



Provincial Grant Updates

Orange Shirt Day and Beyond - 2022-23

The focus of the second year of the grant for Orange Shirt Day and Beyond was to build on the foundational understanding and the history of residential schools, to create a deeper appreciation for the on-going impact of the legacy borne from the residential schooling system. A live-stream of the story of Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman's experience in residential school was shared in a multidisciplinary performance titled *New Blood* to honor the 2022 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. In addition to having *New Blood*, with accompanying lesson plans (in French and English) available on-demand for all schools in the province, ARPDC hosted a live-stream of the recorded performance on Sept. 29, 2022 followed by a panel of Elders and Knowledge Keepers, including Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman, himself.

During the remainder of the program year, ARPDC provided both provincial and regional learning opportunities for educators across the province to engage with the resources created in the previous grant year. Learning opportunities were created to support teachers in embedding these resources into curriculum and classroom teaching. All English and French resources created over the two years of conditional grant funding are housed on the [*Empowering the Spirit website*](#). Resources include teacher professional learning, such as PD Playlists, as well as classroom resources, such as teachings from Elder Wilson Bearhead (Treaty 6), K-12 lesson plans based on the survivor story of Elder Ekti Margaret Cardinal (Treaty 6/8), and videos of responses to students' questions about the legacy of residential schooling from Ms. Betty Letendre (Treaty 6/8).

A third year of conditional grant funding has been approved and will focus on providing provincial events for K-12 schools that honour the revitalization of Indigenous language and showcase culture through dance, sport, music, and language. Follow-up learning opportunities and resources for educators and students to enhance their appreciation and understanding of Indigenous language revitalization and culture and their role in reconciliation will be offered throughout the year.

Official Languages in Education Program

ARPDC was able to support a variety of initiatives across the province thanks to the financing granted under the *Official Languages in Education Program (OLEP)*. French Immersion pedagogy with an emphasis on oral communication was a focus of much of the support offered in both virtual large group sessions and elbow to elbow coaching opportunities. We aim to build communities of practice within our regions (and hopefully across the province) in an effort to increase teacher retention and support instruction through OLEP supported programs.

Indigenous Language in Education Grant

The Alberta Government and the ARPDC entered into an agreement for ARPDC to host an *Indigenous*

Language in Education Symposium in the fall of 2023. The purpose of this symposium is to provide professional learning opportunities for educators about Indigenous language resource development; highlight the positive partnerships between education stakeholders and Alberta Education; elevate the importance of preserving, maintaining, strengthening, and revitalizing Indigenous languages; and celebrate the work accomplished through the ILE Grant Program. This work will commence with a meeting of a working committee in June of 2023.

Provincial Curriculum Committee Updates

English Language Arts and Literature

ARPDC has been supporting the work in the ELAL curriculum from the early release of the draft, through the field testing, and the implementation stage across the province. The ELAL working group of ARPDC consultants have met monthly over the past year. The work has included identifying resources aligned to KUSPs; developing and sharing session ideas and supports to assist the educators in our province with their initial exploration of the curriculum and subsequent planning; developing assessment tools and strategies; as well as resource development. Multi-genre approaches to meeting the learning outcomes, models of instructional practice, single-point rubrics, support for differentiation, and approaches to effectively planning literacy instruction blocks have been explored. The learning our consultants have experienced in supporting the K-3 implementation has been synthesized into four areas for the *ARPDC Grade 4-6 ELAL Implementation Toolkit: Teacher Foundational Knowledge, Planning, Resources, and Assessment*.

Members of this committee are working with colony teachers in support of their unique multi-grade classrooms in ELAL (and Mathematics) and anticipate similar needs for the remaining subjects. This work will be of use for multi-grade or combined grade classes found in smaller communities and schools across the province. The shift to having an enhanced focus on phonics in the new curriculum saw many participants self-select sessions on this topic. Sessions focused on the pedagogy of teaching reading and writing in the new curriculum were well attended. As 4-6 teachers and instructional leaders prepare for implementation, we are seeing an increase in interest around morphology sessions and resources.

Mathematics

The focus of the ARPDC Math/Numeracy Committee in 2022-23 has been the creation and execution of a provincial approach to support the implementation of the new K-3 Math curriculum in French and English across the province. The planning began with a review of ministerial resources and regional supports for piloting schools. A variety of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities were created and made available province wide. A collaborative plan is in place as we continue to support K-3 implementation and move forward with grades 4-6. We will continue to co-create professional learning opportunities and resources in both French and English that address the four domains of the *ARPDC Mathematics Implementation Toolkit: Teacher Foundational Knowledge, Planning, Resources, and Assessment*.

Science

Sessions and resources were provided to teachers who chose to pilot this subject area in K-6. To support the upcoming implementation in K-3 (and the optional implementation for 4-6), the ARPDC Science Committee has developed and continues to develop both live sessions and on demand content available province wide around each of the organizing ideas, as well as an overview/introduction of the curriculum and a progression of concepts throughout the grades. We will continue to design professional learning opportunities and resources in both English and French.

Physical Education and Wellness

ARPDC supported the implementation of the Physical Education and Wellness curriculum through sessions focused on several areas: curriculum comparisons between previous and new curriculum; assessment principles and practices applied in the new curriculum; scope and sequence for the new K-6 curriculum; development of lessons, units, and year plans; resource identification and access; Indigenous (FNMI) foundational knowledge, principles, and practices; as well as, Inclusive Education principles and practices. Open, accessible resources were sourced and/or developed around each of the organizing ideas, with some (such as Financial Literacy) having greater demand from educators than others. ARPDC partnered with the University of Alberta *Healthy Schools Lab*, University of Alberta Faculty of Education - Health and Wellness, and *Everactive Schools* to provide expertise in the design of resources and professional learning opportunities.

French Immersion Language Arts and Literature

ARPDC has been working with teachers to explore the new FILAL curriculum from the release of the draft curriculum through to most recently, the creation of a toolkit of resources to support curriculum implementation. There has been a strong focus in working with kindergarten to grade 3 teachers, followed by grades 4 to 6. In-person and virtual interactive sessions offered opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of the new FILAL Curriculum, including curriculum architecture, organizing ideas and KUSPs; oral language development, encouraging students to develop their language acquisition skills using intentional, goal-oriented strategies; structured literacy and the 'science of reading'; an in-depth look at all essential components including writing; and resource discovery. Two topics of interest that spanned all grade levels are 'Centres – Small Group Instruction for All Ages' and 'Visible Thinking Routines', which both provided strategies to enhance oral language development, deepen critical thinking, and transfer understanding to new contexts.

Français langue première et littérature

Le projet d'appui à la mise à l'essai du nouveau curriculum de français de la maternelle à la 6e année a progressé de manière significative sous la direction de l'équipe du Consortium provincial francophone. Des ateliers interactifs ont permis d'analyser les résultats d'apprentissage, de planifier les activités pédagogiques et de fournir des formations et des ressources pour soutenir les enseignants dans la mise à l'essai du nouveau curriculum. La mise en oeuvre de la maternelle à la 3e

année et la continuation de la mise à l'essai pour les 4 à 6, prévue pour l'année scolaire 2023-2024, sera prête grâce aux ressources et aux préparatifs réalisés dans le cadre de ce projet

The project to support the piloting of the new Français langue première et littérature curriculum K-6 has made significant progress under the leadership of the provincial Francophone Consortium team. Interactive workshops have allowed for the analysis of learning outcomes, the planning of pedagogical activities, and the provision of learning opportunities and resources to support. We are well prepared to support the implementation of K-3 as well as the piloting of grades 4-6 due to the resources and planning completed for the project this year.

Systemic Reports

Annual Learning Plan

The development of the ARPDC *Annual Learning Plan* is informed by the development of annual priorities. The annual priorities are informed by feedback gathered through Regional Advisory Committee meetings and through feedback gathered through the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) for ARPDC. The PAC meets on May 24th and will review a “draft of priorities” developed through regional feedback.

A proposed list of priorities for the 2023/2024 school year will be included in the June Agenda for the CASS Board of Directors for review and approval.

Annual Report

The *Annual Report for ARPDC Operations* is due for submission to the Ministry of Education prior to November 30, 2023. With the adjustment to the fiscal year end of ARPDC moving from August 30th to June 30th, it is the intention of management to have a completed report for review and approval by the CASS Board of Directors early in the fall of 2023.

Curriculum Implementation

Implementation Toolkits

Provincial committees, established to promote collaboration and the sharing of resources across the province, have focused on the creation of toolkits to support the implementation of new curriculum. The toolkits will be released as .pdf documents that contain resources organized around four key themes: Foundational Knowledge, Planning, Assessment, and Resources. The resources contained within the toolkits reside on the [New Curriculum Resources](#) page of the ARPDC website. Toolkits will be emailed to district curriculum leads during the first week of June.

Summer Institutes

New Curriculum Institutes

ARPDC will be hosting two New Curriculum Institutes during the summer. These virtual institutes will be held during the **week of July 10th and August 21st**. The institutes, running Monday to Thursday mornings each week, will include sessions in K-3 FILAL, K-3 Science, 4-6 ELAL, and 4-6 Numeracy and Mathematics. Sessions have been structured to allow individuals to attend more than one subject area if interested. These four-day series will focus on exploring essential concepts in the curriculum. Throughout the sessions, teachers will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the required knowledge, skills, and procedures. They will discover effective strategies, engage in collaborative planning, and prepare to kick-start their year. Time will be spent exploring the New Learn Alberta website, developing student engagement strategies specific to the subject area, and sampling suggested year plans.

Francophone and French Immersion (K-3)

ARPDC is offering an in-person Summer Institute in Red Deer from August 16 to 18 for K-3 teachers in Francophone and French Immersion programs. The institute will primarily focus on oral communication, with an emphasis on phonology and morphology. The main objective is to initiate collaborative planning and establish a community of support. ARPDC Consultants will be available to share resources and offer elbow to elbow coaching for subject integration, specifically for FILAL and FLPL programs, as well as for math, science, and incorporating Aboriginal perspectives.

Physical Education & Wellness Webinar

ARPDC has partnered with Dr. Greg Wells to provide an ARPDC podcast for educators on June 6th and a webinar on August 29th from 9:00 - 11:00. Both the podcast and webinar will be structured around the Organizing Ideas from the Physical Education and Wellness Curriculum. Dr. Wells will lead educators through the Organizing Ideas and provide participants with suggestions and practical strategies to apply the organizing ideas in their own life circumstances as a way to improve mental health and wellness. School authorities unable to participate in the live event are able to access a recording by simply registering for this no-cost event. Recordings will be accessible until September 30, 2023.

Camp Re-Write

ARPDC has partnered with a group of prominent leaders in English Language Arts and Literature across North America to create an Alberta "Campground" for educators to participate in some summer reflection and learning around writing instruction. Asynchronous materials will drop each Monday from June 19 - August 14, 2023. Teachers will also be invited to meet as a cohort to explore how the concepts from the series fit within our provincial landscape.

New Curriculum Website Enhancement

ARPDC continues to focus on the amalgamation of web resources into one provincial collection. The New Curriculum website will house all resources created in support of curriculum implementation within the province. School authorities are invited to contribute to this collection to enhance provincial collaboration. ARPDC created resources will be linked to New Learn Alberta through the creation of Boards pointing to resources housed on the [New Curriculum Website](#).

Operational Updates

ARPDC Rebranding Project

ARPDC has initiated a rebranding project that is being facilitated by True Market, a marketing company situated in Calgary. The project is focused on the creation of a brand message aligned to a renewed provincial orientation for the organization. The project will include a refresh of all ARPDC digital assets, including a new logo, color scheme, and update of www.arpdc.ab.ca.

Assurance Framework Development

The Assurance Framework Committee, with the leadership of Dr. Gloria Antifaiff, is now entering the last phase of the development process. Feedback on moving from a traditional reporting framework to an assurance reporting framework was gathered through Regional Advisory Committees and the Provincial Advisory Committee. The next phase of the project is to synthesize the feedback that has been gathered and ensure it is represented in the creation of the survey tool and process created to actualize the framework in January 2024.

Human Resources

ARPDC has refined its recruitment process for securing consultants to ensure alignment with CASS Policy 17. In May annually, an *Expression of Interest* will be circulated in the CASS Connects newsletter, posted on Consortia websites, as well as circulated on social media channels.

Postings for Directors within the CARC and the LNES region are active and close on June 2, 2023. The shortlisting and interview process will be scheduled in the month of June, with the anticipated hiring of new Directors for the commencement of the 2023/2024 school year.

Technology Standardization

The transition to a provincial orientation for ARPDC has led to an identified need to centralize and standardize technology practices. A technology audit was completed and key infrastructure applications have been identified for centralized management. ARPDC has secured the services of Jordan McIver to review current technology practices and implement security measures and tech management processes that will enhance the security and stability of technology within ARPDC.

Celebrations

Curriculum Implementation

As we approach the end of the school year, our organization is very proud of the support provided this past year to Alberta educators implementing new curriculum. The *Final Curriculum Implementation Report* was submitted to the Ministry of Education on March 31, 2023. The report highlighted **1440 sessions** with **38873 participants**. None of this work would have been possible without the tireless commitment of our Executive Directors, Designers of Professional Learning, and Support Staff. The ARPDC team has kept a keen focus on the needs of those whom we serve, and is committed to continuing this service in the months and years ahead.

Relationships

Curriculum implementation has provided the opportunity to partner with the Ministry of Education. The relationship that has been developed to support this work is one of transparency, trust, and clear two-way communication. ARPDC is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Ministry of Education and is committed to continued refinement of our processes and delivery methods to support the direction of the government.

The 2022/2023 year has been a year of significant organizational change for ARPDC. Through this process, ARPDC has appreciated the direction and support provided to the organization by CASS staff and the Board of Directors. As we continue to refine the operations of ARPDC, we look forward to the ongoing guidance and support of CASS.

