

NOMINATION FORM

Premier's Board of Education Award For Innovation and Excellence in Education (SSBA)

- A. **School Division:** Melfort Tiger Lily School Division No. 100
- B. **Board Chairperson:** Ms. Lorie Annand
- C. **Director of Education:** Mr. Cliff Chutskoff
- D. **Program:** **“Bridging the Generations”**
Broadway Community School
K-6 School – 100 Students
Principal- Dr. Stephen Kemp
- E. **Goal of the Program:** Essentially, the “Bridging the Generations” project brings seniors and youth together both in the classroom and in the seniors’ homes to learn, teach and build respectful relationships. Seniors share their history, wisdom, and skills with children and the community, through a number of different opportunities selected throughout the school year (see **“Evidence of Program Success”** following).
- F. **Overview of the Program:**
- 1) **Initiating Support** – In March, 2005, the “Bridging the Generations” project described above was successful in securing a grant from Human Resource Development Canada under the “New Horizons for Seniors Program”. This provided just over \$20,000.00 in financial assistance. Of that grant, the largest provision of funding went to the renovation of the schools’ servery. As a “community school”, many of the school’s goals, and many of the most natural points of contact with the seniors, had to do with nutrition and food preparation. It is from this start that many of the sustaining contacts and classroom projects flowed.
- 2) **Board Influence and Support** – In order to be successful in the grant application to HRDC, the Board of Education provided initial endorsement and the Director of Education wrote a letter of support. Administrative staff at both the school and division level provided assistance with the project development and planning for the re-development of the school’s kitchen. The Board of Education provided budget dollars to the kitchen renovation project, covering facility upgrades and appliances not covered within the scope of the grant.
- Once underway, school administration and divisional support staff, primarily the MTLSD Community School Coordinator, maintained contacts and served as the facilitator of identified engagements. This process continues through to this date.
- 3) **Project Innovation** – Although community outreach is a strong requirement for any community school – this project has targeted a cohort group often overlooked in such outreach – the senior citizen population. As the typical community demographic changes

throughout Saskatchewan, with our populations aging and more and more of our ratepayers without children in the school system, advocacy with this senior population is absolutely critical. Broadway Community School, through this innovation, is striking out to build relationships with a cadre of “senior mentors” to the Broadway School children, eager to sing the praises of the public education system within their community.

4) Project Sustainability / Transferability – Initially, the project identified a partnership with a relatively small “community” of seniors – residents of a seniors’ complex within the school’s catchment. Recently, the school and project leaders have started to reach out, soliciting participation from seniors throughout the city. Every indication is that this expansion will be a success. The HRDC grant provided financial support for some initial infrastructure and supplies. With ongoing promotion, we believe the project has long term sustainability as relationships become established, and there should be few encumbrances to project goals being transferred to other schools within our school division and beyond.

5) Cost of the Innovation – As mentioned, with financial support for some needed infrastructure received, the ongoing costs for the project objectives can likely be sustained through existing budget allocations, and other partner organization support.

6) Client Support – Most importantly, those “clients” closest to the project engagement (students, seniors, staff) remain energized by the experience. Interest appears to be growing in the senior community and evidence of “senior-student” relationship – building is starting to become routine within the school. Recently, Broadway Community School Principal, Dr. Stephen Kemp, spoke to the Melfort and Region Superannuated Teachers’ Association and this contact has led to identifying some specific projects that this group will undertake through their membership at the school, primarily focused on supporting the school’s Guided Reading initiative.

7) Evidence of Program Success- Although not intended to be an exhaustive list, the following examples provide tangible evidence of the gains the school has realized in accomplishing its overall goal:

- **“Virtual Family Histories”**: Students are in the process of interviewing seniors to design and produce histories that will be posted on the school’s website and shared with the local museum as a “Celebrate Saskatchewan” activity.
- **“Seniors’ Week Tea”**: This “community outreach” activity brought the students to Diefenbaker Place to show respect and honour the significance of the week. A digital record of the experience is posted at www.saskschools.ca/%7Ebroadway/seniors_week.htm
- **“Broadway Community School Centennial Quilt”**: This project, planned for November, 2005, will use the resources available in the senior community to lead the students and staff in the production of a unique and special “centennial quilt”. The final product is set to be displayed in a place of honour in the school’s trophy case.
- **“Knitting Instruction”**: With the primary resource support coming from a 97 year old senior associated with the “Bridging the Generations” project, groups of students will receive tutorial help in the art and craft of knitting.

- ***“Food and Toy Hamper Bingo”***: This special initiative designed to provide community outreach during the holiday season, is primarily an opportunity for seniors to come and enjoy a social outing at the school. Transportation to the school is being organized where needed, and no special contribution will be asked of the seniors other than to have some fun!

8) Improved Student Achievement – The goals for student learning with this project were more “affective” than “cognitive” in nature. The school hoped and expected that the school community would become more diverse in its profile, and more accommodating in its attitudes toward our senior population. It seemed obvious that this relationship building would be an opportunity to build everyone’s self-esteem, understanding, caring, and pride.

9) Conclusion – Key stakeholders continue to believe that the “Bridging the Generations” project is breaking new ground in terms of reaching out to, and bringing into the school our entire community. Never before has such a comprehensive initiative been undertaken between seniors and elementary students in Melfort.

The Board of Education for Melfort Tiger Lily School Division is proud to honor the dedication to innovation displayed by the MTLSD/Broadway Community School staff and senior leaders who visioned this innovation, and continue to champion its objectives.

We respectfully submit this product as worthy of consideration for the Premier’s Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education.