



Provincial Grant Updates

Orange Shirt Day and Beyond - 2023-24

Educational support organized by ARPDC for Orange Shirt Day and Beyond during the 2023-24 school year began with provincial events tailored for K-12 schools, showcasing Indigenous culture and language. Running from Monday, September 25, to Friday, September 29, each day presented different cultural elements such as Pow Wow and Jigging, Indian Relay Races and Lacrosse, Drumming and Inuit Throat Singing, and Beading & Painting. The week culminated with a focus on Storytelling & Literature. Registration numbers fluctuated between 485 and 522, with live attendance varying each day. Notably, teachers who registered gained access to a recording they could share with their class within 30 days of the broadcast.

This year's overarching theme is the exploration of the significance of language and culture in the reconciliation process. Our ongoing efforts involve editing and subtitling (in French and English) the week's event videos, creating learning activities and resources for educators and students to delve deeper into the cultural elements presented. A subset of resources on our [Empowering the Spirit website](#) will be translated into Indigenous languages, accompanied by a series of provincial learning opportunities offering an "Introduction to..." Indigenous languages. The ultimate aim of this continuous initiative is to foster a heightened appreciation and understanding of language revitalization and culture, emphasizing their integral role in the reconciliation process.

Official Languages in Education Program -

As identified in the 2023/24 OLEP funding commitment form submitted by the ARPDC, two Consultants, working up to 150 days in support of French Language both regionally and provincially, have been hired. Regional work continues to be responsive to emerging regional needs identified through our regional office French Language Advisory committees. Support has focussed on the New Curriculum as it relates to French Immersion work as a subject matter in Math, Science and FILAL, in addition to continuing to build teacher capacity at all grade levels. In addition, Consultants with support from colleagues within School Divisions, have continued the collaborative resource development, (lessons, unit and year planning, instructional activities, and assessment), adding to the French Immersion Resources available on the ARPDC Curriculum Resources website, and New.Learn Alberta Boards.

Indigenous Language in Education Grant -

The Alberta Government and the ARPDC entered into an agreement for ARPDC to host an *Indigenous Language in Education Symposium* in the 2023-2024 school year. This virtual symposium was tentatively scheduled for late January of 2024. The purpose of this invitational symposium is to

- provide professional learning opportunities for educators about Indigenous language resource development;
- highlight the positive partnerships between education stakeholders and Alberta Education;
- elevate the importance of preserving, maintaining, strengthening, and revitalizing Indigenous languages;
- and celebrate the work accomplished through the ILE Grant Program.

This work commenced with a meeting of a working committee in August of 2023. Due to internal restructuring within the department, staff leading this project have just been identified and ARPDC has been informed that the project will likely move to late February or March. As the program details are finalized by the working committee, information will be shared throughout Alberta.

Provincial Curriculum Committee Updates

ARPDC staff and consultants met in Edmonton earlier this fall to confirm the terms of reference and work plans for the 2023/2024 provincial committees. The ARPDC Annual Learning Plan includes a strategic action to strengthen provincial committees to support the implementation of new provincial curricula. As further curricula are announced by the Minister of Education, ARPDC will expand the provincial committees to provide the required support.

The work plans for the current provincial committees are available on the ARPDC website and provide a concise overview of the work planned for the 2023-2024 school year.

- [English Language Arts and Literature \(ELAL\)](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Science](#)
- [French Immersion Language Arts and Literature \(FILAL\)](#)
- [French Language Arts and Literature \(FLAL\)](#)

Systemic Reports

Annual Learning Plan

The ARPDC team has collaborated on the development of the [Annual Learning Plan](#). The plan is built on the three previously approved priorities listed below.

- New Curriculum
- Quality Teaching
- Quality Leadership

A high level summary of the plan was presented to the Provincial Advisory Council and feedback from the committee was integrated into the final version of the plan. The ARPDC team will be seeking approval from the CASS Board of Directors during the December meeting of the Board.

Annual Report

2022-2023 was another very successful year for ARPDC! The efforts of ARPDC were guided by the seven priority areas provided by Alberta Education in 2019: Inclusive Education, Curriculum & Pedagogical Practice, Literacy, Numeracy and Mathematics, First Nation, Métis, and Inuit education , Instructional Leadership, and “Other”. The 2022-2023 year included significant support for piloting and implementation of New Curriculum.

The [Annual Report for ARPDC Operations](#) has been completed and will be presented to the CASS Board of Directors during the December meeting of the Board. Upon approval, the report will be submitted to the Ministry of Education to meet Ministerial expectations for ARPDC reporting.

Curriculum Implementation

ARPDC Website Enhancement

ARPDC continues to focus on the amalgamation of web resources, in English and French, into one provincial collection. Our [New Curriculum website](#) houses all resources created in both languages to support curriculum implementation.

School authorities are invited to contribute to this collection to enhance provincial collaboration.

For those who may be interested in a provincial view of sessions being offered through ARPDC, check out the [Learning Opportunities tab](#) which is searchable by focus, region, month or facilitator and captures all provincially planned sessions in one convenient location.

Leaders who spend a significant amount of time driving may find the [ARPDC Podcast Series](#) of interest. Our recent focus has been on literacy across the curriculum and is available on Spotify, Apple and Google Podcast networks. Our website blog page provides listeners and educators with an episode post with supporting resources and titles.

Operational Updates

ARPDC Rebranding Project

The ARPDC team has been engaged in a rebranding project facilitated by True Market, a marketing firm situated in Calgary. The project is focused on the creation of a [brand message](#) aligned to a renewed provincial orientation for the organization. The project will include a refresh of all ARPDC digital assets, including a new logo, color scheme, and update of www.arpdc.ab.ca. This work aligns with the deliverable pertaining to ARPDC contained within the CASS Strategic Plan for 2023-2024.

The ARPDC Regional Director team looks forward to sharing the renewed Brand Message and potential name change with the Board during the December Board meeting.

Assurance Framework Development

The Assurance Framework Committee, with the leadership of Dr. Gloria Antifaiff, is in the last phase of the framework development process. Feedback on moving from a traditional reporting framework to an assurance reporting framework was gathered through Regional Advisory Committees and the Provincial Advisory Committee. The next phase of the project is to review the proposed survey tool and timeline for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year with the CASS Board. Pending approval, the initial data collection to initiate the framework is scheduled for mid-January 2024.

Communications

ARPDC has established a Communications Committee that has been tasked with the development of a systemic communications plan for the organization. The committee has been tasked with identifying key messages, leveraging communication channels such as newsletters and social media, and clearly defining roles and responsibilities for communication throughout ARPDC. The new plan will be included as part of the March Quarterly Report.

Technology Standardization

The work on standardizing technology practices is well underway. The transition to @arpdc.ab.ca email addresses is nearing completion and will have all regional offices with the exception of CPFPP standardized on the previously mentioned format.

ARPDC has a contract in place with Jordan McIver to fill the role of Technology Manager for ARPDC and CASS. Jordan has been contracting his services to both CASS and ARPDC and is well respected across both organizations. The establishment of a Technology Manager position in the organization will ensure that appropriate security protocols and appropriate documentation of procedures is in place to ensure the stability of services within the organization.

Celebrations

CASS Fall Conference Presentation

ARPDC was privileged to have the opportunity to facilitate a session at the CASS Fall Conference that highlighted the collaboration between school authorities and ARPDC in supporting a problem of practice. The session provided each school authority with the opportunity to share their problem of practice, describe their approach to solving the problem and speak about how ARPDC staff were supportive in their work. The session was a wonderful example of the importance of relationships established through regional offices and the benefits of collaborating with ARPDC to support the key work within school authorities.

Impact

During the 2022-2023 year ARPDC provided 3,841 sessions to 132,720 participants for a total of 349,155 learning hours. The ARPDC would like to thank school authorities for their willingness to partner with ARPDC on achieving their goals for teacher and staff professional learning. Without the relationships that have been built through regional offices this magnitude of impact would simply not be possible.

