

FHQTC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025



Training Spotlight: A Full House for Our Woodcock–Johnson IV Achievement Assessment Session

FHQ Education welcomed a strong crowd of educators, administrators, and learning support staff on Thursday, September 25, 2025, for a full-day Woodcock–Johnson IV (WJIV) Tests of Achievement Training at the Treaty 4 Governance Centre in Fort Qu’Appelle. The room buzzed with curiosity and collegial energy as participants deepened their understanding of one of the most widely respected assessment tools in education.

Throughout the day, attendees explored how the WJIV provides a detailed picture of student learning across several key domains:

- Reading
- Mathematics
- Written language
- Academic knowledge

By sharpening their skills with this assessment, participants strengthened their ability to

identify specific learning needs, guide follow-up evaluations, and design targeted supports that lead to meaningful student growth. The training offered practical strategies, hands-on experience, and rich discussion that left participants feeling more confident and empowered in their roles. This session proved especially valuable for classroom teachers, Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs), and school administrators seeking to expand their assessment toolkit and enhance student-centered planning. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to such a vibrant and successful day of learning. Opportunities like this help us continue building a strong foundation of assessment literacy across our Nations — all in service of better supporting our students’ diverse strengths and pathways. 🌟🌟

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 - Invitational Shared Services Initiative (ISSI) Update
 - Profile spotlight on Registered Psychologist Jolissa Simon
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 - FHQ Education Symposium
 - SAVE THE DATE: First Nations Principals Short Course from August 12–14





Invitational Shared Services Initiative (ISSI) Update

We are entering our third year of the ISSI partnership with Prairie Valley School Division, and the impact continues to grow. This initiative supports students who live on reserve and attend provincial schools, strengthening cultural connection, academic success, and student well-being.

At **Balcarres Community School**, the *ana kâspëyimototâwâyak* (School Auntie) played a pivotal role in student support, contributing to rising graduation rates, expanded cultural programming, and the success of the school's second annual Round Dance. Over 35 girls created ribbon skirts this year, talking circles became core practice, and the graduating class reached 17 students.

At **Bert Fox Community High School**, the *wawokiya* helped revitalize student engagement through cultural and community programming. The new school drum, Lightning Eagle, inspired a student-led drum group; the Senior Girls Basketball Team was revived; and 26 graduates received Eagle Feathers following a sweat lodge ceremony. Students also took leadership roles at Treaty Four Gathering and participated in mental health and cultural activities throughout the year.

ISSI continues to strengthen relationships, uplift student voice, and support learners in building their bundles as they move forward with confidence and cultural grounding.

Above is a photo of members of the ISSI partnership who attended the annual ISSI Gathering in Saskatoon on October 2, 2025.

Below is a photo of Harley Upton, wawokiya, and the Lightning Eagle drum group comprised of Bert Fox High School students.



PROFILE

Jolissa Simon and her advocacy work for mental wellness

Tell us about your journey working in psychology?

I am a Registered Psychologist with the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists with Authorized Practice Endorsement and have been working in the field of psychology for over a decade. Throughout my career I have travelled to First Nations across the province both far north and far south. These experiences have shaped my understanding of the diverse strengths, histories, and needs of the communities I serve. I work with children through counselling, assessment, diagnosing, and case consultation. I also support Nations in navigating programs such as Indigenous Services Canada, Jordan's Principle, and a range of grants that enhance services for their members.

What are some of the goals you have in this work?

A key goal is to continue improving access to psychology services for children across all member Nations. I am committed to a culturally grounded approach to wellness that honours land based teachings, Indigenous knowledge, and community strengths. We are working toward greater continuity of care so that every child experiences a consistent circle of support at home, at school, and within their Nation. This includes building relationships with Knowledge Keepers, strengthening wellness programming, and collaborating with families and school teams to create meaningful and sustainable plans.

It is important work and we are fortunate to have a dedicated team across FHQTC who believe deeply in the success and wellbeing of our children.

UFLI Training Session

On November 28th, we hosted a full-day **UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) Reading Foundations Training at the Governance Centre Archives Room**. We were thrilled to welcome approximately 25 staff members from three different schools for a day of learning, collaboration, and hands-on practice. Participants spent the day diving into evidence-based strategies that support strong reading instruction, and the energy in the room made it clear—fun and learning truly went hand in hand.

Our staff showed incredible commitment to growing



UPCOMING EVENT:

Stem Fair 2026
HOSTED BY: FHQ Ed

Deadline
FOR SUBMISSIONS
January 30th, 2026

Categories:
Gr 4 & 5
Gr 6 & 7 (FSIN - Junior)
Gr 8 & 9 (FSIN - Intermediate)
Gr 10 - 12 (FSIN - Senior)

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2026
WA-PII-MOOS-TOOSIS GYM & RINK (LEBRET, SK.)

Scan here
FOR REGISTRATION
FORM

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each School &
Special Winners: Most Innovative & Best
Overall Land Based Project

Breakout Sessions Throughout the Day @ Rink

More Info
FHQTC Ed FACEBOOK

their skills and strengthening literacy instruction for all students.

As we move forward, we're excited to see UFLI used more widely in our schools. Keeping up with effective, research-based reading practices is essential, and together we are ensuring that our students' futures in reading and learning remain bright and full of possibility.



FHQ Education Symposium a Resounding Success

On October 29, 2025, educators, service providers, leaders, and community members gathered at the **Treaty 4 Governance Centre Tipi** for the annual **FHQ Education Symposium: Navigating Multi-Tiered System of Supports – High-Cost & Inclusive Education**. The event was exceptionally well attended, filling the space with energy, collaboration, and a shared commitment to strengthening supports for students across our Nations. Participants engaged in a full day of learning focused on improving inclusive education practices and understanding the landscape of high-cost services within MTSS frameworks. The agenda reflected a balance of expertise, lived experience, and practical guidance.

Highlights from the Day

- **Mary Campbell and Jolissa Simon**, Registered Psychologists, opened the learning with an in-depth look at the roles, duties, and expectations of secondary service providers.
- **Carrie-Anne Dutkiwch** from the Ministry of Education provided clarity on high school programming, placement, and credit pathways.
- **Chelsea Sweeney** of Indigenous Services Canada offered important updates and reporting guidelines related to high-cost special education.
- The afternoon concluded with a powerful session from **Merridee Sayer**, who shared *Parent Voice: A Parent's Journey*, reminding us of the human stories at the heart of our work.

The positive feedback from attendees reflects the value of bringing our education community together to share knowledge and strengthen our collective approach. Thank you to all presenters, organizers, and participants for contributing to such a meaningful and impactful event.

Get in touch at info@fhqtc.net

SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendars! The FHQ Education Department will be hosting the **First Nations Principals Short Course** from **August 12-14, 2026** at the beautiful Wanuskewin Heritage Park in Saskatoon.

This three-day learning experience is designed for principals, administrators, education managers, and emerging leaders working in First Nations education systems.

More details and registration information will be shared soon.

For inquiries, contact Devin Akapew at devin.akapew@fhqtc.net

FILE HILLS QU'APPELLE TRIBAL COUNCIL - EDUCATION

FIRST NATIONS PRINCIPALS SHORT COURSE

August 12-14, 2026 | Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon, SK
Empowering Leadership Strengthening Governance • Building Nations

This three-day short course is designed to support educational leaders, administrators, and aspiring managers in First Nations education systems. Participants will engage in professional learning that strengthens administrative capacity, promotes culturally grounded leadership, and deepens understanding of governance within First Nations contexts.

Themes Explored

- Current Context of Indian Education - examining trends, policies, and evolving realities in First Nations education
- Instructional Leadership - leading teaching and learning with a focus on student success and cultural identity
- School Legalities - understanding laws, policies, and responsibilities in First Nations school administration

Who Should Attend

- School Administrators and Principals
- Education Directors and Managers
- Band and Tribal Council Education Staff
- Aspiring Leaders in Education

Hosted by:
File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council - Education Department
Location: Wanuskewin Heritage Park Saskatoon, SK.

Program Highlights

- ✓ Facilitated by experienced indigenous education professionals
- Interactive workshops and guided discussions
- Networking opportunities with leaders from across Nations
- ✓ Certificate of Completion

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Registration