

# CIF FEATURE STORY:

## Comic Book Club.



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## Feature Story: *Comic Book Club, Frontier College*

Comic Book Club puts kids in the role of creators – drawing, writing, designing their own comics! This after-school and community program helps children improve their literacy skills while engaging in fun and creative art projects. Once a week at each of the three participating community schools and at the Saskatoon Friendship Inn, children who are in need of extra literacy support meet with Frontier College volunteer tutors to write and draw about their personal experiences and interests. Comic Book Club learners also enjoy healthy snacks at each session, and receive free, high-quality books to take home to help them build their personal libraries and to encourage a culture of literacy at home.

This year, SCYAP Community Art Gallery has partnered to run a full week show, May 15 - 19, featuring the children's art! The Gala will be held during that week – everyone is welcome. Watch the Frontier College website for details ([www.frontiercollege.ca](http://www.frontiercollege.ca)). The young artists will be there along with friends, families, partners, invited guests, the public, and perhaps even some superheroes or princesses! New this year, the children are also co-creating a comic book of their work that will be handed out at Free Comic Book Day on May 6. These opportunities help the learners share their hard work and creativity with friends, family, and the wider community.

**“Comic Book Club has been something the students anticipate and look forward to. It speaks to the success of a program when, as the weather warms, students still participate. When I stop into the library on Wednesdays to hand out a healthy snack, the students are engaged and the atmosphere is calm. One of the students who attends has been very excited to share his sketches and projects with me. He is very proud of what he has accomplished.”** - Shelly Fedrau, Community School Coordinator, W.P. Bate Community School.

In the 2015-2016 school year, the Comic Book Club reached 76 learners between the ages of 7 and 12 who needed extra literacy support. 36% of the learners were newcomers to Canada, and 56% were of First Nation/Métis heritage. All the learners benefitted from the fun, affirming learning environment, healthy snacks, access to new books, and the positive attention from youth and adult volunteers.

The Club is also a positive experience for volunteers. As one volunteer said, **“I enjoyed volunteering with these kids, and it was fun helping them work on their creativity while practicing literacy skills. I would love to do it again!”** The children also have a lot to say about their experiences.

When asked what they would tell someone who was thinking about joining Comic Book Club, this was one of many replies: **“I think you should join Comic Book Club because we do lots of sketching [sic] and also we write stories too! Also we are planning to make our own comic/chapter book! You should join it's lots of fun. Join please!”**



Literacy:  
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,  
Une leçon pour la vie.



Learners working together on a project at Comic Book Club.

Frontier College volunteers and staff with posters designed by children to advertise Comic Book Club.



Learner playing a word game to build vocabulary.