

# Multilingual Association of Regina

## OCT-DEC 2015 NEWSLETTER



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### President's Message

As we are about to flip our calendars from 2015 to 2016, I feel privileged to once again write this President message. Old Man Winter has finally arrived and I imagine that for the newcomers who have arrived in Canada within the past six months that this is quite a new experience!

2015 has been a great year for the Multilingual Association of Regina. For the most part, the organization has been running on auto-pilot, accomplishing many of the events like our yearly workshop and our Heritage Language Volunteer Teacher Award night with great success. The Award night held in May of 2015 was very successful with about 85 individuals in attendance. We continued the tradition of awarding service pins to volunteer teachers who reached milestones in their volunteerism with their language schools. MLAR will be continuing the service pin awarding at the 2016 event scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

In November of 2015, MLAR hosted its yearly workshop which was presented by Mrs. Danielle Maley. The workshop entitled `Student Centered Language Teaching` was a complete success with a record number of attendees (78) and with Danielle doing a fabulous job of passing along an arsenal of teaching methods, both high tech and low tech to those in attendance.

During the 2014-2015 school year, MLAR was troubled by the number of complaints that we received pertaining to the way classrooms were being treated by our Heritage Language Schools, especially at Balfour Collegiate. We identified a weakness in security and have corrected it with the hiring of a hall monitor who is responsible for unlocking and locking classrooms only when the heritage language teachers have arrived. I am pleased to report that Morgan

Morin, our hall monitor, is doing a fantastic job and that the complaints are down to almost zero at Balfour Collegiate. With all of our excellent programming, I am mildly concerned with the turnout at some of our events, namely the Heritage Language School kick-off meeting as well as the November AGM where MLAR's elections are held.

The kick-off meeting is very important to each school as it outlines the expectations, the do's and the don't's that the schools must abide by. For the AGM, the membership generally turns out to meetings when there are issues or hot topics to be discussed. The membership rarely turns out to complement the board on a job well done so I am assuming that based upon the low turnout at the AGM, that the MLAR Board is doing a great job.

One outcome of the AGM is that the board remains largely unchanged from the previous year. Dr. Fatima Pirbhai-Illich has retired after serving her 2 year term. I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Susan Haacke to the Board as the appointment for 2016-2017.

As many of you know, one of MLAR's past president, Mr. Ved Arora was very ill over the summer. I am pleased to inform everyone that he is now at home, as of Remembrance Day, and is continuing on his journey to recovery. Please think of him in your prayers. One of the most important members of the MLAR community is our Office Coordinator, Emile Carignan. I am proud to have a very good working relationship with Emile and he has promised me that he will remain as the Office Coordinator for the 2016 year as long as his health remains good. MLAR is very lucky to have this motivated, 83 year old gentleman looking after the day to day operation of our organization.

In closing, and in Canadian tradition, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and all the best in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

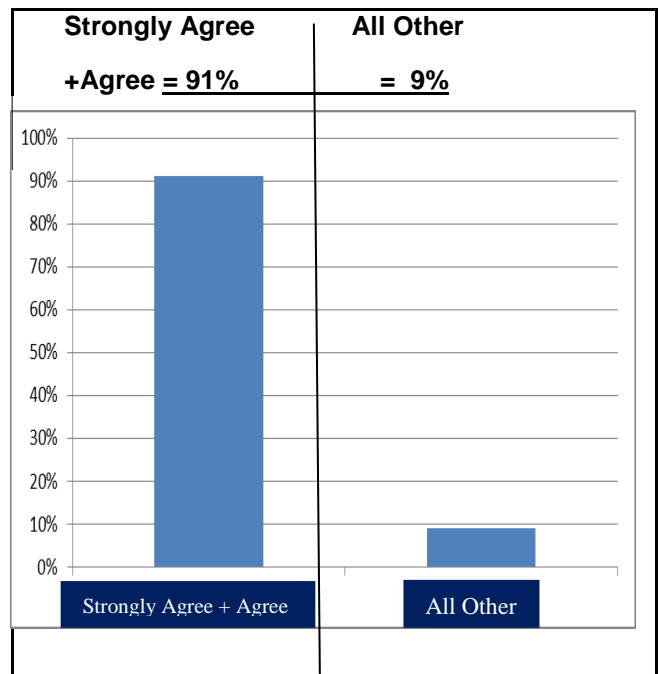
*Dr. J. R. Deskin.*

## Attendance at Teacher Workshop November 7, 2015



On Saturday November 7, 2015 MLAR held its annual teacher workshop for school year 2015-2016. The Facilitator for the workshop, Danielle Maley, a regular Language Teacher with the Regina Public School Division, kept everyone involved as she held a very hands-on

workshop with frequent use of digital technology. She had asked participants to bring their laptop computer, tablet or smart phone to the workshop and she made extensive use of these devices to have teachers access a variety of on-line resources for language teaching. It was the best attended workshop ever with a total school attendance of 72 and 57 evaluations turned in confirming a well-received workshop.



EVALUATION CRITERIA:	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	N/A
A. Information was presented in an organized fashion	58%	40%	2%	0%	0%
B. What I learned will make me more effective in my work	60%	37%	4%	0%	0%
C. The session was the right length for the information presented	42%	49%	5%	4%	0%
D. Session content was appropriate to my teaching level	49%	33%	14%	2%	2%
E. My objectives for attending the workshop were achieved	46%	39%	14%	0%	2%
F. The Facilitator presented a stimulating workshop	60%	30%	11%	0%	0%
G. I am interested in attending future MLAR/SOHL workshops	72%	25%	0%	2%	0%
<b>Average for combined Strongly Agree and Agree = 91%</b>			<b>Average All other: 9%</b>		

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, MLAR's Professional Development Committee held a workshop follow-up meeting to review the results of the Evaluations received, review comments and suggestions included in the evaluation sheets that were received, and start planning for the next Teacher Workshop. At this committee meeting, based on several recommendations on the Evaluation comments, it was decided that the next workshop should focus on Oral Language teaching with less emphasis on reading and writing skills. The topic selected was "**Emphasizing Oral Language Learning**". Two dates were suggested for consideration: November 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 or November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, with a final decision for the workshop date to be arrived once a facilitator can be identified.



MLAR's Annual General Meeting and Elections – November 30, 2015



Jim Leskun  
Continues as **President**



Bob Friedrich  
Continues as  
**Vice President**



Indu Jaiswal  
Continues as  
**Past President**



Iftekher Kahn  
Re-elected as  
**Treasurer**



Damodar Pokhrel  
Re-elected as  
**Secretary**



Chidi Igwe



Raphael Hwang



Jashim Uddin

Continue as Board Members



Susan Haake

Appointed  
Board Member



Stephanie Schaefer

Re-elected as Board Members



Olatundun Adebogun

Photo of those who attended MLAR's AGM on November 30, 2015



From Left to Right: Mohammad Shiddike, Iftekher Kahn, Raphael Hwang, Olatundun Adebogun, Steffanie Schaefer, Zaheed Iftekhar, Bob Friedrich, Susan Haake, Jim Leskun, Mohmmad Chowdhury, Prasanna Shrestha, Damodar Pokhrel, Ben Liu, Jashim Uddin.





Photo of students of Salvadorean Spanish Language School at Balfour Collegiate Submitted in October by the school's Principal Lucia Garcia



Photo of St Paul's Greek Language School Christmas Concert December 2015 - Campbell Collegiate Submitted by Principal Petros Aiginitis

Days Ba;four Not Available 2015-2016

DATE(S)	REASON
December 21 to January 3	Christmas Break
January 16, 17 2016	Basketball Tournament
February 15 to 19	Family Day Holiday
March 25 to April 3	Easter Break
Monday May 23	Victoria Day Holiday

Last Date for classes is June 17, 2016

Days Campbell Not Available 2015-2016

DATE(S)	REASON
December 20- January 3	Christmas Break
Saturday January 19	Basketball Tournament
Saturday February 6	Basketball Tournament
Thursday February 11	Campbell formal dance
February 15 to 19	Family Day Holiday
March 25 – April 3	Easter Break
Monday May 23	Victorial Day Holiday

Last Date for classes is June 17, 2016

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges funding assistance from **SaskCulture Inc., - Saskatchewan Lotteries; Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages; Saskatchewan Education.**



