



## **Provincial Grant Updates**

### **Orange Shirt Day and Beyond - 2023-24**

Resources showcasing the September online event have been created and will be added to the [Orange Shirt Day and Beyond pages](#) of the Empowering the Spirit website throughout February. Teachers can access each day's demonstration videos, Elder commentary, and learning guides to support classroom lesson planning.

Consultations with the provincial Elder's Partner Circle are ongoing. We gather virtually to share and discuss the progress of project work and brainstorm potential next steps in our reconciliation work. The main focus of work moving forward this school year will be to support teachers in their reconciliation journey by adding and promoting resources developed in 2021-22 and 2022-23 on the [Empowering the Spirit website](#), including:

- the addition of the Sept 2023 online event videos and learning guides in both English and French
- translating a variety of current resources into multiple Indigenous languages, including the potential for Cree, Michif, Blackfoot, Dene, and/or Stoney Nakoda languages,
- Providing a series of virtual learning opportunities and accompanying resources that introduce teachers to various indigenous language learning, including the potential for "Conversational Cree," "Conversational Blackfoot," "Conversational Stoney Nakoda," "Conversational Dene" and "Conversational Michif" dependent on elder/language teacher availability.

The ultimate aim of these endeavours 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 -**

With ratification in October 2023 of the [Canada-Alberta Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction 2023-24: Provisional Arrangements](#) and submission/approval of our ARPDC 2023 OLEP Report Form and 23/24 OLEP Commitment Form, our first payment (80%) of current school year funding was received in December. Provincial Committee work continues with creating new curriculum resources for French Immersion educators in FILAL, Science, and Math. These resources have been posted to the Boards application in new.learnalberta.ca with 37 Boards posted to date. In addition, to bolster feedback gathered from the field by provincial curriculum committee members, our two ARPDC French Immersion consultants have been charged with taking a more active role in the six regional French Language Advisory Committees to enhance two-way communications with our school divisions across the province. It is hoped that this will result in greater sharing of the resources created as well as identification of emerging regional needs.

## **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 2024.

In early February, CASS and ARPDC were informed that the First Nations, Metis and Inuit Division determined that due to a number of internal circumstances that were not anticipated, they reached a point where the intent of the grant had passed and requested that the Grant be concluded and the funds returned. The First Nations, Metis and Inuit Division expressed their gratitude for their relationship with CASS and ARPDC and look forward to working together in the future.

## **Provincial Curriculum Committee Updates**

### **ELAL**

Work Plan: [English Language Arts and Literature \(ELAL\)](#)

English Language Arts has continued to operationalize our work plan over the course of this quarter, developing a series of sessions presented and subsequently edited for posting as summary on-demand access on the curriculum website and our YouTube channel.

This includes work addressing:

- Grade 4-6 Conventions
- Single Point Rubrics
- Good Practices in Writing Series covers elements of working with Mentor Texts, Finding Inspiration, “What does the Writing Block Look Like?” and Shared Writing.
- Revising Written Work Series
- The Literacy Across the Curriculum Podcast has continued with regular episodes exposing Alberta teachers to authors, presenters, and resources supporting their classroom work. We had 1163 listens from Dec 1 - Feb 15.
- Development of Boards by the ELAL team on the Alberta Curriculum website has begun. We are also incorporating Board creation conversation in sessions on an ongoing basis.

In addition, the series Morphology Monday has been captured in a condensed form as a playlist on the ARPDC YouTube Channel, which is being customized for ease of use with featured areas for all subjects and playlists.

### **Mathematics**

Work Plan: [Mathematics](#)

The provincial Math team has been very busy these past few months offering support for teachers. These have included:

- English live & online “Gr 4-6 Curriculum Concepts” sessions with French Language sessions continuing into March. Recordings from these sessions are being reviewed and edited to capture On-Demand learning videos to be posted on YouTube.
- Combined grade planning sessions continue, focusing on developing split grade year plans.
- Gr 4.6 resource development and K-3 resource support is progressing with the completion of the [Math Assessment and Support Tools](#), the English Resources to Support the Teaching and Learning of Math Verbs [Gr. 4-6](#) and [K-3](#), with French versions in draft, as well as updates and completion to various K-6 Curriculum Planning & Assessment Resources (CPAR) documents on the <https://arpdc.ab.ca/new-curriculum-resources/> site.
- The team has been working with teachers to use and build Boards on New Learn Alberta and have published the ARPDC Tool Kits on NLA as models for teacher consideration. Additionally, work has been completed to weave Indigenous Ways of Knowing into New Curriculum Classroom Planning with Math exemplars.

This enthusiastic team continues to explore opportunities to support provincial Mathematics implementation meetings virtually each month to review and fine-tune the approach.

## Science

Work Plan: [Science](#)

In keeping with the work plan [Science](#), provincial curriculum committee members have been focused on the creation of resources and professional learning sessions to support the implementation of the K-3 curriculum. In addition, professional learning sessions have been offered to support those schools piloting the draft Science 4-6 curriculum. Virtual meetings are held monthly to review the work plan status and address emerging workflow concerns. Increasing awareness of and communication about the resources already available on the ARPDC website has been noted as an area requiring attention.

Highlights include:

- Introduction to [Earth Systems](#) K-6 and [Energy](#) K-6 Sessions completed with videos and accompanying slide decks are now available on the ARPDC new curriculum resources site. Introduction to Space Science 4-6 sessions are scheduled for February.
- [Curriculum Planning & Assessment Resource \(CPAR\)](#) documents for Living Systems Gr 1-3 are now posted. CPAR Energy, Earth Systems and Matter documents are being finalized for K-3 before posting to the new curriculum resources site. [Planning Guides](#) for “Integration of Scientific Methods” are also now available. The creation and publication of this completed work in Boards on New Learn Alberta is now the focus.
- An [Assessment Series](#) is in progress, offering participants support in drawing out evidence of student learning in innovative ways using content examples taken from the organizing ideas of the new Science curriculum.
- Parallel supports (for example: [progressions](#) des concepts en science M à 6) are being developed for our French Immersion colleagues, with resources available on both the ARPDC resources site and NEW Learn Alberta Boards.

## **FILAL & FLAL**

Work Plan: [French Immersion Language Arts and Literature/French Language Arts and Literature](#)

The work plan to meet the needs of both FILAL and FLPL curriculum implementation was reviewed and adapted in early January. Moving forward, ARPDC members will continue to consult with Immersion partners who requested to join our committee for FILAL. In addition, we are working towards greater regional consultation through our ARPDC French Immersion Consultants, who are reaching out to every consortia region to establish a communication and feedback loop. Our ARPDC French Immersion Consultants will also participate in the work of the Francophone committee that includes representatives from our four Francophone School Districts for FLPL. This committee structure will ensure that we are sharing and collaborating when it makes sense while respecting the differences in the Francophone and Immersion program of studies.

Current and ongoing work includes the posting of approximately 70 Boards on NewLearn Alberta, 50 for K-3 and 20 for 4-6. Consultants have also presented sessions regionally and provincially to support oral communication, reading, and writing in the new programs of studies. An upcoming highlight will be a 2-day Institute - [Formation Approfondie en lecture et écriture interactives enrichies m à 3](#) offered April 22nd and 23rd, with sites in Bonnyville, Grand Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, and Lethbridge.

### ***Systemic Reports***

#### **Annual Learning Plan**

The ARPDC [Annual Learning Plan](#) was approved by the CASS Board of Directors at the December meeting. ARPDC has begun to gather data for the creation of a new three-year strategic plan, which will be completed by June 30, 2024.

#### **Annual Report**

The [Annual Report for ARPDC Operations](#) was approved by the CASS Board of Directors during their December meeting. The Annual Report and consolidated financial statements have also been submitted to the Ministry of Education.

### ***Curriculum Implementation***

#### **ARPDC Website**

All provincially available sessions are easily accessible through the [www.arpdc.ab.ca](http://www.arpdc.ab.ca) website. Click on the Learning Opportunities tab right next to our New Curriculum Resources tab.

ARPDC is committed to opening learning opportunities to all educators wherever possible, regardless of where they live in Alberta. Sessions offered by our team of “Designers of Professional Learning”

are offered free of charge. Online sessions involving presenters external to our organization are offered at a minor cost, subsidized by our operating funds, all to bring teachers the best learning opportunities available. In-person sessions may be open to others outside of a region or partnering School Authority when space is available.

**Some of the provincially available external presenter sessions or series of sessions upcoming Feb - Early May include:**

[16th Annual Autism Conference](#) | [Nawal Qarooni presenting: Cultivating Nourishing Caregiver Collaborations: Growing Community with Multilingual Learners and their Families](#) | [Dr. Ron Ritchhart - Cultures of Thinking Fellows Series](#) | [Dr. Peter Liljedahl - Who Teachers the Teachers](#) | [Karen Filewych - How Do I Get Them to Write and Write Well](#) | [Alberta Rural Education Conference 2024 \(ARPCD registration support and partner\)](#) | [John SanGiovanni - Mathematics Fluency-Adding & Subtracting Fractions & Decimals and Multiplying & Dividing Fractions & Decimals](#) | [Trevor Aleo - Language Unbound](#) | [Kyle Webb - Building Thinking Classrooms](#) (In Calgary) | [Cognitive Coaching Seminar multi-day series](#) (In Red Deer) | [John Clarke Adaptive Schools Foundations multi-day](#) (In Red Deer) | [Dr. Dave Carter Principles of Standardized Testing - Level B Assessment](#) |

**Operational Updates**

**ARPCD Rebranding Project**

The CASS Board of Directors approved the ARPCD Rebranding Project at their December meeting. The project has been shared with Ministry of Education officials and was well received.

ARPCD is now waiting for official approval from the Ministry before moving forward with the next steps in actualizing the project.

**Assurance Framework Development**

The Assurance Framework Committee, with the leadership of Dr. Gloria Antifaiff, recently completed the Provincial Survey, gathering responses from 712 stakeholders, with 46 of the responses submitted from the Francophone community. After some preliminary analysis of the results, the following trends have emerged and were shared with the Provincial Advisory Committee during their meeting on February 12th.

**1. Central Office Roles - Preliminary Themes**

| Accolades          | Growing Edges  |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Essential Partners | Identity       |
| Collaborative      | Session Timing |

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Responsive                       | More sessions focused on quality leadership |
| Quality Professional Development |   |
| Provincial Access                |   |

## **2. School-Based - Preliminary Themes**

| <b>Accolades</b>  | <b>Growing Edges</b>   |
|---|--|
| Expressions of appreciation for the programming offered and the provincial access | Greater awareness about ARPDC and local consortiums                    |
| Ease of access online and on demand   | Notion of personalized learning  |
| Free of charge access   | Going to deeper insights and learning at sessions                      |
| Go to sessions for great learning and connecting with others                      | Connecting school/classroom practice to learnings (eg., collaboration) |
| Variety of sessions offered   |  |

Regional Directors will be working with the data over the course of the next few months. Provincial Focus Groups are scheduled for early April, with multiple groups meeting at various times throughout the week.

### **Communications**

The ARPDC Communications Committee, with representation from all regional consortia offices, has created a “draft” Communications plan for ARPDC. The plan is comprehensive, informing communication practices and procedures on matters ranging from promotions to crisis management. The committee still has work to do to finalize the document before it is shared with, and vetted by, Regional Directors.

## **Technology**

The work on standardizing technology practices is well underway. The transition to @arpdc.ab.ca email addresses will be finalized by March 1st and will have all regional offices, with the exception of CPFPP, standardized on the previously mentioned format.

Documentation of key technology infrastructure and procedures is nearing completion, with a target date of March 1st for this key workflow to be completed. This documentation will address issues like redundancy and backup plans should the Technology Manager or other key ARPDC personnel be unavailable to perform their normal organizational function.

The next steps for the Technology Manager are to complete a software audit and propose a solution to amalgamate licensing that will maximize the financial resources of ARPDC. At the same time, maximize security and stability for the organization.

ARPDC has introduced a Technology Committee led by the Executive Director and Technology Manager. The Technology Committee will advise the organization on the standardization of technology tools and procedures within ARPDC. The Technology Committee held its initial meeting on January 13th and will meet monthly for the remainder of the year. A Terms of Reference has been developed for the committee, and a list of discussion topics has been identified.

## ***Celebrations***

### **Ministry of Education Audit**

The Ministry of Education, as part of its mandate as the funding partner for ARPDC, has been conducting an audit of key resources. The audit aims to determine if the resource in question is of high quality and appropriately aligned with the expectations of the new curriculum.

Audit work has been extremely positive to date, with the Ministry staff providing rave reviews for the work done by ARPDC staff and consultants. The Audit findings have been very affirming and have provided much-valued feedback for ARPDC.

### **Impact**

ARPDC continues to be very active in the support of School Authorities in Alberta. Between July 1, 2023, and January 31st, 2024, ARPDC has offered 1784 sessions to 64,000 participants. This data indicates the strong partnerships between the ARPDC and School Authorities across Alberta.