



Provincial Grant Updates

Orange Shirt Day and Beyond - 2023-24

The third year of conditional grant funding for Orange Shirt Day and Beyond commemorating the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation will focus on providing provincial events for K-12 schools that honour the revitalization of Indigenous language and showcase culture through dance, sport, music, and language. The events surrounding Orange Shirt Day 2023 are now [open for registration](#). We will continue, with our partners, to develop and offer follow-up learning opportunities and resources for educators and students throughout the school year. The goal is to enhance their appreciation and understanding of Indigenous language revitalization and culture and their role in reconciliation.

The [Empowering the Spirit website](#) houses all English and French resources generated during the first two years of this grant, including teacher professional development materials like PD Playlists, and classroom resources addressing students' queries about the legacy of residential schooling.

Official Languages in Education Program

ARPDC was able to support a variety of initiatives across the province thanks to the financing granted under the *Official Languages in Education Program* (OLEP). French Immersion pedagogy with an emphasis on oral communication was a focus of much of the support offered in both virtual large group sessions and elbow to elbow coaching opportunities. The first summer institute, which brought together French Immersion and Francophone elementary teachers from across the province, was held this August. More information about this opportunity is described below under the heading of Curriculum Implementation - Summer Institutes. For the 2023-24 school year, we will continue to offer a variety of learning opportunities in an effort to increase teacher retention and support instruction through OLEP supported programs.

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 is 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. As the program details are finalized by the working committee, information will be shared throughout Alberta.

Provincial Curriculum Committee Updates

ARPDC staff and consultants will be gathering in Edmonton from September 6th-8th to confirm the terms of reference and work plans for the 2023/2024 provincial committees. Current ARPDC plans include the establishment of provincial committees to support the implementation of the four new provincial curricula. As further curricula are announced by the Minister of Education, ARPDC will add to the provincial committees to provide the required support.

The ARPDC quarterly report in November will provide the CASS Board with specific details regarding the work plans of the various provincial committees.

Systemic Reports

Annual Learning Plan

The development of the *ARPDC Annual Learning Plan* is nearing completion and will be submitted as part of the November quarterly report for ARPDC. The plan for 2023-2024 is built on the following three priorities approved in June by the CASS Board.

- New Curriculum
- Quality Teaching
- Quality Leadership

Annual Report

The *Annual Report for ARPDC Operations* is due for submission to the Ministry of Education prior to November 30, 2023. The ARPDC Regional Director team is on schedule to have the report completed and available for the CASS Board to review early in the fall of 2023.

Curriculum Implementation

Implementation Toolkits

Provincial committees, established to promote collaboration and the sharing of resources across the province, have created toolkits to support the implementation of new curriculum. The toolkits were released as .pdf documents that contain resources organized around four key themes: Foundational Knowledge, Planning, Assessment, and Resources. The resources contained within the toolkits

reside on the [New Curriculum Resources](#) page of the ARPDC website. In addition to being posted, the Toolkits have also been emailed to school district leads.

Summer Institutes

New Curriculum Institutes

ARPDC hosted two New Curriculum Institutes during the summer. These virtual institutes were held during the **week of July 10th and August 21st**. The institutes, which were scheduled Monday to Thursday mornings each week, included sessions in K-3 FILAL, K-3 Science, 4-6 ELAL, and 4-6 Numeracy and Mathematics. Sessions were structured to allow individuals to attend more than one subject area if interested. These four-day series focused on exploring essential concepts in the curriculum. Throughout the sessions, teachers had the opportunity to delve deeper into the required knowledge, skills, and procedures. They discovered effective strategies, engaged in collaborative planning, and prepared to kick-start their year. Time was spent exploring the New Learn Alberta website, developing student engagement strategies specific to the subject area, and sampling suggested year plans.

The Institutes were well attended with 587 educators attending in July and an additional 661 attending in August. Recordings of these sessions are available at <https://arpdc.ab.ca/new-curriculum-resources/>

Francophone and French Immersion (K-3)

ARPDC offered an in-person Summer Institute in Red Deer from August 16 to 18 for K-3 teachers in Francophone and French Immersion programs. The institute focused on oral communication, with an emphasis on phonology and morphology. The main objective was to initiate collaborative planning and establish a community of support. ARPDC Consultants were available to share resources and offer elbow to elbow coaching for subject integration, specifically for FILAL and FLPL programs, as well as for math, science, and incorporating Aboriginal perspectives.

The institute was such a success that participants have now requested that ARPDC initiate and support a professional community that will engage monthly throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Invitations will be sent out in early September requesting the support of participating school authorities.

Physical Education & Wellness Webinar

ARPDC has partnered with Dr. Greg Wells to provide a webinar on August 29th from 9:00 - 11:00. The webinar will be structured around the Organizing Ideas from the Physical Education and Wellness Curriculum. Dr. Wells will lead educators through the Organizing Ideas and provide participants with suggestions and practical strategies to apply the organizing ideas in their own life circumstances as a way to improve mental health and wellness. School authorities unable to participate in the live event are able to access a recording by simply registering for this no-cost event. Recordings will be accessible until November 30, 2023. As of the writing of this report, over 40 school authorities have

registered for this learning opportunity.

Camp Re-Write

ARPDC partnered with a group of prominent leaders in English Language Arts and Literature across North America to create an Alberta “Campground” for educators to participate in some summer reflection and learning around writing instruction. Asynchronous materials dropped each Monday from June 19 - August 14, 2023. Teachers were also invited to meet as a cohort to explore how the concepts from the series fit within our provincial landscape. In total 66 Alberta educators took advantage of this wonderful learning opportunity.

New Curriculum Website Enhancement

ARPDC continues to focus on the amalgamation of web resources into one provincial collection. The New Curriculum website will house all resources created in support of curriculum implementation within the province. School authorities are invited to contribute to this collection to enhance provincial collaboration. ARPDC created resources will be linked to New Learn Alberta through the creation of Boards pointing to resources housed on the New Curriculum Website.

Operational Updates

ARPDC Rebranding Project

ARPDC has initiated a rebranding project that is being facilitated by True Market, a marketing company 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 to engage the CASS Board in the fall of 2023 on the work that has been done to date and to gather feedback and suggestions on future actions.

Assurance Framework Development

The Assurance Framework Committee, with the leadership of Dr. Gloria Antifaiff, is now entering the last phase of the 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 select a tool for the collection of data and to begin building awareness with school authorities on the timelines for the 2023-2024 school year. The initial data collection to initiate the framework is scheduled for January 2024.

Human Resources

ARPDC welcomed two new Regional Directors to begin the 2023-2024 school year. Diana White will assume the position of Director for the Central Alberta Regional Consortium (CARC). Diana comes to ARPDC from the Battle River school division and has an extensive background in K-12 education. Brent Thomas will assume the role of Director for the Learning Network Educational Services consortium in North Eastern Alberta. Brent comes to ARPDC from Lloydminster Public School Division where he served as a key member of their division leadership team. Brent, like Diana, also brings an extensive background in K-12 system leadership.

Technology Standardization

The transition to a provincial orientation for ARPDC has led to an identified need to centralize and standardize technology practices. This work is well underway with most regions moving to standardized @arpdc.ab.ca email addresses and the development of technology policies to ensure adequate security and access are in place for all users within the organization.

Celebrations

Curriculum Implementation

As we begin the transition to a new school year, the ARPDC has much to celebrate about the support provided to educators through the summer months. Over 5000 educators accessed professional learning supported through provincial collaboration by ARPDC. In addition to the above mentioned numbers, ARPDC consultants are collaborating in supporting professional learning designed collaboratively with school authorities as part of their back to school plans.

Relationships

ARPDC continues to invest in and refine the relationships that are essential in ensuring we accomplish our goal of activating a provincial professional learning network in support of Alberta teachers. One of those key relationships is with the Ministry of Education. ARPDC is excited to have the Ministry attending the ARPDC Fall Retreat to provide greetings, celebrate past success' and share about their goals for 2023-2024.