



# SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



**2022 National Report**

Prepared by



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 the inspiration for community-led education partnerships.**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



In summer 2022, United for Literacy (formerly Frontier College) was honoured to partner with 97 communities to deliver Summer Literacy Camps across Canada, from coast to coast to coast (see Appendix A). 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:

Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation  
Air Creebec  
Alberta Ministry of Education  
Amazon  
BC Hydro  
Carrier Sekani Family Services  
Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation  
Cenovus Energy Inc.  
Community Initiatives Fund  
Cree School Board  
David and Patricia Morton Family Foundation  
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario  
Elmwood Community Resource Center  
First Book Canada  
Government of Canada  
Government of Manitoba  
Government of Ontario  
Hewitt Foundation  
Hydro One Networks Inc.  
Kativik Ilisarniliriniq  
Let's Talk Science  
Makivik Corporation  
Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning  
The McCain Foundation  
Nooaitch Indian Band

North Star Air  
Nunastar Properties Fund for Northern Children  
Nunatsiavut Government  
Nunavut Department of Education  
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association  
Ontario Ministry of Education  
Ontario Secondary School teachers' Federation  
Ontario Power Generation  
Ontario Teachers' Federation  
Ontario Teachers' Insurance Plan (OTIP)  
Oromocto First Nation  
Rotary Club of Winnipeg  
SaskWater  
Scholastic Classrooms Care  
Slate Falls Air  
St. Thomas University  
Sturgeon Lake First Nation  
Swan City Rotary Club  
TD Bank Group  
The Thomas Sill Foundation Inc.  
United Way British Columbia  
University of New Brunswick  
Wasaya Airways  
Winnipeg Foundation  
Woodstock First Nation



EST. 1899  
**United for Literacy**  
**Littératie Ensemble**



**TD READY**  
**COMMITMENT**

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

# WHY CAMP MATTERS

Literacy changes everything! At United for Literacy, we believe that developing reading, writing, and math skills is a stepping stone 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 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 year after year. 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 9). 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



# IMPACT: CAMP IN NUMBERS

We are very proud of everything that strong partnerships have allowed us to accomplish. In 2022, Summer Literacy Camps across Canada have:

- Reached **2,680 campers across 97 communities**
- Been supported by **2 program models** :
  - 71 communities organized full, in-person camps with local and/or visiting counsellors.
  - 26 communities organized virtual camps or reached families at home through learning kits.
- **Distributed 14,012 free, high-quality, brand-new books**, including books by Indigenous authors.
- **Delivered 2,604 free, engaging learning kits.**



Campers read together in Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Alberta



Campers build a rollercoaster in Pictou Landing First Nation, Nova Scotia



Moose scraping activity in Takla Lake First Nation, British Columbia



Visit to fire station in Oujé-Bougoumou, Eeyou Istchee (Quebec)

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

Camper, Whitesand First Nation, Ontario

“  
**Are we going to have literacy camp again next year? Yay!**  
”

Camper, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan



**Did you know?**

**Summer Literacy Camps originated in Northern Ontario almost 20 years ago and have continued to blossom in locations across Canada!**

# IMPACT: CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

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



Reading together,  
Squamish First Nation,  
British Columbia



A special event by  
police in Tsuut'ina  
Nation, Alberta



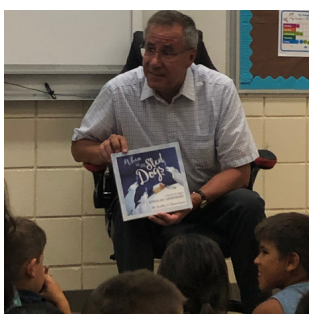
Enjoying a meal together  
Wemindji, Eeyou Istchee  
(Quebec)



A fun outdoor activity  
in Sagkeeng First  
Nation, Manitoba



Marshmallow STEM  
activity in Onigaming  
First Nation, Ontario



His Honour the Honorable  
Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant  
Governor of Saskatchewan,  
visited campers in Sturgeon  
Lake, Saskatchewan



Husk dolls activity in  
Woodstock First Nation,  
New Brunswick



**290 special events** were organized during the camps.



**266 guest presenters, 889 parents and caregivers, and 481 community members** enriched camps with their stories, activities, positive feedback, and suggestions.



**47,422 minutes** were spent on **reading**, **86,972 minutes** were spent on **physical and outdoor activities**, and **36,545 minutes** were spent on **STEM activities**.

# 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 across the country:

## What kids said:

- **88%** of campers said they considered themselves to be a **"good reader"** after camp
- **92%** said **reading is important**, and **96%** said that camp made them more interested in reading
- **87%** said that they **liked math** after attending camp, and **91%** said the same for **science**



Camp Counsellor reading a book to camper, Fort McKay, Alberta

## What parents and caregivers said:

- **91%** of parents said that **their child likes reading more** since attending camp
- **99%** of parents said that camp has **helped** their child
- **99%** of parents said that camp was **valuable** for **their child, family, and community**



Campers enjoying some outdoor time, Waskaganish, Eeyou Istchee (Quebec)

“  
The kids usually don't  
enjoy reading so  
it's awesome watching  
you read to them.  
”

Parent, Oromocto First Nation, New Brunswick

“I'd rather be here than at home.  
Literacy camp is fun!”

Camper, Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Saskatchewan



# IMPACT: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## **Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation Summer Camp: Connecting Culture and the Land to Everyday Life**

Campers from Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation had the opportunity to learn about medicine bags during a visit from a community Elder. The Elder explained the importance and tradition of the medicine bag to the group and illustrated how it was once used in daily life and how it still can be today. The presentation connected the history of medicine bags to the campers' everyday lives. The group then made their own medicine bags, with guidance and support from the Elder, and later took a bus outside the community in search of sage, a traditional medicine. Once in the fields, the Elder demonstrated how to identify and pick the plant, which the campers used to fill their own medicine bags.



# CAPACITY BUILDING: FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

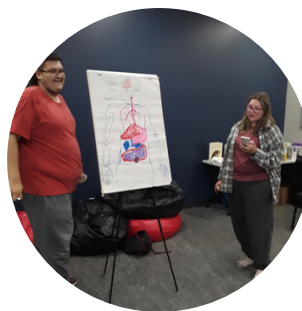
Summer Literacy Camps would not be possible without the dedication of local and visiting staff members. Hiring local camp staff allows United for Literacy to support community capacity building and provide training to people who can sustain literacy programming in the long term. Part of United for Literacy's 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.



Camp staff in  
Fort Hope, Ontario



University students and twins;  
camp staff in New Brunswick



Camp staff in action in  
Conklin Métis, Alberta



Camp staff in  
Sturgeon Lake First Nation,  
Saskatchewan

Here is what camp counsellors working across Canada said about their experiences:

- **98%** said that camp provided them with a **positive work experience**
- **100%** said that camp helped campers **strengthen their confidence and self-esteem**
- **97%** said that camp provided an **enriching learning experience for campers**

“

I had hoped to gain  
more confidence  
in working with children  
and I would  
say that I obtained  
that goal.

”

Camp staff, Ivujivik, Nunavik

“

Working in camps gave  
me a better  
understanding of how  
kids learn and different  
ways to help them.

”

Camp staff, Stellat'en First Nation,  
British Columbia



# 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 by 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.”

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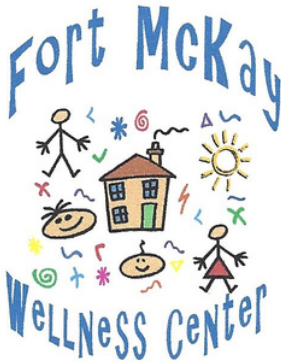
“ I am a Literacy Catalyst with United for Literacy for my home community of Eabametoong First Nation. During my time in this position, **I have seen children flourish. I have watched children improve in their learning and reading skills.** Our programs have helped children with their social development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

**CLC, Eabametoong First Nation, Ontario**

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT



Fort McKay Women's Association  
General Delivery  
Fort McKay, Alberta  
T0P 1C0  
(780)828-4312  
Fax: (780)828-4311

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

To whom it may concern,

The Fort McKay Women's Association (Operating as the Fort McKay Wellness Center) is honoured to write this letter of support for Frontier College in support of their Summer Literacy Camps.

The Fort McKay Women's Association is a non-profit organization located in Fort McKay First Nation, Alberta. We provide quality programs for 124 Indigenous and Metis children and youth, year-round through programs such as our After-School Program, Summer Camp Program, Youth Leadership Program, Supper Program and Summer Camps.

We have been offering the Summer Literacy Camps through a partnership with Frontier College since 2020. Though initially the pandemic made the program look a little differently, we have been able to run in-person Summer Literacy Camps for 2 years in a row and they have been a HUGE success. The children and youth look forward to the program everyday during Summer Camp and have embraced a love of reading during their break from school.

We believe the Summer Literacy Camps are essential to maintaining literacy and a love of reading for children and youth. We have noticed an increase in literacy skills among the children attending the program, as well as a keen interest in reading and learning. Frontier College makes sure the camps are fun and engaging and the staff are absolutely wonderful. The Summer Literacy Camps also help connect children and youth with Elders in their community through the reading program and the participants just love having visitors come in and be a part of their programs. Furthermore, because the program is offered at no-cost to participants and is delivered right in their community, it reduces barriers for families who may not have access to transportation or have the financial means to put their children in extra curricular activities.

We fully support any funding opportunities that allow Frontier College to continue providing the Summer Literacy Camps for children and youth. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [fortmckaywellnesscenter@hotmail.ca](mailto:fortmckaywellnesscenter@hotmail.ca) or at 780-838-1812.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Soucie".

Julia Soucie

Director

Fort McKay Wellness Center

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT



WOODSTOCK FIRST NATION  
3 WULASTOOK COURT,  
WOODSTOCK, N.-B.  
E7M 4K6

Frontier College

Date October 26, 2022

212 Queen St., Suite 301

Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 1A8

506 450 7923

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation to express our satisfaction with the quality of service provided by Frontier College this past summer 2022. Emma Warwick coordinated the service delivery of a Math and Literacy camp over 5 weeks. During the 5 weeks other improvements were also made in our children's behaviors and sense of belonging in their community. Mackenzie Prudencio did a great job of co-developing then co-implementing a schedule and delivery method with our Woodstock First Nation summer camp staff. Mackenzie served as a great team lead and left us with improved skills.

Over a 2-year period we have developed a good relationship with the Frontier College Team and intent to continue this relationship in the interest of benefiting our children.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay Polchies". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clay Polchies

Director of Education

Woodstock First Nation

506 328 2210

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT



**NUNATSIAVUT**  
kavamanga Government

Inosiksiagiktotitsigasuannimi amma  
Nunalinnik Pivalliatiksigasuannimi  
Health and Social Development

August 15, 2022

To whom it may concern:

It was wonderful to see Frontier College bring the Literacy Camp to Makkovik again this year. The Camp was very well organized and had many children from the community registered.

It was nice to see the children doing a variety of activities that were different and exciting. It was also nice to see, local youth and adults employed as well as Elder Storytelling.

DHSD was happy to assist, as we didn't run a summer program this year. DHSD went and did a short presentation to the Literacy Camp staff during their initial training. We also lent them our two metal detectors and teamed up to run the Annual Teddy Bear Picnic.

I've heard positive feedback on how well the camp was organized and run this year.

I'd like to commend Frontier College and staff for bringing such a valuable program to our community. I would definitely recommend and support this program if it is to continue. I think partnership is wonderful.

Sincerely Yours;

Kim Andersen  
Team Leader, DHSD Makkovik

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT



WAYWAYSEECAPPO FIRST NATION  
*In Partnership with*  
PARK WEST SCHOOL DIVISION

Box 9, Waywayseecappo, MB R0J 1S0 Phone: 859-2811

Colleen Clearsky – Director of Education Troy Luhowy - Principal



September 26, 2022

Allie Gensiorek  
Regional Manager  
Frontier College

Re: Camp Thunderbird Waywayseecappo 2022 Literacy Camp

Camp Thunderbird has been and will continue to be a great program offered to the students of Waywayseecappo in the months of July and August. The quality and variety of activities that the students are engaged in are wonderful.

The camp is an excellent tool in aiding students to retain their reading skills over the summer break. The local youth that are employed by the camp are able to receive training and enhance their employability skills for future jobs.

The camp promotes lifelong learning in a creative enjoyable way for all participants. We are grateful for our partnership with Frontier College.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Troy Luhowy  
Principal  
Waywayseecappo Community School



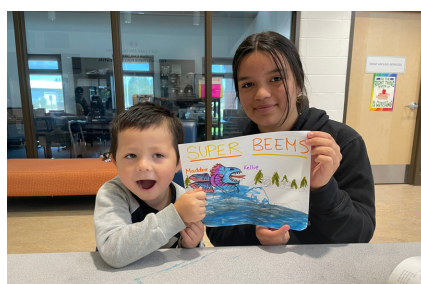
# CONCLUSION

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. Likewise, 94% of parents and caregivers stated that summer reading helped their children excel during the academic year. 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.<sup>4</sup>

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!



# 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>



**Books and Activity Kits  
distributed  
coast to coast to coast**





A map of Canada showing the distribution of 40 sampling locations, marked with green pins. The locations are concentrated in the western and central regions, with a few in the north and east. Labels include Beaufort Sea, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Hudson Bay, Quebec, and various provinces like British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and New Brunswick.

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# CAMP LOCATIONS CONTINUED



## **Alberta (23)**

Anzac  
Beaver Lake Cree Nation  
Bigstone Cree Nation -OPK  
Cadotte Lake  
Cold Lake First Nation  
Conklin Métis  
Ermineskin Cree Nation  
Fort McKay First Nation  
Gift Lake First Nation  
Goodfish Lake First Nation  
Grouard  
Heart Lake First Nation  
Kainai Nation  
Lethbridge - St. Paul school (urban camp)  
Loon River First Nation  
Louis Bull Tribe  
Ma-Me-O Beach  
Montana First Nation  
Paul First Nation  
Peavine Métis Settlement  
Samson Cree Nation  
Tsuut'ina Nation  
Wabasca-Desmarais - St. Theresa

## **British Columbia (8)**

Nadleh Whut'en First Nation  
Nooaitch Indian Band  
Saik'uz First Nation  
Squamish First Nation  
Stellat'en First Nation  
Sumas First Nation  
Takla Lake First Nation  
Wet'suwet'en First Nation

## **New Brunswick (2)**

Oromocto First Nation  
Woodstock First Nation

## **Nova Scotia (2)**

Pictou Landing First Nation  
Sipekne'katik First Nation

## **Nunatsiavut (Newfoundland and Labrador) (5)**

Hopedale  
Makkovik  
Nain  
Postville  
Rigolet

# CAMP LOCATIONS CONTINUED



## Ontario (24)

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 (Urban Camp)  
Kasabonika First Nation  
    Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug/  
Big Trout Lake First Nation  
Longlac (Urban Camp)  
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

## Manitoba (6)

Elmwood/Chalmers  
Red Sucker Lake First Nation  
Sagkeeng First Nation  
Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation  
St. Theresa Point First Nation  
Waywayseecappo First Nation

## Nunavut (3)

Arviat  
Nauyasat  
Taloyoak

## Saskatchewan (3)

Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation  
Okanese First Nation  
Sturgeon Lake First Nation

## Quebec - Eeyou Istchee (9)

Chisasibi  
Eastmain  
Mistissini  
Nemaska  
Oujé-Bougoumou  
Waskaganish  
Waswanipi  
Wemindji  
Whapmagoostui

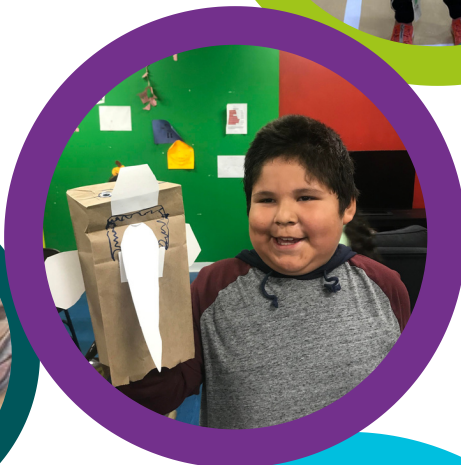


# CAMP LOCATIONS CONTINUED



## Quebec - Nunavik (12)

Aupaluk  
Inukjuak  
Ivujivik  
Kangiqsujuaq  
Kangirsuk  
Kuujuuaq  
Kuujuaraapik  
Puvirnituk  
Quaqtaq  
Salluit  
Tasiujaq  
Umiujaq



**Camp activities  
coast to coast to coast**



# **SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS**

## **IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**



EST. 1899

**United for Literacy**  
**Littératie Ensemble**

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