

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION MONTH IN CANADA



Saskatchewan Association for
Community Living

CELEBRATE INCLUSION IN YOUR SCHOOL

February is National Inclusive Education Month in Canada. Let's celebrate by highlighting all the many positive examples of inclusive classrooms and schools across our province. For some teachers and schools, meaningful inclusion of students with intellectual and other disabilities is the norm. Together with parents, students and community members, they figure out ways to make it happen.

The Saskatchewan Association for Community Living believes that meaningful inclusion is always the "best practice," and we want to offer parents, peers, students, schools, administrators, and community members the opportunity to nominate either an individual teacher or a whole school to receive the Inclusion Teacher or Inclusion School of the Year Award.

INCLUSION TEACHER OR SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Nomination Package

Deadline: May 3rd, 2016

Late nominations may not be considered

“...Education of persons with disabilities must foster their participation in society, their sense of dignity and self-worth and the development of their personality, abilities and creativity...”

*United Nations Convention on the Rights
of People with Disabilities, 2007*

INCLUSION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Presented by the SACL Inclusive Education Committee

This honor recognizes up to three teachers (south, central and north) whose classroom inclusion strategies model inclusion – “best practices.” Award winners will have demonstrated leadership in taking innovative, concrete inclusion actions that can be transferred to other schools. The submission must clearly demonstrate the impact of their work. The Inclusive Education Committee will approve the final selection(s).

INCLUSION SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Presented by the SACL Inclusive Education Committee

This honor recognizes up to three schools (south, central and north) that have successfully developed and implemented school-wide inclusion strategies. Award winners will have demonstrated leadership in modeling inclusion best practices in all aspects of the community life of the school. The submission must clearly demonstrate the strategies developed and the impact of their implementation. The Inclusive Education Committee will approve the final selection(s).

INCLUSION INDICATORS

How do you know if a school or teacher is achieving inclusion? Ask the student or his/her parents, or use the following indicators to determine inclusion. Then complete your nomination as indicated in this booklet.

Is your child/student:

- Using the same facilities, rooms, resources as typical students? (no separate places)
- Attending a neighborhood school, learning side by side with peers in regular classroom?
- Encouraged and supported to build friendships?
- Appearing in the yearbook and class photos?
- Given a locker in a typical location?
- Expected to arrive at school jobs and responsibilities with typical students?

Other factors to look at:

- Parents are welcomed as partners and are taken seriously.
- The teacher had enough support that he/she is able to welcome and support all students.
- The teacher is open to using different teaching methods for different learners.
- The teacher is responsible for teaching all students, and educational assistants are involved with all students.
- The principal and administration support inclusion and provide strong leadership.



Saskatchewan Association for Community Living

Nomination Criteria -An individual, team, organization (teachers, schools, administrators, departments) that goes above and beyond what is expected in their role to initiate, inspire, promote, implement, support, advocate, develop or create unique opportunities that result in the enriched inclusive educational experiences of students with and without disabilities.

Criteria and conditions of participation:

- ✓ An individual or team of people deemed worthy of the award for making a positive contribution to inclusive education in their community (i.e. teacher(s), student(s), principal(s), other school staff, school committee, early childhood centre or an individual from your community who has made a contribution to inclusive education)
- ✓ Nominees may be asked to participate in an interview (this may include a visit to the site to meet the nominee in their educational environment).
- ✓ The recipient will be presented with an award at a ceremony during the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living annual Family Conference held June 4th, 2016 in Saskatoon.
- ✓ Special guests and media will be invited to attend.
- ✓ Media may ask the recipients to be available for photographs and interviews.
- ✓ Provide **two** letters of support of which one must be a parent.
- ✓ Fill-out the **Required Information** page.

Inclusive education is about how we develop and design our learning environments such as schools, classrooms, programs and activities, so that all students learn and participate together. It is based on the firm belief, and on real experience, that all students have value and can best learn in regular classrooms alongside students their own age. Inclusion also means that our schools help to develop positive relationships and mutual respect between students.

Inclusion teacher or school of the year **required information**

Nominator: _____
Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____ Email: _____

Nominee: _____
Address: _____
School/Facility: _____
Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____ Email: _____

In detail, please explain the reasons why you believe the nominee is deserving of this award. Please refer to the below questions when gathering information and to the statements to help better describe your reasons. Be sure to give concrete examples of how the nominee is inclusive.

Attach covering letter and any other supporting documentation, letters of support, photographs, newspaper clippings, etc.

- What are the specifics about the nominee's involvement with the SACL? (If pertinent to this particular nomination)
- What specific activities has the nominee been involved with that lead you to see this person as a deserving award recipient?
- What particular contributions has the person made? Please be specific.
- What awards has the nominee already received?
- How do families, individuals, and communities benefit from the contribution made by the nominee?

Statements:

- ✓ Accepts and includes all students unconditionally in the life of the school.
- ✓ Looks at all students for what they can do rather than what they cannot do.
- ✓ Demonstrates strong leadership for inclusion.
- ✓ Works with others to determine the most effective ways of providing an inclusive environment.
- ✓ Treats everyone with dignity and respect.
- ✓ Fosters an atmosphere of belonging and respect in the learning community: school, regular classroom, post-secondary institution, etc.

Send to:
The SACL Inclusive Education Award Committee
Attention: Kim Hague
3031 Louise Street
Saskatoon, SK, S7J 3L1
By May 3rd, 2016