Invitation Letter to Saskatchewan Educators

IDW Classroom Art Contest 2027

Dear Saskatchewan Educators,

We are excited to invite your classroom to participate in the 2027 IDW Classroom Art Contest! This year's theme, "Our Land, Our Stories", encourages students to explore their personal and collective connections to the land they live on and the stories it holds. Designed as a low-barrier, place-based learning activity, this project integrates seamlessly into your required Saskatchewan Treaty Education outcomes, environmental science, and social studies curricula.

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 youth@saskcic.org.

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

Sincerely,

Eunice Essah (she/her)
Youth & Education Coordinator
Office: 306.757.4669 | youth@saskcic.org

IDW Classroom Art Contest 2027: Educator Rules & Guidelines Kit

Eligibility: All K–12 Classrooms across Saskatchewan

Why: International Development Week (IDW), celebrated February 7–14, 2027, 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.

Registration Opens: November 9, 2026

Submission Deadline: Friday, January 15, 2027, at 4:00 PM (CST)

Theme: Our Land, Our Stories – Learning, Listening, and Connecting to the Places We Share

This year's theme, **"Our Land, Our Stories"**, encourages students to explore their personal and collective connections to the land they live on and the stories it holds. Designed as a low-barrier, place-based learning activity, this project integrates seamlessly into your required Saskatchewan Treaty Education outcomes, environmental science, and social studies curricula.

Whether your class spends 45 minutes observing nature from your classroom window or engages in a multi-day inquiry project, this contest is structured to be plug-and-play for busy educators.

Theme & Curriculum Connections

Theme Focus:

Students reflect on local land stewardship, place-based connections, and what it means to be a Treaty person in Saskatchewan.

Explore the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:

- **SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities
- **SDG 13:** Climate Action
- **SDG 15:** Life on Land
- **SDG 16:** Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

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Teacher Quick-Start & Cultural Safety Guide

To help educators of diverse backgrounds facilitate this workshop respectfully and authentically, please use the following framework:

Guided Inquiry Prompts

- **Where are we?** *What natural features, plants, weather, or animals share the space around our school?*
- **What stories does this land tell?** *How do we care for this land, and how does the land support our community?*
- **How are we all Treaty people?** *What promises can our classroom make to care for our shared environment and each other?*

Cultural Safety Guidelines

- **Encouraged Activities:** Painting local Saskatchewan winter landscapes, drawing local wildlife/plants, depicting personal memories tied to place, or creating written pledges on caring for local Treaty land.
- **Practices to Avoid:** Copying or imitating traditional Indigenous art styles (e.g., Woodlands or Haida formline), drawing sacred spiritual objects (e.g., dreamcatchers, medicine wheels), or illustrating traditional cultural stories without direct guidance from a local Knowledge Keeper or Elder.

Zero-Cost Digital Resources

- **Native-Land.ca:** Project this interactive map on your smartboard to help students identify the specific Treaty territory (e.g., Treaty 4, Treaty 6) and ancestral lands where your school is located.
- **National Film Board of Canada (NFB):** Stream free short educational films on nature and land stewardship via nfb.ca.
- **Saskatchewan Ministry of Education Curriculum Portal:** Access free grade-specific Treaty Education outcomes directly online.

Contest Rules & Submission Steps

1. **Eligibility:** Open to all K–12 classrooms **in Saskatchewan**.
2. **Classroom Activity:** The teacher leads a brief discussion using the inquiry prompts or resources above.
3. **Individual & Collaborative Art Creation:**
    - Each student creates an individual piece of art reflecting the theme using standard paper, drawing tools, watercolors, or recycled collage materials.

    - The individual pieces are combined into **one collaborative classroom display** on a wall, bulletin board, or display board.
4. **Single Submission:** Submit **one photograph** of the completed collaborative piece along with a **classroom reflection statement (maximum 250 words)** explaining the students' learning journey and artwork.
5. **Media Release:** Submitting classes agree to have their artwork photograph, school name, grade, and teacher name shared on SCIC's social media channels and website.

Submission Method

Submit your entry using one of the following options by **Friday, January 15, 2027, at 4:00 PM (CST)**:

- **Option A (Recommended):** Submit directly via our online form at https://forms.gle/iAMFaih9fMw5L8cu9
- **Option B (Email):** Send your submission to SCIC's Youth & Education Program Coordinator at **youth@saskcic.org**.

Please include the following details with your submission:

1. School Name & Location
2. Grade Level(s) & Participating Teacher's Name
3. Clear, high-resolution photograph of the combined collaborative artwork
4. Classroom Reflection Statement (≤ 250 words)
5. Confirmation of school media release permissions

Evaluation & Classroom Prizes

Internal Evaluation

To ensure fair judging across all age groups, submissions will be evaluated internally across two grade categories:

- **Primary / Middle Division:** Grades K–6
- **Secondary Division:** Grades 7–12

Entries will be scored on thematic connection, collaborative effort, creative use of materials, and the reflection statement.

Classroom Prizes

Two winning classrooms will be selected and notified confidentially by **February 12, 2027**. Each winning classroom can select **one prize** of their choice:

- A hands-on art workshop led by a professional art facilitator
- A classroom pizza party
- A package of classroom art supplies or curated books

Classroom Photography Guidelines

Follow these simple tips so judges can see your students' work clearly:

- **Position:** Take the photo straight on—facing the wall directly—so the picture isn't angled or twisted. Make sure the entire display fits in the picture with a little space around the edges.
- **Lighting:** Use natural daylight (like light from a window) or bright, even classroom lights. Turn off your camera flash so there are no bright glare spots on the artwork.
- **Focus & Zoom:** Tap your screen to focus before taking the picture. Don't zoom in with your phone screen; instead, take a step closer to fill the frame. Submit the highest-quality image setting your device allows.
- **Orientation:** Turn your phone sideways to take a horizontal (landscape) photo.

For questions or additional printed materials, please contact the SCIC Youth & Education Coordinator at youth@saskcic.org or visit saskcic.org.