



SK Aboriginal Storytelling Project COMMUNITY STORY

Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People: Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Project

By Jessica Generoux, SAS Coordinator

The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Project provides opportunities for libraries, schools, and nonprofit organizations to develop and deliver Indigenous storytelling programs and projects. Storytelling programs have brought together children, adults, and communities to share stories, learn, and engage in Indigenous culture.

This is an important program within Saskatchewan as it assists in addressing the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action](#) by providing relevant, engaging, and sustainable programming with Indigenous communities. This program also enhances the cultural awareness of Indigenous people through the traditional custom of storytelling by providing opportunities for schools and libraries to host their own storytelling projects. This increases community support of cultural protecting and promotion, as storytelling is an important factor of Indigenous cultural knowledge preservation.

This program has been operating for 19 years, with growing partnerships, hosts, and participants. Virtual programming through Facebook live and Zoom sessions increased program accessibility during the pandemic, with participation numbers swelling from 15,000 in 2020 to 30,000 in 2021. This growth speaks to the importance of maintaining community connections that are meaningful, engaging, and culturally relevant.

School-aged children across Saskatchewan have been able to experience Indigenous storytelling as storytellers share their passion, knowledge, language, and cultural teachings. This has occurred through cooking, land-based activities, singing, dancing, puppetry, live performances such as hoop dancing, cultural demonstrations as well as sharing traditional and contemporary stories through art, theatre, and humour. These programs have brought together many children and families in learning about Indigenous culture through stories. Indigenous stories are powerful, healing and transformative to all those who listen.

"The students responded well to the storytelling program. It hits on so many outcomes with art and culture – music and oral storytelling; in language, in learning kinship terms and other daily use terms in Cree. For careers, it works with hearing the educational journey of a local community member and on top of learning the importance of literacy and valuing libraries as well." - St. Pascal Community School

February 2022 has been designated Aboriginal Storytelling Month in Saskatchewan by the Government of Saskatchewan through the Ministry of Education.

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month promotes, preserves and protects First Nations and Métis Oral Traditions and their historical and cultural significance.

Please visit the [Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month website](#) for more information on how you can participate.
