

ANNUAL REPORT



**Multilingual Association of Regina Inc.
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May 12, 2008

MLAR President's 2008 Report to the Annual General Meeting

The year 2008 marks the 30th anniversary of MLAR. This is the time to reflect back and evaluate our achievements, and as well to look forward into the future. We congratulate our teachers, volunteer board members, and office coordinators, all of whom together make us what we are today.

The other highlight is that 2008 has been chosen as the “Year of International (Heritage) Languages”. MLAR with SOHL recently celebrated an event entitled “Open House” to celebrate the year. The event was well attended by over 350 people. There were Heritage Language School display tables, entertainment, food, and a get together at Balfour Collegiate on April 5, 2008.

Welcome to two new schools: (1) Philippine Language School, and (2) Norwegian Language School. We wish you both the best of futures in teaching heritage languages.

Starting from New Year with all our formed committees, the Professional Development Committee (PDC) started working hard in spite of severe cold weather, and met several times to present the annual workshop for Heritage Language Teachers. MLAR and SOHL jointly presented this workshop entitled “*The Use of Games and Activities to Teach Vocabulary and Language in Heritage Language Schools*”, held on March 28 and 29 2008 at the Travelodge Hotel on South Albert Street. The workshop had a remarkable turnout. The overall evaluations were positive, indicating the success of the event.

Immediately following the above workshop, the RMC Committee began to work planning the annual Teachers' Award Night celebration. As in past years, we will have two categories of awards: one for new teachers (up to 5 years), and one for long-term teachers. Information needed for this event has already gone out to all schools. We wish all teachers good luck and express our appreciation to all heritage language teachers. Please remember the award night date, time and place: May 12th, 2008, starting at 6:30 P.M. at the Travelodge Hotel, South Albert Street, and make it one of your priorities to attend.

With the earlier resignation of MLAR'S volunteer office coordinator Jeanette Pageot, we undertook the process of hiring a new coordinator. There were 28 applicants, and Mr. Emile Carignan was hired in April 2008. Emile brings a wealth of experience to MLAR. Please help me in extending our warmest welcome to Emile. His office hours are 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Monday to Wednesday, plus Friday.

MLAR and SOHL conducted Heritage Language School visitations during the winter semester, and we are planning to continue such visitations.

We urge all Heritage Language Schools to send us their success stories, articles, special celebrations, student and teacher photographs, or whatever you would like to share with everyone through our Newsletter. Next issue will be in August/September 2008. Also, feel free to ask for any help MLAR could provide to your school.

In closing, I would like to thank our funding organizations, supports and partners: SOHL, SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Education, School Boards, RMC, Canadian Heritage, Sask Lotteries, Balfour and Campbell Collegiates. Thanks also to MLAR board and committee members, and to principals and teachers of Heritage Language Schools, parents, students and all volunteers. Last but not least, to Mrs. Jeanette Pageot for providing "service with a smile", and for extending her stay with MLAR until we found a new office coordinator, and again, welcome Emile to MLAR.

Stay safe, and enjoy spring with families and friends

Indu Jaiswal
President, MLAR

Committees 2008

Professional Development Committee (PDC)

Nasim Ahmed - Co-chair
Toshiko Charrier - Co-chair
Raphael Hwang
Ved Arora
Mary Kolitsas
Indu Jaiswal

Regina Multilingual School Committee (RMS)

Ved Arora - Chair
Cornelia T. Graupe - Co-chair
Tito Roman
Girma Sahlu
Indu Jaiswal
Tin Nguyen

Executive Committee

Indu Jaiswal - Chair
Tito Roman
Ved Arora
Girma Sahlu
Senthil Damodharan

Representation of MLAR Board Members on Other Boards and Committees:

SOHL Board

Ved Arora
Mary Kolitsas
Girma Sahlu

SOHL Committees

Special Projects:
Ved Arora, Chair

SMCA Board

Indu Jaiswal - MLAR
Raphael Hwang - MLAR
Ved Arora - MLAR

SOHL's School Visitation

Ved Arora - Chair
Indu Jaiswal

SOHL's Mini Language

Mary Kolitsas
Ved Arora

Professional Development Committee Report 2007-2008

The MLAR Professional Development Committee has been busy providing help to the Heritage Language Teachers in their respective language schools. This included involvement in the annual workshop sponsored jointly by MLAR and SOHL, held on March 28-29 at the Travelodge Hotel. The topic for the workshop was “The Use of Activities and Games to Teach Vocabulary and Language in Schools”.



The workshop facilitator was Cathy Bettschen pictured here. The workshop was very well attended. A total of 35 evaluations of the workshop were submitted by participants. Some of their responses are summarized below:



Respondents by Category	
Number of Volunteers	5
Number of School Coordinators	7
Number of Language Teachers	26
Number of Parents	1
(Some respondents indicated 2 categories)	39

Summary of some Positive Comments:

Presenter was well organized and personable
Lots of activity ideas, great workshop
Good variety of activities, games, very entertaining.
Included material for all ages
Information sharing, actual materials displayed
Many new ideas, clear examples.
Information was presented in an organized fashion.
What I learned will make me more effective in my work.

My objectives for attending this workshop were achieved.
--

The session was the right length for the information.

The session content was appropriate to my teaching level.

Many ways to teach children language with entertainment

Many new ideas, clear examples, wonderful facilitator.
--

Summary of How Workshop could be Improved:

Great workshop - no need to improve

Could have more materials, more presenters
--

Could have more group work, more examples

Could have more games/activities for high school kids

Could have an Adult 1-hour workshop for some
--

Could make use of Powerpoint presentations
--

The Professional Development Committee is planning other opportunities for Heritage Language Teachers to assist them in improving their language teaching skills. Thanks to the committee members for their suggestions and time. Thanks to Jeanette Pageot who is no longer with us. The Committee also welcomes MLAR’s new Office Coordinator, Emile Carignan, and we welcome his help with the Heritage Language Program.

Respectfully submitted

Nasim Ahmed – Co-chair

Toshiko Charnier – Co-chair

Regina Multilingual School Committee Report 2008

The Regina Multilingual School Committee (RMS) promotes the heritage language programs and services of the Multilingual Association Regina through the following methods:

- By meetings with heritage language school teachers;
- Through MLAR's newsletter which is being distributed to all schools;
- Sending information by e-mail;
- Appearing for media interviews related to MLAR's activities and;
- By advertisement in newspapers and media to promote programs

To achieve the above goal, the committee assists member schools to arrange for facilities from the Regina Public School Board to implement their language programs. In the current year, the majority of the schools are conducting classes in Balfour Collegiate and Campbell collegiate. Activities of the committee for the year 2007-08 included the following:

- Organized a Heritage Language School Principal's meeting which is held annually before the start of new school year in September. In 2007 the Principals' meeting was held at the end of August. The purpose of such meetings has been to review school policies and allocate rooms to schools for teaching classes.
- Provided help to new schools interested to start classes in their language.
- Provided orientation to schools to use class rooms and other facilities as per public school policies.
- Organized Volunteer Heritage Language Teachers Award Night, an annual event. In 2008 the Award Night is set for May 12 at the Regina Travelodge Hotel, South Albert Street. This is an evening hosted by the MLAR Board for member schools to recognize and honor teachers who have dedicated their precious time to maintain their culture. Last year's winners were Herbert Chu (Regina School of Chinese Studies), and Sudha Srinivas (Hindi School), and Fay Kanellopoulos (Greek Language School). Since last year the Board created two categories of Awards to recognize teachers from MLAR member schools.

This year RMS Committee members are: Ved Arora (Chair), Cornelia Taschow-Graupe (Co-Chair), Tito Roman, Tin Nguyen, Indu Jaiswal, Girma sahlu and Emile Carignan Office Coordinator. The committee wishes to thank every one for their help and cooperation to organize this program.

Respectfully Submitted

Ved Arora, Chair

RMS Committee

Treasurer's Report

During the year, the Treasurer met with the Office Coordinator Jeanette Pageot on a regular basis to prepare, review, verify and maintain all incoming and outgoing financial transactions for the organization. Jeanette decided not to continue with MLAR and we have hired Emile Carignan to replace her effective April 1, 2008. He is now responsible for maintaining and updating financial books and records for MLAR. He is also responsible to prepare books for 2007-08 Audits as required by Non-Profit Corporations. This year again Myrna Borth, Top Notch Bookkeeping Services will be auditing our financial records.

The Treasurer is also responsible to review claim forms and monitor income and expenses on a monthly basis, issue cheques for payments, with second officer also responsible for signing cheques. A monthly financial report is e-mailed to board members before every board meeting for their information and input.

The Office Co-coordinator also assists the Treasurer to prepare applications for Annual funding from SaskCulture (global funding), SOHL (membership funding and workshops), and Saskatchewan Education (funding for in-service training and office maintenance) and others as required.

On behalf of the MLAR Board, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Jeanette Pageot for her dedication and hard work as our Office Coordinator. We will miss your work and your beautiful smile in the office, Jeanette. At this time I also would like to welcome Emile Carignan to our office as our new Office Coordinator.

I would also like to acknowledge financial assistance received from various funding agencies as well as from our partners. Special thanks to Myrna Borth our auditor and also the Board of Directors of MLAR for their cooperation and help by taking an active part in managing MLAR's finances for the year 2007-2008.

Respectfully Submitted

Ved Arora, Treasurer

Multilingual Association of Regina
Member Schools, 2007-2008

Afghan - Afghan Language School
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Arabic & Dinka – The Bahr el Ghazal School
Contact: Agwait Majok Principal: Regina Akok
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Cantonese & Mandarin - Regina School of Chinese Studies
Contact: Raphael Hwang
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Cantonese & Mandarin -Chinese Language School of Regina
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Ethiopian or Ahmaaric -Ethiopian School
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French - Alliance Francaise de Regina
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Hungarian - Balaton Hungarian School
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Igbo - Igbo Language and Cultural School
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Italian - G.Marconi Sculola Culturale Italiana
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Japanese – Regina Japanese School
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Japanese -Regina Nippon School
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Persian - Persian Community School
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Punjabi - Punjabi Language School
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Scandinavian Languages School
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Spanish - Regina Salvadorean Association
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Spanish -Salvador Allende Latinamerican
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