

Prince Albert Literacy Network (PALN) May 19, 2018

Mission Statement: The Prince Albert Literacy Network supports literacy in our area.

Funding and Governance: PALN is non-governmental community-based agency governed by a volunteer board of concerned citizens and funded solely by grants and donations.

History:

- beginning in 1988, concerned citizens met monthly to discuss adult literacy needs and issues, to plan events and to advocate for adult learners
- in 1998 the Family Literacy Coordinator position was established to address the identified gap
- in 2011, PALN provided volunteer tutors for a community project with low literacy learners. The project won the National ABC Literacy Award. At that same time, a community needs survey revealed gaps in adult literacy training, plus a large demand for accessible literacy support
- in 2012, Tutor Learner Connections was set up to include free tutoring for adults struggling with low literacy
- currently PALN has offered, solely or in partnership, a variety of short term, literacy-based programs or projects as needed in the community
- the Family Literacy and Tutor Learner Connections programs remain our primary focus

Family Literacy (FL)

Mandate:

to promote and support all aspects of literacy for families in the community by providing training, programming and resources for age appropriate activities and learning opportunities

Family Literacy Training & Resources

- Introduction to Family Literacy
- Family Literacy Facilitator Training
- Storysack & Resource Lending Library
- Aboriginal content Storysacks
- 2 Family Literacy kits
- Family-themed Activity Units

Short-term programs/projects include:

- School & Community Literacy Events
- Read, Move, Share!
- Come Read with Me
- Alphabet Soup
- Alphabet Soup in Motion

Unique Qualities of the Family Literacy Program

- No cost to participate in any activities
- Quality Story Books provided for Family Literacy programs at no cost based on availability and needs of the host program
- Programs are flexible and can be modified to meet the needs of the participants such as cultural content or Teen Parent in-school programming during lunch hour

Adult Literacy (AL)

Mandate:

to promote and support all aspects of literacy for adults in the community by training volunteer tutors, assessing the needs of the learner and matching them up with tutors based on culture, education and interests

Tutor Learner Connections

- Learner Assessment
- Learner matched to volunteer tutor
- Tutor orientation to learner's needs
- Tutor training session
- Tutor Resource Library
- Tutor Weekly Support Drop-In Day

Short-term programs/projects include:

- Financial Literacy
- Tenancy Workshops and Binder
- Early Childhood Education Support Program
- Security Officer Support Program

Unique Qualities of Tutor Learner Connections Program

- No cost for services, assessments or resources
- Tutors receive a resource bag complete with a variety of supplies for learning activities
- Pairing of tutors and learners considers cultural and religious aspects
- Individual learning plan based on learner's need and personal goals, rather than a standardized approach
- Learning is hands on and tied to learner's life experiences, work, school and childcare schedules
- Tutors and learners commit to a minimum of one session each week