



Multilingual Association of Regina

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Indu Jaiswal: President's Message



As reported in previous editions of the MLAR Newsletter, the year 2010 has been an eventful year for many of us.

MLAR and the Heritage Language Programs in Regina have worked well together to ensure that those who want to be able to make it possible for their children

to learn their native language can have access to classroom space at Balfour and Campbell Collegiates, and on special occasions, can also have access to the Auditorium at Balfour to celebrate cultural and historical events that are important to them. I will leave coverage of various 2010 events to other sections of this Newsletter, and will report only on the MLAR AGM held on November 29th. Following are the results of the elections that took place at that event.

MLAR AGM Held November 29, 2010

As a result of elections, the MLAR Board is as follows:

President:	Indu Jaiswal	Re-elected (2 yrs)
Vice President:	Raphael Hwang	Re-elected (2 yrs)
Board Members	Nasim Ahmed	Re-elected (2 yrs)
	Subrato Ghosh	Newly elected (2 yrs)
	Faith Ene	Re-elected (1 yr)
Treasurer	Ved Arora	Continue 2nd year
Secretary	Mary Kolitsas	Continue 2nd year
Board Member	Rebecca Otitoju	Continue 2nd year
Past President	Girma Sahlu	Continuing

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for re-electing me for another 2-year term as President, and promise to continue to work diligently with other members of the MLAR Board and all Heritage Language Schools.

I would also like to congratulate all of the above who were elected on the 29th of November, and to thank the outgoing MLAR Board Members for their dedicated service to the Heritage Language cause. Members of the MLAR Board of Directors following the elections in 2010 are pictured below.



President Indu Jaiswal



Vice President Raphael Hwang



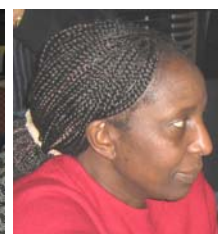
Treasurer Ved Arora



Secretary Mary Kolitsas



Nasim Ahmed



Rebecca Otitoju



Faith Ene



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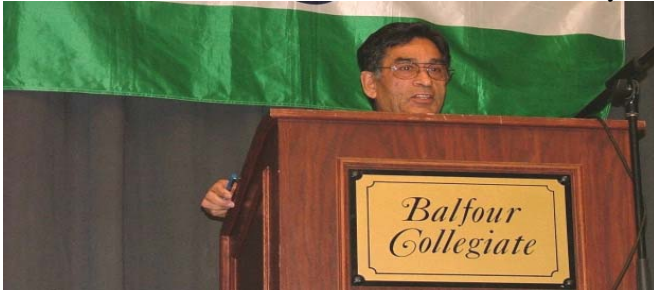
Since this is MLAR's last edition of the Newsletter in 2010, as MLAR President, I would like to wish all MLAR Board Members, School Principals, Teachers, all Volunteers, our MLAR Office Coordinator Emile Carignan, a happy festive season, and the very best in the coming year 2011.

REPORTS FROM LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

The following report and pictures were submitted by Yashu Bitter of the ICA Hindi Language School.

Gandhi Jayanti 2010

This year ICA celebrated Gandhi Jayanti on Saturday October 2nd at Balfour Collegiate Auditorium from 2:00pm to 4:00 PM. It was well attended by over 120 people. Dignitaries from all three levels of government brought greetings on this occasion. Representatives from MLAR and SOHL attended to share this moment with the community.



For this occasion ICA arranged a quiz competition on India-Gandhi that was open to all children in two different categories. It went very well. Thirteen students participated in the India-Gandhi Quiz. Dr. Kamla and Ashok Verma donated for Gandhi Jayanti's quiz competition. ICA is grateful for their continuous support for this cause.

Below are pictures taken at the Gandhi Jayanti 2010 celebrations. We thank all committee members and volunteers for supporting this event. A special thank you goes to Ms. Kavita Ram who was the MC of the event and Mr. Krishan Kapila for leading the quiz competition.



Heritage Language TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

A Heritage Language Teachers' Workshop was held on Saturday November 20th, 2010, sponsored jointly by the Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) and the Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages (SOHL). The workshop topic was "Effective Practices to Motivate Students".



The workshop sessions were very ably coordinated by Bruce Baldwin (pictured above), Superintendent of Instruction and Student Services of the Regina Public School system. Bruce arranged for 3 Language Teachers from the Public School System (pictured below) to demonstrate various techniques whereby Language Teachers could keep their students motivated and involved in the language learning process.



Cambri Haase and Wendy Olson with their presentations.



Kim Kindrakewich involved participants in her presentation

The workshop was well attended by more than 50 participants

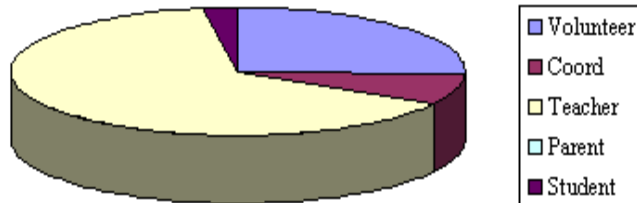


WORKSHOP EVALUATION RESULTS

There were **39 evaluations** of the workshop turned in by participants. Responses were analyzed and the results tabulated below indicate that the workshop was very well received. **More than 50% of evaluation sheets** indicated the highest score of "**Strongly Agree**" on each of the 7 workshop items below. Most of the others marked "**Agree**".

Workshop Evaluation Respondents by Category

Volunteers	Coordinators	Teachers	Parents	Students
10	3	25	0	1



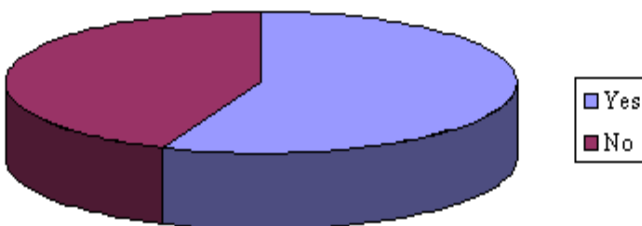
Responses regarding the Workshop Length of Time

Time was about right	Would prefer another time
85%	15%



Responses regarding attended previous workshops

Attended Previous MLAR/SOHL Workshops	Yes = 56%	No = 44%
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Degree of Agreement with the following statements

A. Information was presented in an organized fashion.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A	Total
62%	38%				100%

B. What I learned will make me more effective in my work.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A	Total
56%	36%	8%			100%

C. The session was the right length for the information.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A	Total
51%	46%	3%			100%

D. The content was appropriate to my teaching level.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A	Total
49%	38%	13%			100%

E. My objectives for attending this workshop were achieved.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A	Total
56%	38%	5%			100%

F. The Facilitators presented a stimulating workshop

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A	Total
64%	36%				100%

G. I am interested in attending future MLAR/SOHL workshops.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A	Total
56%	31%	8%		5%	100%

SAMPLING OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION#1: What I Liked about the Workshop

1. Excellent. Thank you for organizing this workshop.
2. Enjoyed learning about ways to make learning fun.
3. Presenters well prepared, organized, good content.
4. All presentations were informative and practical.
5. Many teaching strategies from experienced teachers.
6. All presenters were from the public school system.
7. Several presenters with good focus on subjects presented.
8. All 3 sessions and presenters were excellent.
9. Well organized, good content, good handouts.
10. Tips and strategies from various presenters.

QUESTION#2: How could the workshop be improved?

1. Have a group of kids as live examples to demonstrate.
2. Good enough. No need to improve.
3. Would like more hands-on activities, less lecturing.
4. Allow teachers to share their teaching experiences.

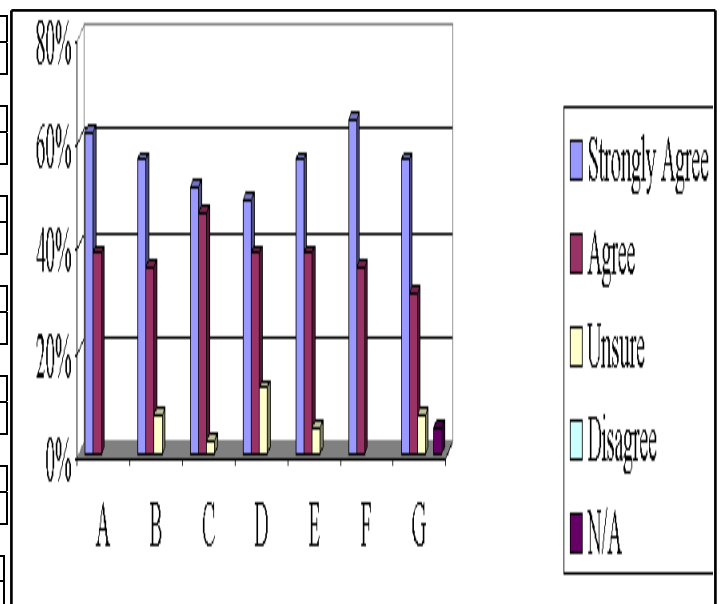
QUESTION#3: YOUR OVERALL EVALUATION?

1. Good Workshop. Keep it up.
2. It was great. Very good information presented.
3. Good environment, good food, lovely atmosphere.
4. Very pleased. Wonderful, informative workshop.
5. Excellent. Thanks to organizers for this event.
6. Presenters very engaging. No improvements needed.
7. Concrete ideas presented, demonstrated. Good handouts.

QUESTION#4: Future topics/themes suggested?

1. More **live examples** with **different age groups**.
2. Computer-assisted teaching.
3. Practices to motivate **OLDER** students.
4. Participation of **parents**.
5. **More hands-on activities** for participants.
6. **Classroom Management**.
7. Could have this theme again and again if possible.

Graphic representation of Agreement Responses



ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER

There are still a few Heritage Language groups who have not yet paid their MLAR membership fee of \$ 20.00 for 2010-2011. It would be appreciated if you took care of this matter soon, or else inform MLAR Office that you will not register for a MLAR Membership this year.

Plans are to have a second Teachers Workshop this year. The topic selected for this workshop is the "European Language Portfolio" which has been recommended by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education as a topic to address. The tentative date planned for this workshop is March 5, 2011. More information will be sent out to all schools early in 2011 as further planning takes place. The Facilitator for the workshop will be Sharon Yuzdepski, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, in charge of Funding for Heritage Language Schools.

The Annual Heritage Language Teachers Award Night is planned for May 9, 2011. All Heritage Language Schools should start early to select nominees for awards, for a New Teacher with less than 5 years of experience teaching a Heritage Language; and a second award for a Long-Term Teacher, 5+ years of Heritage Language teaching experience. Contact MLAR Office for Nomination Forms.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Additional Office Space is available at 2144 Cornwall Street where offices of MLAR and of SOHL are located. If interested please contact MLAR or SOHL Offices, preferably via e-mail MLAR: mlar@accesscomm.ca
SOHL: sohl@sasktel.net

Heritage Language Groups may be interested in applying for GRANTS available from Farm Credit Canada (FCC). To qualify a group must be a non-profit corporation registered with Saskatchewan Justice. If interested, please look at the advertisement they have asked MLAR to include in this Newsletter, and also check their website, as per the information that follows.

Grant\$ Available from Farm Credit Canada (FCC)

Does your Heritage Language Group have a project that needs a boost to make it happen? Farm Credit Canada (FCC) wants to hear from you. The FCC Regina Spirit Fund is a \$ 100,000 fund to support community enhancement projects by charitable and non-profit organizations in Regina. This is FCC's way of giving back to a city where 600 of their over 1,500 employees live and work.

Applications are accepted once every year. The next application period runs from January 10 to February 7, 2011, with the \$ 100,000 awarded in April 2011. Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Each project is evaluated based on its ability to enhance the community. Selected projects could receive up to \$ 25,000 in funding. The FCC Regina Spirit Fund supports a variety of projects that address different needs in the city and enhance the quality of life for people in Regina. For your project to be considered for funding, your organization must be:
- A registered charity, or a non-profit organization that is registered with Saskatchewan Justice (Corporations Branch Corporate Registry), and your project must:
- Enhance the quality of life for people in Regina,
- Be located in the city of Regina,
- You must give recognition to FCC's contribution.

If your project sounds like a fit, visit the FCC website for more information:
www.fccreginaspiritfund.ca

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges funding assistance from the following:

Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages,
Saskatchewan Education,
SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries,
Farm Credit Canada - Regina Spirit Fund.



Saskatchewan Organization
for Heritage Languages



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Education



Farm Credit Canada
Financement agricole Canada

Canada