



Government
of
Saskatchewan
Ministry of the Economy



Aboriginal Literacy Intake Assessment Tool (ALIAT) for Levels One and Two PROTOTYPE

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Cover photo: Prince Albert Métis Jiggers at the SALN Gathering 2008.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. (SALN) would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution and support of the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy for the opportunity to develop this innovative and unique assessment tool. The SALN would like to acknowledge the involvement, support, and in-kind contributions of the many organizations and their representatives who participated on the Development Team, the Management Team, and the Scoring Session. As well, the SALN would like to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication to completing this Aboriginal assessment tool.

The Aboriginal Literacy Intake Assessment Tool (ALIAT) Project was completed in two Phases. Phase I was from November 2011 – April 2012. Phase II was from June 2012 – November 2012. The purpose of both project phases was to design an Indigenous value-added assessment tool that would be useable as a learner/student intake and exit placement instrument for both academic and life skills learning environments. Inclusive of Indigenous perspectives, ALIAT's goal was to provide literacy and adult basic education practitioners with an assessment tool that would successfully engage First Nations and Métis adults back into formal learning systems.

The SALN's vision for ALIAT is to empower the lives and career goals of First Nations and Métis Learners in ways that are inclusive of their culture and language.

ALIAT Management Team (ALIAT Project Phase I & II)

- Dr. Janice Acoose, Research Consultant
- Cheryl Bashutski, Ministry of the Economy
- Carol Vandale, M.CEd., Executive Director, SALN
- Ross Grandel, SALN Staff (November - June 2012)
- Robert (Bobby) Henry, Research Consultant Phase I

ALIAT Development Team (ALIAT Project Phase II)

As well as the Management Team members, the following people contributed generously of their time and resources:

- Jacqueline Bruce, Onion Lake Education Centre, Onion Lake
- Michael Crowe, Lakeland Community College, Lloydminster

- Elaine Ebenal, Saskatchewan Literacy Network, Saskatoon
- Jean Dudley, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), Saskatoon
- Pat Duggleby, Saskatchewan Provincial Library and Literacy Office, Regina
- Lisa Irlbeck, Carlton Trail Community College, George Gordon First Nation
- Bev Kulach, Southeast Regional College, Piapot
- Angela Letendre, Dumont Technical Institute, Prince Albert
- Dr. Lloyd Robertson, Northlands College, La Ronge
- Dr. Ida Swan & Dr. Angela Weenie, First Nations University of Canada, Regina
- Kristi Yarshenko, Great Plains College, Maple Creek

ALIAT Scoring Session

Field testing of items for the ALIAT instrument was conducted from June – September 2012. The following people gathered to score the results of those field tests to ascertain the validity and reliability of the items and questions in this ALIAT document.

- Dr. Janice Acoose (Co-Facilitator), Saskatoon
- Cheryl Bashutski (Co-Facilitator), Ministry of the Economy, Regina
- Florence McLeod, Elder, Montreal Lake First Nation
- Jackie Bruce, Onion Lake Education Centre, Onion Lake
- Marlene McKay, Greater Catholic School Division, Saskatoon
- Natania Bartlette, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)/Mayfair, Saskatoon
- Elaine Ebenal, Saskatchewan Literacy Network, Saskatoon
- Carol Vandale, M.CEd., Executive Director, Saskatoon

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INTAKE INFORMATION

Date: _____

Part One: Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/First Nation or Métis Community _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____

Part Two: Relevant Information

1. Are you a member of a First Nations or Métis community? yes____ no ____
2. Please state the name of your First Nations or Métis local. _____
3. Do you speak a First Nations or Mitchef language? yes____ no ____
4. What First Nations language(s) do you speak? _____
5. Do you read a First Nations/Mitchef language(s)? _____
6. Do you write in a First Nations/Mitchef language(s)? _____
7. If you speak, read, and write a First Nations/Mitchef language(s), do you pass these skills on to other members of your family? _____ To whom? _____



8. What language (other than English) do you speak most often in your home? _____

9. What was the last grade you completed? _____

10. To what age group do you belong? Place a check mark beside the correct one.

Under 18 _____; 19-25 _____; 26-30 _____; 31-40 _____; 41-55 _____; 56+ _____

11. Circle the type(s) of digital technology you use: cell phone, calculator, I-pod, I-pad, internet, Facebook, Twitter, automatic banking machine, computer, touch-tone phone.

12. Were you ever diagnosed with a Learning Disability? yes _____ no _____

13. What do you want to do when you complete this program?

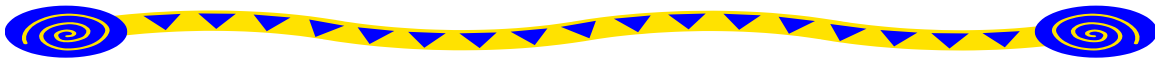
14. Who or what will help you succeed in this program (perhaps family, spouse, community leaders, teachers)?



LISTENING DOMAIN

1. Your *Instructor* will read a passage from Elder Dan Musqua's *Seven Fires: Teachings of the Bear Clan*¹. Then, proceed to A-D and **circle** the correct answers for each question.

A. What is Elder Musqua's Clan?	bird	crane	bear	fish
B. How did he become a ceremonial Elder?	studying	training	reading	watching
C. What is a <i>wascabious</i> [pronounced waa scap ios]?	a storyteller	a ceremonial helper	a watcher	a trickster
D. What is the role of the Bear Clan?	deliver justice	disseminate knowledge	police and warrior	to carry spiritual teachings



2. Your *Instructor* will give you a phone message. Then, proceed to A-D and **circle** the correct answers for each question.

A. Who left the message on the voice mail?	the daughter Barb	the son Eric	the son Blair	our mother
B. Who is coming to visit?	an aunt	an uncle	Mooshum and Koochum	a cousin
C. Where and when are the visitors to be picked up?	Sunday at the airport	Monday at the train station	Saturday at the bus depot	Tuesday at the coffee shop
D. Where are the visitors coming from?	the City of Montreal	the Sakimay Reserve	the Ochapawace Reserve	the City of La Ronge



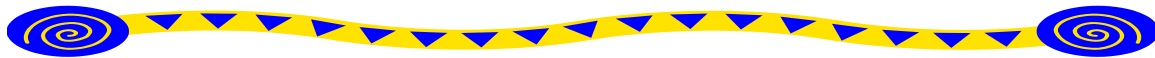
SPEAKING DOMAIN

1. Listen to the information and following questions your *Instructor* will read about Creation stories. Write the correct answers for A-C.

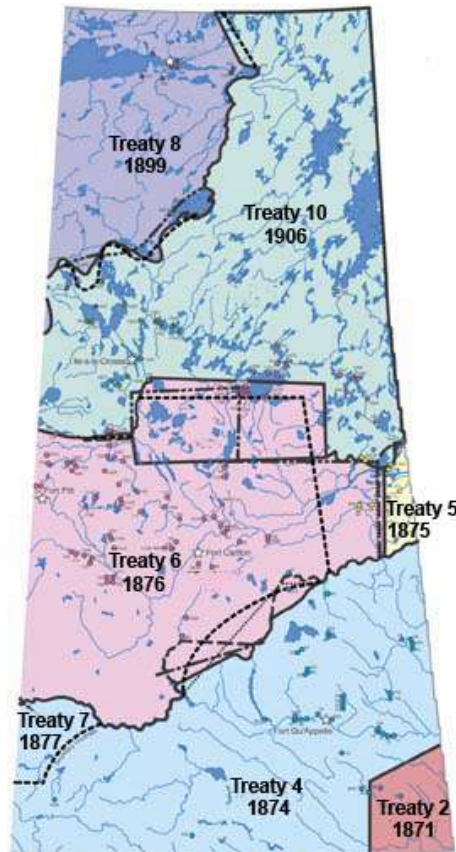
A. Write the word here _____

B. Write the word here _____

C. Say the word now.



2. Look at the map of Treaty areas in Saskatchewan below taken from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. Then you can proceed to answer questions A – C.



A. Beginning with the oldest, tell the Instructor the names of the Treaty Areas of Saskatchewan.

B. According to the map, Treaty 10 was signed in what year?

(a) 1906	(b) 1876	(c) 1874
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C. According to the map, how many Treaties do not extend into the province of Manitoba?



READING DOMAIN

1. Below is an excerpt from the 2006 *Saskatchewan Encyclopedia*ⁱⁱ. Read it and then do questions A and B.

The history the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) dates back to 1946. Some of the first leaders like John Tootoosis, John Gambler, Ernest Goforth, and Gladys Dreaver were concerned with establishing on-reserve day-schools, accessing higher education and old-age pensions, and fostering improved treatment of First Nations war veterans.

- A. How many sentences appear in this excerpt from the 2006 *Saskatchewan Encyclopedia*? Circle the correct answer:

<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>
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- B. Which of these statements describes the main idea in the paragraph? Circle the correct answer:

- (a) Fostering improved treatment of First Nations war veterans
- (b) Establishing on-reserve day-schools
- (c) Accessing higher education and old-age pensions
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of the above



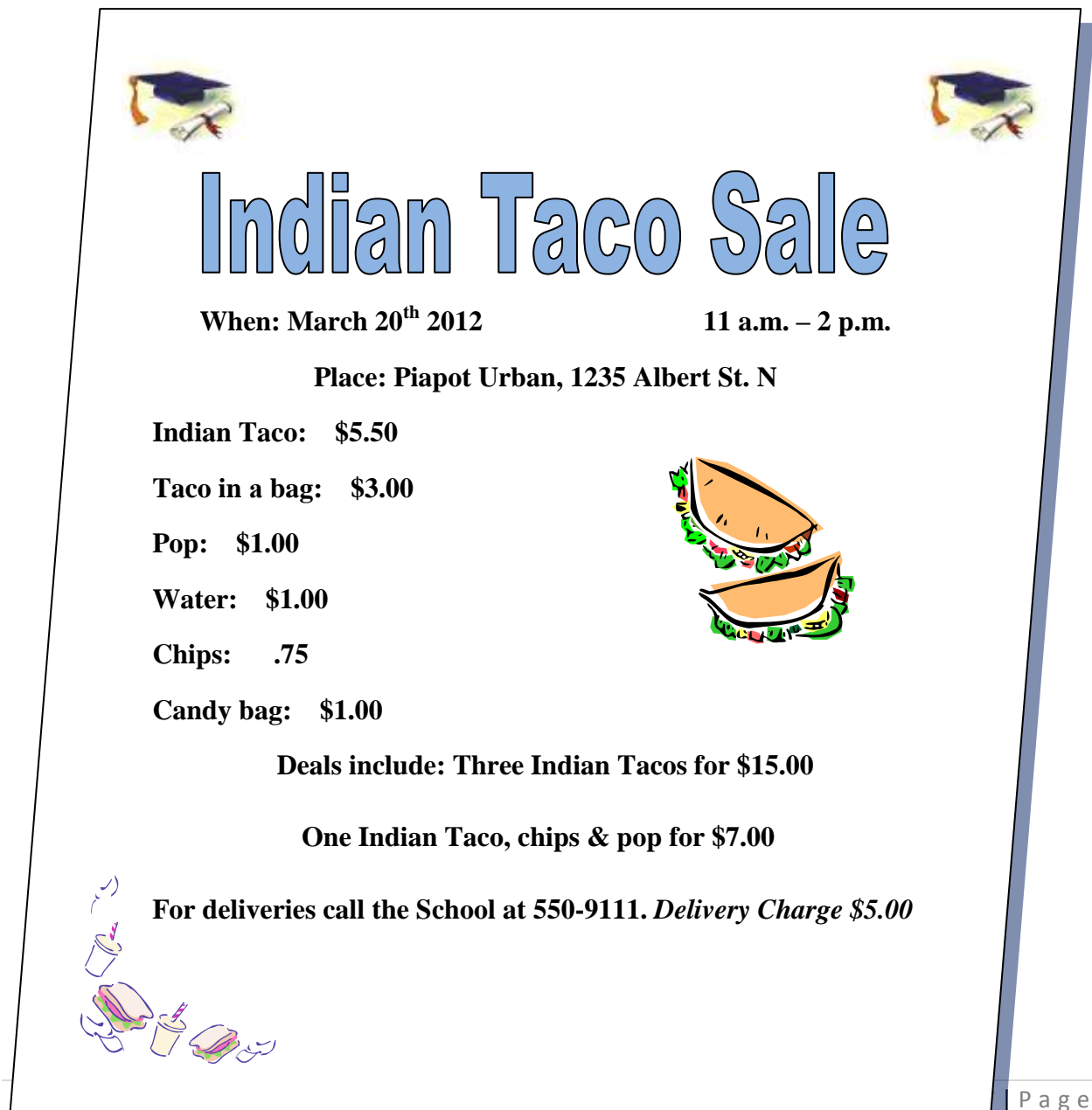
2. Look below at the posterⁱⁱⁱ advertising a school event and then write your answers in spaces provided from A – C.

A. What is a one syllable word for one of the items for sale? _____.

B. What is a three syllable word that completes the following sentences:

The event will take place at _____ Urban.

C. The word "Taco" has two syllables: write it out to illustrate syllable break. _____



The poster is titled "Indian Taco Sale" in large blue letters. It features two graduation caps at the top corners. The event details are: When: March 20th 2012, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Place: Piapot Urban, 1235 Albert St. N. The menu lists: Indian Taco: \$5.50, Taco in a bag: \$3.00, Pop: \$1.00, Water: \$1.00, Chips: .75, and Candy bag: \$1.00. There are two deals: "Deals include: Three Indian Tacos for \$15.00" and "One Indian Taco, chips & pop for \$7.00". At the bottom, it says "For deliveries call the School at 550-9111. Delivery Charge \$5.00". There are illustrations of two tacos, a stack of three tacos, and a group of food items including a taco, a cup, and a sandwich.

Indian Taco Sale

When: March 20th 2012 **11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Place: Piapot Urban, 1235 Albert St. N

Indian Taco: \$5.50

Taco in a bag: \$3.00

Pop: \$1.00

Water: \$1.00

Chips: .75

Candy bag: \$1.00

Deals include: Three Indian Tacos for \$15.00

One Indian Taco, chips & pop for \$7.00

For deliveries call the School at 550-9111. Delivery Charge \$5.00

3. Look at the card^{iv} below and then do A and B.

A. Write the correct name of this card in the following blank space:



B. What information appears on this card? **Circle** the correct answer.

- (a) Name, date of birth, and sex of person with Indian Status
- (b) Expiration date
- (c) Band and Treaty Number
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of the above



4. Below is a passage from Tomson Highway’s personal essay “Reading on the Rez.” Read it and then complete A-E.

Well, you see, up where I was born and grew up—the wilds of northern Manitoba and the Territories, everybody was born in tents, dogsleds, caribou herds, etc. Cree country to the hilt—there weren’t any books. So I never grew up with those little kiddie books that all other kids did. Plus, English wasn’t our language. Our version of books was ‘oral’ storytelling sessions with elders, in the Cree language, fabulous, mystical, hilarious tales about the Trickster, mostly and about other mythological beasts, creatures, and heroes. That was our world of magic.

A. “Reading on the Rez” is described as what type of literature? Circle the correct answer.

<i>(a) a short story</i>	<i>(b) a poem</i>	<i>(c) a personal essay</i>
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B. The main idea in Highway’s piece is one of the following. Circle the correct answer.

<i>(a) how to hunt</i>	<i>(b) reading</i>	<i>(c) going to school</i>
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C. A paragraph is a number of related sentences grouped together. How many paragraph(s) are there in the passage from Highway’s essay above?



WRITING DOMAIN

1. Look at the photo^{vi} of a mother and daughter shopping for groceries in a Prince Albert store and then answer questions A - B.

A. Write four **nouns** that might be on the mom's grocery list:

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B. Write three **verbs** that complete the following sentences:

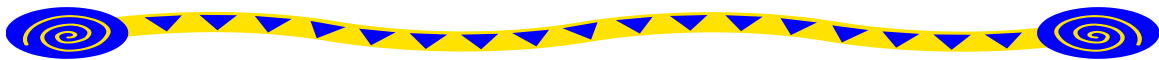
- (a) The mom is _____ a piece of fruit.
- (b) The child is _____ in the cart.
- (c) Both mom and child are _____ hungrily at the food.



2. Refer to the paragraph and list of answers below and then choose the best word from A - D to fit the sentences.

Sheila Walking Bird works as a lawyer for a large law (A)_____ in Saskatoon. She tries to avoid working (B)_____ hours, but her job requires that she put in at least 50 hours per week. (C)_____ she has children, Walking Bird even had to work on Christmas Day. (D)_____ is thinking seriously about changing her profession.

- A. firm, suit, degree, man
- B. short, no, long
- C. when, although, because, also
- D. her, she, woman, it



3. Below is a passage from Dr. Craig Womack’s (Creek Nation), *Red On Redⁱⁱⁱ*. Read this passage. In a complete written sentence, explain the main idea in Womack’s statement. Write your answer in the blank spaces below.

Womack explains that “Indian people have authored a lot of books, a history that reaches back to the 1770s in terms of writing in English, and hundreds of years before contact in terms of Mayan and Aztec pictoglyphic alphabets in which were written the vast libraries of Mesoamerica. As rich as oral tradition is, we also have a vast, and vastly understudied, written tradition” (2).



4. You are required to explain to your child's teacher when she/he is absent from school. Write a short note in the space below that explains why your child was away from school last Thursday and Friday.



NUMERACY DOMAIN

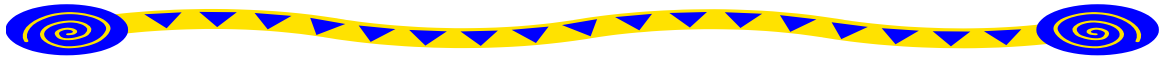
1. Look at the photograph of the Jingle Dress Dancer^{viii} performing at a Powwow and then complete questions A - D.



- A. There are 5 rows of bells on the dancer's skirt. If 3 rows of bells were added to the skirt, how many rows would there be? _____
- B. If the Jingle Dress Dancer performs 3 times each day at the 3-day Powwow, how many times in total will she perform? _____
- C. The Jingle Dress Dancer receives \$30.00 expenses each day for the 3-day Powwow. What will be her total expenses received? _____

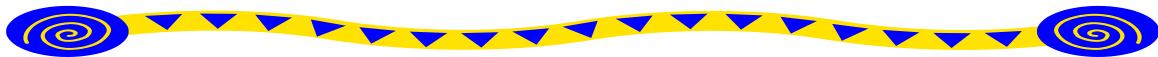


D. The Jingle Dress Dancer receives \$30.00 expenses per day for the 3 day Powwow, but she only spends \$15.00 each day. How much money will she have left at the end of the Powwow? _____



2. Patricia House works at the North Battleford casino. She makes \$15.00 an hour. If she works 6 hours per day 5 days each week, approximately how much money will she be paid before deductions? **Circle** the correct answer.

<i>(a) \$450.00</i>	<i>(b) \$300.00</i>	<i>(c) \$650.00</i>	<i>(d) \$475.00</i>
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3. Miswonisikwekesik is planning a Give-away for the Summer Powwow. She needs to calculate how much money to budget for the ceremony. She estimates that approximately 150 will attend, 20 of whom are Elders. She intends to spend \$25.00 on the Elders' gifts and \$8.00 on all other participants. **Circle** the correct formula below which calculates how much money she will need for her budget.

<i>(a) 150×25</i>	<i>(b) 150×125</i>	<i>(c) $20 \times 25 + 130 \times 8$</i>	<i>(d) None of these answers</i>
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4. Read the photo below of the Asham Stompers^{ix} and then complete questions A - C.



A. There are approximately 60 people watching the annual Jigging Contest at Batoche where performers like the “Asham Stompers” might participate.

Expressed as a whole number, how many people would be left if $\frac{1}{4}$ of them went to watch the Chuck Wagon Races? _____

B. Three thousand and forty people were at Batoche in 2009. Write the number in the space on the right. _____

C. Next month some of the Jiggers who appeared during the annual contest will provide lessons for kids at their school. So far, 35 kids want to learn, but the instructors can only teach 5 kids in each lesson. How many lessons will they have to give to ensure that all the kids get a chance to learn? _____








5. Below is a short term forecast for a day in February^x. Read it and then write the answers in the spaces provided from A - C.

[View Gallery](#)
[Upload](#)
[Share your weather image!](#)

Short Term Forecast

Updated: Fri, Feb 17, 2012, 11:00 CST

	Friday Afternoon	Friday Evening	Friday Overnight	Saturday Morning	Saturday Afternoon
					
	Sunny	Clear	Clear	Sunny	Sunny
<u>Temp.</u>	0°C	-5°C	-13°C	-15°C	3°C
<u>Feels Like</u>	-	-10	-19	-	0
<u>Wind</u>	S 10km/h	S 15km/h	SW 15km/h	S 10km/h	SE 15km/h
<u>Relative Humidity</u>	64%	68%	57%	78%	69%
<u>P.O.P.</u>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

24-Hour Precipitation Outlook
We don't expect precipitation from Friday Afternoon to Saturday Afternoon

[Hourly](#)
[14 Day Trend](#)
[Weather Maps](#)
[Highway Conditions](#)
[Highway Forecast](#)

A. What day has the warmest daytime temperature? _____

B. Rank the temperatures from the warmest to the coldest:

C. What is the date for the "Short Term Forecast"? _____



STUDENT RESPONSE:

Please take a few minutes to offer your thoughts about this assessment tool.



REFERENCES

-
- ⁱ *The Seven Fires: Teachings of the Bear Clan*. As recounted by Dan Musqua. Muskoday First Nation: Many Worlds P., 2001. Print.
- ⁱⁱ *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 2006.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Indian Taco Sale Poster, Bev Kulach, Southeast Regional College, Piapot First Nation.
- ^{iv} Ontario Ministry of Finance, <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/>.
- ^v "Reading on the Rez" a personal essay by Tomson Highway . *Viewpoints 12*. Toronto: Pearson Education, 2002. Print
- ^{vi} Photo contributed by Elaine Ebenal, Saskatchewan Literacy Network.
- ^{vii} *Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism*. Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis, 1999. Print.
- ^{viii} Photo contributed by Elaine Ebenal, Saskatchewan Literacy Network.
- ^{ix} Asham Dancers, <http://www.ashamstompers.com/>.
- ^x Saskatchewan Weather Network, http://www.theweathernetwork.com/index.php?product=weather&pagecontent=cancitiessk_en.

