

---

# Multilingual Association of Regina

## JANUARY-MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

---



2144 Cornwall Street, Regina, SK. S4P 2K7  
Tel: (306) 757-3171 Fax: (306) 757-3172  
E-mail: [mlar@accesscomm.ca](mailto:mlar@accesscomm.ca) Website: [mlar.ca](http://mlar.ca)

Jan.-March 2017  
ISSN 1483-9660

---

### President's Message



We have just welcomed in the spring of 2017 and I trust that all of our Heritage Language Schools have had a good 2016-2017 school year to date.

MLAR has undergone an exciting change during the month of February, 2017 with the move from our old office at 2144 Cornwall Street to the CBC Building, located on Broad Street, just inside Wascana Park.

The move was initiated by the Saskatchewan Multicultural Centre Association (SMCA) with the sale of the Cornwall Street Building. Paying utilities and maintaining a 100 year old property was a significant financial liability for MLAR, as we were one of the two member organizations within SMCA. Regina's City Council had granted the SMCA a tax property abatement in early 2016, which expired in December of 2018, at which time the property taxes would have ballooned to the \$10,000 per year range. Gord Zakreski, the new Executive Director of SOHL, was tasked with the finding of a new home for both SOHL & MLAR.

The new leased office space is very professional and efficient and has resulted in a 30% savings in rent per month from the Cornwall Street location.

The big news in March was the Federal and Provincial budgets and although the Heritage Language community was spared any further cuts (tough to cut funding when there is none!), one of our key stakeholders, the Regina Public School Board, was not as fortunate as they suffered a significant funding cut. We are hoping that this loss of funding will have no bearing on our relationship with them as they provide MLAR with one of the most important

assets of MLAR, classroom space in Balfour and Campbell Collegiate.

To ensure that we maintain a positive relationship with the school board, it is imperative that Heritage Language Schools treat the classrooms at Balfour and Campbell as if they were your own home. We continue to receive complaints from both high schools; this is drawing unwanted negative attention to our programming and even after a good relationship which has lasted several decades, I can't stress enough that with the financial climate within Saskatchewan, many organizations are looking at trimming budgets. If access to the high schools is lost, MLAR may cease to exist. Please ensure that your Heritage Language School isn't the reason for the loss of our privileged use of the classrooms!

It is also that time of year when MLAR is preparing for our annual Heritage Language Volunteer Teacher Award Night which will be held on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at the Travelodge on south Albert Street. Please submit your name if you plan to attend this event (free to all Heritage Language School Teachers, Coordinators & Principals) and also to inform the MLAR office if you or your teachers qualify for a service pin, indicating the number of years of experience. There will be a brief AGM held just prior to the Award Night program so please attend both functions.

In closing, I hope all Heritage Language Schools have a successful conclusion to the 2016-2017 school year and that we see many of you at the Heritage Language Volunteer Teacher Award Night.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Leskun, MLAR President

## International Heritage Language Day 2017 Celebration

UNESCO declares “International Heritage Language Day” each February. To celebrate this day, a special event is organized each year by the Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Language (SOHL). This year SOHL held this event at Campbell Collegiate on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2017. Below are some photos taken that day including photos of special guests who brought greetings. Also included are photos of some of the on-stage performers.



EMCEE for this event was Phil Darlington, host of CTV’s Morning Live.

Several dignitaries brought greetings on behalf of their organizations. This included the following:



Honorable Ralph Goodale, MP Wascana, brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada.



John Findura, Councillor, also VP of the Regina Multicultural Council (RMC), brought greetings from the City of Regina and from Regina’s Multi-Cultural community.

Others who brought greetings included Muhammad Fiaz, MLA Regina Pasqua, Carla Beck, MLA Regina Lakeview, Paul Gingras of SaskCulture, and Chanchal Sethi, VP of Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages (SOHL).

Those in attendance were then entertained by a wide variety of groups representing some of Regina’s multicultural/multilingual community, too many to include photos of all, but below are photos taken of some of the groups that did perform on stage.



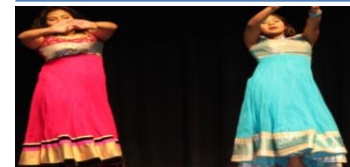
Song presented by the Bangla School of Regina



Dances performed by Natya Sudha Dance Group



Performance by Ridna Shkola Ukrainian School



Dance performed by representatives of the Nepali Bhasha Pathshala School.



Drum/song by Regina Hibiki Taiko Japanese Group



Above, Dance by Ranch Ehrlo Society Powow Club



Dance by members of the Gujarati Language School



Performance by the Confucius Institute Dance Group.



Dance by men of Regina German Club.

All above photos by MLAR Pres. Jim Leskun

## Survey – Expectations of Heritage Language Schools for the future

The significant loss of funding for the teaching of Heritage Languages in Saskatchewan as a result of the discontinuation of financial support from the Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education effective school year 2016-2017 has resulted in the need by the Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages (SOHL) to explore options for the future of this language program.

As part of this initiative, SOHL has undertaken a survey in part to get feedback from Heritage Language Schools to help plan for the future. For Regina-area Language Schools, a special meeting was held at Campbell Collegiate on March 22, 2017 to obtain this feedback so that an objective report can be prepared. The meeting was conducted by Praxis who is conducting this survey and will be submitting a report to SOHL.

Below are photo(s) of the meeting held in the cafeteria at Campbell Collegiate on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Representatives of Regina-area language schools were divided into 3 groups and the responses of each group were recorded on computer for later analysis.



Before the interviews started, Gord Zakreski, Executive Director of SOHL, gave a brief introduction explaining why this survey has been undertaken. He then left the meeting until Praxis had finished interviewing those in attendance as he wanted direction from the schools not from SOHL itself.



The 3 persons standing are each getting responses from the 3 tables that were set up. They recorded responses on computer for later analysis.

[Above, photo of “Table 1” in foreground.]

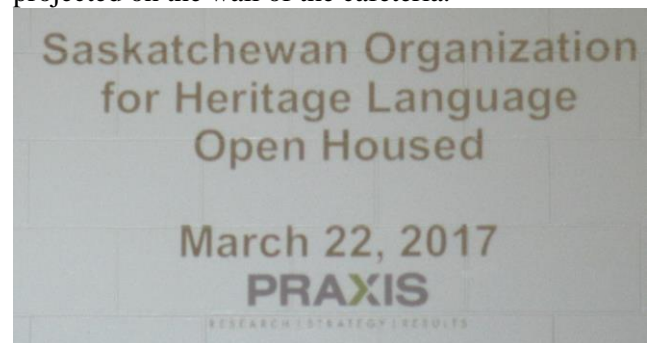


Photo of those interviewed as “group 2”.



Photo of those interviewed on “group 3” (I think the person on the right is Didace of the Kirundi school! Sorry Didace for cutting part of you off in this photo!)

Prior to the start of the interviewing process that took place with 3 different groups, the sign below was projected on the wall of the cafeteria.



Praxis will be conducting similar interviews of language schools teaching in Saskatoon and will submit a summary report and recommendations to SOHL based on the analysis of the responses received from MLAR plus members of Regina and Saskatoon language schools. Once this report is received, SOHL will review the report and there will be a follow up by SOHL with Heritage Language Schools.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MLAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MLAR will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Heritage Language Teacher Award Night on MAY 1, 2017 at the Travelodge, Albert Street South, with registration starting at 6:00 pm, and the reports to the membership which will include a report on MLAR'S audited financial statements for the full fiscal year 2016-2017 starting at 6:30 pm. MLAR language school representatives are asked to please come early and attend this meeting at which time the printed Annual Report will be presented.

### LANGUAGE TEACHERS AWARD NIGHT

MLAR sponsors a Heritage Language Teachers' Award Night annually to give some recognition to the dedicated work of its many volunteer heritage language teachers. This year this will be held on May 1, starting at 7:00 pm at the Travelodge on Albert Street South. Awards will be based on the number of years of experience teaching a heritage language. A bronze pin will be awarded for 3 to 4 years of teaching. A Silver pin will be awarded for 5 to 9 year of teaching experience. A Gold pin will be awarded for 10 or more years of teaching experience. The evening will also include some on-stage cultural entertainment as well as a sumptuous buffet. There is no registration fee for all active heritage language teachers and principals. It is important that all persons who pre-register actually attend as MLAR must guarantee payment for a fixed number for the buffet at least 3 days before May 1st. If anyone who has pre-registered is unable to attend, please ensure that MLAR office is so notified by email at [mlar@accesscomm.ca](mailto:mlar@accesscomm.ca) to help avoid overpayment to the Travelodge.

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges **funding assistance** from **SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, (SOHL)**  
**FCC Regina Spirit Fund 2017 \$ 5,000 Donation**

### Dates CAMPBELL NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Campbell Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage Language School Usage for the balance of the 2016-2017 school year as follows:

April 14 to April 21 (Good Friday, Easter Monday)  
Thursday May 4 (School dance)  
May 22, 2017 (Victoria Day holiday)

LAST SCHOOL DAY: June 28, 2017  
Campbell not available during Summer Holidays

### Dates BALFOUR NOT AVAILABLE

A reminder that **Balfour Collegiate** will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for Heritage classes as follows for the balance of the 2016-2017 school year as follows:

April 14 to April 21 (Good Friday, Easter Monday)  
May 22, 2017 (Victoria Day holiday)

LAST SCHOOL DAY: June 28, 2017  
Balfour not available during Summer Holidays



Saskatchewan Organization  
for Heritage Languages