

## Nomination Form

# Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education

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- ❖ Name of school division: Northern Lights School Division #113
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- ❖ Name of Board Chairperson: Mrs Lorna Black
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- ❖ Name of Director of Education: Dr Ken Ladouceur
- ❖
- ❖ Name of Program: **Northern Saskatchewan Football League**  
Facebook: Northern-Football/153176054886437  
Website: <http://northernskfootball.com/>  
Twitter: NorthSKFootball
  
- ❖ Goal of program:

### SASKATCHEWAN HIGH SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

#### *Mission Statement*

*TO PROMOTE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL BY PROVIDING COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES CONSISTENT WITH THE GOALS OF EDUCATION*

### SASK NORTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT

#### **Mission Statement**

**DEVELOP STUDENT ATHLETES WHO ARE COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM ON THE FIELD AND THE COMMUNITY.**

1. Provide an atmosphere that is conducive to developing athletic skills, enhancing the learning process, and building friendships
2. Allowing players the opportunity to cultivate the values intrinsic in football: self-discipline, physical toughness, strong work ethic, and perseverance
3. Promote an environment that encourages sportsmanship
4. Field competitive programs at all schools



❖ How the program addresses the following criteria:

### **1. Direct board influence and participation in the innovation**

In 2013, the Board of Education approved the football program as well as approved the purchase of all the equipment for 8 schools to outfit their teams. The Board has also purchased 15 passenger buses for school use that is widely utilized by the football teams. In 2014, the league expanded to include teams from Creighton and La Ronge Indian Band, Cumberland House, Cumberland House Cree Nation, Carpenters High School (Meadow Lake) and St Pascal School (Green Lake). In 2015, the board approved a 3 year Football Joint Sponsorship with the La Loche Community School and Clearwater River Dene Nation. The board supported the purchase of new cameras to promote many events in the schools including livestreaming the football games.

### **2. Innovative nature of the program or project**

This is the first time in the history of Northern Lights School Division #113 that it has had a football program. The program started in 2013 as a northern region playing in its own league and is has now progressed to playing in the Sask High Schools Athletic Assoc (SHSAA) *6 Man Football Provincial Championships* in 2015. The league stretches from just inside the Alberta boarder (La Loche) to just inside the Manitoba border (Creighton). Much of the success in northern football was a result of a social networking strategy that included Livestream broadcasts of games, a website, Facebook and Twitter. A following for football quickly emerged, despite many residents who never have watched a live game before.

### **3. Sustainability of the innovation within the present system or school**

The program will be able to support itself with support from:

- Board/Director/Superintendents
- School Administrators
- Teachers
- Parents-Students
- Community Volunteers
- Community Organizations
- Businesses
- Training for the development of referees and other football officials from local communities

#### **4. Cost of the innovation related to benefits achieved**

It is difficult to put a price tag on the football program. The initial cost was \$100,000 to get the program up and running in 2013. \$20,000 has been put in annually since then. The Division views this as an investment in the students of northern communities. The investments has paid dividends in the area of increased school attendance, prevention, harm reduction and exposure.

#### **5. Client support for the innovation**

The School Community Councils are in support of the program. Northern community pride has been instilled, as families and communities show up at the games and cheer on their new heroes.

#### **6. Partnerships in support of the innovation**

- Cameco Corporation
- Areva Corporation
- Northlands College
- Jerberr Books
- Northern Resource Trucking (NRT)
- **Gene's Sports**
- LA Interior Solutions
- Football Saskatchewan
- Officiating- Prince Albert Football Officials Association
- Coaching- Coaching Association of Saskatchewan

#### **7. Evidence of improved student achievement**

- There is currently 200 students participating in this football league
- Students that were never involved in any extracurricular activities are now involved in football
- **Students are attending school now that didn't attend before on a regular basis**
- Students that are participating in the football program are earning more high school credits. In 2013-2014, 37 students increased the number of credits from the previous year
- There are numerous anecdotal examples of students who are successful and stay in school because of football
- The Northern Saskatchewan Football program has focused on promotion by the creation of a website, Facebook page and Twitter feed. In addition, numerous media organizations have promoted the program and participation.

