

Invitation Letter to Saskatchewan Educators for the IDW Classroom Art Contest 2026

Dear Educators,

We are excited to invite your classroom to participate in the 2026 IDW Classroom Art Contest! This year's theme, "Colours of the Earth", encourages students to explore the richness of our planet, reflect on diversity, culture, and nature, and express their creativity through art.

The Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) is a coalition of organizations and individuals working to advance sustainable global development. SCIC collaborates with Saskatchewan residents to promote Global Citizenship across the province and beyond. While International Development Week (IDW) is officially celebrated one week each February, we believe that discussing the role of Canadians in international cooperation and the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should continue year-round.

Join the Contest and Win!

All K–12 classrooms in Saskatchewan are welcome to participate. Winning classrooms will receive one prize of their choice, based on their classroom interests. Prizes include an art session led by a professional art facilitator, a pizza party, or art supplies or books.

In addition to this invitation, we have included the program rules for your reference. If you need additional printed materials or digital copies, please contact us at education@saskcic.org.

We look forward to seeing your students' creativity and celebrating their contributions to a more diverse, inclusive, and sustainable world!

Sincerely,

Haiming Li (She/Her)

Education Coordinator

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Situated on the territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihşināpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation

IDW Classroom Art Contest 2026 Rules

Artists: K-12 Classrooms

Why: International Development Week (IDW), celebrated February 1–7, 2025, is an annual initiative that has engaged Canadians on global issues since 1991.

At SCIC, we believe art can inspire reflection, ignite action, and serve as a powerful form of activism. This year's **IDW Classroom Art Contest** challenges classrooms to get creative and inspire others through art. Add your voice—and your classmates' voices—to the global movement toward building a better, more inclusive world.

2026 Theme: Colours of the Earth

This year's theme celebrates the beauty and diversity of our planet. *Colours of the Earth* invites students to explore the many ways our world expresses itself—through nature, cultures, people, and ideas. It encourages classrooms to reflect on how every colour and every voice contributes to a vibrant, interconnected world that we all share and care for.

Inspiration: [Explore the 17 Sustainable Development](#) Goals (SDGs), such as:

- **SDG 3:** Good Health and Well-Being
- **SDG 10:** Reduced Inequalities
- **SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities
- **SDG 14:** Life Below Water
- **SDG 15:** Life On Land
- **SDG 16:** Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Rules & Guidelines:

1. The contest is open to **K–12 classrooms in Saskatchewan**.
2. The teacher leads a brief discussion on the chosen theme before starting the activity.
3. Each student creates **an individual piece of art** that reflects the theme, using letter-sized or construction paper.
4. The individual artworks are then **combined into one collaborative class piece**, which can be displayed on a classroom blackboard, whiteboard, or wall—either inside or outside the classroom.

5. **The final submission should be a photograph of the completed collaborative piece, along with a brief statement (maximum 250 words) describing the artwork and its connection to the theme.**
6. Classes and Teachers must agree to have the picture of their combined art project posted on SCIC's social media channels (other information included with the photograph will be **School, Grade, and Teacher's Name**).

Additional Guidelines:

7. Each class submission must be original and previously unpublished. It must also be the sole work of the students.
8. Your class submission should take into account **SCIC's Value Statement:** *We are committed to the recognition of the dignity of all people and their right to self-determination, to the protection of the world's fragile environment, to the equitable distribution of power, and to the promotion of global understanding, cooperation, peace and justice through mutual learning, partnership, transparency and solidarity.*

Selection Process:

The winner will be chosen by SCIC's Board of Directors Membership and Awards Committee members through a voting process. The number of winners and any grouping will depend on participation. All entries will be considered, and creativity, effort, engagement with the theme, and age group will be taken into account. **Winners will be announced during IDW 2026.**

Materials Recommended:

- Paper, coloring pages, collage materials
- Coloured pencils, markers, watercolors, glue, scissors
- Tape, magnets, or sticky tack for attaching artwork
- Additional handcraft materials available in the classroom
- Creative approaches such as mixed-media or digital art are also welcome

Prize:

All art pieces will be displayed on SCIC social media.

Winning classrooms will receive **one prize of their choice** from the following options, based on their classroom interests:

- An art session led by a professional art facilitator
- A pizza party
- Art supplies or books

Ready to send?

Send your submission to SCIC's Education Program Coordinator at education@saskcic.org

When submitting please include: name of school, location of school, grade of participating class, and Teacher's name with a maximum 250 word statement outlining the pieces of art.

We look forward to seeing your creativity shine as you explore what it means to Build Better together!

Deadline: All entries must be submitted by **Friday, January 30, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (CST)**