



## International Literacy Day September 8

This year marks the 60th anniversary of International Literacy Day. Since 1967, UNESCO has held celebrations around the world on September 8<sup>th</sup> as a reminder that literacy is a fundamental human right and a recognition that a literate society is one that is equitable, harmonious and resilient.

On this day, we are also reminded that there continues to be a lack of basic literacy skills among youth and adults worldwide. In 2024, 739 million youth and adults lacked basic literacy skills and 4 in 10 children were not reaching minimum proficiency in reading. Prince Albert is not an island and we see these statistics reflected in our own community. However, we know that through advocacy and diligence, progress can be made to improve literacy for those around us.



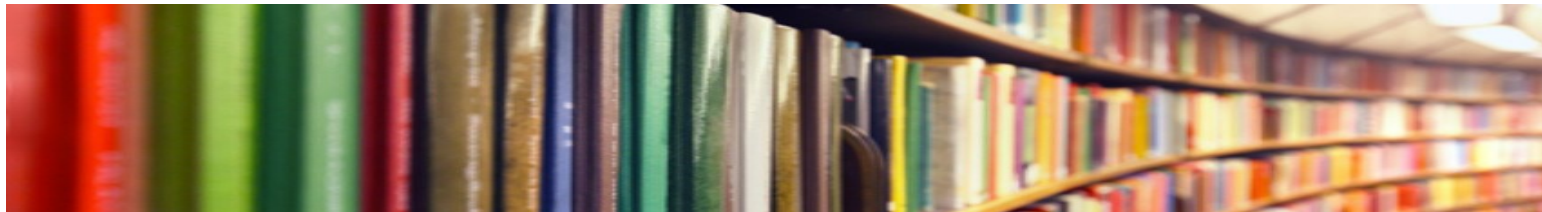
Prince Albert Literacy Network celebrated International Literacy Day, alongside the world, at the Farmers' Market. Despite the chill in the air and the threat of rain, we gave away books and balloon animals, as is our tradition. We had many conversations with kids, parents, dogs and Mayor Powalinsky. Thank you for the warm welcome and the opportunity to talk about literacy and our services.



## Did You Know? We Have a Lending Library!

We have a free lending library that is bursting at the seams. Just like the public library, we lend our resources to families, programs, schools, and daycares. Storysacks are the most popular lending items and, with nearly 90 storysack titles to choose from, you'll have your story times covered for the winter!

All storysacks contain the title book, a nonfiction companion book, a game or activity, and the characters and props which appear in the story. Our lending library also contains several literacy kits and story walks for large group events, a family financial literacy kit, and themed book kits. Please stop by or visit our website to see what we have available for you to explore!



## Financial Literacy Funding



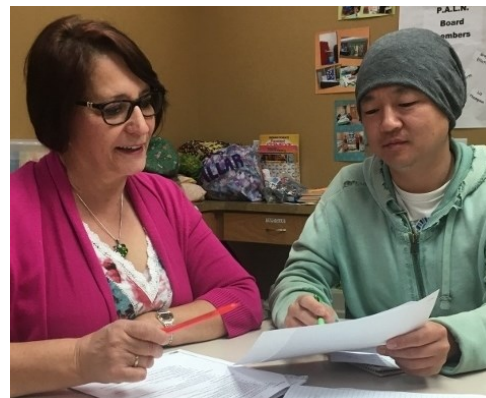
Lately, we have been hearing about, and experiencing, the rise in the cost of living. We know that many are feeling the financial pinch when buying groceries and gas and paying for rent, utilities and insurance. It's never been more important to pay close attention to our income, expenses and savings. Learning how to manage your budget, how to work with a financial institution, and plan for your future are valuable life skills which require attention and practice in order to reach a level of personal financial well-being.

Owing to the generosity of the Conexus Credit Union's Community Investment program, PALN will continue to deliver financial literacy workshops, at no cost, to our partnering organizations. So, we would like to extend the heartiest of thanks to Conexus Credit Union for their continued support and recognize them for being a steadfast and positive partner!

## Making a Difference in Your Community

For one hour each week, you can be a tutor for an adult learner who wishes to improve their basic literacy skills. What does tutoring look like? It may be a casual conversation while walking in a park. It may be explaining the meaning of bunnyhug or pothole. Tutoring might also involve reading recipes or job postings, learning the order of words in a sentence, or helping with basic math skills. What may be straightforward to us, is challenging for those learning English as an additional language or for those who may have gaps in their reading, writing or math skills.

Your skills are valuable and in high demand! Do you have one hour a week of free time? Do you enjoy helping and teaching others? Perhaps tutoring an adult learner is something you would like to explore. Tutor training, ongoing guidance and quality resources are provided. If you are interested, we would be happy to provide you with more information and welcome you to our team.



There is more than one way to volunteer your time and skills with PALN. If you would like to volunteer with us in another way, please visit **[www.princealbertliteracy.ca](http://www.princealbertliteracy.ca)** and select the volunteer tab, or feel free to drop in. Old-fashioned phone calls are a great way to reach us too!

**"The intelligent way to be selfish is to work for the welfare of others."**

--- Dalai Lama

