

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO'S



SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

2022 Report



EST. 1899

United for Literacy
Littératie Ensemble

formerly Frontier College

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United for Literacy's vision, shared by our community partners, is that camp programming strengthens a year-round culture of literacy and learning in Indigenous communities and is an inspiration for community-led education partnerships.



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

**United for Literacy acknowledges
TD Bank Group as lead national
sponsor of this program.**



**United for Literacy acknowledges the
Ontario Ministry of Education as lead
provincial sponsor of this program.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



In summer 2022, United for Literacy (formerly Frontier College) was honoured to partner with 24 communities in Ontario to deliver Summer Literacy Camps. We are grateful to the children, parents, Elders, and community members who welcomed us into their communities and helped to make this summer a success! This program was made possible by the generous support of our funders and partners:

Air Creebec

David and Patricia Morton Family Foundation

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

First Book Canada

Government of Canada

Government of Ontario

Hydro One Networks Inc.

Let's Talk Science

North Star Air

Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association

Ontario Power Generation

Ontario Teachers' Federation

Ontario Teachers' Insurance Plan (OTIP)

Scholastic Classrooms Care

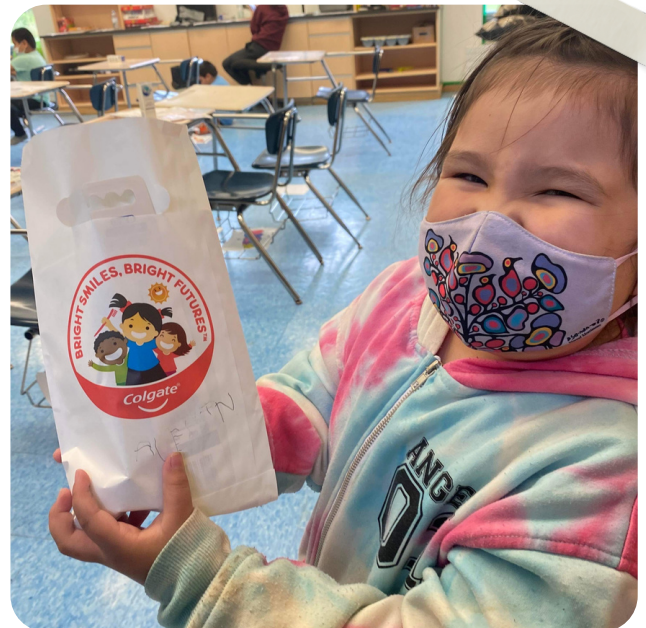
Slate Falls Air

TD Bank Group

Wasaya Airways



Camp breakfast in
Eagle Lake First Nation



Healthy teeth workshop in
Sandy Lake First Nation

MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

November 2022

On behalf of the people of Ontario, I happily offer my support and gratitude to all those at United for Literacy who were involved in the delivery of another successful year of the Lieutenant Governor's Indigenous Summer Reading Camps.

United for Literacy's team of staff, counselors, and volunteers has empowered thousands of young people, distributing an impressive 1,620 learning kits and 1,661 brand new, high-quality books this year alone. Our province is stronger as a result of their phenomenal work.

While reading is of course an essential skill in the 21st century, it is the hope and wonder that reading begets that form the basis of our continued progress as a society. For it is through these qualities that we grow as resilient individuals, and that humanity may ultimately succeed in building a more caring, empathetic world. Literacy truly does change everything!

I offer my congratulations to United for Literacy for its integral role in the continued success of the reading camps. Your effort represents excellence at the highest calibre, and I look forward to all that you will continue to achieve.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Dowdeswell".

Elizabeth Dowdeswell

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND CHIEF OF N.A.N.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

(807) 625-4933

nan.ca

100 Back Street, Unit 200
Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1L2



October 3, 2022

Jenny Langevin
Camp Coordinator – Thunder Bay
Frontier College
Suite #5 – 895 Tungsten St
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 6H2

Dear Jenny Langevin,

RE: NAN SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS READING CAMPS

I am pleased to provide this letter on behalf of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) in support of the Lieutenant Governor's Indigenous Summer Reading Camps program.

Once again, Frontier College has done an excellent job in supporting Children, Youth and Families in the NAN Territory. They managed to make this program happen through the pandemic and kept everyone safe. I am glad the children, youth and families were able to participate in these programs and to enjoy themselves.

Frontier College will continue to have NAN's support. We look forward to hearing some of the adventures and stories they share each year.

Sincerely,

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

Grand Chief Derek Fox

WHY CAMP MATTERS

Literacy changes everything! At United for Literacy, we believe that developing reading, writing, and math skills is a steppingstone to success. Since 2005, United for Literacy has partnered with Indigenous communities to offer Summer Literacy Camps that get kids reading—and keep them learning and having fun!—throughout the summer months. The goals of Summer Literacy Camp are to:



**Promote
a love of
reading**



**Prevent summer learning loss,
which is the decline in student
performance between school years**

Summer Literacy Camps support individual learners as well as entire communities, creating opportunities for collective learning and community-wide benefit:

- ✓ Local youth and adults who are hired as camp counsellors gain valuable, paid work experience.
- ✓ Families, community members, and Elders who participate in camp activities can share their knowledge and increase their feelings of involvement in their children's education.
- ✓ Communities experience positive economic impact through wages to local staff, honoraria to members of the community, and the purchase of materials, food, and services.

Education is a key part of Reconciliation, and a focus of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. With this knowledge guiding our approach to partnership, United for Literacy is honoured and humbled to be welcomed into many First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities. We are mindful of our responsibilities and relationships as program partners and as invited guests.

For 60 years, United for Literacy has partnered with Indigenous communities to co-create initiatives like Summer Literacy Camp and the year-round Community Literacy Catalyst program (see Page 10). We believe in learning together and from each other. As an organization, United for Literacy's learning continues, and we are grateful to Summer Literacy Camp communities for their ongoing partnership.

United for Literacy [Frontier College] has done an excellent job in supporting children, youth, and families in the NAN territory. They managed to make this program [Summer Literacy Camp] happen through the pandemic and kept everyone safe... They will continue to have NAN's support. We look forward to hearing some of the adventures and stories they share each year.

Grand Chief Derek Fox, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

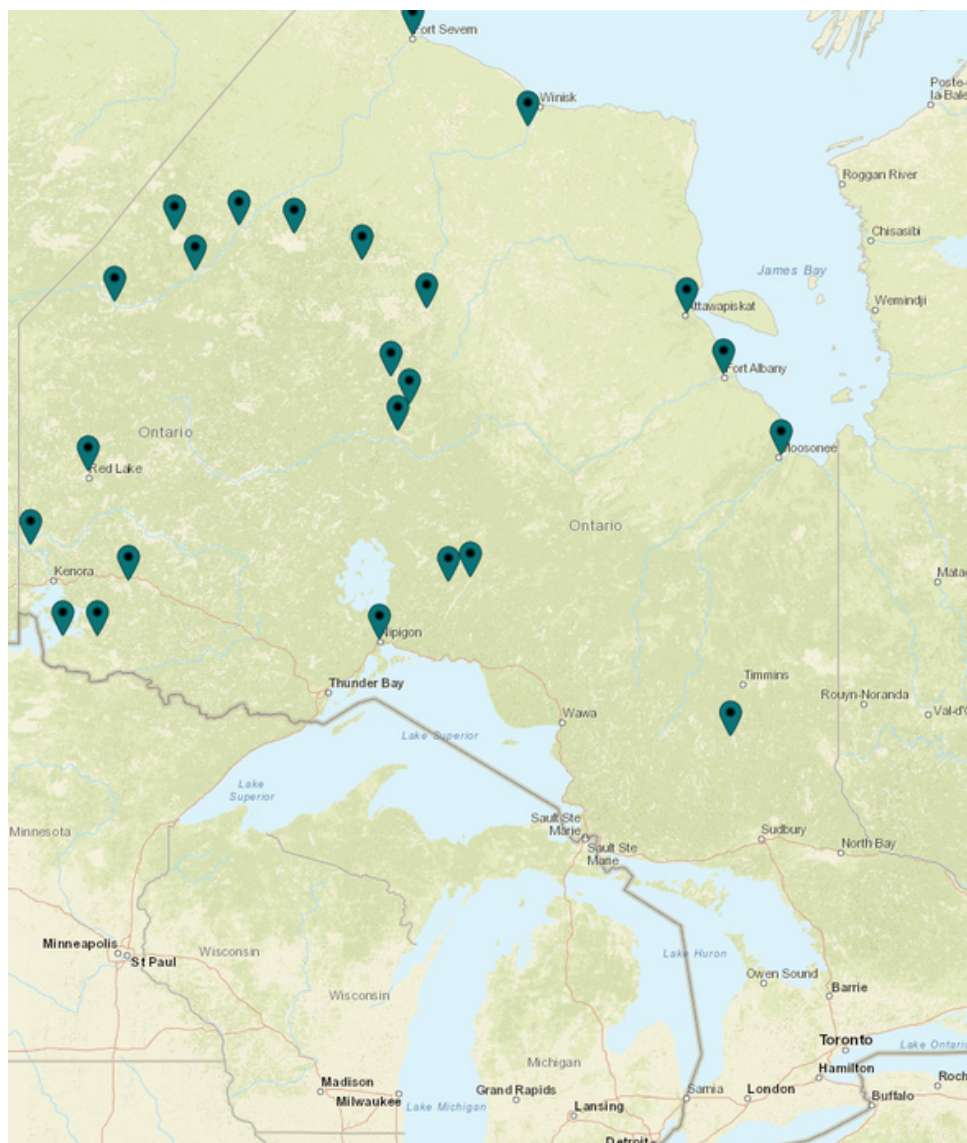
CAMP LOCATIONS

Summer Literacy Camps provide engaging literacy programs to children across Canada. Activities in Ontario fit one of two models, depending on community needs and public health directives:

- Full in-person camps* (11 communities)
- Supporting families at home with literacy kits, learning resources, and books (13 communities)

In Northern Ontario, Summer Literacy Camps **supported 785 local children and delivered 1,661 books through in-person programming.** United for Literacy also **delivered 1,620 learning kits** to children through in-person camps and at-home programs, getting even more books into campers' hands!

Camp communities



Attawapiskat First Nation*
Bearskin Lake First Nation
Big Grassy First Nation
Eabametoong First Nation*
Eagle Lake First Nation*
Fort Albany First Nation*
Fort Severn First Nation
Geraldton*
Kasabonika Lake First Nation
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
Longlac*
Marten Falls First Nation*
Mattagami First Nation
Moose Cree First Nation
Muskrat Dam First Nation
Neskantaga First Nation
Onigaming First Nation*
Peawanuck First Nation
Sachigo Lake First Nation
Sandy Lake First Nation*
Slate Falls First Nation*
Wabaseemoong Independent Nations
Webequie First Nation
Whitesand First Nation*

IMPACT: CAMP IN NUMBERS

We are very proud of what strong partnerships have allowed us to accomplish. In 2022, Summer Literacy Camps in Northern Ontario:

- Reached **785 campers** through **in-person** programming in **11 communities**.
- Supported two program models:
 - **Full, in-person camps** with local and/or visiting counsellors in **11 communities**.
 - **Families learning at home** through **learning kits** in **13 communities**.
- Distributed **1,661 high-quality, brand-new books**, including books by Indigenous authors through in-person camps as well as delivering additional books through **1,620 learning kits**



Drawing together in
Whitesand First Nation

“What are we going
to do tomorrow?
Today was so fun.”

Camper, Eagle Lake First Nation



Lunchtime reading at
Sandy Lake First Nation

Fun and engaging day camp activities include daily reading and literacy games, science experiments, field trips to local points of interest, visits from Elders and community members, scavenger hunts—and more! In Northern Ontario, highlights of camp activities this year included:

- **Beading activities, shirt tie-dying, and mask making**
- **Workshops with local paramedics, firefighters, and police officers**
- **Puppet shows**
- **Nature walks and foraging activities**
- **Baking activities and camp meals**
- **Floor hockey and soccer games**
- **Kite-making**



Crafting and snacking at
Marten Falls First Nation

“I'm having so much fun! I did
the alphabet all by myself!”

Camper, Whitesand First Nation

“It's nice that I can bring this
book home with me.”

Camper, Whitesand First Nation

IMPACT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Evaluating the impact of Summer Literacy Camp is an important part of program design and planning. To better understand the outcomes of our programs in 2022, we surveyed children, parents, and community members. Here's what we heard in Northern Ontario:

What parents and caregivers said:

- **91%** said that camp helped prepare their child to **return to school**
- **82%** said that **their child is reading more** since attending camp
- **100%** said that camp was **valuable** for their child, family, and community

"One of the successes of camp this week was the celebration of two campers' birthdays. A birthday cake celebration was held, and a Kookum [grandmother] brought in a cake for the learners and staff. One of the counsellors ordered pizza to share with the campers."

Parent, Eagle Lake First Nation

What kids said:

- **88%** said they considered themselves to be a **good reader** or sometimes a good reader after camp
- **77%** said **reading is important**, and **82%** said that said they **liked going to school** after attending camp
- **78%** said that they liked or sometimes **liked math** after attending camp, and **88%** said the same for **science**

"I love camp, I'm going to make sure I come every day."

Camper, Slate Falls First Nation

"This camp you did was way better than the others."

Camper, Eagle Lake First Nation



Building with STEM skills and marshmallows in Onigaming First Nation



Tye-dye fashion show in Eagle Lake First Nation



Paramedics visit camp in Fort Albany First Nation

CAPACITY BUILDING: FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Summer Literacy Camps would not be possible without the dedication of local and visiting staff members. Hiring local camp staff allows United for Literacy to support community capacity building and provide training to people who can sustain literacy programming in the long term. Part of United for Literacy's goal is to operate Summer Literacy Camps in a way that builds local capacity, so that communities are fully equipped to continue camp into the future, with or without direct support from United for Literacy. Here is what camp counsellors working in Northern Ontario said about their experiences:

- **100%** said that camp provided them with a **positive work experience**
- **100%** said that camp helped campers strengthen their **confidence and self-esteem**
- **100%** said that camp provided an **enriching learning experience** for campers



Camp counsellors preparing for the big
bake sale in Whitesand First Nation



Camp counsellors getting ready for
camp in Eagle Lake First Nation

"Thanks camp counsellor T., glad you're working here. The girls are more comfortable coming when you're here."

Parent, Marten Falls First Nation

"For an activity with the group this week, one of the counsellors did a step-by-step origami demonstration. The activity went really well, and the children/youth were, 'ready to learn from the demonstration.' Camper feedback so far includes, 'I love coming to camp because it's fun.'"

United for Literacy staff, Sandy Lake First Nation

LOOKING FORWARD: CAMP AND THE COMMUNITY LITERACY CATALYST (CLC)

The Community Literacy Catalyst (CLC) model is one way the impact of Summer Literacy Camp can last all year long. **The goal of the CLC model is to strengthen local capacity to deliver literacy and numeracy programs:**

- United for Literacy **hires, trains, and mentors** one or more **Literacy Workers (Catalysts)** from the local community.
- The Catalyst **works with community members** to determine literacy and learning needs and priorities.
- The Catalyst runs local, culturally relevant, **high-impact literacy programs**—including Summer Literacy Camps!

The CLC model was originally co-developed between United for Literacy and Cat Lake First Nation in 2013, and since then has been deployed across Canada in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. External evaluation of the program, conducted in 2019, found that, among other key points, **the CLC model helps “communities to build essential skills that they have identified as important, in a way that is by and for the community.”** Since 2021, CLCs in many communities have also become camp counsellors, helping to strengthen trust and engagement in their communities.



Spelling and Bananagrams in Sandy Lake First Nation

LOOKING FORWARD: THE CLC EXPERIENCE



Reading time with the Sandy Lake First Nation CLC



Cooking class with the Marten Falls First Nation CLC

Here is what one of the CLCs who also ran Summer Literacy Camps had to say about their personal experiences:

"I am a Literacy Catalyst with United for Literacy for my home community of Eabametoong First Nation. During my time in this position, I have seen children flourish. I have watched children improve in their learning and reading skills. Our programs have helped children with their social development and strengthened their love for learning.

This position has helped me with my mental health and strengthened my skills as a facilitator. It has also fostered a positive connection with my community. This opportunity has impacted myself and my community in a positive way. I am glad that this program is here. I remember growing up and saying to myself, I wish we had more programs here like our Summer Camps, and now we do. Children now talk about attending post-secondary education since I have been working with them. I had not heard any of our children say that until I started my job.

I love my job and hope to make a positive impact in learning, reading and in the lives of the youth in my community. Meegwetch."

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



MUNDO PEETABECK EDUCATION AUTHORITY EDUCATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 31, Fort Albany, Ontario P0L 1H0
Tel.: (705) 278-3390 Fax (705) 278-1049
Toll Free: 1-800-267-8521

September 27, 2022

Cathy Mehagan Regional Manager,
Northern Ontario
Frontier College Suite #5 – 895 Tungsten St
Thunder Bay, On
P7B 6H2

Dear Ms. Mehagan,

RE: SUPPORT LETTER FOR SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS

I am writing this letter of support for the Summer Literacy Camp program.

The program has been very positive for our children in our community during the summers. Our children looked forward to these programs especially when they complete the school year. The program has made our children motivated in learning new things and wanting to come to the school especially when it comes to hands on activities.

We are already looking forward to next year, the Camp Counsellors have been always respectful and eager to teach our kids in our communities. We too hope that the Camp Counsellors learned things from us to use as one of their teaching tools or with other careers opportunities they have already planned.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gillies
Education Director

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



John C. Yesno Education Centre

P.O. Box 297 Eabamet Lake, Ontario P0T 1L0
(807) 242-8421 or (807) 242-1224
Fax: (807) 242-1592

September 27, 2022

Cathy Mehagan
Regional Manager – Northern Ontario
Suite #5 – 895 Tungsten Street
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 6H2

Dear Cathy Mehagan:

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to express that the Literacy programs that are made available to our remote flyin only community has made a valuable difference for our students. It is important to add that the opportunity for local residents to work within the program delivery enhances the awareness of literacy in the community as a whole.

The summer program acts as an extension to the school program, helping to maintain daily routines in addition to practicing reading, writing, and social skills. This program was accessed by about 50 children during the summer months, incorporating many outdoor activities. Students excitedly recall their summer literacy camp time.

During the school year, the Literacy worker helps promote literacy in the classroom by providing one on one reading practice or small group story time. The program also provides engaging crafts and activities that further boost interest in Literacy. The program provided the community with many engaging activities through social media during pandemic lock down time during the year.

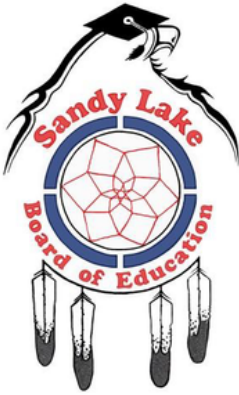
We look forward to expanding Literacy programming to support Saturday Literacy time and brunch for our students. The Literacy worker will also be able to assist with implementing our phonics based K to grade 3 reading program and our grade 4 to adult reading intervention program.

We are fortunate to be involved in the Literacy initiatives from Frontier College.

Sincerely,

Elisa Bourdon
Principal

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



Sandy Lake Board of Education

P.O. Box 8
Sandy Lake, Ontario
P0V 1V0

Tel.: (807) 774-1135/1137
Fax: (807) 774-1166

To: Hillary O'Brien - Walters
From: Victor Rae – Director of Education
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022
Re: Summer Literacy Camp

On behalf of the Sandy Lake Board of Education I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Summer Literacy Camp that has been held in Sandy Lake First Nation for the past several years. As you are aware, COVID affected our students learning and process and thus the literacy camp to assist our students becomes increasingly important.

The results of this camp are noticeable in the participants increased knowledge on the various literacy mechanics. This camp would be greatly missed if it was not available in the future. On behalf of the community of Sandy Lake First Nation, I wish to thank all those involved in implementing the summer camp.

Yours sincerely,


Victor Rae

Director of Education

C.c. Sandy Lake Board of Education

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



Cathy Mehagen
Regional Manager-Northern Ontario
Suite #5-895 Tungsten Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B-6H2

Re: Summer Literacy Camps-Marten Falls First Nation

Dear Cathy

I have heard from Hilary Walters, Northern Project Catalyst Coordinator, the success of the Summer Literacy Camps at Marten Falls this past summer. I have heard how eager the children were to get on the program and to participate.

It is amazing to hear that 30 children participated in the reading, writing and math program.

We would like this program to continue and would like our community to be included in the next funding cycle approvals.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Fobister Sr.', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Roger Fobister Sr
Director of Education
Marten Falls Education

CONCLUSION

Literacy really does change everything! In their recent Teacher & Principal School Report, Scholastic has found that 96% of educators believe having year-round access to books at home helps children perform in the classroom.² Likewise, 94% of parents and caregivers stated that summer reading helped their children excel during the academic year.³ When children succeed in school, they develop a positive relationship with learning—a relationship that can have a positive impact for years to come.

At United for Literacy, we know that effective learning rarely happens in isolation. **Summer Literacy Camps are designed to support both individual learners and entire communities, creating opportunities for collective learning.** According to the Harvard University Center on the Developing Child, community learning:

- Connects people;
- Enables knowledge sharing;
- Creates leadership opportunities; and
- Magnifies impact.⁴

To support community learning, United for Literacy works exclusively through partnerships with local communities. We could not be more grateful to have had so many incredible communities open their doors to us this summer. **Thank you to the learners and families who have welcomed Summer Literacy Camp into their lives.** We cannot wait to continue to support you on your literacy journey!



Morning circle stretches
in Sandy Lake First Nation



Blueberry-picking in
Whitesand First Nation



Fun with slime science in
Eagle Lake First Nation

CITATIONS

1. Government of Canada; Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. (2022, April 27). Education for Reconciliation. Government of Canada; Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. Retrieved August 19, 2022, from <https://www.rcaanccirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524504501233/1557513602139>
2. Scholastic. (2020). Teacher & Principal School Report: 2nd Edition. Retrieved August 26, 2022, from <https://www.scholastic.com/site/teacher-principal-school-report/key-findings.html>
3. Scholastic. (2017). Kids & Family Reading Report. Retrieved August 26, 2022, from <https://www.scholastic.com/readingreport/home.html>
4. Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. (2015, September 8). Key concept: Learning communities. Retrieved August 19, 2022, from <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/collective-change/key-concepts/learningcommunities/#:~:text=Communities%20share%20learning%20from%20both,progress%20toward%20impact%20at%20scale>



SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**



EST. 1899

**United for Literacy
Littérature Ensemble**

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Unite with us! #UnitedForLiteracy