



<http://schoollibraryservices.blogspot.ca/2012/11/i-love-reading.html>

Access to Books Maskwacis Community

2011-2013

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"Nothing frees the mind more than reading books!"
A mother-daughter book drive initiative for FN's by neurosurgeon Dr. Mojgan Hodai

So, what has been done so far about access to books in Hobbema?

This report shows various ways of sourcing books from foundations, colleges, family literacy organizations, public libraries, internal school community budgets, Adopt a School programs, garage sales, gently used book stores, councillors, publishers, children's service agencies, pediatricians, organizing book exchanges, reading programs; it is just the beginning to provide access to books to FN's communities on FN's reserve land. Some pages of this report were used as posters to entice FN's families to read and thus embed the reading habit in their lifestyle. Our focus was, '**Books First, Read next.**'

1. Books distributed on 34 occasions in 2 years
2. Partners and relationship development
3. Piggy-back on community activities, events and programs
4. Action steps proposed

The area of applied research initiative currently evolving at Canada's colleges clearly reflects Boyer's precept that "higher education must serve the interests of the larger community." Citing Handlin (1986), Boyer notes that "scholarship has to prove its worth not on its own terms but by service to the nation and the world."

Fisher, Roger (2008). Faculty Participation in Research at Canadian Colleges. Canadian Council on Learning (CCL).

Abbreviations used: COW: Community Literacy Classroom on Wheels
TDSRC: TD Summer Reading Club



1. Books distributed on 34 occasions in 2 years

Read this list to get ideas about 'points of entry' to distribute books to children and their families.

1. "We love books" book distribution day at the school by Bighorn Library, February, 2011
2. Bonny Books and Bighorn Public Library gently used books for FNs students, November 21, 2011

Nov 22, 2011, <http://abookforeverychildnov22.blogspot.ca/>

3. Legacy Library (COW Bus) presented to the school principal at the Celebration of Learning, November 22, 2011
4. Frontier College donated books for the Family Literacy Day celebration coffeehouse, January 26, 2012
5. 100% attendance awards were given book gift vouchers to buy books at the book fair, February 2012.
6. Class 3A achieved their AR reading goal and received free books for team goal achievement, March 16, 2012
7. Buy 1 Get 1 Free book fair, May 15, 2012 at the library
8. Book Bins placed around the community, July-August, 2012
9. TDSRC book distribution, Week 1, TDSRC, July 4, 2012
10. First Books helps families start their home libraries, Week 2, TDSRC, July 11, 2012
11. TDSRC book distribution Week 3, July 18, 2012
12. COW Bus gives away books and many literacy play ideas to FNs families, safety alerts for toys marketed as books, stopover at the school library, July 18, Week 3, TDSRC
13. Books distributed during Week 4, TDSRC, July 25, 2012
14. Community Safety Advocate taking home books for education programs, Week 5, TDSRC, August 15, 2012
15. Books given to Maskwacis Outreach school, September 2012
16. Reading is an essential skills day celebrated by distributing books, September 21, 2012

17. First Books donated books to FNs students to set-up their home libraries, September 2012
18. INDIGO's Adopt a School campaign participation, 310 books given by 125 adopters, October 2012
19. Frontier College donated books for FN families, October 2012
20. Scholastic Book Fair, October 26, 2012
21. Students participated in Intellimedia's Ermineskin Reads and received free books during Libraries Connect month, October 2012
22. Books given to Samson High School students for the Halloween Concert on October 30, 2012
23. Books given to school students on Halloween Day, Trick or Treat give me something good to read, October 31, 2012
24. Diary of Wimpy Kids set of books distributed to Grade 4E students. FNs students voraciously read these books, November 9, 2012
25. Class 6S students received curriculum related graphic novels from First Books on November 14, 2012
26. Class 3C received books for demonstrating excellent borrowing behaviour on November 14, 2012
27. Class 5C achieved their AR reading goals and received books as gifts from First Books on Nov 14, 2012
28. National Reading Campaign book distribution to grandparents on November 15, 2012
29. IODE's Books and Breakfast Club, DEAR time, and Reading energizers, November 2012
30. Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Third Wheel distributed to a Class 4E at the Ermineskin Elementary School, December 19, 2012
31. Books distributed at the COW Bus stopover at Samson Bingo for the Family Literacy celebration, January 18, 2013
32. Library in a Box Service which is 'bulk reading volume boutique' for everyone launched, May 29, 2013
33. Stony Plain Public Library gave away books at the Library Showcase, July 17, 2013
34. Books given in the door prize bags of social work students during the orientation and mixer at the Maskwacis Cultural College Library, September 5, 2013

Next giveaways:

- August 28,2013: Give away books to Montana school and tribal administration office
- September 6,2013: Give away books to college students at the Four Nations student orientation
- September 9,2013: International Literacy Day mixer for Warriors and their families
- September 27,2013: Reading is an Essential Skill Day celebration



[Grandparents read to grandchildren](#)

2. Partners and relationship development

Sincerely appreciate the support provided by organizations, institutions, public libraries, and individuals to nurture reading as a habit for FN's families.

Grandmother Theresa Thunderchild is proud to read to her children anytime and in particular during the National Reading Campaign, November 15, 2012

Book givers and facilitators

Corporations TD	Families Mackinaw Wildcat, Littlechild, Saddleback, Crier, Yellowbird, Minde	Foundations, book retailers and publishers First Books Canada Alberta Book Publishers Association Canadian Children's Book Centre INDIGO's Adopt a School campaign
Businesses Intellimedia	Book Givers Bonny Books	Public Library Bighorn Public Library, Westlock Public Library, Edmonton Public Library, Stony Plain Public Library
Literacy organizations Centre for Family Literacy's Legacy Library and COW Bus, TDSRC, LearningLinks	College Frontier College	Book Fair Scholastic
Service Clubs IODE	Individuals Tymme Zehr	Councillor Samuel Minde

"Reading preserves the culture for the next generation. It creates a shared connection to the community."

<http://nationalreadingcampaign.ca/about-us/the-national-reading-plan/>

3. Piggy-back books and reading on community activities

This section has information about how books, print and reading was leveraged during the National Reading Campaign, Bird Migration Day, Books as achievement awards, Welcome Orientations, and Mixers. A quick dipstick research was conducted and people were asked about their favourite books. Pictures of people with the books they are using was captured using a camera. Then, posters were created and pinned in public places. These book ambassadors served as reading role models and showed the association with print for learning purpose.

[National Reading Campaign featuring Henderson Best](#)



Henderson Best uses, 'On a Pirate Ship' book to teach life skills lessons to his students,

November 2012



Let's go the library

Mother daughter reading on the occasion of the Bird and Word house event at the Maskwacis Community Library.

May 17, 2013



5C class received book from First Books for achieving their reading goals

Mrs. Jessica Chaves was the winner for many students in her class achieved their reading goals. The class is a model for Peer to Peer reading support. This class demonstrates high motivation to read for pleasure. Thank you First Books for giving books on this day of the launch of the National Reading campaign.

October 2012



We read everything

Remembrance day resources provided by Veterans Affairs; Bookmarks, posters, books, DVDs, and information handouts.

November 2012

First Book Canada-TD Bank helps establish home libraries with quality reading resources for FN students on FN land

Books were sourced from First Books-TD Bank grant and distributed to a class of Grade 4E students on November 9th, 2012. Their teacher Mr. Frans Erickson (in the picture) was excited and promotes reading for the fun of it. Each student received five copies of the Diary of the Wimpy Kid series.

Interesting and high demand books are given away to children



"Early access to joyful reading is the right of all children and in a democracy schools are the place where such access can be guaranteed"

<http://nationalreadingcampaign.ca/about-us/the-national-reading-plan/>

Give a child a ball they will play

Give a child a book they will read

Let's all work together to nurture reading

Reading Role Model Champion

Wilda Listener, Chair of Social Work

I originally grew up on the Piikani Reserve with my mother and grandmother where I learned from them on how to be an indigenous woman in the modern world. My dad is from the Ermineskin Cree Nation. I moved to the Hobbema area in 1993. One thing that my Elders encouraged to do was to get my education and continue learning. My education took me to Augustana University College with my first taste of university life and I was amazed. My first interest was biology but then I decided to change my major to psychology. I completed my degree in psychology at Augustana. I entered the work force and soon realized that I had much to learn. I was young, inexperienced but had a lot of enthusiasm and heart. I wanted to continue my education journey after taking 5 years away from it. The opportunity came when MCC was host to the University of Calgary, Bachelor of Social Work, and I quickly learned that this was what I meant to do. After completing the program I applied for the Master of Social Work and went to U of C to complete my studies. My path has led me to some interesting jobs such as Director of Ermineskin Social Development and a position at the Ermineskin Women's Shelter Society. Now at my dream job of MCC, I truly enjoy being a part of other future social workers and doing my best to nourish the minds and hearts of people who want to become helpers. This is my second year at MCC and I truly love being a part of the college and the social work program. The library gave books for the door prize bags for the students during the 'Welcome to College Orientation' in September of 2013 at the Maskwacis Cultural College.



"Who will be involved?"

Readers, parents, young people, academics, librarians, educators, publishers of all media, booksellers, literacy organizations, writers, community organizations, business (both large and small), trade unions, elected officials, Aboriginal elders, child-care providers, NGOs/associations, all levels of government, and members of the community who care passionately about the power and pleasure of the written word."

<http://nationalreadingcampaign.ca/about-us/the-national-reading-plan/>



Puppets Read

Lunch time at the Library

November 16

Books read

- Books rollover: 'Mrs Wishy Washy' leads to 'Pigs in the Mud'
- Just read to me: Look at Me by Robert Munsch
- Puppets help pick and read books: Cat-Chester's Masterpiece; Duck-Waddle Waddle Quack, Quack, Quack; Fish-Sea Anemones

4. Action steps proposed

- Conduct a study about reading interests
- Offer blended events such as Story Reading, Story Bags, Story Maps
- Encourage reading hour
- Make reading visible
- Embed reading and research time in classrooms
- Initiate annual Book Exchanges
- Offer reading aids workshop such as making pointers, bookmarks, post it notes, writing book reviews, I like this book because, and peer to peer recommendations

- Continue accountability progress updates to partners and

consolidate relationship

- Host author readings and read aloud sessions
- Continue connecting book contributors with reading consumers at grassroots level
- Organize in partnership 'Reading Literacy' camp and 'How-to' read/access the library workshops
- Run a Reading Role Models and Reading Ambassadors campaign with champions such as elders and parents
- Expand the network of book contributors and look for ways of showing appreciation
- Source ebook subscriptions, start a digital library, and gadgets such as Kobo ereaders
- Focus on a 'Book of the day' and have some incentives to engage readers
- Offer 'Homework Library in a Box' for students and families
- Explore by storytelling, make a felt story and writing engagements
- Keep FNs communities and associated stakeholders informed about nurturing reading initiatives and resources

[Picture source] <http://schoolibraryservices.blogspot.ca/2011/11/puppets-read-at-lunch-at-our-library.html>

Useful links

- **Collaboration Bulletin for schools:** <http://manishakhetarpal.blogspot.ca/2012/11/collaboration-bulletin-free-book.html>
- **Accessing the library lesson plan:** <http://www.nald.ca/connect/v3i2/db/lesson2.pdf>
- **Source for the pictures:** <http://schoollibraryservices.blogspot.ca/2013/05/mother-daughter-reading-together-and.html>



<http://abookforeverychildnov22.blogspot.ca/>

To start a book distribution program in your community contact

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Empowering People, Strengthening Communities, Creating Sustainability by Nurturing Reading