

Saskatchewan Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs

2003

Compiled by
Saskatchewan Aboriginal
Literacy Network



**This document was produced by the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network.
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INTRODUCTION

The Provincial Aboriginal Literacy Steering Committee was formed following the National Aboriginal Literacy Gathering in Morley, Alberta in May 2000, at which nine delegates from Saskatchewan were in attendance. It was during the National Gathering that plans for a follow-up provincial project began. A small working committee came together to begin discussions about Aboriginal literacy in Saskatchewan. The discussions revealed that not only was there a need to both discuss and increase awareness about Aboriginal literacy in our province, but there were a number of individuals passionate about, and dedicated to, moving Aboriginal literacy forward in the province.

The Provincial Aboriginal Literacy Project is a three-year project undertaken by the Provincial Aboriginal Literacy Steering Committee. The aims of the project are to increase awareness of Aboriginal literacy needs, issues and program initiatives within Saskatchewan.

The development of a directory of Aboriginal literacy programs, as well as the hosting of a provincial Aboriginal literacy gathering, have been the two key activities of the Aboriginal Literacy Project. The project further aims to build a strong base for ongoing communication among Aboriginal literacy programs, ongoing support for new Aboriginal literacy program initiatives, and increased recognition and support for Aboriginal literacy within all levels of government.

The steering committee hosted the first Provincial Aboriginal Literacy Gathering in May 2002 at Fort San, Saskatchewan. The Gathering provided the opportunity for approximately 250 participants to share program information, literacy resources, and vision and direction for Aboriginal literacy in Saskatchewan.

The Provincial Aboriginal Literacy Steering Committee has since incorporated as the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network. The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network hopes that the publishing of the Saskatchewan Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs will be the start of an ongoing process of cataloguing current Aboriginal literacy programs and culturally relevant resources that have been developed within Saskatchewan. The Directory will enable information to be shared about current Aboriginal literacy programs and initiatives and will ensure that new or existing initiatives may utilize the expertise of those programs already in existence.

The members of the Aboriginal Literacy Steering Committee who have worked to see this project to completion are as follows:

Irene Jacques, Elder, Standing Buffalo First Nation
Senator Hector Badger, Cote First Nation (past committee member)
Debbie Purton, Saskatchewan Literacy Network
Maynard Quewezance, Saskatchewan Learning
Leanne McLeod, Pine Grove Correctional Centre
Don Pinay, Yorkton Tribal Council
Lisa Wilson, Dumont Technical Institute
Jackie Belhumeur, Circle Project, Inc.
Maxine Jacques, Learner Representative, Regina (past committee member)



Members of this Committee in this photo (left to right):
Don Pinay, Lisa Wilson, Elder Irene Jacques, Debbie Purton,
Wendy Lerat (Recording Secretary).

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMS



Adult One-to-One Tutoring and Grassroots Resource and Learning Centre

202 Avenue C. South
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 1N2

Phone: 1 (306) 652-5448 **Fax:** 1 (306) 652-4205

E- Mail: READsaskatoon@nald.ca Website: www.nald.ca/readsask.htm

Host organization: READ Saskatoon

Program Coordinator: Sheryl Harrow

Communities Served: City of Saskatoon

Program Mission and Goals: To offer adults and their families free literacy tutoring. To network, to advocate and to promote.

Program Description: A volunteer board of directors of tutors and learners helps to oversee these two programs hosted by READ Saskatoon. The Adult One-to-One Program has been in existence for 24 years and the Grassroots Resource and Learning Centre, which is delivered through small classes, has been in existence for 4 years. Currently there are 70 adults in the One-to-One Program and 30 in Grass.

Learner capabilities and goals are determined through informal assessment, IRI's, writing samples and intake interviews. The Adult One-to-One program incorporates the following components:

- Basic literacy (level 1)
- Intermediate literacy
- Family literacy

In addition to the programs listed above the Grassroots program also includes:

- Computer training
- Life Skills
- Job Preparation

The Adult One-to-One Program is offered once a week with each session lasting from 1-2 hours. The Grassroots program is offered 4 days per week, 6 hours a day. Approximately 98% of the learners are of Aboriginal ancestry.

The program is learner centered and focuses on an individualized approach drawing from the principles of whole language. The Grassroots Resource and Learning Centre incorporates Aboriginal advisors, speakers and staff.

Individuals enroll in this program in order to obtain their GED, for work related reasons, for self improvement, and because they wish to help their children. Learners are supported through contact with their instructors, the coordinator, events and newsletters.

Source of Funds: 60% of the funding for this program comes from the provincial government (Saskatchewan Learning and Saskatchewan Social Services), and another 35% from the federal government (National Literacy Secretariat). 3% of the funding comes from foundations and 2% comes from donations.

Basic Education

The Circle Project
2nd Floor - 1102 8th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4R 1C9

Phone: 1 (306) 347-7515 **Fax:** 1 (306) 347-7519

Host organization: Circle Project

Program Coordinator: Jackie Belhumeur

Communities Served: Regina.

Program Mission and Goals: The Circle Project provides support and programs based on the Aboriginal vision of wholeness, balance and healing. By promoting positive human development the Circle Project encourages people to help themselves through education, cultural awareness, family and community.

Program Description: Over the years the Basic Education program has changed. Originally, this was a self-paced, self-directed GED program. Now, students not only work on academic subjects, they are also given opportunities to explore personal, social and cultural issues. Certified teachers offer a formal adult basic education curriculum that incorporates a cultural component. In addition the program offers the following:

- Basic literacy
- Intermediate literacy
- Family literacy
- Computer training
- Life Skills
- Job preparation

Presentations, guest speakers, group work, recreational opportunities, videos, and field trips contribute to the student's educational experiences. Elders are an important part of the program. Approximately 80% of the learners in the program are First Nations and another 2% are Metis. While primarily a program for Aboriginal people, the program is open to those of all cultures.

Source of Funds: 22% of the funding comes from the provincial government and 78% comes from Bridging at CanSask.

Unique Features of this Program: The trusting, non-judgmental atmosphere and various in-house programs that learners can access help students to feel that they are part of something greater. Approximately 93% of program participants graduate.

Program Challenges: Funding, facilities, transportation and equipment all pose challenges to this program.



Bridges to Success

912 Idylwyld Drive N.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L OZ6

Phone: 1(306) 652-4114 **Fax:** 1 (306) 652-3220

E- Mail: reception@ldas.org

Host organization: Learning Disabilities Association of Saskatchewan

Program Coordinator: Dale Rempel

Communities Served: Saskatoon

Program Publications: Read/Write Now: A Literacy Program for Adults with Learning Disabilities.

Program Mission and Goals: To help individuals with low literacy levels enhance their competency in reading, writing, math and general knowledge, to a point where they can function successfully in employment or further education.

Program Description: The Bridges program encourages learners to identify and build upon their strengths through remedial instruction. The goal of this program is to assist individuals with learning disabilities to develop their literacy skills to the point where they can either function in an employment setting or go onto further education.

The program has the following components:

- Basic Literacy
- Intermediate literacy
- Computer training
- Life skills
- Job preparation
- One-on-one tutoring

Source of Funds: Provincial Government

Unique Features of this Program: Students qualify for training allowances. Materials and books are supplied. There is strong emphasis on building community amongst the class. Elders, cultural opportunities and personal counseling are all key components of the program.

Program Challenges: Meeting the diverse personal needs of the students.



Cumberland Regional College

Box 2320
Melfort, Saskatchewan S0E 1A0

Phone: 1 (306) 752-2786 **Fax:** 1(306) 752-3484

Website: www.cumberlandcollege.sk.ca

Program Coordinator: Debbie Zazelenchuk and Brenda Mellon

Communities Served: Nipawin, Melfort, Tisdale, Hudson Bay

Program Publications: The program has developed a number of "Story Sacks."

Program Mission and Goals: To assist adults by developing programming to enhance living and social skills, improve literacy skills and prepare for further training or employment.

Program Description: Governed by a Board of Directors, this program was established to fill a need in the region. Relative to other areas of the province, there is a higher proportion of adults who do not have a grade 12 education living in the communities served by Cumberland Regional College. Therefore literacy and adult basic education is seen as a critical need. This program has been in operation for approximately 25 years. Currently there are 55 learners in the literacy component of the program and 125 learners enrolled in the basic education component of the program.

Learners attend weekly sessions for approximately 1.5 hours a session. Individual learner needs are established through intake interviews, group information sessions, reading inventories and portfolios. Components of this program includes:

- Basic Literacy (level 1)
- Intermediate Literacy
- Upgrading Credits
- Family Literacy
- Life Skills

There is no standardized method of teaching in this program. Nevertheless coordinators and tutors attend various literacy workshops/in-services. Approximately 55% of the learners are First Nations and another 15% are Metis. Given the high Aboriginal participation rate there is a strong effort made to incorporate cultural activities and content. As well, various Aboriginal guest speakers have visited the program.

Cumberland Regional College frequently partners with other community groups to offer literacy program. For example the college partnered with Kids First and CanSask to offer an Aboriginal family literacy program in Nipawin.

Students in this program receive access to counseling, resources and the Employability Assistance Program for the Disabled (EAPD).

Source of Funds: 80% of the funding for this program comes from the Provincial Government, Saskatchewan Learning and Social Services. CanSask funds the family literacy component. An additional 20% comes from the Federal Government.

Unique Features of this Program: Excellent support services such as tutors, counselors and coordinators have contributed to the success of this program.

Program Challenges: Recruitment of learners and volunteer tutors (especially Aboriginal participants). Drop out rates, resources, tutor and coordinator training opportunities.

Developmental Studies/Phase 1

Northlands College
Box 400
Creighton, Saskatchewan S0P 0A0

Phone: 1 (306) 688-8838 **Fax:** 1 (306) 688-7710

E- Mail: bonnett.lorene@northlandscolle2e.sk.svmpatico.ca

Program Coordinator: Lorene Bonnett

Communities Served: Creighton, Denare Beach, Sturgeon Lake, Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows, Cumberland House, Deschambault Lake.

Program Publications:

Wisdom from our Elders. Reader and workbook. Northlands College: Creighton, SK. (Elder stories from Cumberland House, Sandy Bay, and Pelican Narrows).

Denare Beach Reader. (Books on Tape). Northlands College: Creighton, SK. (Elder stories from Denare Beach).

We learn through our eyes: a literacy project from the communities of Black Lake and Fond du Lac, Saskatchewan. (Interactive CD-ROM). Creighton, SK. Northlands College, 1997.

Program Mission and Goals: To help people upgrade their literacy skills to a level where they can enter academic programs and be successful.

Program Description: This is a life skills program that introduces basic English, math and other literacy components. Many of the learners are provided with English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring in the class. Approximately 90% of the learners in this program are Aboriginal. All students in the program can access other college programs and services. The program includes the following components:

- Basic Literacy
- Family Literacy
- Upgrading
- Job Preparation
- Life Skills



Dumont Technical Institute, Inc.

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Phone: (306) 242-6070 **Fax:** (306) 242-0002

Website: www.gdins.org

Communities Served: Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, Duck Lake, Ile a la Crosse, La Loche.

Program Mission and Goals: To promote the renewal and development of Metis culture through research, materials development, the collection and distribution of those materials and the design, development, and delivery of Metis-specific educational programs and services.

Program Description: Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) is a Métis specific training institution which falls under the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. Dumont Technical Institute offers training on a province-wide basis and is the only Métis specific educational institution operating in Canada. The Dumont Technical Institute compliments the Gabriel Dumont Institute by offering Basic Education and Skills Training. The Dumont Technical Institute educates approximately 400 students per year, half of whom are in literacy, basic education 5-10, GED or basic education 12 programs, and the other half in skills training programs.

Source of Funds: Provincial Government and METSI

Unique Features of the Program: A program focussing on the needs of Métis people. The small class size and unique cultural focus enable this program to meet the needs of its students. One-on-one tutoring, counseling and cultural opportunities are available to students.

Frontier College

404-220 3rd Avenue South
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Phone: (306) 374-7323 **Fax:** (306) 374-3758

E-mail: frontiercolle2e@sasktel.net

Program Coordinator: Judy Butler

Communities Served: Saskatoon elementary/high/alternative schools and youth custody centres.

Program Mission and Goals: To meet the basic literacy needs of people, in the community, who need assistance.

Program Description: Frontier College started in 1899 and as such is the oldest literacy organization in existence. There are currently about 200 volunteers in the Saskatoon area and 400 learners. The number

of learners that can be accommodated is dependent upon the number of volunteers. Through one-on-one tutoring, small group sessions and reading circles the program offers the following components:

- Basic literacy
- Intermediate literacy
- Weekly sessions are approximately 1-2 hours
- Life skills
- Job preparation
- Family literacy

Unique Features of the Program: The special relationship between tutors and learners. Bringing fun to reading and writing in an informal environment.

Source of Funds: 80% of the funding comes from HRDC and another 20% from donations.

Program Challenges: Attaining Aboriginal volunteers and publicity are the two primary concerns for the program.

Learn-to-Read

P.O. Box 3003
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
S6V 6G1

Phone: 1 (306) 953-5512 **Fax:** 1 (306) 763-5901

E-Mail: foster@siast.sk.ca

Host organization: SIAST Woodland Campus

Program Coordinator: John Foster

Communities Served: Prince Albert and District.

Program Mission and Goals: This program was developed to meet the needs of people who require assistance to become fully literate. It has been in operation for approximately 22 years and has approximately 75 learners enrolled with a capacity of 100.

Program Description: Learn-to-Read is designed to assist individuals develop their reading and writing skills. This program is carried out largely through one-on-one tutoring. There is one full time staff member, 2 part-time staff members and 75 volunteers recruited from the community involved in the delivery of Learn-to-Read. The capabilities and needs of learners are assessed through individual interviews and assessments and the program follows the Literacy Volunteers of America curriculum. The program is involved in a learner support group, family literacy and the Prince Albert Literacy Network.

Approximately 50% of the learners in this program are Metis, 10% are Inuit and 30% are First Nation. Approximately 50% of the learners are between the ages of 25-39 and 55% are female.

The program offers the following components:

- Basic literacy (level 1)
- Intermediate literacy
- Family literacy
- Job preparation
- Computer training
- Life Skills
- Upgrading credits

The program uses oral language to teach reading skills. Learners in the program are motivated to participate in the program by a variety of factors. Some wish to learn to read to their grandchildren. Others have goals related to employment. Learners are provided access to the Learning Centre, computers, counselors, materials, and trained volunteers.

Source of Funds: Saskatchewan Learning

Unique features of this program: This program attempts to meet the needs of learners on their own terms.

Program Challenges: Financial resources



Literacy

P.O. Box 190
Buffalo Narrows, SK S0M 0J0

Phone: (306) 235-1771 **Fax:** (306) 235-4346

E-Mail: mccallum.rita@northlandscollege.sk.ca

Program Coordinator: Andrew Douglas

Host Organization: Northlands College

Communities served: Buffalo Narrows, La Loche, Turnor Lake, Beauval, Descharme, Garson Lake, Green Lake, Dillon, St. Georges, Michelle Village, Patunak, Canoe Narrows, Jans Bay, Dore Lake, Sled Lake, Cole Bay, Ile A La Crosse.

Program Publications: Memoirs of our Elders. A culture based reader.

Program Mission and Goals:

- To work towards the development of a workable literacy program.
- To assist participants in addressing their literacy needs.
- To develop a partnership with other resource centres to promote literacy.
- To promote literacy as a means of improving the quality of life.

Program Description: Northlands College and its Board of Directors serve as the governing body for this program which encompasses basic, intermediate, family literacy, life skills and job preparation.

The program is delivered through small classes and one-on-one tutoring and offers free tutoring, free materials and ongoing support to its learners. Held on a weekly basis in sessions that last 2 hours, the program currently employs one staff member and 10 volunteers. 90% of the volunteers are Aboriginal. Approximately 60% of the learners are Métis and another 30% are First Nations People.

Learners are assessed in a variety of ways including feedback from learners and monitoring progress with portfolios and basic reading tests. According to program personnel this program is "Learner focused." It is their philosophy that "Literacy instruction is more effective if it is learner focused. This means focussing on life experiences, self-determined needs and abilities. All adults should be in control of their own learning (be it large or small). Adults need to set their own priorities. These learning priorities can range from learning how to write their name, creating a grocery list or upgrading their education."

Based on Aboriginal values this program seeks to accommodate the learner in his/her mother tongue. Elders are an important part of this program and spend time visiting schools, pre-schools, day cares, etc. "Their stories are very important since it helps to preserve some of the past."

Learners are motivated to enroll in this program for a variety of reasons. Some wish to better their education and receive higher paying jobs. Others have more immediate goals such as obtaining a driver's license, write their resume and fill out forms. Some would just like to be able to read to their children.

Unique Features of this Program: This program is open to anyone and ensures that the needs of the learner are met including emotional and other types of support.

Program Challenges: Motivation of learners, space, and financial resources.

Northlands College Literacy

P.O. Box 1000
Highway 2 North
La Ronge, Saskatchewan S0J 3G0

Phone: (306) 425-4334 **Fax:** (306) 425-3002

E-Mail: ivanochko.bebe@northlandscollge.sk.ca

Host organization: Northlands College

Program Coordinator: Bebe Ivanochko

Communities Served: Entire northern half of province

Program Publications: Northlands College Newsletter

Program Mission and Goals: Established to promote literacy and train volunteer tutors in the north. The goals of this program are to help prepare residents of the north to fit in with the rest of the province and to create a better future for themselves.

Program Description: Governed by the Northlands College board, this program has been in operation since 1988 and serves approximately 75-100 learners (capacity 200). Programs are delivered through both one-on-one tutoring and small classes.

Student capabilities are assessed using the Canadian Adult Achievement Test (CAAT) and the Canadian Adult Reading Assessment (CARA).

The program offers the following components:

- Basic Literacy (level 1)
- Aboriginal languages
- General Education Diploma (GED)
- Intermediate literacy
- Family Literacy
- Computer literacy

There are approximately 12 volunteers working in this program and 95% of these individuals are Aboriginal. The sessions range in length from 1-3 hours offered on a bi-weekly basis. Group sessions when offered are daily. The teaching and learning methods are based on the individual needs of the learner. While the program uses materials from the Saskatchewan curriculum, it also tries to incorporate Aboriginal themes and culturally relevant materials. Elders are used as resources in programs.

Learners are motivated by occupational and personal development goals to enroll in this program. Supports provided to the learners include free materials and counseling.

Source of Funds: 70% of the funding for this program comes from the Government of Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Learning Department. 30% comes from the Federal Government - National Literacy Secretariat (NLS).

Unique Features of this Program: Designed to meet the needs of northern residents of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal descent.

Program Challenges: Training for staff and tutors, drop out rates and distance people must travel in the north to access the program.



Parkland Regional College Literacy Program

72 Melrose Avenue
Yorkton, Saskatchewan S3N 1Z2

Phone: 1 (306) 786-2591 **Fax:** 1 (306) 786-7866

E-Mail: c.mccullou2h@parklandcolle2e.sk.ca

Program Coordinator: Carol McCullough

Communities Served: Communities in the Parkland region, with the majority of learners coming from the larger centres - Yorkton, Melville, Fort Qu' Appelle, Esterhazy, Canora, Kamsack, Preeceville.

Program Publications:

- *Reading: A family affair. Family literacy information kit.*
- *Changing Focus: Building Confidence and Competence in Adults with Reading Disabilities*
- *Changing Focus: Tutor handbook*
- *Reading the rainbow: Aboriginal literacy in Canada*
- *The Indian Act Simplified*
- *Native literacy resources: an annotated bibliography*
- *Adults managing, surviving and celebrating Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*

Program Mission and Goals: This program was established in 1978 to provide access to adults in the Parkland Region who need to upgrade reading/writing/numeracy skills for employment or personal growth.

Program Description: Programs are offered through one-on-one tutoring, and small classes. Additional services include: Computer-assisted learning lab, language instruction for new Canadians and individualized workplace literacy. Learners in the program are assessed formally, through testing, and informally through interviews and writing samples.

The program offers the following components:

- Basic literacy (level 1)
- Intermediate literacy
- Family literacy
- Computer training
- Learning Centre Lab for part time learners.
- Upgrading credits
- Job preparation
- Life skills
- LINC classroom instruction to ESL

Currently the program employs one full and 2 part time staff. There are approximately 40 active volunteers who help to deliver the program. Programs vary in the length and frequency. Approximately 30% of the learners in the program are Aboriginal. 50% of these are between the ages of 25-39. The program utilizes an individualized student centered learning approach that is based on the learner's needs and on a variety of resources, following the principles of the Literacy Volunteers of America. Where ever possible the program incorporates Aboriginal values and materials. Aboriginal Elders and guest speakers are invited to participate in the program.

Learners enroll in the program for economic reasons such as employment, to obtain a driver's license, personal growth and a wish for a better quality of life. Special supports to learners include: one-on-one tutoring, psychoeducational and career assessment, counseling, provincial training allowance to full time students, employment portfolio preparation and access to the learning centre lab.

Source of Funds: Saskatchewan Learning and the federal department of Immigration and Citizenship. However 45% of the funding is provided by Parkland Regional College (based on 2001-202 figures).

Unique Features of the Program: Individualized programming, learner motivation, sensitivity to multicultural needs and publication of learner stories in the newsletter and on the Parkland website all contribute to the program success. The literacy program provides support to other programs in the college and is able to provide linkages for students to other programs in the college.

Program Challenges and Successes: Financial resources, finding volunteers who are able to assist with higher level math, providing more evening programs, lack of commitment from the learners.

Qu'Appelle Valley Friendship Centre

P. O. Box 240
Fort Qu' Appelle, Saskatchewan S0G 1S0

Phone: 1 (306) 833-2313 **Fax:** 1 (306) 332-5091

E-Mail: qvfc@sk.svmpatico.ca

Program Coordinator: Wendy Whitebear

Communities Served: Fort Qu' Appelle, Lipton, Indian Head, Balcarres

Program Mission and Goals: To meet the needs of the community and bridge the gap between cultures.

Program Description: The Fort Qu' Appelle Indian and Métis Friendship Centre promotes and advances literacy primarily in two ways. Firstly, it offers tutoring to children who are falling behind in school. Secondly, it has books, newspapers, and learning activities for learners of all ages. Counseling is available. This centre is working towards developing a full time literacy program.

Unique Features of this Program: This program works with all cultures in an inclusive environment.

Program Challenges: Given the current staffing and finances it is difficult to meet all of the needs.

Regina Home Economics for Living Project

735 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4N 0R4

Phone: 1 (306) 347-7877 **Fax:** 1 (306) 347-7792

E-Mail: rehelp@sasktel.net

Program Coordinator: Lucille Saum

Communities Served: Regina and area

Program Mission and Goals: This program aims to help participants to understand everyday living skills and thereby empowering themselves.

Program Description: Established in 1988 and run by a board of directors this programs was established to assist people to understand the choices available so that they can help themselves. Programs are offered both through small classes and one-on-one tutoring. Learners identify their own needs and goals upon entry into the program.

Regina HELP is often delivered through community schools, health centres and family literacy projects. Essential components of the program are life skills and job preparation. Currently there is one full time staff person and one part time staff person working in the program. The program is offered weekly for either 8, 12 or 20 weeks. Each session is about 2 hours long and involves hands on teaching.

Aboriginal Kokums (grandmothers) are involved in the cooking/sharing program. This program is successful because it is provided in a supportive and comfortable setting.

Source of Funds: 30% of the funding comes from the provincial government; 30% comes from the municipal government; 15% of the funds are raised through fees; and 20% through donations.

Unique Features of this Program: The living skills that are taught through this program provide learners with an understanding of money management and basic nutrition. These skills are an essential foundation for further life skills such as anger management, stress reduction and parenting.

Program Challenges: Financial resources.



Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology - Kelsey Campus

1130 Idylwyld Drive N.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Phone: 1 (306) 933-8364 **Fax:** 1 (306) 933-5867

Website: www.siastr.sk.ca

Literacy Coordinator: Rod Goertzen

Communities Served: Saskatoon

Program Mission and Goals: Literacy development, lifeskills, employment readiness, academic certification and employment acquisition.

Program Description: The Literacy Centre provides both full time and part time programming from August to June. Kelsey offers both one-on-one tutoring and small classes. Learner capabilities are assessed through pre- and post-testing. Psychoeducational assessment is available.

Kelsey campus collaborates with the literacy community in order to determine how to best meet the needs of its learners.

Literacy Centre components include:

- Basic literacy (level 1)
- Intermediate literacy
- Computer literacy
- Testing
- Counselling
- Life skills
- Upgrading credits

Both locally developed materials and Saskatchewan Learning curriculum materials are used in the Literacy Centre. The incorporation of Aboriginal values has been implemented. An Elder and other Aboriginal dignitaries have been invited to conduct workshops on an ongoing basis.

Learners are supported through one-on-one help, counseling, Elder services, outreach and prescriptive instruction. The Learning Centre is a provincial training allowance (PT A) eligible program.

Source of Funds: Saskatchewan Learning and SIAST - Kelsey Campus

Unique Features of this Program: Where appropriate learners from the Literacy Centre can directly access basic education 10 provided at Kelsey Campus. Basic education at Kelsey campus includes literacy, adult 10, adult 12, programming for the deaf and hard of hearing, Way to Work, language instruction for new Canadians, English and a Second Language (ESL) learning centre assistance, and evening credit classes. For more information see the website.



Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

224-4th Avenue South
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 4K3

Phone: 1 (306) 244-4460 **Fax:** 1 (306) 244-1391

E-Mail: belleardei@siit.sk.ca (for adult 12)
Chaisooses@siit.sk.ca (for literacy and BE 10)

Program Coordinator: Irene Bellegarde (Basic Education 12); Sharon Chaisoose, Director of Basic Education 10 and literacy programs.

Communities Served: Currently there are programs running in Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Mistawasis. A basic education 10 program is being offered jointly with the Saskatoon Public School Board at King George School. A grade 12 program is being offered in conjunction with the **Catholic School Board** in Saskatoon at St. Mary's School. Urban tribal councils and bands may purchase programs from the Saskatchewan Institute of Indian Technologies (SIIT).

Program Publications: The Saskatchewan Institute of Indian Technologies (SIIT).has an excellent curriculum research and planning department that helps to put together its curriculum.

Program Mission and Goals: Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT).has been in existence since 1976, offering training and education to First Nations Adults in Saskatchewan. SIIT is an educational institution of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and is governed by a Board consisting of Senators, Saskatchewan Tribal Council appointee and an FSIN executive member. SIIT is mandated to serve First Nations adults by providing vocational and technical employment programming, as well as educational services for continued career growth.

Program Description: Skills for Action is a basic literacy program developed by the Saskatchewan Institute of Indian Technologies (SIIT).Learners begin at a grade 6 or 7 level and are prepared for either employment or for the basic education 10 program. This program is currently not running, but may be purchased by bands or tribal councils. A second literacy program titled Stepping into Reading, Writing and Arithmetic and Career Exploration was designed for individuals who have very low literacy levels. This program is also available for purchase.

Both the basic education 10 and 12 programs meet the provincial requirements for those grade levels. Grade 12 students must write departmental exams. The basic education 10 is enhanced so that students do not need to take bridging classes. Students must complete algebra 10, science, social studies, biology, chemistry and physics. Both English Language Arts 20 and General Math 20 are offered in the second semester.

Source of Funds: CanSask, Bands, Tribal Councils.

Unique Features of this Program: Basic Education 10 and 12 programs that meet the provincial standards. Programs offered by SIIT are enhanced with First Nations cultural material. Elders, healing centres and counselors are an important part of the programs. The programs at SIIT offer a strong support system to learners. SIIT programs focus on not enabling students to (make excuses for poor

attendance. Students are expected to make the same level of commitment to SIIT programs as they would to a job.

Program Challenges: Babysitting, transportation, PT A, addictions, family problems.

Stardale Women's Group

Box 1752
Melfort, Saskatchewan

Phone: 1 (306) 752-1802 **Fax:** 1 (306) 752-1872

E-Mail: stardale@sk.sympatico.ca **Website:** <http://www.nald.ca/stardale>

Program Coordinator: Helen McPhaden

Communities Served: North East Saskatchewan, James Smith Cree Nation, Melfort, Tisdale, Star City, Gronlid, Silver Park, St. Brieux.

Program Publications:

- *Talking Quilt: Healing Video.*
- *Stardale Model Facilitator's Manual.*

Program Mission and Goals: To provide lifeskills and literacy to our clientele group. To develop innovative programs for women.

Program Description: The Stardale Women's Group is overseen by both a board of directors and an advisory board. This literacy program was established in 1998 to educate poor and Aboriginal women who were falling between the cracks. The program can accommodate up to 14 learners.

Programs are offered through small classes. Learner capabilities are assessed through the intake process and individual case management. Goals are client directed. The program includes a community development component and learners assist by helping to create projects that serve to enhance the capacity building of the community. The program has the following components:

- Basic literacy (level 1)
- Other credit courses
- Correspondence Courses
- Job Preparation
- Computer Training
- Life Skills
- Upgrading Credits
- Family Literacy

The program is operated by 2 full time and 3 part time staff members. The program runs for 6 hours daily. Approximately 87% of the learners are Aboriginal and another 8% are Metis. The program is based on Aboriginal values in that it uses the medicine wheel, experiential and creative approaches to learning.

Provincial Training Allowance, fun, support, seeing other females who have completed the program as role models are ingredients that encourage participation in the program.

Learners are supported through counseling and intervention supports, workshops and top-notch consultants.

Source of Funds: 50% of the funds for this program come from the Government of Saskatchewan, CanSask. 40% of the funds come from the Federal Government, Canadian Heritage and Aboriginal Healing Foundation. An additional 10% of the funding comes from donations.

Unique Features of this Program: This program is unique because it is designed specifically for women.

Program Challenges: Financial resources, the Provincial Training Allowance (PT A), poor teaching resources, violence and family issues all serve as challenges to participation in the program.

Street Worker's Advocacy Project

1775 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 4C4

Phone: 1 (306) 525-1722 **Fax:** 1 (306) 525-0641

Program Coordinator: Wendy Saxdal and Christine Smith

Communities Served: Regina

Program Mission and Goals: To help participants reach their goals.

Program Description: Overseen by a board of directors, this program was established to help street people better their education and gain stability in their lives. The program runs continuously. There are approximately 20-30 learners in the program at one time. The program is offered through both one-on-one tutoring and small classes. Learners goals are self-determined through interviews and a Kaufman or GED pre-test. The following components are available to learners:

- Basic literacy (level 1)
- Aboriginal languages
- First Aid/CPR for regular students
- Intermediate literacy
- Family literacy
- Life skills
- Job preparation
- Parenting classes
- Dinner program

The program is operated by one full time staff member. Staff must be certified teachers. The students work together to provide support to one another. The program is offered daily from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm on a mandatory attendance basis. Approximately 30% of the learners are Metis and another 60% are of First Nations ancestry.

The GED is used as a curriculum guide, though the focus is on meeting individual learner needs. Elders are an important part of the program. Students are motivated to join the program in order to improve the quality of their life and further their education. Some come because they are referred by social workers or family and friends. Special supports to learners include: counseling, dinner program, youth program, street outreach for workers, infants may accompany parents, court worker and substance abuse counseling.

Source of Funds: CanSask

Unique Features of this Program: A non-judging environment with flexible hours.

Program Challenges: The program has many needs including funding, furniture, materials, books, staff and wages for workers.



FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS



Border City Aboriginal Head Start

5007 - 47th Avenue
Lloydminster, Saskatchewan S9V 0W5

Phone: 1(306) 825-5255 **Fax:** 1 (306) 825-7672

E-Mail: headstart@bordercity.com

Host organization: Border City Metis Society #76

Program Coordinator: Lisa Zackowski (Executive Director)

Communities Served: Lloydminster

Program Mission and Goals: To help equip parents with parenting skills to be able to better meet the needs of their child.

Program Description: Reporting to a Parent Advisory Committee, the Border City Aboriginal Head Start Program has been in existence for approximately 6 years. There are currently 40 children and parents enrolled in the program. The program offers both an Aboriginal languages and family literacy component. The program has 6 full time staff members and the Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills (ALAPS) program is offered two times per year.

Confidentiality, snacks, transportation, childcare and respect are important aspects of the program that encourage participation. A library book exchange is conducted at the program each Thursday. This important literacy activity helps to make this a Head Start program rather than daycare.

There are six components to the head start program:

- Parental involvement
- Health promotion
- Social support
- Education
- Culture and Language
- Nutrition

Source of Funds: The program is funded by the federal government, department of Health Programs and Promotion.

Unique Features of this Program: The program is considered to be a lot of fun. Many learners enroll twice. Lisa Zackowski is the only Aboriginal individual in Lloydminster trained to deliver the Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills (ALAPS) Program.

Program Challenges: Finances.

Buddies With Books

Box 1675
Tisdale, Saskatchewan S0E 1T0

Phone: 1(306) 873-3411 **Fax:** 1 (306) 873-3452

E-Mail: neecip@sk.svmpatico.ca

Host organization: North East Early Childhood Intervention Program

Program Coordinator: Faye Goos and Lois Preete

Communities Served: Kinistinin First Nation

Program Mission and Goals: To instill reading skills and build self-esteem around literacy. To help build leadership skills.

Program Description: Governed by a board of directors this program is delivered through one-on-one tutoring and small classes. 100% of the learners are First Nations, 15 years old or younger.

As a "special needs literacy program" ***Buddies With Books***, considers itself to be a client -directed program. The learners capabilities are assessed through health personnel and an early childhood consultant employed by Saskatchewan Learning. The program offers the following components: basic literacy, family literacy and life skills. Two-hour sessions are offered on a weekly basis. There is no cost to the participants; transportation, food and resources are supplied.

Source of Funds: Funded by the Associated Entities Fund of the Provincial Government.

Unique Features of the Program: Student participation and enjoyment of this program is enhanced by teacher excellence, encouragement, food and fun.

Program Challenges: Financial considerations.

Cree/English Family Literacy: FAS/FAE Initiative (Project)

Battlefords Tribal Council Indian Health Services, Inc.
1192 101st Street
P.O. Box 1658
North Battleford, Saskatchewan S9A 3W2

Phone: 1 (306) 445-4360 **Fax:** 1 (306) 445-5867

E-Mail: eclear@sk.svmpatico.ca

Host organization: Battlefords Tribal Council Indian Health Services, Inc.

Program Coordinator: Joanne Weber

Communities Served: North Battleford, Red Pheasant First Nation, Moosomin First Nation, Little Pine First Nation, and Poundmaker First Nation.

Program Mission and Goals:

- Raising awareness: aim to avoid health problems relating to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect before they occur.
- Reaching those at risk: identify those at risk in order to reduce the risk of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect.
- Working with those affected: provide support to individuals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect to lessen the educational, social and behavioural impact.
- Creating linkages: creating linkages between related programs and initiatives.

Program Description: Within this project there were 2 groups of participants. The first group was comprised of facilitators and Elders in training. This groups learned group facilitation skills, lesson planning, general knowledge about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect, the craft of writing a story, cross cultural relations, protocols in dealing with Elders and event planning.

The second group was comprised of workshop participants. They increased their knowledge and skills by learning to share observations, thoughts feeling and stories with a group.

A series of stories were written and shared around the theme of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect. Allan Sapp, a famous Cree painter, mentored Dwayne Sapp in the development of illustrations for the stories. The stories have been translated into Cree and interest has been expressed in publishing the stories.

Source of Funds: First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

Unique Features of this Program: The use of Aboriginal storying to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect. Facilitators were surprised to see the level of information shared. Sharing was done in a spontaneous and respectful manner. It has been suggested that the storytelling/writing model be used as a health care prevention model and applied to other issues.

Down the Reading Road: A family literacy program

2nd Floor, 1102-8th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4R 1C9

Phone: 1(306)347-7515 **Fax:** 1(306) 347-7519

Host organization: Circle Project

Program Coordinator: Joni Adamcewicz

Communities Served: Regina

Program Mission and Goals: The Circle Project provides support and programs based on the Aboriginal vision of wholeness, balance and healing. By promoting positive human development we encourage people to help themselves through education, cultural awareness, family and community.

Program Description: This project is based on an Aboriginal holistic experiential model that is learner-centered and activity-oriented. Ideas and feedback from the participants guide the direction of the project to meet their needs. Parents are guided in the development of their own literacy so as to be better equipped to serve as role models for their children. In doing so, they can create a deeper relationship with their children. This has an inclusive effect on all the members of the families. Practicing positive listening and talking skills through role-playing is featured along with story telling and problem solving. Participants in this program can also access the following services:

- Food bank referrals
- Food bank delivery
- Fine option placements
- Community relations
- Client advocacy and support
- Elder services

Source of Funds: Archdiocese of Regina, United Way, Career & Employment Services, City of Regina, Department of Social Services, Saskatchewan Action Plan for Children, National Literacy Secretariat, Regina Education & Action on Child Hunger, Saskatchewan Justice, Links to Employment.

Unique Features of this Program: Parents find that there is an improvement in relationships in their homes and with schools. The completion of this program often gives parents the incentive to take more self development courses.

Family Support Centres (Parent and Tot)

420 22nd Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Phone: 1 (306) 668-7079 **Fax:** 1 (306) 668-7088

E-Mail: clsieben@scs.ca.sk

Host organization: Saskatoon Catholic Schools and Columbus Bosco Homes

Program Coordinator: Cathy Sieben

Communities Served: Saskatoon (Confederation Park, Fairhaven, Westmount, Holiday Park, Exhibition, Sutherland, Riversdale, St. Michaels)

Program Mission and Goals: To promote family literacy and parent education.

Program Description: This program began in February 1995. There are currently 160 parents, grandparents, caregivers and children involved in the program (capacity 180). The family literacy program is for parents and children. Parent-talk is available for parents. Participants collectively decide what parenting issues are pertinent and the parent facilitator provides resources. The program participates in two special outings per year: The Festival of Trees and a wind-up at Kinsmen Park in Saskatoon. The program includes a family literacy and life skills component.

While this program is not specified as an Aboriginal literacy program, 2 of the centres are in a location with a high Aboriginal population. In these two centres 98% of the participants are Aboriginal. Of the total program enrollment, 5% are First Nations people and 5% are Métis. Twelve part time staff members deliver the program; 3 of these staff members are Aboriginal. Participants enroll in the program to gain an understanding of child development and to spend meaningful time with their children. Parent workers advocate where necessary as well as direct learners to resources.

Source of Funds: 50% of the program funding comes from the provincial and federal governments (CanSask and Family Literacy Initiative). Another 50% is from foundations.

Unique Features of this Program: Acceptance and a welcoming environment encourage parents to participate in a non-judging environment.

Program Challenges: Funding is always a challenge.

La Loche Community School Literacy Program

Bag Service #4
La Loche, SK

Phone: 1 (306) 822-2024 **Fax:** 1(306) 822-2280

Program Coordinators: Mark Williment, Marla Potts, Laura Baur

Communities Served: The children, parents and residents of La Loche Community School

Program Publications:

Program Mission and Goals: The students and the community of La Loche needed assistance with improving reading ability and awareness of books and hence this program was established.

Program Description: Staff of the La Loche Community School, the Public Library and its Board, and various community agencies work together to make this program a success. The program has been in existence for approximately 2 years and has 600 students from grades K -6 as well as many community residents enrolled. The program is offered both through one-on-one tutoring and small classes.

A phonemic awareness program is executed daily in grades K-3. Students reading ability is assessed via diagnostic running records. The program is involved in a number of community activities including selling books at bingos; Literacy Carnivals; "Come Read with Me" parent nights at the library; and a bookstore at the library. The program offers the following components:

- Basic literacy (level 1)
- Intermediate literacy
- Family literacy

There are approximately 30 staff involved in the program and roughly 99% of the learners are Aboriginal. The following key programs guide the program:

- Guided reading: a program in which students read books at their ability level and have the opportunity to move to the next level once they are ready.
- Animated literacy: a multisensory phonemic awareness program that promotes the learning of sounds via specific accompanying gestures.

Elders and dignitaries are involved in the program. In the development stage many stakeholders were involved. Continued daily pull out for reading intervention has contributed to the success of the learners.

Unique Features of the Program: A very committed teaching staff, working together, has made a significant difference to the literacy levels of people of all ages living in their community.

Source of Funds: Saskatchewan Learning: School decentralized budget and community school funding.

Program Challenges and Successes: This program requires a significant amount of energy to deliver and therefore the motivation of staff is a key factor.

Keys to Family Literacy

201 Riverside Drive

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 2W9

Phone: 1(306) 764-7204

E-Mail: hlimcleod@sasktel.net

Host organization: Pine Grove Correctional Centre

Program Coordinator: Leanne McLeod

Communities Served: Corrections community

Program Publications: A manual and training materials have been developed.

Program Mission and Goals: To assist with reintegration into the community.

Program Description: This program, delivered in a small class setting, incorporates family literacy, life skills, computer training and job preparation through the delivery of the following components.

- Come Read with Me
- Parenting
- Storytelling
- Basic Computers and writing skills

The following materials are used in the delivery of these components:

- *My gift of family: Parent development of story to child*
- *What about my son*
- *Oral Traditions: journey through the medicine wheel*
- *Writing Processes*

Source of Funds: National Literacy Secretariat (93%) and Pine Grove Correctional Centre (7%).

Unique Features of this Program: Delivered in a corrections setting. Given that the population of Pine Grove Correctional Centre is 90% Aboriginal and that some of the staff are of Aboriginal ancestry there is a strong focus on culturally relevant materials and delivery methods. Elders are used in the program.

Program Challenges: It is a challenge to offer courses in Aboriginal languages. It can also be challenging to offer components of the program such as life skills and computers training.



Regina Early Learning Centre

2115 Athol Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 3E8

Phone: 1(306) 757-3744 **Fax:** 1 (306) 522-0040

E-mail: elc_famout@accesscomm.ca

Program Coordinator: Lorna Wesaquate

Communities Served: Low-income community in Regina.

Program Publications: Storytelling Circle Books

Program Mission and Goals: The Regina Early Learning Centre is a child and family development centre that works cooperatively with low income families to provide programs which foster healthy development of children from prenatal to five years of age. The centre believes that:

- All children have the right to grow and learn in a supportive environment that is sensitive to their needs.
- Parents are their child's first teacher.
- The community has a responsibility to support the healthy development of children and families.
- Learning occurs within the context of relationships.
- Respect and mutuality characterize the relationships between staff, children and families.
- Using a strengths-based model empowers all participants.

Program Description: The Regina Early Learning Centre was established in 1977 to meet the learning and development needs of three and four-year-olds from low income homes. Since then it has grown in size and scope. The centre now offers a variety of programs for children from prenatal through age five and their families.

Family Literacy Programs include:

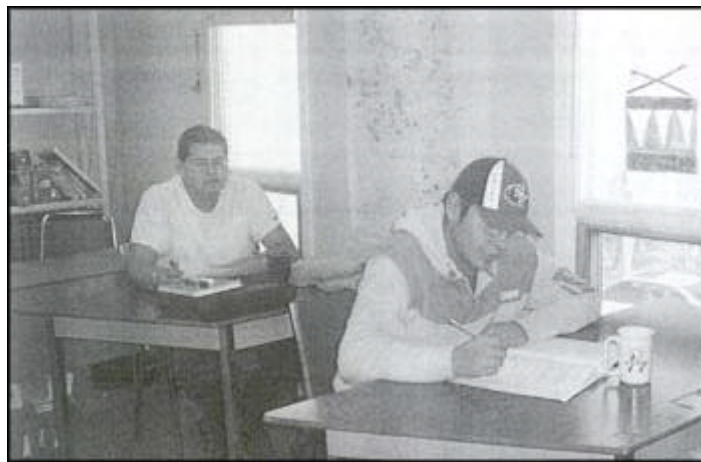
- **PRINTS (Parents Interacting with Teacher Support):** Over a series of seven group meetings parents are introduced to the following steps to literacy:
 - *Talk and Oral Language:* the importance of talking, listening and responding to your child.
 - *Play:* interacting with your child by doing/saying rhymes, jingles and singing songs.
 - *Book and Book Sharing:* telling stories and reading books.
 - *Environmental Print:* exploring symbols or print in the world around us.
 - *Scribbling, Drawing and Writing:* how children begin to develop writing skills.
- **Come Read With Me:** A series of evening meetings where leaders and parents come together for the sheer enjoyment of reading. Children's books are the focus, and each person has the opportunity to learn about good children's books, and to learn rhymes, finger plays and songs that children love. At each session participants will be presented with a book that they can take home and share with their children.
- **Parent-Teacher Supper Meetings:** Six meetings per year around a variety of topics including family literacy.
- **Play & Learn - A Parenting & Literacy Program:** This is a 10 week program for parents who want to strengthen their bond with their pre- school aged child as well as encourage their child's healthy emotional and behavioral development. Together, both parent and child learn how to express their feelings and solve problems.
- **Cree in the pre-school classrooms**

The Regina Early Learning Centre provides a supportive environment for parents and their children. The staff members are compassionate and resourceful.

Source of Funds: Various.

Unique Features of this Program: This program is unique in that it supports parents to develop the ability to take a proactive and positive role in their child's education. It supports both parent and child to develop literacy skills.

YOUTH LITERACY PROGRAMS



Rainbow Youth Centre

977 McTavish Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 3V2

Phone: 1 (306) 757-9743 **Fax:** 1 (306) 757-9759

E- Mail: rainbow@accesscomm.ca

Program Coordinator: Danielle Sweatman, Executive Director

Communities Served: Regina

Program Mission and Goals: To involve youth 11-19 years old (to 25 in extended programming) in creating a safe, caring, healthy and adaptive community of support by sharing responsibility for recognizing, accepting and developing personal skills.

Program Description: Rainbow Youth Centre provides a comprehensive program of activities and services that help young people prepare for the transition from adolescence to a healthy, active and independent adult lifestyle. Youth can come to the centre to meet and visit with friends, ask questions and get information, listen to music, read magazines or books, use the telephone, work on their resume, or take part in other activities. Youth can book time on one of our computers, or participate in one of the many educational and skill-building programs.

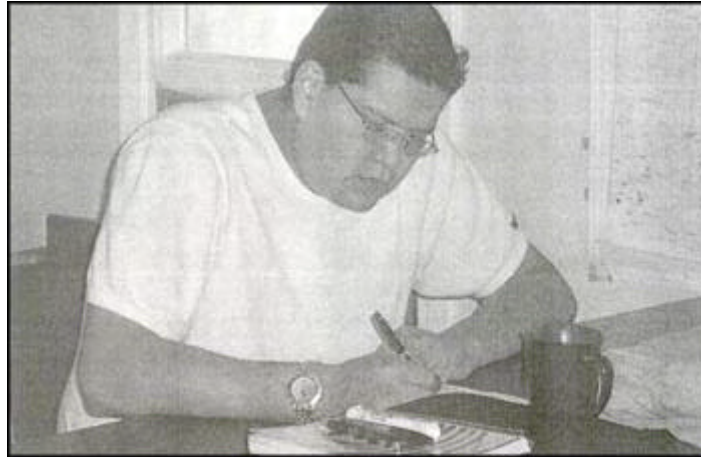
In operations since 1982, Rainbow works with young people 11-19 in a variety of individual and group situations, providing skill development, educational, recreational and direct service programs. Rainbow is also working with young adults 20-25 in specific, specialized programs.

Programming services are core to the work Rainbow does with young people. Activities vary according to the season, as well as financial resources. Some of the programs offered at Rainbow are:

- On the Road to Employment: General Education Diploma (GED), work experience, driver's license.
- Skills for Adolescence
- Anger Management
- Employment Bridging Programs
- Street Outreach

Source of Funds: United Way, Human Resource Development Canada, CanSask

Unique Features of the Program: While the program is not exclusively an Aboriginal program, staff report that a higher number of Aboriginal youth do access the services. At Rainbow, youth can receive help without risking labeling or stigmatization. There are several principles of adolescent development that guide the program. Adolescents require skills, appreciation of themselves and a sense of responsibility for their actions. Rainbow works to create opportunities for youth to recognize their self worth.



Won-Ska Cultural School

2005-4th Avenue East
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 2H1

Phone: 1(306) 763-3552 **Fax:** 1(306) 763-0156

E-Mail: carolannshort@paschools.pa.sk.ca

Host organization: Prince Albert Public School Division

Program Coordinator: Carol Ann Short, Principal

Communities Served: Prince Albert and surrounding reserve areas

Program Mission and Goals: An alternate school within the public school division designed to reach Aboriginal youth at risk.

Program Description: Operated by the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division #119 this program has been in operation since 1993. There are approximately 50 learners, between the ages of 16 and 21, in this program at a time. Almost 100% of the learners are of Aboriginal ancestry. Operating 5 days a week during regular school hours, the program is primarily delivered through small classes but also offers one-on-one tutoring. The program uses curriculum's from Saskatchewan Learning adapted to suit its

purposes. Aboriginal values are incorporated into the program and Elders and guest speakers are frequently invited to the program.

The following components are offered to learners:

- Basic literacy (level 1)
- Other credit courses
- Correspondence courses
- General Education Diploma (GED)
- Intermediate literacy
- Computer training
- Life Skills Upgrading
- Parenting

Students are motivated to enroll in this program in order to upgrade or complete their grade 10, 11, 12, or GED. Students may also wish to obtain a driver's license or receive cultural training. A non-threatening environment and nutrition program provides additional incentives.

Source of Funds: Saskatchewan Learning and occasional funding grants.

Unique Features of the Program: Won-Ska Cultural School is a very unique alternate school within the public school system. It was set up as a "retrieval school" for "at risk youth." The program uses elements of the circle of courage to bring students back from where they have been cast out.

Program Challenges: Drugs, alcohol, drop-out rates, child-care, transportation and finances.

Youth Activity Centre Literacy Program

1211-1st Avenue W.
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Phone: 1(306) 964-4266 **Fax:** 1(306) 763-3153

E-Mail: mcsleroy@home.com

Host organization: Integrated Youth Committee

Program Coordinator: Mary LeRoy

Program Director: Peggy Rubin

Communities Served: Prince Albert

Program Publications: *Literacy for At Risk Youth in a Community Setting.. A manual.*

Program Mission and Goals: To provide a holistic literacy program to enhance the education, social and personal growth of participants.

Program Description: This program is overseen by the Prince Albert Youth Council and the Integrated Youth Committee. Participants are youth between the ages 15-24. Approximately 60% of participants are

male. 70% of the participants are First Nations, 25% are Metis and 5% are described as other. In existence for approximately four years the program has an enrollment of 12.

The program runs 4 days a week from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. incorporating the following components:

- Basic literacy
- Correspondence Courses
- Intermediate Literacy
- Computer training
- Life skills
- Job Preparation
- Sweat lodge
- Healing circles
- Ceremonies of Human Development
- Elder teaching

As well there is a cultural program called Touch the Spirit that is offered three 1/2 days per week.

The Canadian Adult Reading Assessment (CARA) and individual goals are used to assess learner capabilities and monitor success towards goals. The Circle of Courage, medicine wheel and personal storying are used to guide teaching. This curriculum is based on Aboriginal teachings. Elders visit the program approximately 3 times per week. Students are motivated to enroll in this program because it is a safe place where they can get back into school.

Source of Funds: This program received 90% of its funds from the federal government (Heritage Canada and the National Literacy Secretariat). Another 10% of the funding comes from the provincial government's Associated Entities Fund.

Unique Features of the Program: The weekly sweatlodge is a very important part of the personal and group development of the learners. Many students come for the cultural program alone.

Program Challenges: The program faces the following challenges: finding one-on-one tutors, permanent space, homeless participants, childcare and transportation.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS



Aboriginal Head Start

Box 340
Onion Lake, Saskatchewan S0M 2E0

Phone: 1 (306) 344-2525 **Fax:** 1 (306) 344-2559

Host organization: Sakeweskam Learning Centre

Program Coordinator: Sarah Waskewitch

Communities Served: Onion Lake

Program Description: An Aboriginal language program offered on a daily basis. There are approximately 8 learners in this program and one full time staff member. Elders and other dignitaries have been involved providing lectures, teachings and stories.

Source of Funds: Federal Government

Program Challenges: Volunteers, financial resources and space

Buffalo Narrows Friendship Centre

P.O. Box 189
Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan S0M 1V0

Phone: (306) 235-4633 **Fax:** (306) 235-4544

E-Mail: bnfc@sk.sympatico.ca

Communities Served: Buffalo Narrows

Program Mission and Goals: To provide community support through its cultural and recreational programs.

Program Description: The Buffalo Narrows Friendship Centre offers a Cree language program taught by Elders to children. There are no costs for this program.

Northern Reading Program

Bag Service #6600
La Ronge, SK S01 1L0

Phone: (306) 425-4525 **Fax:** (306) 425-4572

E-Mail: hroy@pnls.lib.sk.ca

Host Organization: Pahkisimon Nuye?ah Library System

Program Coordinator: Harriet Roy

Communities served: The entire north.

Program Publications: Activity packages are put together for each year. A collection of student writings is also compiled.

Program Mission and Goals: To promote literacy and to have a coordinated reading program that would use the resources and structures already in place in the communities of the north.

Program Description: Considered both an Aboriginal and family literacy program, the Northern Reading Program is delivered through school libraries. A planning committee is selected from a different area of the north each year. Elders are encouraged to come read to the students and participate in activities put on by the school.

Sources of Funds: 15% of the funding comes from the provincial government and 75% comes from donations.

Unique features of this Program: This program is largely delivered through volunteer commitment.

Major Challenges: The willingness of teachers to design and deliver the program. The teachers often feel overwhelmed about starting something in addition to their regular work.

LITERACY SUPPORT



Saskatchewan Literacy Network

206 - 220 - 3rd Ave S
Saskatoon SK S7K 1M1

Phone: 1-888-511-2111 **Fax:** 306-653-1704

Executive Director: Debbie Purton

Communities Served: The entire province of Saskatchewan

Program Mission and Goals:

Mission

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network promotes and supports literacy in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network fulfills this mission through the following:

Public Awareness

- We promote literacy in Saskatchewan through the celebration of International Adult Literacy Day (September 8), and Family Literacy Day (January 27)
- We host the annual PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy
- We organize the annual Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit
- We develop and distribute literacy promotional material

Advocacy

- We provide information about literacy in Saskatchewan to government, the general public, and the media. We also monitor and respond to federal and provincial literacy initiatives and policy.
- We host adult learner focus and support groups

Training

- We develop teaching and learning resources for Saskatchewan literacy practitioners and learners.
- We provide family literacy training to literacy practitioners in Saskatchewan (i.e. Come Read with Me, Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills, PRINTS (Parents Role Interacting With Teachers Support), and Story sacks facilitator training workshops).
- We provide Plain Language and Proposal Writing workshops.
- We provide on-line learning opportunities.

Consultation and Support

- We provide information and assistance in planning, developing and implementing adult and family literacy programs.
- We provide training and follow-up support on funding sources and proposal writing.

Sharing Information

- We host a toll-free literacy information line (1-888-511-2111)

- We maintain a Web site with current information about the Saskatchewan Literacy Network activities and literacy information from across the province.
- We publish a quarterly newsletter.
- We maintain a Literacy Resource Centre with an extensive collection of books, videos, and other resource materials available for loan to our members.
- We have a database of current literacy programs in Saskatchewan.
- We provide electronic conferencing (e.lit) to literacy practitioners.

Unique features of this program: As a membership organization, SLN is connected to most of the literacy programs and projects across the province. The focus of the SLN is on adult literacy learners.

Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association

510 Cynthia Street
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 7K7

Phone: 1 (306) 975-0875 **Fax:** 1 (306) 975-0879

Program Coordinator: Donna Heselwood

Communities Served: The entire province of Saskatchewan

Program Mission and Goals: This program was developed in response to a request from members for more information and resources for family literacy and First Nations people. The program exists to provide adult and children's resources; family literacy education and awareness; advocacy and support.

Program Description: This program provides support and training to members of SECA concerned with family literacy. Workshops, training events and resources are provided to up to 24 people at a time. A variety of family literacy models are used as well as a general introduction to family literacy that SECA has developed that incorporates hands on, role playing, "lecture" and round table.

SECA is an organization that deals with meeting the needs of care providers, parents, and children. It also serves to raise the general level of awareness, education and professionalism re: child care. As a part of the "big picture," literacy, especially family literacy figure prominently in terms of providing the best care/education possible. SECA provides advice, support and general advocacy to its members.

Unique Features of this Program: SECA empowers its members by encouraging the belief that they are powerful enough to make a difference.

Program Challenges and Successes: Consistent reliable funding

SASKATCHEWAN ABORIGINAL LITERACY RESOURCES



SASKATCHEWAN ABORIGINAL LITERACY RESOURCES

The following institutions have produced various materials useful for Aboriginal literacy programs.

Gabriel Dumont Institute
917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 0R9
Phone: 1 (306) 934-4941 Fax: 244-0252

Northlands College Literacy Program
Box 400
Creighton, Saskatchewan S0P 0A0
Phone: 1 (306) 688-8852 Fax: 1 (306) 688-8848

Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre
120 33rd Street E.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0G6
Phone: 1 (306) 244-1146 Fax: 1 (306) 665- 6520

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network
#205-220 3rd Avenue S.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 1M1

Saskatchewan Literacy Network Inc.
206220 3rd Avenue S.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 1M1
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MATERIALS PRODUCED IN SASKATCHEWAN

Culture and literacy: contemporary Canadian writing [1980]. By Eli Mandell. Regina: SK. Saskatchewan Library Association.

Denare Beach Reader. Books and Book on Tape. Northlands College: Creighton, SK. (Elder stories from Denare Beach).

The Indian act simplified. [1994] Yorkton: SK. Parkland Regional College.

Learning to speak, read and write Cree: book 1, syllabics. [1987]. By Tommy Francis and Dennis Morin. Regina, SK. Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research.

Memoirs of our Elders: a northwest literacy reader. [2001]. Buffalo Narrows: SK. Northlands College.

Kinistin stories: a collection of stories produced during the Kinistin Adult Literacy Project. [1993] Illustrations by Gerri Smokeyday.

Native literacy resources: an annotated bibliography. [1994] by Debbie Purton. Yorkton, SK: Parkland Regional College.

Pelican Narrows literacy guide. Lac La Ronge: SK. Curriculum Resource Unit, Education Branch, Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

Stories from Kohkom, sharing our values, teaching our young. [2000]. Sylvia Vicq, Project Editor. Saskatoon: SK. Read Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Community Clinic.

Wisdom from our Elders. Reader and workbook. Northlands College: Creighton, SK. (Elder stories from Cumberland House, Sandy Bay, and Pelican Narrows).

Audio Video Materials and Kits:

Reaching the rainbow: Aboriginal literacy in Canada. [1998] Yorkton: SK. Parkland Regional College.

Talking quilt: A healing video. Stardale Women's Group.

We learn through our eyes: a literacy project from the communities of Black Lake and Fond du Lac, Saskatchewan. (Interactive CD-ROM). Creighton, SK. Northlands College, 1997.

Internet Resources

Northlands Adult Reading Challenge Project Guide. www.nald.ca/clr/northlan/guide/cover.htm