

# Prince Albert Model Forest Association Inc.



## Prince Albert Model Forest Backs Project Bringing Traditional Activities into Northern Schools

The partners of the Prince Albert Model Forest are providing financial support to the Northern Lights School Division for a three-year pilot project that teaches students traditional Aboriginal skills. The first year of the pilot project has been completed at schools in Beauval, La Loche, La Ronge, Pinehouse and Weyakwin.

The Uskiy-Nih Pilot Project expresses the commitment of the Northern Lights School Division #113 to support and enhance culturally relevant and affirming school programming. Working with local communities, Elders, Saskatchewan Environment, local trappers, fishermen, wild rice harvesters, and the fur block chairperson, the program provides students with a range of experience in traditional First Nations and Métis knowledge. The new curricula include Aboriginal languages, environmental science, traditional medicine, biology, physical and mental health, life skills and entrepreneurial skills. The students engaged in the program develop their traditional skills as well as their sense of self-esteem and positive cultural identity.

Once the pilot project is completed, the curricula will be gradually introduced into other communities. Other financial backers of the program include Cameco, the Fur Institute of Canada, Saskatchewan Learning, Saskatchewan Northern Affairs, Saskatchewan Trappers Association, and the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association.

The Uskiy-Nih Pilot Project receives support of the Model Forest through its *Beyond Our Boundaries* program. *Beyond Our Boundaries* supports sustainable forest management projects in Saskatchewan's remote communities.

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Students learning skills from a trapper