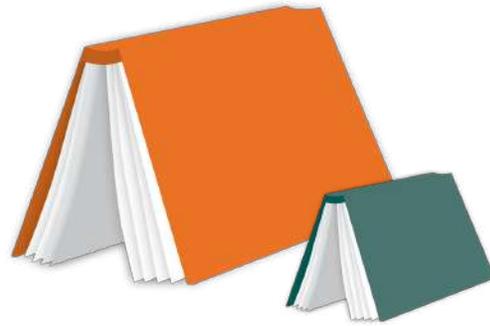


# SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

2022 Report  
Prepared by Frontier College



Sturgeon Lake  
First Nation



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**Frontier College's vision, shared by our community partners, is that camp programming strengthens a year-round culture of literacy and learning in Indigenous communities and is the inspiration for community-led education partnerships.**



Literacy:  
Learning for Life.  
L'alphabétisation,  
Une leçon pour la vie.



**Frontier College acknowledges TD Bank Group as lead national sponsor of this program.**

# WHY CAMP MATTERS

Literacy changes everything! At Frontier College, we believe that developing reading, writing, and math skills is a steppingstone to success. Since 2005, Frontier College has partnered with Indigenous communities to offer Summer Literacy Camps that get kids reading—and keep them learning and having fun!—throughout the summer months. The goals of Summer Literacy Camp are to:



**Promote  
a love of  
reading**



**Prevent summer learning  
loss, which is the decline in  
student performance  
between school years**

Summer Literacy Camps support individual learners as well as entire communities, creating opportunities for collective learning and community-wide benefit:

- ✓ Local youth and adults who are hired as camp counsellors gain valuable, paid work experience.
- ✓ Families, community members, and Elders who participate in camp activities can share their knowledge and increase their feelings of involvement in their children's education.
- ✓ Communities experience positive economic impact through wages to local staff, honoraria to members of the community, and the purchase of materials, food, and services.

Education is a key part of Reconciliation, and a focus of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.<sup>1</sup> With this knowledge guiding our approach to partnership, Frontier College is honoured and humbled to be welcomed into Sturgeon Lake First Nation as program partners and guests.

This year, His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, visited Summer Literacy Camp in Sturgeon Lake. His Honour's time at camp highlighted the value of Summer Literacy Camp for Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan. As a non-Indigenous-led organization, Frontier College's learning continues, and we are grateful to Sturgeon Lake for their partnership.



**Left and center: His Honour reading to campers; Right: Chief Christine Longjohn (far left),  
Camp Coordinator Rachel Gray, Her Honour Donna Mirasty,  
His Honour, The Honourable Russ Mirasty, Frontier College Board Chair Anne Parker (far right)**

# IMPACT: CAMP IN NUMBERS

We are very proud of what the strong partnership between Sturgeon Lake First Nation and Frontier College has allowed us to accomplish. In 2022, Summer Literacy Camps in Sturgeon Lake:

- Reached **72 campers**, including **21 returning campers**
- Welcomed **11 guest presenters, 10 parents and caregivers, and 28 community members** as guests of the camp
- Distributed **228 high-quality, brand-new books**, including books by Indigenous authors so campers can continue to build their own home libraries
- Hosted **15 special events, field trips, and community events** as part of camp programming
- Implemented **37 science activities** in partnership with "**Let's Talk Science**"



**Story-telling puppet show**



**Outdoor play-time**



**Dance break!**

Fun and engaging day camp activities included daily reading and literacy games, science experiments, field trips to local points of interest, visits from Elders and community members, scavenger hunts—and more! In Sturgeon Lake, highlights of camp activities this year included:

- **An interactive puppet show story-time**
- **Visits to local parks and water playgrounds**
- **A bowling tournament**
- **Movie day at a local movie theatre**
- **Nature walks and plant-gathering activities**
- **Community reading days**
- **Science experiments in partnership with "Let's Talk Science"**

# IMPACT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Evaluating the impact of Summer Literacy Camp is an important part of program design and planning. To better understand the outcomes of our programs in 2022, we surveyed children, parents, and community members in Sturgeon Lake. Here's what we heard:

## What kids said:

- "Are we going to have literacy camp again next year? Yay!"
- "I liked doing the Mentos challenge!"

## Surveys also showed that after attending camp:

- **100%** of campers said they liked or sometimes liked to read
- **84%** of campers said they were more interested in reading
- **100%** of campers said they liked math and 95% said they liked or sometimes liked science

## What parents and caregivers said:

- "My daughter came home and said she had such a wonderful day. **Thank you, Literacy Camp!**"
- "**Awesome job!!!** My granddaughter had such a blast... Thank you all so much!"
- "Awesome job teachers, **my grandkids loved it!**"

## What community partners said:

- "I am **so happy** things were able to come together. The past three years, the **camp has provided a reprieve for our children** in the clutches of COVID. We are also seeing the residual benefits of having our students have this kind of opportunity to help **combat that "summer loss"** .... We are thankful for our partnership and your support."



Building and learning



Outdoor arts and crafts



Crafting storybooks

# CAPACITY BUILDING: FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Summer Literacy Camps would not be possible without the dedication of local staff members. Hiring local camp staff allows Frontier College to support community capacity building and provide training to people who can sustain literacy programming in the long term. Part of Frontier College's goal is to operate Summer Literacy Camps in a way that builds local capacity, so that communities are fully equipped to continue camp into the future.



**From left to right: Grace McKenzie, Haley Bighead, Stacey Bighead, Jolene Peters, Kathy Robertson**

In Sturgeon Lake, we were proud to work with ten dedicated staff members and counsellors to ensure that Camp was a success. Here is what camp counsellors working across Saskatchewan said about their experiences at Summer Literacy Camp:

- **93%** said that camp provided them with a **positive work experience**
- **80%** said that camp provided an **enriching learning experience for campers**
- **87%** said that camp helped campers **strengthen their confidence and self-esteem**

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

## Summer Literacy Camp

My Daughter attended the Literacy Camp out in Sturgeon Lake this Summer.

It was very fun, and she enjoyed it she said. (She knows how I'm counting down the days for school lol).

She was excited to wake up every morning to attend, and even brought home a couple prizes for good behaviour and most books read. 😊

She enjoyed reading books and the cultural teachings and outings.

As a parent it made me very ecstatic to see my child wake up early every day ready to attend and learn something new.

Big thank you to all those who made this program happen/successful.

Amber D

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

## Summer Literacy Camp 2022

My son and daughter have been in this Camp going on their 3rd year now and they sure enjoyed the Summer program. They both made new friends and it keeps them busy and still learning throughout the 3 weeks.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Kingholder

# CONCLUSION

Literacy really does change everything! In their recent Teacher & Principal School Report, Scholastic has found that 96% of educators believe having year-round access to books at home helps children perform in the classroom.<sup>2</sup> Likewise, 94% of parents and caregivers stated that summer reading helped their children excel during the academic year.<sup>3</sup> When children succeed in school, they develop a positive relationship with learning—a relationship that can have a positive impact for years to come.

At Frontier College, we know that effective learning rarely happens in isolation. Summer Literacy Camps are designed to support both individual learners and entire communities, creating opportunities for collective learning. According to the Harvard University Center on the Developing Child, community learning:

- Connects people;
- Enables knowledge sharing;
- Creates leadership opportunities; and
- Magnifies impact.<sup>4</sup>

To support community learning, Frontier College works exclusively through partnerships with local communities. We could not be more grateful to have had Sturgeon Lake First Nation open their doors to us this summer. Thank you to the learners and families who have welcomed Summer Literacy Camp into their lives. We cannot wait to continue to support you on your literacy journey!



# CITATIONS

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# SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS



Arts  
and Crafts

Outdoor  
Games

Group  
Storytelling

Science  
Experiments



Free Books



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Literacy:  
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,  
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*@frontiercollege*

CONTACT US

EMAIL: [INFORMATION@FRONTIERCOLLEGE.CA](mailto:INFORMATION@FRONTIERCOLLEGE.CA)

CALL: 1-800-555-6523