



509 Pioneer Avenue North Battleford, Saskatchewan S9A 4A5

Telephone: (306) 937-7702 Fax: (306) 937-7721 Email: office@lskysd.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

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Living Sky Innovation Fund seeks to give the gift of land-based learning this holiday season.

NORTH BATTLEFORD, S.K. – The Living Sky Innovation Fund is asking community partners to help raise \$30,000 through the *Season of Giving* campaign to expand on current land-based learning programming to make it accessible to students division wide. These funds will purchase a trailer, to be filled with relevant learning materials, that will travel to schools year-round. The organization will partner with local knowledge keepers and Elders to engage students and staff as they learn and continue building relationships with First Nation and Métis communities.

Land-based learning is an authentic act of reconciliation as it broadens perspectives and creates meaningful connections to Indigenous languages and cultures. Students benefit from the opportunity to grow in understanding of sustainable land practices, how those practices impact the future, while learning cultural aspects of respecting and learning from the land from local knowledge keepers. Materials will be collected to reflect different seasons and regional areas for specific place-based learning. Sherron Burns, learning consultant with Living Sky School Division (LSKYSD), says, “We believe ‘the land is our teacher, the universe is our classroom’ because we recognize the land is sacred and provides all we need for life. We have worked with many elders and teachers over the years who have helped inspire a desire to deepen our understanding and we believe this project will help us do that.”

The *Season of Giving* campaign is running from late November to the end of December. To donate, individuals or businesses can visit the Battlefords and District Community Foundation website, <https://www.bdcf.ca/>, or reach out to Christeena Fisher at the Living Sky School Division office for more information by calling 306-937-7702. Fisher shares, “The Season of Giving is our first annual campaign for the fund and we are thrilled to launch it as the start of several initiatives that will run in 2024. We hope our communities will join us in giving the gift of possibility to our students.”

The Living Sky Innovation Fund is established through the Battlefords and District Community Foundation. The fund was created to create equitable opportunities throughout the division for all students and schools to see *growth without limits, learning for all*. The fund aims to empower innovation, encourage creativity and support projects and initiatives that will better serve students now and in the future.

Kelsie Valliere, PR & Advancement Specialist

Living Sky School Division No. 202

kelsie.valliere@lskysd.ca | 306-937-7905

Living Sky School Division is a public school division proudly located in Treaty 6 Territory in Northwest Central Saskatchewan. It encompasses a wide geographic area including the Battlefords, many towns, villages, First Nation communities and Hutterite colonies. Currently, the division has twenty-seven schools located in fifteen communities. Our schools include Prekindergarten - grade 12, elementary, high schools and alternate schools with a student population of approximately 5,300 students.