

# Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps 2014



Literacy: Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation, Une leçon pour la vie.



#### **Recognizing Our Partners**

The 2014 Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps offered in 24 communities of Northern Ontario were made possible with financial and in-kind support from the following civic and public-spirited organizations. We gratefully acknowledge their generous contributions. As a result of these partnerships, the future looks brighter for the children, youth, and families who were able to participate in camp this year.

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- First Book Canada
- Hydro One
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- One Laptop Per Child
- Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

- Ontario Ministry of Education
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- Ryerson University
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#### Frontier College is Canada's original literacy organization

Founded in 1899, Frontier College recruits and trains volunteers to deliver literacy programs to children, youth and adults in communities across the country. Frontier College helps Canadians improve their literacy and increase their opportunities. We believe literacy is a right.

#### www.frontiercollege.ca

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Cover photo: Webequie. This page, clockwise: Marten Falls; Wapekeka; Kingfisher Lake; Neskantaga; Bearskin Lake.













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# Kasabonika
# K.I./Big Trout Lake
# Kingfisher
# Marten Falls
# Mishkeegogamang
# Muskrat Dam
# Neskantaga
# Onigaming

# Peawanuck
# Poplar Hill
# Sachigo Lake
# Sandy Lake
# Slate Falls
# Wabaseemoong
# Wapekeka
# Webequie

#### Frontier College Report 2014

#### The Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps

During my installation in September 2007 as the 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, I pledged that I would continue and expand the Aboriginal youth literacy initiatives begun by my predecessor, the Honourable James K. Bartleman.

Principal among these initiatives was the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps, which provide young people in remote First Nations communities with the opportunity to develop literacy and numeracy skills in a fun and activity-oriented setting.

I am immensely proud that, during my seven years in office, 292 three-week camps were hosted in more than 30 First Nations communities across Northern Ontario—a rate of success that would not have been possible without the enthusiastic co-operation of First Nations Chiefs and Elders and the capable and compassionate administration of Frontier College.

During my mandate as Lieutenant Governor, my wife Ruth Ann visited 23 summer camps and 13 First Nations communities on my behalf. In September of this year, she travelled to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation on Big Trout Lake, accompanied by Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex and a delegation of women leaders, including Premier Kathleen Wynne and my designated successor as Lieutenant Governor, Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

In a subsequent opinion piece in *The Globe and Mail*, Ruth Ann wrote that the subject of **reconciliation** came up many times during their visit with the people of KI.

In remote communities where the weight of history and the lingering effects of residential school abuse can be seen in grinding poverty, substance abuse and an appalling rate of suicide among young people, the Lieutenant Governor's Summer Reading Camps are sowing seeds of trust and reconciliation for those who have every reason to be suspicious of outsiders.

I believe this is due to two important factors.

The first is Frontier College's reputation, which is based on over four decades of collaboration with Aboriginal leaders to help First Nations communities across Canada better themselves through education and training.

The second is the college's relationship with the leaders of Nishnawbe Aski Nation and the Chiefs of Ontario, who are deeply committed to the ideals of the literacy program. The involvement of local Chiefs, Elders, and other community members in many of the summer camp activities has added immeasurably to their success.

I left office this year confident that the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps will carry on their vital work under the caring stewardship of Frontier College. I have no doubt that the camps' continuing success will play a significant role in helping us all transcend the past and achieve true reconciliation by enhancing and building new relationships of respect and trust between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

David C. Only
The Honourable David C. Onley

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I am ecstatic for another successful year of the Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps and that more children this year than ever before have had a fun learning experience. I thank Lieutenant Governor David C. Onley for continuing with the vision of the camps and also to Frontier College for their commitment in honouring that vision.

I reflect on the past years of the Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps and it truly is an honour to witness how it has grown from a singular vision to an established activity that is looked forward to by past 'graduates' of the camps throughout the academic year to the summertime.

Without a doubt, the impact of the reading camps are real, not just for the children but to all who have worked hard to ensure the camps are doing what they are set to do: to inspire and encourage children to read and to nurture a love of reading. We all know that literacy will open doors not just within oneself but also to the world around us. The sky truly is the limit when you are equipped with tools of knowledge and the foundation of which is simply the love of reading.

Meegwetch, thank you very much,

Stan Beardy,

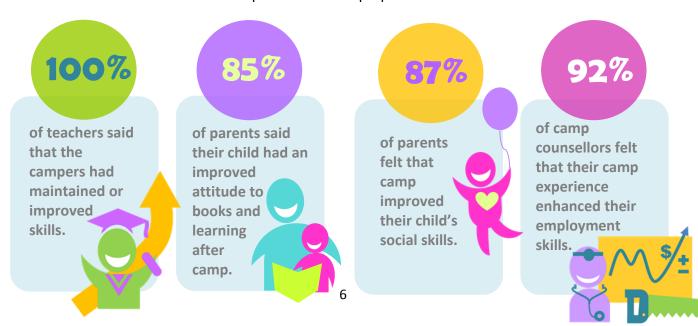
Ontario Regional Chief.



In July and August 2014, the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps were held in 24 communities of Northern Ontario. Participating children took part in three weeks of fun, educational activities to develop their language, literacy and numeracy skills through games, arts and crafts, cultural activities, field trips and opportunities to learn with special visitors from their community.

#### Highlights from the 2014 Camps

- Three-week camps were held in 24 communities
- 15 communities hosted double sessions, offering local children six weeks of camp
- 2,904 children attended camp
- 20 local staff were hired and trained to deliver community-based literacy activities
- Children read more than five books each in addition to group reading activities surpassing the amount required to combat summer learning loss
- Literacy-embedded field trips and activities provided a balance of physical activity, Aboriginal cultural teachings, Aboriginal language exposure and learning about the community through local field trips
- 81% of campers said they like reading more after camp
- 99% of parents said their child was excited and positive about camp
- 100% of teachers said campers were more prepared for school







Frontier College believes that literacy is a right. By helping children in Aboriginal communities build the skills and confidence that will prepare them for school and for life, the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps are helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders, workers, parents and caregivers.

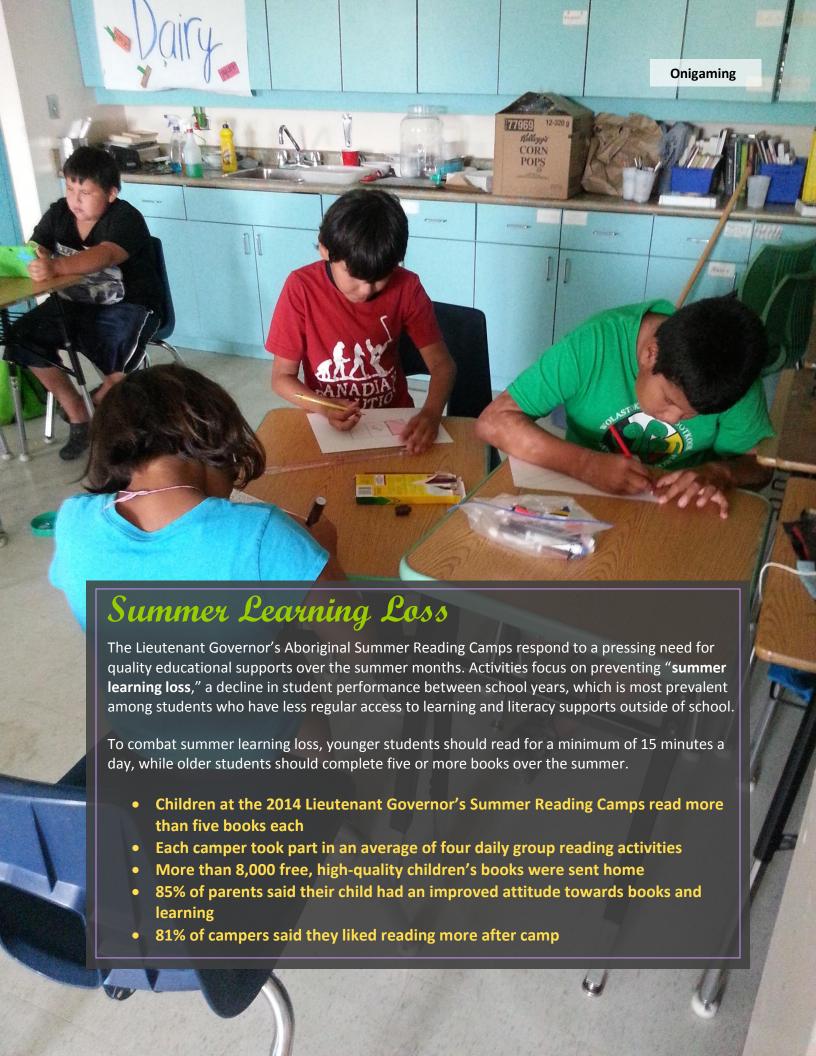
The camps began as the vision of the former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and member of the Chippewas of Mnjikaning First Nation, the Honourable James K. Bartleman.

Leveraging Frontier College's national leadership in literacy, as well as its history of working with Aboriginal communities, the program has grown from an original five communities in Northern Ontario

to over 80 communities across Canada.

Camps are supported by an array of individual, corporate and government donors. The Lieutenant Governor continues to champion the camps, as do the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and the Chiefs of Ontario.

porate awbe Kasabonika





### Activities & Results

#### **Program Objectives**

The objectives of the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps are to:

- encourage a love of reading
- prevent summer learning loss
- build community partnerships
- increase community capacity

Camps include numerous individual and group reading activities, and also provide campers with free, high-quality books to take home to build their own personal home libraries. In addition, camps reinforce traditional community-based learning by inviting community members, parents and Elders to visit camp, lead activities and read to the campers.

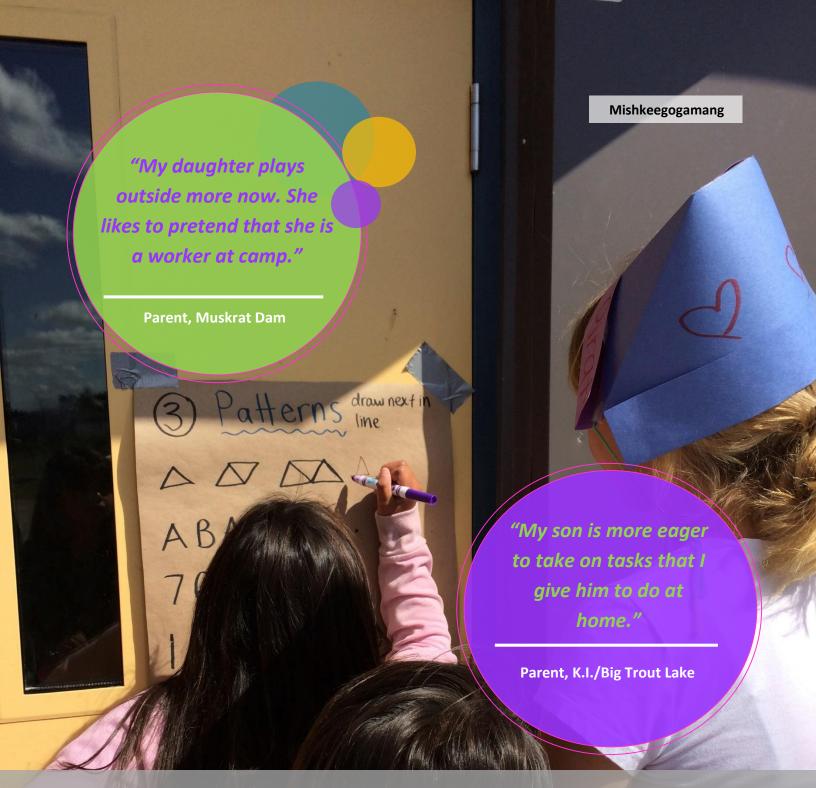
#### A Lifelong Love of Reading

Love of reading, not just the ability to read, is more predictive of school success than any other factor. That's why Reading Camps focus on making reading, writing and storytelling fun.

In addition, Camp provides local families with free, high-quality books so they can build their own libraries.

In 2014, **346 books** were donated to each community





## Beyond the Book

Reading camp is more than just reading. Campers enjoy typical summer camp activities (e.g., arts and crafts, sports and games, field trips), but with a twist—literacy and numeracy are carefully embedded into each of these activities, so that campers have fun while exploring the many ways words, numbers and ideas are used in their daily lives.



#### Camp Counsellor Training

Camp staff for the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps are recruited and hired by Frontier College. Prior to the start of camp, 61 counsellors—20 hired locally—attended an intensive three-day training session with Frontier College where they learned how to set up and deliver camps with literacy and numeracy embedded in the programming.

Training for camp staff covered a wide range of topics to help them work effectively with children and integrate literacy and learning opportunities into all camp activities. Areas covered included: literacy basics and curriculum development; engaging campers and managing behaviours; community engagement; healthy eating; teamwork; safety and risk management; and reporting requirements.



#### Special presenters at Training

- Stan Beardy, Ontario Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations
- Jennifer Martino, One Laptop Per Child
- Jim Peters-Chicago, Elder
- Vicki Von Zuben, Mushkegowuk
   Council/Omushkego Education Student
   Success



#### **Program Activities**

The Lieutenant Governor's Summer Reading Camps provide a full program of activities from Monday to Friday, and are open to all children and youth aged 5-15 years old at no cost to parents. Campers are grouped by age and take part in a wide range of activities, with literacy embedded through the integration of reading, writing and vocabulary development into games, excursions and guest visits.

Camps were held through July and August, 2014. Over the course of each three-week camp session, campers participated in an average of:

- 57 group reading activities
- 38 writing activities
- 29 numeracy activities
- 53 physical and outdoor activities
- 31 arts and crafts activities
- 21 music and drama activities
- 6 cultural activities
- 3 field trips
- 2 guest presenters
- 4 community visitors





Reading camp touches more than just campers. It's part of the community. Parents, Elders and local leaders share their knowledge and experience during visits and field trips, making the link between learning and day-to-day life, while building a shared culture of literacy to benefit the whole community.



# Community Engagement

An important aspect of the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps—and a major factor in their success—is community engagement. Adult participation sends a strong, positive message to campers about the value of learning and education, while raising awareness and feelings of ownership of the camps throughout the entire community.

Parents got involved by attending events such as art exhibits or graduation ceremonies organised by campers. Studies have shown that parental or caregiver involvement is one of the most significant factors determining a child's academic success.

In addition to providing literacy support, training, and opportunities to get involved, the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps contributed to the local economies through hiring of local staff and the purchase of supplies and services from local stores and suppliers.

In 2014, local Elders and other community members helped align literacy activities with ongoing learning in the community. Activities included:

- Children's sweat lodge
- Traditional music and dancing
- Ojibwe, Cree and Oji-Cree language
- Traditional crafts (e.g., moccasins, tamarack geese, dreamcatchers)
- Storytelling
  - Blueberry picking
    - Making bannock
      - Medicine walk
        - Wildfire awareness
          - Community tours
          - Health fair

Peawanuck

# Camp Communities





Each year, Frontier College provides evaluation tools for Camp staff to conduct evaluations with campers, parents, educators and community stakeholders to determine the impact of camp programs. The evaluation results for 2014 tell us that this year's camps continued to offer campers effective, fun and educational opportunities to maintain and develop their literacy and numeracy skills in the summer months.

#### **Campers**

• 81% of campers said that they like reading more after camp

#### Educators

- 100% of teachers noticed an increased school readiness in returning to school
- 100% of teachers said their students showed increased self-esteem
- 100% of teachers said they would recommend their students attend camp

#### **Parents**

- 87% said their child had improved social skills
- 85% said their child had an improved attitude towards books and learning
- 99% said their child was excited and positive about camp
- 86% said their child was more prepared for school as a result of camp
- 96% said their child had maintained or improved their skills over the summer
- 99% would have their child participate in camp again
- 96% would recommend camp to others

#### **Counsellors**

- 100% noticed positive behaviours in the children as a result of camp
- 81% felt that their experience as counsellors would impact their future plans
- 92% felt that working at camp improved their employment skills



# Testimonials

My son is reading more. He brought home *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and read it all.

**Parent, Onigaming** 

I read more now because I brought home a bunny book and my sister keeps asking me to read it to her.

Camper, Bearskin Lake

Our program attracted a lot of campers, including ones who tend to avoid school. We hopefully gave our campers the confidence and tools needed to move forward in their next academic year.

**Camp counsellor, Attawapiskat** 

The staff encouraged positive attitudes towards each other—manners, courtesy, kindness.

**Parent, Big Grassy** 

I like the books at Camp! I like that I can read alone at Camp. I like reading because I can finish the book now.

Camper, K.I./Big Trout Lake

# Testimonials (continued)

Since attending camp, both of my kids enjoy reading more at home. They did not do that before.

Parent, Attawapiskat

her final report card indicated she needed to do more reading. I immediately signed her up when I first heard about this camp.

Camp was very helpful for my daughter because

**Parent, Fort Albany** 

My kids brought home books and read them to us.

Parent, Kingfisher Lake

My daughter likes to pretend that she is a worker at camp.

Parent, Muskrat Dam

I think the camp has a positive impact on the campers' perception of reading. I think the camp boosts their confidence in reading and in the enjoyment of reading. And as they become confident, they become willing to read new things.

Camp counsellor, Mishkeegogamang

I like reading more since being at camp. I like coming in the morning to read to the younger kids.

Camper, Peawanuk

The kids wait for camp every single year. I feel that it teaches the children and parents [the] importance of education and a learning environment for the future of the community. **Camp counsellor, Sandy Lake** 

Shania really enjoyed the literacy camp experience. She looked forward to attending the camp every morning. She talked about the arts, games, reading and writing activities they did as well as the snacks. She will miss the camp when it's over. It would be really nice to have this camp back in our community next summer as it provides a great learning experience for our future generations.

Parent, Eagle Lake

The camp has encouraged community members to become more involved with not only their children but with the youth. In the future, we hope that some of the literacy skills we have taught will be passed on and instill a love of reading to generations to come in a fun and exciting way.

**Camp counsellor, Peawanuck** 

August 12, 2014

Frontier College Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Reading Summer Camp

To Whom It May Concern,

We have had the privilege of having the reading camp here in Onigaming for many years, and it is still an incredibly relevant and important program for our children. Since I work at the school where camp has been held, I have the pleasure of seeing all of the great work that the camp counselors do, as well as the excitement of the kids that attend. It's amazing how engaged the kids were in trying to better their skills in reading writing, numeracy and listening, all while having a fun time with their friends. This program not only helps our kids hold onto their skills, and improve them, but it gives them all a safe place to see their friends, meet new ones, and learn about different opportunities near and far.

I hope to see the reading camp back again next year! I know that the kids and parents all appreciate having access to this important program during the summer months. There are many benefits for the community as a whole as well, since our kids are better prepared for school in the Fall, it provides some employment, and it keeps kids busy during the week! It's been a pleasure to share our community with the visiting camp counselors as well. This is one of those programs where the community benefits, but so do those that run the program! It's been a fantastic summer, and we hope to continue our relationship with Frontier College in the future.

Sincerely,

Lena Copenace

Letters of Support

Lena Copenace, Educator Onigaming, ON

#### **Eabametoong First Nation** Telephone: (807) 242-7221

Fax: (807) 242-1441

Fort Hope Indian Reserve #64

P.O. Box 298 Eabamet Lake, Ontario POT 1L0

August 14, 2014

Cathy Mehagan, Regional Manager Northern Ontario Frontier College 895 Tungsten Street, Suite #1 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6H2

Dear Cathy,

This letter will serve as our letter of support for the Literacy Camp being held at Eabametoong by Frontier College.

We recognize the importance of maintaining literacy among the children to help them keep up their academics during the summer school recess.

It is also very important for the children to develop their social skills through group interaction.

This literacy program will go a long way to build bridges between the south and north as delivered by the counsellors of Frontier College to the northern communities.

Thank you for your bringing the literacy program to our community.

Sincerely,

Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation

c.c- Band Manager

- Education Director



#### Wapekeka First Nation

P.O. Box 2 WAPEKEKA, ONTARIO P0V 1B0 Phone 537-2315 or 537-2382 Fax 537-2336

July 22, 2014

To whom it may concern,

This letter is regarding the Frontier College Reading Camp in the community of Wapekeka for this summer of 2014. The camp has been running in the community of Wapekeka since 2006. The camp counsellors began Reading Camp on Thursday, July 3 at the Rev. Eleazar Winter Memorial School. We very much appreciate the time and effort that the camp counsellors made to help the children in their literacy and numeracy skills.

Education is highly important to help the children succeed later in life when they leave for high school and post-secondary. The children enjoy meeting and getting to know the camp counsellors each year. The camp counsellors serve as role models to the children. For the children, it tends to feel like an impossible task to attend school far away from the family and friends who they have been with all their life, especially when culture shock is included as well. So it is encouraging for the children to see youth and adults accomplish their goals in life and to hear their stories.

I would like to thank the camp counsellors for spending a portion of their summer working with the children in the community of Wapekeka. The children will never forget meeting them and the impact they have made on their lives by teaching literacy in a fun way.

Sincerely,

James Brown

ams Bren

Education Director, Wapekeka Education Authority

Letters of Support

James Brown, Education Director
Wapekeka Education Authority

4.VbP



### HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

P.O. Box 105 \* Lansdowne House, Ontario POT 1Z0 \* TELEPHONE: (807) 479 2570 \* FACSIMILE: (807) 479 1138

Friday, August 15, 2014.

I would like to congratulate the success of the Frontier College Literacy Camp that took place in Neskantaga this past summer. I believe they are making a great difference in the success of our children as they discover the joy of reading. The Literacy Camp counselors have done a terrific job helping our community with special events.

I had the chance to participate in the camp several times this summer and was very impressed with the camp and counselors. It was a great learning experience where the children could learn and grow over the summer so that they can return to school with the skills to succeed. Most of all, the children made great friends and had a lot of fun. As I participated in the camp, I personally see a big difference in our children in the community.

We would be delighted to have our youth participate in this literacy camp again next summer.

Thank you

Roxanne Moorus
Roxanne Moonias

Youth Worker

Letters of Support

Roxanne Moonias, Youth Worker Neskantaga First Nation, ON

August 13, 2014

Frontier College

Reading Camp Program 2014

#### **Good Day Peoples**

I would like to express my appreciation for the programming offered to my children here in Onigaming. I recognized my kids were weak in their reading and comprehension. With the school session breaking for the summer months I was relieved to know that the reading camp program was continued during their break. My children Jeremy (11) & Monica (6) really enjoyed their daily lesson plans and activities. They looked forward to attending each and every day. Farrah & Anna presented themselves in a very professional manner. I loved their attitude; they showed so much enthusiasm for the job. Thru observation I found the classroom setting to be warm & welcoming, and well organized.

Thanks again for offering the program. I feel it's very beneficial for all our children in the community. I'm confident my children will do fine this up-coming school year. We look forward to participating in the camp again next year 3

Thank You

Candi Kelly

Letters of Support

Candi Kelly, Parent Onigaming, ON



#### WEENUSK FIRST NATION

Post Box 1, Peawanuck, ON POL 2H0 Tel. (705) 473-2554 • Fax (705) 473-2503

Frontier College

August 13, 2014

To: Whom it may concern:

Re: Letter of Support for Literacy Camp

Weenusk First Nation supports the implementation and the overall foundations of the Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps that have been set within our community every summer. Parents and guardians have highly commented on the annual summer reading camps as a positive program for the children. The Aboriginal Reading Summer Camps continue to produce a positive outcome for our community.

This summer Literacy Camp did a good job with the children. We hope you continue to work in our community every summer.

1800 DOG

Respectfully yours,

Chief Edmund Hunter Weenusk First Nation

Letters of Support

Edmund Hunter, Chief Wenusk First Nation. ON



#### MUNDO PEETABECK EDUCATION AUTHORITY EDUCATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 31 Fort Albany, Ontario P0L 1H0
Tel.: (705) 278-3390 Fax (705) 278-1049
Toll Free: 1-800-267-8521 Email: mundo\_peetabeck@yahoo.ca

August 15, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to thank you for another wonderful literacy summer camp completed at our school Peetabeck Academy.

This program has been successful every year and it is getting better each summer especially the interest with our children in our community of Fort Albany, Ontario.

We are looking forward to next year with the Summer Literacy Camp 2015 and it has helped our students with their literacy skills and interaction with everyone around them.

The literacy counsellors have been very attentive with the children and have been communicating with the parents/guardians especially when they had a BBQ yesterday.

If you have any questions, please contact me at our office.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gillies Education Education



### Letters of Support

Nicole Gillies, Education Director Fort Albany, ON

TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING EDUCATION WORK



Literacy allows people to participate fully in society—as workers, as parents, as students and as citizens. The Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps foster a love of reading so that children choose to read on their own. Children who are empowered in this way have the best tools to succeed in school and become lifelong learners.

The 2014 camps received overwhelming support from parents and from the toughest crowd of all—the kids! Through the generosity of our supporters, 2,904 children were able to increase their skills as readers and learners while preventing summer learning loss.

Frontier College hopes to continue delivering the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps program well into the future. Together, we can build a culture of community

literacy that will be proudly embraced for generations to come!

