



Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy Final Report 2010 - 2011

PROJECT NAME: Aboriginal Partners in Literacy Leadership
Development – APRINTS Phase II

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc.



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Aboriginal Partners in Literacy Leadership Development – APRINTS Phase II (Aboriginal Parents Interacting With Teacher Support)

1. Mission

The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. (SALN) exists to work with First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Aboriginal people and communities to promote and support Aboriginal literacy.

2. Acknowledgements

The support of the Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy has allowed us to create strong relationships with organizations and people who work with parents and children and helped us to create sustainability of this family literacy training for Aboriginal people in Saskatoon. We also would like to acknowledge, the Regina Early Learning Centre, in particular, the involvement of Mary Anne McGrath, Theresa Seel and Lorna Wesequate who were influential in the design, delivery and mentoring of the Aboriginal Parents Interacting with Teacher Support (APRINTS) training. Honorable mentions include:

Late Dr. Mary Cronin, who for many years has promoted, facilitated and provided training for the PRINTS family literacy program and helped collaborate and develop the *Aboriginal PRINTS Supplement*.

Leona Harasym, family literacy practitioner, advocated and incorporating Aboriginal philosophy, values and content into the APRINTS program

Carol Vandale, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network

William T Fagan, PRINTS author and APRINTS contributor

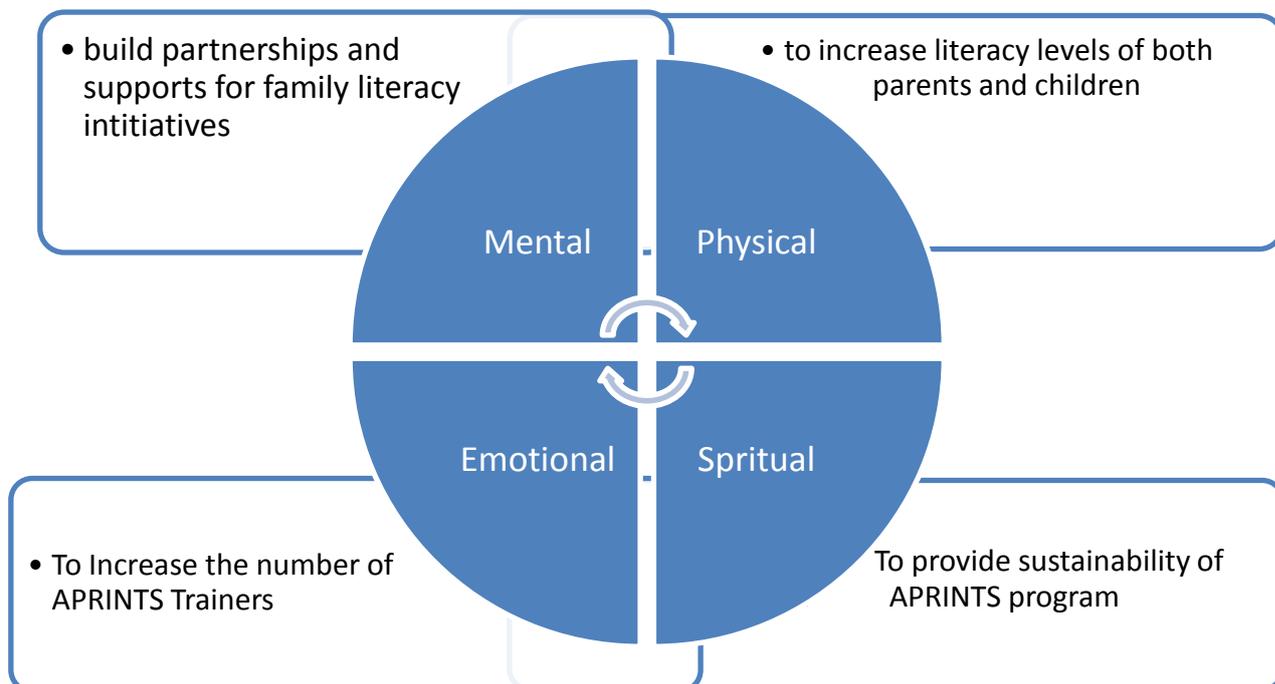
We would also like to acknowledge staffs who have contributed their time in supporting the APRINTS program and in the valuable work that they do with young parents throughout the year. Thank you to the staff connected to the following programs:

Parent program, White Buffalo Youth Lodge

Traditional Parenting, Saskatoon Tribal Council – Urban Services



3. Project Objective Goals



4. SALN New Logo



The new Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. logo was chosen through collaboration of our board members. We also researched the meaning of each symbol to represent the First Nation and Métis nations of Saskatchewan. In addition to our new logo we have also added an SALN watermark made up of the seven different Aboriginal languages in Saskatchewan which in English means to learn, and they include, **Sloyeya, Kaskihtâw, Kanish tetana,**

Kiskinowâpâtam, Wasnokya, Uŋspe, & Kádórethílya.

- ◆ Lakota: **Sloyeya** - meaning learning,
- ◆ Métis: **Kaskihtâw** - meaning learning,
- ◆ Saulteaux: **Kanish tetana** - meaning Do you understand
- ◆ Cree (woodland, swampy and plains): **Kiskinowâpâtam** - meaning we look onto learn
- ◆ Nakota: **Wasnokya** - meaning to be knowledgeable, one who has sacred knowledge, To seek that knowledge
- ◆ Dakota: **Uŋspe** - meaning Learn
- ◆ Dene: **Kádórethílya** - meaning we learn of (it)

5. Project summary:

Project title: *Aboriginal Partners in Literacy Leadership Development of APRINTS Project (SALN Partners APRINTS Project) – PHASE II*

The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network created a project to address the needs of urban Aboriginal peoples in the City of Saskatoon. In a 2005 study on literacy, 700 urban Aboriginal Saskatchewan people were administered the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey. The results showed that there were 63% of Aboriginal people scored below a level 3 as opposed to 39% of the non-Aboriginal population. Experts agree that literacy directly impacts social and health determinants that are rooted in poverty and stemming from intergenerational effects of the residential school system. Through community collaboration, Saskatoon Aboriginal agencies initiated a response to improve literacy rates by creating more family literacy opportunities for children and their families as a proactive approach to strengthening family bonds in a culturally empowering environment

The Aboriginal Parent Roles Interacting with Teacher Support (APRINTS) is a program

The SALN has created an opportunity for participating partner organizations to take part in Phase II of our project, and together build the capacity of Aboriginal Family Literacy trainers and facilitators. This project completed the process of training, from start-to-finish, **3 Aboriginal trainers, 14 facilitators and 80 participants** in the **Aboriginal Parents' Roles Interacting with Teacher Supports (APRINTS)** Program.

that was chosen. APRINTS training is managed by SALN but copyrights are owned by the Regina Early Learning Centre and William T. Fagan, the author of the PRINTS training material. APRINTS is a family literacy program that incorporates literacy activities designed to enhance the child's learning of his or her environment through play, drawing, writing, scribbling, book sharing, and talk & storytelling. The Aboriginal PRINTS program attempts to engage parents by helping them:

- value and explore their Aboriginal heritage;
- understand and become aware of their own strengths as parents;
- understand their vital role in their children's learning;
- make links between aspects of traditional Aboriginal culture and their children's literacy development

6. Partners:

We would like to thank our partners for contributing all their staff and volunteer time to ensure this program was a huge success including the Saskatchewan Literacy Network, The

Regina Early Learning Centre, The Saskatoon Tribal Council, White Buffalo Youth Lodge, READ Saskatoon, Treaty 4 Student Success program, and the Wetaskiwin Public Library.

7. Activity Report:

We have completed a process of training a trainer, from start-to-finish, of three Aboriginal candidates, carefully chosen **from each partner agency in the Aboriginal Parents' Roles Interacting with Teacher Supports (APRINTS) Program**. Our trainers are to be trained to both facilitate the APRINTS program to parent participants and train new Aboriginal facilitators. Our candidates received a pre-requisite course called **"Introduction to Family Literacy" and "APRINTS Facilitator" training from SALN staff.**

Each candidate ran an APRINTS program as their practicum in their agency/community with parents and children in their service. The program ran at White Buffalo Youth Lodge and Saskatoon Tribal Council respectively.

SALN family literacy coordinator supported, and mentored the candidates in their experience to assure the successful delivery of the APRINTS program.



After completing their APRINTS Program practicum, the candidates came together for a two-day Train-the-Trainer event with SALN staff as the leaders. The candidates then co-facilitated another Facilitator Training and 14 participants (parents/staff/professionals) attended from with each partner organization. These 14 people also received the **"Introduction to Family Literacy" course by SALN staff** and the Saskatchewan Literacy Network. The APRINTS Trainers will form part of a network of SALN Aboriginal Family Trainers who have the ability to be contracted by the SALN to conduct further Facilitator Trainings in their organization or other places depending on the agreement of their host or employed situation.

After successfully training 14 APRINTS Facilitators and 3 APRINTS Trainers are now qualified to lead, network, and support the continuation, implementation, and participate in any ongoing support and policy development work on the APRINTS Program with the SALN.

8. Parent Testimonials:

What are the most important messages about your role as a parent that you took from Aboriginal PRINTS:

“Teaching her my language because I am learning also”

“My most important message about my role as a parent that I took from Aboriginal PRINTS was to be patient and to actually take some time to stop to read a book to my children and being here has helped me not just me but for my 3 little ones.”



How did Aboriginal PRINTS help create spiritual bonds for you and your children?

“It has helped me out in many ways because to me bonding and connecting, and also parenting to me was just feeding, bathing and talking to them. When I came here I learned how to stop my kids when they are fighting or running around and ask them to read a book with me or do some things like board games and playing with play-dough. This program helped me to go out and do different things with my kids and it showed me how to connect with them better. I thank the people for helping me learn these things I would never think of.”



“Interacting when I read with her. She reacts more often with me and I feel much closer to her. She listens to me when I read. When I read to her she listens when I read with her, she looks at my mouth and how I react.”

“To always keep a bond with my kids no matter what even if it means a book to them and to always make sure you make that special time to read and do other things with them.”

Why was having an Aboriginal focus for APRINTS important to you?

“Because coming here was an opportunity to learn the stuff like learning Cree words and I was never taught these things because I grew up in a home where we never spoke Cree so the books and the CD’s are teaching my kids how to speak Cree and that’s how important APRINTS was to me. I will always keep these memories with me like down the road if I ever get tuck I can always read a book to my kids. Thanks alot, I’m very happy and honored to have been to this program!”



“It’s calming helps me to understand. Teaches us the Aboriginal way it’s helping us keep our culture and do it the Native way.”

How did learning about the steps help you to understand how your child learns literacy?

“The learning taught me a lot, it showed me that reading to my children is showing them something good and what I’m showing them is good for them in the long run like seeing young children go to school who only know a few words and it makes it hard for them. At least showing my kids will help them”

“To teach us how to story tell, read, write, and draw. Your also bonding with them and learning about them and learning about you.”

