition

# ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

**Project:** "Literacy: An Aboriginal Cultural Tradition"  
Fourth Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering 2010

**Host Organization:** Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. (SALN)

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**Board Members:** Della Anaquod, President (Saskatoon, SIAST)  
Ivy Kennedy, Vice-President (Regina, Women of the Dawn)  
Cindy LaPlante, Secretary/Treasurer (Saskatoon, DTI)  
Florence McLeod, Elder (Montreal Lake)  
Louise Halfe, Member (Saskatoon)  
**Denise D'Amour, Member (La Ronge, Northlands College)**  
Tanner Wilson, Learner Representative (Saskatoon, DTI)

*SALN Honourary Members:*

Irene Jacques, Elder (Standing Buffalo First Nation)  
Dr. Danny Musqua, Elder (Kamsack)

# SUMMARY

The **4<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering 2010 – "Literacy: An Aboriginal Cultural Tradition" (Gathering 2010)** was another great success! Over 150 people participated in this event.

The Gathering 2010 is part of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc.'s mission to support and promote Aboriginal literacy within the Province of Saskatchewan. This event brought together participants from all regions of Saskatchewan and other provinces across Canada. Among the participants attending were Elders, adult learners, youth, literacy practitioners, Aboriginal program developers, government officials, and other stakeholders related to Aboriginal literacy.

The Gathering, held in beautiful Manitou Beach, provided all participants with an enriching, positive, and informative cultural experience, as well as increasing their knowledge of Aboriginal literacy in many aspects. 30 learners and 10 Practitioners from across Saskatchewan shared their experiences of growth as a result of their participation in literacy programs.

**This Gathering's success could not have been possible without the dedication, energy, and commitment of the Event Coordinators, the Cultural Coordinator, Board of Directors, the Gathering Planning Committee, various consultants, sponsors, and volunteers.** The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. would like to thank everyone involved.

# OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the **Gathering 2010** were as follows:

- To engage learners, Elders, practitioners, and participants in further learning opportunities in areas of literacy such as adult, family, workplace/Essential Skills, and community literacy.
- To bring together First Nations, Métis, and other people to explore, learn, and share what is happening in Aboriginal Literacy in Saskatchewan and abroad.
- To further explore Aboriginal literacy approaches with guest speakers and workshops on this topic.
- To showcase Aboriginal literacy successes and challenges in individuals, organizations, and communities.

# ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES

Overall the event was a success. All the activities that were planned were implemented completely. The SALN hired an Event Coordinator and a Cultural Coordinator. These people worked in collaboration with the Gathering Planning Committee comprised of Board of Directors and staff members. These people and their roles are listed in Appendix B.

The Executive Director (ED) met with the committee and coordinators on a regular basis before and after the Gathering 2010. They discussed at length the successes and the challenges, making notes for the next Gathering in 2012.

The objectives were accomplished with the following activities and outcomes.



# To engage learners, Elders, practitioners, and participants in further learning opportunities in areas of literacy such as adult, family, workplace/Essential Skills, and community literacy.

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- Sponsoring practitioners to bring learners with them worked out very well again this time. If the learners that originally applied to come were unable to attend, other learners were chosen by the practitioners to participate in the event. This made for a more successful Gathering overall.
- The learners were encouraged and supported by their practitioners and others who assisted them. Many of the workshops were specifically geared to learners. Seven practitioners brought 19 learners with them.
- As has become a tradition at our Gatherings, a number of learners spoke at the meals about their story – **their “Journey through Teachings”:**
  - ⊕ Wednesday, May 26, Lunch: Noreen Moore – Saskatoon, SIAST
  - ⊕ Wednesday, May 26, Supper: Michelle Deschamps – North West Regional College – North Battleford
  - ⊕ Thursday, May 27, Lunch: Clint Dreaver – Prince Albert, SIAST
- We had great workshop presenters at this Gathering. Their workshops were evaluated and compiled. The evaluation is available upon request.
  - ⊕ *Vera Goodman* – “Reading Wings”
  - ⊕ *Vera Tourangeau* – “Treaty Four Student Success: All Students are Gifts from the Creator”
  - ⊕ *Maria Morrison* – “Publishing Cultural Literacy Resources”
  - ⊕ Lorette Melanson – “NALD & NALD At Work Websites: Increasing Resources in the Aboriginal literacy community”
  - ⊕ *Deborah Lee* – “The Contributions of the Indigenous Studies Portal Towards Aboriginal **Literacy**”
  - ⊕ *Lorna Wesequate & Maryanne McGrath* – “Family Literacy Programs for Aboriginal Families with Young Children: Aboriginal APRINTS & Aboriginal Literacy & Parenting Skills Programs”
  - ⊕ *Sylvia Regnier* – “The Heart of the Student in Literacy Development”
  - ⊕ *Vera & Mel Tourangeau* – “Empowering the Warrior: Storytelling, Wording, and Laughing”
- This year we hosted an Aboriginal Literacy Panel to highlight and share about specific areas of literacy and how Aboriginal literacy was involved, expanding, and providing programs, resources, and services in each area of literacy. Panel members included:

- ⊕ *Peggy Vermette, STC Career Village – “Workplace & Essential Skills”*
- ⊕ *Bobby Henry, SALN Staff – “Research and Justice Literacy”*
- ⊕ *Lavonne Dubois, SALN Staff – “Family Literacy”*
- ⊕ *Lisa McCallum, SALN Staff – “Adult Literacy”*

- There were a good variety of exhibitors at this Gathering. They were:
  - ⊕ Jer Bear Books
  - ⊕ Various crafters
  - ⊕ Northland College
  - ⊕ Saskatchewan Literacy Network

**OUTCOME:** There was an excellent opportunity for knowledge exchange and learning for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to explore, understand, and share on many aspects and levels of Aboriginal literacy.



# To bring together First Nations, Métis, and other people to explore, learn, and share what is happening in Aboriginal Literacy in Saskatchewan and abroad.

- The SALN Gatherings have been held in many locations throughout Saskatchewan – each time providing an opportunity for more local people to come to know our organization and Aboriginal literacy.
- This Gathering 2010 was specifically held in eastern Saskatchewan to build awareness, relationships, and knowledge exchange with more northern people and organizations.
- We accomplished this through promotion and accepting speakers, workshop presenters, Elders, learners, exhibitors, volunteers, Board members, and registrants from northern Saskatchewan.

**OUTCOME:** More people and activities will happen in eastern Saskatchewan and throughout the rest of the province regarding Aboriginal literacy.



## To further explore Aboriginal literacy approaches with guest speakers and workshops on this topic.

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- People came from many levels of government, justice, health, social services, libraries, universities, colleges, other literacy organizations, media, service groups, provinces, and business/industry.
- Dignitaries gave welcoming remarks at the Opening Ceremonies:
  - ✿ *The Honourable Ken Krawetz*, Deputy Premier & Minister of Education & Minister in charge of the Provincial Literacy Office
  - ✿ *Mr. Greg Brkich*, MLA for the Arm River-Watrous Constituency
  - ✿ *Mr. Eric Upshall*, Mayor of Manitou Beach
  - ✿ *Elaine Ebenal*, Interim Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Literacy Network

**Quote:** "When the forum ended, I was approached by a woman who said I inspired her. The presentation gave her a lot of encouragement, empowerment and strength making her wanting to return and complete her university course. A male Elder said I was very selective with my words and should continue to "speak out". He requested that I return to his community at a later date, and continue to "speak out"."  
- Elder

**OUTCOME:** More people will return to their lives, schools, programs, and workplaces encouraged and renewed about new approaches, research, and information on Aboriginal literacy.



# To showcase Aboriginal literacy successes and challenges in individuals, organizations, and communities.

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- Following a tradition that began at the 2006 Gathering, we hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Awards Gala*. This was a special evening that acknowledged and celebrated the contributions, dedication, and growth of Aboriginal people and organizations involved with literacy. (See Appendix C for pictures & bios)
  - ✿ *Learner Award:* Denise Choumont
  - ✿ *Elder Award:* Louise McKinney
  - ✿ *Practitioner Award:* Rita Bouvier
  - ✿ *Organization/Business Award:* Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre
  
- The cultural and ceremonial events were very good. Everyone gave their best. We greatly appreciate the follow people who gave the Gathering a wonderful atmosphere:
  - ✿ *Veterans & Elders* – Flag Carriers and prayers
  - ✿ *Kawacatoose Boys* – Kawacatoose First Nation
  - ✿ *Richard Dube* – Northern Spirit Flute
  - ✿ *Louise Halfe* – Poetry Reading
  - ✿ *Cassandra & Milu* – Inuit Throat Singers
  - ✿ *Irene Oakes & Daughters* – Fancy Dancers
  - ✿ *Terrance Littlelent* – Hoop Dancer
  - ✿ *Lenny Dumont & Mel Vandale* – Métis Fiddle Band
  - ✿ *Gerald Okanee* – Closing Ceremony Drum Group
  - ✿ *Robert Currie* – Saskatchewan Poet Lauriat

## **Our Honoured Elders:**

- ✿ *Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wapass-Mcadam*, (Elders) Thunderchild First Nations
- ✿ *Mr. & Mrs. Edward Runingaround*, (Elders, singers) Waterhen First Nation
- ✿ *Mr. Frank Aubichon*, Elder Métis Veteran, Green Lake SK. VIA Thunderchild First Nation
- ✿ *Mr. Arnold Tobacco*, **“The Server” for the Elders, Poormans First Nation**
- ✿ *Mr. Dexter Asapace*, Host for Sweats and Ms. Valerie Desjarlais, Assistance to Dexter, Kawacatoose First Nation
- ✿ *Ms. Florence McLeod*, Board of Directors, Montreal Lake First Nation, Prince Albert, SK.
- ✿ *Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Sands*, Mistawasis First Nation, Leask, SK.

**From Margaret Wapass, Cultural Coordinator:**

"My involvement was a dual role. First, as an Elder and second, the cultural coordinator. The Cultural Coordinator was a contract position. It included a task schedule outlining my duties, responsibilities and compensation. My final task is the final report. The final report will summarize part of my tasks, involvement at the Gathering and personal recommendations regarding the start to end process.

**My spiritual Cree name "KihwapiwIskew" translated "the queen of an eagle",** not only identifies who I am but also symbolizes my Holistic and Traditional ways. An Elder(I) accept a huge responsibility representing my cultural and traditional way of life, including literacy. Literacy, especially Aboriginal literacy, is a Holistic Cultural Tradition. To be a participant at the Gathering **enabled me to speak to questions such as "What is Aboriginal literacy?" and "Why Gatherings of this nature are important?". The Gathering was a learning** experience for me illustrating that literacy is a lifelong and life-wide influence in culture.

I will end this section as a Cultural Coordinator to say thank you again for this **great honor, and as an Elder I want to say "Heh Heh"!**

The other area of great importance was to develop the Cultural aspects of the Gathering to include the ceremonies and Elder sessions. The ceremonies were to include morning sweats, opening ceremony to include prayers, Grand Entry and the Closing Ceremony. Mr. Dexter Asapace was in charge of the Sweats and was assisted by Ms. Valerie Desjarlais and Mr. Arnold Tobacco.

It is of vital importance that all ceremonies are planned and conducted as the hosting area or region conducts their ceremonies. There may be slight differences, however to understand and provide for the different ceremonies at the Gathering, it is these slight differences that will distinguish between a great Gathering and a good Gathering. The role of Cultural Coordinator is not only to assist all, but to participate in ceremonies. The ceremonies are an integral aspect of cultural and literacy maintains culture. The ceremonies of the hosting territory not only provide a learning outcome for those who attend but also entertainment. The protocol for ceremonies require a detailing for all in attendance and the Cultural Coordinator will need to participate in the ceremonies so as to eliminate any communication problems or concerns. A challenge arose when having to deal with organizational issues and cultural participation within the ceremonies. The Cultural Coordinator, being a cultural person may face challenges as this in the future. It would be imperative for the Cultural Coordinator to provide and review all **ceremonial cultural practices and required prayers prior to the Gathering."**

- Also, we would like to thank the hard work of Millie & Arnold Strueby who hosted us at Manitou Beach Danceland with wonderful food, ambiance, and sound production.
- There were many businesses and organizations who donated items for the Silent Auction (see program book for list). The SALN made over \$2,200 on this and other raffles. Thank you to all the donors!

**OUTCOME:** More people will know about those who were honoured and will demonstrate, share, and model the way that Aboriginal literacy has affected their lives and organizations.



# IMPACTS

The impact of this project has been very good for literacy in general in Saskatchewan. There was representation from other Saskatchewan literacy organizations as well as practitioners and learners from many different literacy programs across Saskatchewan.

This project was very good for Aboriginal Literacy specifically as the presence of many people from various related sectors attended, including people from libraries, colleges (North, South, East and West), schools (both First Nations and non-Aboriginal, rural & urban, Catholic and Public school systems), Tribal Councils, Métis institutions, and other provincial institutions.

Finally this event was very good for the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. Participants observed that our organization is becoming more established and broadening our scope to meet our mandate.

# HIGHLIGHTS

There were many highlights of the Gathering 2010.

- ✿ Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Awards 2010
- ✿ Keynote speakers: Richard Van Camp, writer & storyteller and Robert Doucette, President of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan
- ✿ Great cultural entertainment
- ✿ Fabulous location
- ✿ Lots of networking



# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Although Danceland was a fabulous venue for plenary sessions and meals it did present some challenges for workshop presentations. Venue choice is seen as a factor in attendance. Both these challenges will be taken into consideration in selection of the next venue.
2. Some participants would have appreciated the ability to know who the presenters are going to be, to select presenters prior to the conference, and to select Saskatchewan speakers.
3. It is also recommended to give the SALN Aboriginal Literacy Awards more prominence by separating it from the Gathering and to host it annually.
4. To have more focused times for learners to present and to participate.
5. To review the target audience.
6. It is recommended that the SALN Gathering pay presenters. The fee may have to be increased to allow for this expense.
7. To provide an interpretive centre of the local history and geography.
8. To provide signage in English and the host territory language.
9. To have an ongoing cultural coordinator position to bring consistency to the work the needs to be done at these events.
10. To have the theme, program, and workshops be more geared to solving Aboriginal literacy problems. For example:
  - a. Redefining Aboriginal Literacy
  - Government engagement
  - Strategic Planning
  - Guiding practices
11. Have employers send/sponsor employees as a sponsorship contribution.
12. Have clear policies, duties, and lines of communication regarding exhibitors, media, volunteers, and other hosts.

# APPENDIX & ENCLOSURES LIST

## **A. Facility & Event Evaluation**

## **B. Committees**

- Gathering Planning Committee
- Event Coordinator
- Cultural Coordinator

## **C. SALN Aboriginal Literacy Awards 2010**

- Award Winner Biographies

## **D. Sponsors List**

## **E. Promotional Materials**

- Brochure
- Program
- Conference Kit

## **F. Media Coverage and Clippings**

## **G. Financial Statement (by request only)**

APPENDIX A:  
Facility & Event Evaluation



# Literacy: An Aboriginal Cultural Tradition

## 4<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering 2010

### Facility and Event Evaluation Form

#### Food and Menu

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate your evaluation of the food provided to you at the Gathering. Please circle the appropriate number.

Ratings	Poor				Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5
May 25 – Awards Gala			5	17	16
May 26 - Breakfast			10	13	14
May 26 - Lunch			4	22	12
May 26 – Cultural Night Banquet			6	12	18
May 27 - Breakfast	1	3	9	13	11
May 27 - Lunch		4	1	16	13

#### Entertainment and Keynote Speakers

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate your evaluation of the entertainment and speakers at the Gathering. Please circle the appropriate number.

Ratings	Poor				Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5
May 25 – Awards Gala Entertainment		1	6	11	17
May 26 – Richard Van Camp - Keynote			4	6	27
May 26 - Cultural Evening Entertainment			5	10	22
May 27 – Robert Currie – Poet Laureate			5	7	17
May 27 – Robert Doucette – Closing Speaker		1	9	7	15

**Accommodations (Manitou Springs Resort & Mineral Spa)**

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate your evaluation of the accommodations at the Gathering. Please circle the appropriate number.

Ratings	Poor				Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness			5	10	19
Comfort	1		4	17	16

**Accommodations (Other than the Manitou Springs Resort & Mineral Spa) –**

Harmony House (2), Shady Rest (1) and Serenity Inn (1) all received 5 on both cleanliness and comfort.

**Facilities**

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate your evaluation of the facilities in which the Gathering took place. Please circle the appropriate number.

Ratings	Poor				Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5

**Danceland**

Comfortable as a banquet room		1	5	19	14
Comfortable as a workshop room		1	16	8	6
Needs were met		1	13	14	8

**Manitou Springs Hotel & Mineral Spa**

Comfortable as a workshop room		1	9	13	9
Needs were met		1	6	14	11

**Volunteers**

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate your evaluation of the volunteers helping at the Gathering. Please circle the appropriate number.

Ratings	Poor				Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5
Friendly			4	12	22
Were able to answer my questions			4	9	22

## Feedback

The following are the comments from the forms:

- Define literacy further and then discuss.
- Thank you.
- Margaret Wapass – Elder teachings were excellent. She is so humble and kind to the group. A great teacher, Elder and mentor.
- Elder presentations – so interesting. Workshops great. Keynote – exceptional. Closing – great.
- Very good.
- **Only came for Wednesday's sessions. Should have more pertinent sessions.**
- Good.
- Loved everything but wished workshops were longer.
- **I loved the hoop dancer and Louise Halfe's readings.** Great presenters.
- Cold.
- Having two workshops in such a large open area was very difficult to hear the speakers sometimes.
- Please ensure all technology is working – 3 different sessions I attended session leaders struggled with computer sound. It really is a downer for the session group and leader too.
- Thanks to the organizers. It was well organized. The networking opportunities were great. The speakers were entertaining and interesting.
- Would like more information prior to registering on workshops and topics and presenters. My employer questioned value of sending me due to a lack of information on the program, sessions and workshop content. Hard to hear in Danceland.
- **Can't wait for the next Gathering – it was so good.**
- Thanks for the opportunity for letting me come here. Once in the life time. I **enjoyed the stay its so beautiful out here I'm hopping I come bacak in the future.** I love the food. It was great. Thank you so much.
- It was excellent. The conference was excellent. I really enjoyed everything.
- Great. Fun Awesome. I was honoured to be a part of this event.
- Have individual presentations in a closed off room. People visiting on the sidelines was noisy and no one told them to be quiet.
- Conference was well organized, informative, and valuable. The speakers and presentations embody life-long learning. Excellent Work. Hard to hear in Danceland. Heavy scent of lilacs caused headaches.
- I really enjoyed the hospitality and people from Manitou Beach.
- Some cheese or something other than meat would have been nice for vegetarians to put on their bread for Thursday lunch. Dancland was too noisy and a bit cold. Hotel rooms were cold. Really enjoyed Danceland as a venue but it was not suited at all for workshops and Elder sessions – too much noise from other sessions going on to be able to hear other participants well. Otherwise it was a great venue and a wonderful Gathering.
- Danceland was not the best for workshops – it was drafty and at times it was hard to hear the speakers (due to other noise).
- Should have space for presenters to sell their books etc.

- Generally, all aspects of Gathering were okay. Exception: behaviour of Board of Directors at silent auction was unprofessional, bad taste in the way you all **managed to win the "big" items. I applaud you in your manipulation.**
- Danceland – miss the intimacy of seeing faces in the circle – too large a gap in the centre. I would appreciate less one-way communication and more interactive table group conversation and exchanges or reflecting on what we heard or our practices. More workshops and less presentations. Problem solving, creating strategies together. I enjoyed the stories. Thank you. Suggestion: Maybe sessions where practitioners can exchange with each other or learners with learners. Maybe the same question explored thus different eyes and gifts shared from that. Loved the Elders teachings sessions.  
**Learning from one's stories and experiences.**
- Travelling back and forth between venues was facilitated excellently yet remained somewhat hard to remain focused when moving. Have you considered renting a church camp? They tend to be inexpensive and everything conveniently located. There needs to be more choices at workshops for learners. Some were very out of their dept/interest levels. The Warrior session was perfect – perhaps more options that way? Best beef ever.
- When our Elders share their knowledge, perhaps remind others to respect that and stay quiet (the open venue was hard to work with - so I understand). Loved Margaret Wapass in her Elder session. She was excellent. Her knowledge and humility were truly inspirational. Healthy food choices. Hearing the speakers was difficult in Danceland.
- Thank you so much for making it possible for two of our parent volunteers and myself to join you. You thought of everything for us. Volunteers were welcoming and warm. Sometimes hard to hear in Danceland. Nutritious choices of food.
- This was an excellent opportunity for myself as an instructor of literacy as well as for my literacy learners. A wealth of knowledge and wisdom was gained in this 2 ½ day experience. The SALN did a fabulous job organizing each day with appropriate workshops and speakers suitable for my SIAST group. Thank you for sponsoring us.
- Richard Van Camp was very entertaining. I stayed in a light house keeping suite at Mantiou Hotel – I heard the foot and street traffic outside my room. The heater in my room was loud – had maintenance in – **couldn't hear the** problem. No hot water in the morning. Had maintenance back – 15 minutes of running the water before I would shower. The panel discussion was a bit **long winded and I'm not sure I understood what I was supposed to be getting** from it based on the introduction. Went to T4SSP workshop because I wanted to learn more **about it. 4 of 5 presenters weren't there. To Vera's credit she is a fabulous speaker but I didn't get what I wanted about T4SSP. Being** divided by the dance floor made me feel a disconnect with the larger group for the main events and keynote speakers. The lighting was low and it made it hard to focus during the day.

# APPENDIX B:

## Committees



# Gathering Planning Committee

**Members:** Carol Vandale, Executive Director  
Della Anaquod, President  
Florence McLeod, Elder  
Louise Halfe, Elder

The purpose of this committee is to advise the Executive Director, the Event Coordinators, and Cultural Coordinator on specific aspects of the Gathering that impact Aboriginal knowledge, culture, language, and involvement.

In this spirit the members will:

1. Attend regular meetings.
2. Assist in giving historical perspectives on various details of planning the Gathering.
3. Advise on appropriateness of new plans.
4. Assist, where possible, in taking action for the Gathering.

## Event Coordinator

Colleen McKay  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

## Cultural Coordinator

Margaret Wapass, ThunderChild First Nation  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



APPENDIX C:  
Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy  
Awards 2010  
Winners



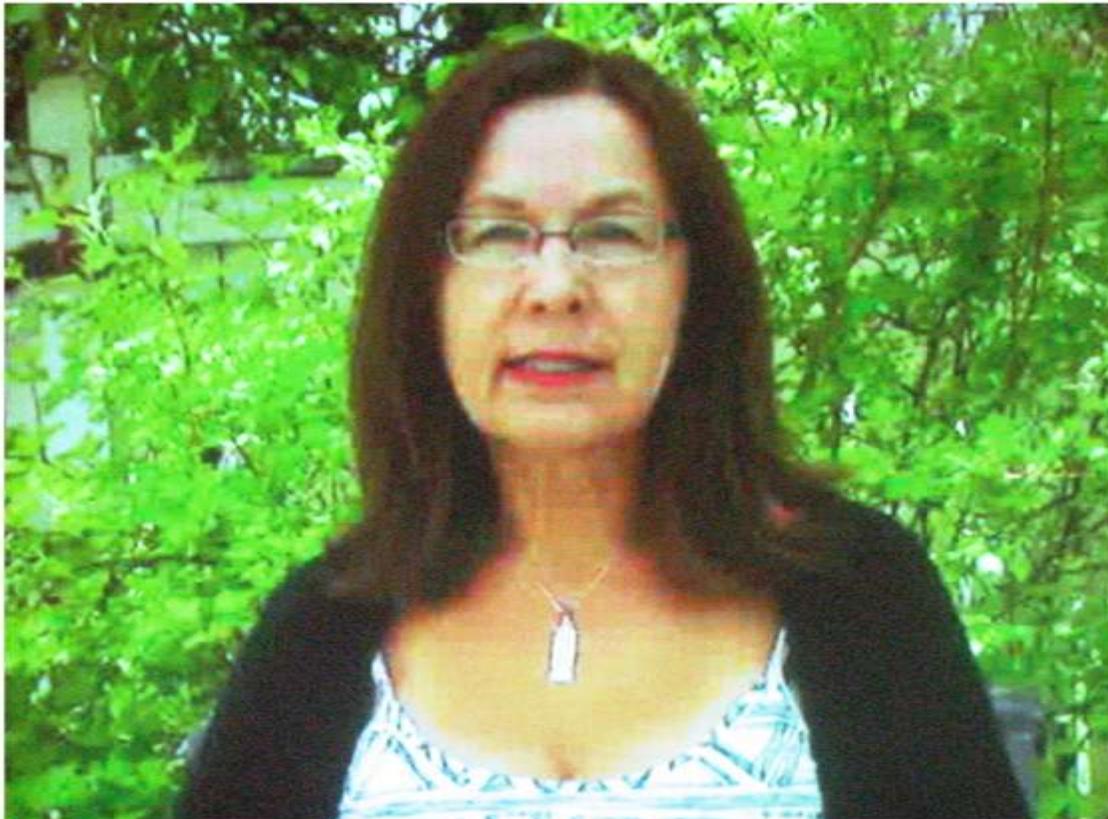
## Practitioner Award – Rita Bouvier

Rita has made important contributions as an educational leader and literary figure. Advocating for life-long learning, she has worked on many projects including the MOKAKIT Research Association (the first of all Aboriginal research organizations in Canada), the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre, **Urban Native Teacher's Education Program**, Batoch Theatre Company, . She worked for the Saskatchewan **Teacher's Federation**.

Through the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre, Rita oversaw a consortium that generated new foundational research on Learning from Place, Comprehending and Nourishing the Learning Spirit, Aboriginal Language and Learning, Diverse Educational Systems and Learning, and Technology and Lifelong learning models.

Rita has lectured and published on Aboriginal knowledge systems, literacy and learning in local, national and international forums. She received two Saskatchewan Book Awards. She is a gifted orator and storyteller, speaking in her mother tongues of Cree and Michif.

She will continue as a force for change in years to come.





## Learner Award – Denise Choumont

Denise's personal strength, courage, commitment, and will to survive and succeed has inspired many people. She is a hard working and successful student planning to enter training as a youth care worker and Human Justice. Denise works tirelessly to achieve very high marks while encouraging her six children in their schoolwork and social activities.

Single-handedly raising children without a family network in the area to help her, Denise is determined to better their lives through education.



# Elder Award – Louise McKinney

Louise is an amazing role model, she won the YWCA Woman of the Year award and was a family worker with Métis Society. She worked at the Saskatoon Westside community clinic and continues to volunteer there.

Louise had the opportunity to attend school when she was in her 30s. She set a record for completing grade 1 to 12 in two years! She is one class short of a Social Work degree.

She is retired but is still involved in community activities. She advocates for community youth and volunteers at the Friendship Centre with the elderly. She is an Elder at SIAST Kelsey Campus. She teaches individually and collectively with many groups and organizations.



# Business/Organization Award – Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) was established in 1972. It is their mission to strengthen and support the education and cultural awareness of First Nations people. The SICC has achieved and continues to pursue that goal by producing and publishing many literary works.

In 2009 they published *Cultural Teachings: First nations Protocol and Methodologies*. This book is used in a First Nations University course and received media attention. The book informs the youth, public, and institutions of protocols to take before ceremonies, events and when approaching an Elder.

This and many other books are examples of the important work that contributes to the understanding of language and culture and increasing literacy among all age levels.





APPENDIX D:  
Sponsors List



## Eagle Sponsors



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Advanced Education,  
Employment and  
Labour



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
First Nations and  
Métis Relations



Ministry of  
Education

## Bear Sponsors

The StarPhoenix



Indigenous Times

# Buffalo Sponsors



*Always Entertaining*



Ministry of  
Education



Information  
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OF SASKATCHEWAN



*Scoles Fine Arts and Framing*



Northlands College



**SIAST**



# Mouse Sponsors



PEACE HILLS TRUST®



## In-Kind Sponsors

The SALN greatly appreciates the ongoing, dedicated, and committed sponsorship of the Dumont Technical Institute, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Technology, and Northlands College – they sponsor Board members with release time and expenses to be involved in the SALN.

Thank you.



## APPENDIX E:

See "Brochure.pdf" attached

See "Program.pdf" attached

See Conference Kit enclosed



APPENDIX F:  
Media Coverage and Clippings  
See "Media.pdf" Attached



APPENDIX G:  
Financial Statements  
(by request only)