

May 29, 2013

**Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak: Our Young People Speak:
The Healing Edition**

Prairie Valley School Division is proud to announce the official magazine launch of *Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak: Our Young People Speak: The Healing Edition*. The magazine, which is the culmination of a year long project, focuses on improving student literacy and writing skills through sharing stories of healthy healing journeys from First Nation and Métis communities.

To begin the project, schools identified and contacted First Nation and Métis community members. Grade 10 students asked these individuals to share their stories, ideas and thoughts on healing following Canada's residential schools era. After the interview process was complete, the students responded to what they heard through writing and artwork. The book is a collection of student's personal reflections on what they heard.

First Nations and Métis Education Coordinator Sandy Pinay Schindler says the benefits of this project extend beyond the classroom. "Students can see themselves in what they are writing and creating." "They are also making important connections with older people in their community which in turn encourages an increased understanding of the past in order to heal for the future."

Media are invited to attend the official book launch of *Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak: Our Young People Speak: The Healing Edition*.

When: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 from 10:15am – 2:00pm

*the description of the project will take place from 10:30am-12:00pm

Where: Treaty 4 Governance Centre

740 Sioux Avenue, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan

The following schools participated in this year's project, Balcarres School, Bert Fox High School, Lipton School, Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School, Cowessess Community Educational Centre, Kakisiwew School (Ochapowace). In 2012, a similar

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literacy project was completed titled *Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak: Our Young People Speak: The Leadership Edition*.

The project was made possible with support from the Ministry of Education's First Nations and Métis Achievement Fund and Prairie Valley School Division.

Prairie Valley School Division serves approximately 8,000 students in 38 schools throughout southeast Saskatchewan. In support of the vision "Leadership in Learning and Life", the Division strives to ensure a high-quality education that provides students with the tools to reach and exceed their potential.

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For more information or to arrange for interviews:

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