



CHICKADEE CHATTER

Vol 17 No 2

DKG New Brunswick

Spring 2026

DKG -Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

Early Career Educators Grants Awarded



Credit: A. Yaychuk

L to R: Co-president Dianne Caron, Jennifer Peterson, Abbey Hunter, VP Geri Kilburn
Missing: MacKenzie King, Haley McAllister

DKG NB is proud to announce that \$100 grants to be used for educational purposes were awarded to 4 early-career teachers at Garden Creek School. DKG NB Co-President Dianne Caron and Vice President Geri Kilburn met with the teachers and Principal Alex Yaychuk at the school where they shared a light lunch and chatted about education.

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**DKG NEW BRUNSWICK
EXECUTIVE
2025-2027**

- Presidents**
Dianne Caron
Marjorie Sinclair
- First Vice President**
Geri Kilburn
- Secretary**
Joan Somerville
- Treasurer**
Margaret Dryden
- Past President**
Margie Goodin
- Parliamentarian**
Margie Goodin



MISSION STATEMENT
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

DKG NB Theme

D—Diversify
K—Kickstart
G—Globalize
N—Network
B—Believe

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dianne Caron
2025-2027



Marjorie Sinclair
2025-2027

Happy Spring, members of DKG NB.

Winter has ended and we are now returning to in-person meetings rather than online. We are looking forward to our Annual General Meeting in May and our DKG End-of-Year Social in June.

Members have asked us, “What can we easily share with others about DKG?” We know that friends and colleagues want it to be brief and meaningful. This is a suggestion about explaining our Society.

I belong to a network of women educators who:

- make new friends,
- make connections,
- make our community better,
- make ourselves better,
- and
- we do make a difference!

We have been attending the monthly Northeast Regional meetings led by Director Eileen Little. At each meeting we begin with a Focus presentation by Committee Chairs and members, or HQ Staff. These have included information on the International Convention, Visionary Networks, DKGIEF, Leadership Discovery Centre, and Membership and Marketing.

We were invited to submit an article to the DKG Leadership Resources under the section Viewpoints Around the World.

At the local level, we visited Garden Creek School to present information to the staff on our organization. We also invited UNB Education students to submit applications for two bursaries. Next year we will be inviting St. Thomas students to apply.

Dianne & Marjorie

News from the ARC Desk



Dr. Shar McGowan
2024-2026

From the Atlantic to the Pacific Chapters, Canada's DKG members are aglow with energy and enthusiasm.

I was pleased to hear your co-presidents were invited to speak about DKG to a school's teaching faculty. It was so interesting to hear about the presentation given by Seema Sanghavi, founder of *Cooks Who Feed*, to Canadian and American members. What an enterprising journey this young woman has taken from teaching to feeding hungry people while providing fair and safe work for women in India.

In Manitoba, Delta Chapter members are getting ready to award their annual undergraduate scholarship. Gamma Chapter members celebrated International Women's Day with a tour of the Ukrainian Museum. All chapters are excitedly working on various

local projects supporting community organizations.

In November, Saskatchewan's only female military historian presented to members on the role of women working the farms during World Wars I and II. In February, members met with Saskatchewan's capital city's first female police chief. They're always interested in the stories of women in non-traditional roles, so meeting with these two women was thrilling. In March, one of Saskatchewan's newest members shared her research about Indigenizing education.

The three British Columbia Chapters, Vancouver, Fraser Shores, and South Vancouver Island, all reported being wonderfully busy, too. In February, the Vancouver Women's Probus invited members to listen to Daphne Bramham, an award-winning journalist, on the continued struggle for women to break the stereotypes of female roles in society. Also, members of Fraser Shores prepared toiletry bags for a local women's shelter, an annual tradition. The British Columbia provincial organization is excited for its spring conference on May 2 where guest speakers will present on the role and power of AI.

As we look ahead, Canada's DKG members are preparing for a new Canadian Project which is a tradition of offering significant cross-Canada support to a non-profit organization. Also, preliminary conversations are taking place insofar

as holding the second Canadian Conference in 2027.

In all we do, we seek to fulfill our purposes as DKG members. We are indeed aglow with vitality!

Shar



Canadian Project Update



We are coming to the end of our 4 years of supporting Soaring Circle. Check out their Facebook page and see some of the schools and students who are part of the Sewcase program. Skills Canada Saskatchewan Competition in Regina on March 27 will showcase the 2nd Annual Ribbon Skirt Competition.

Students at Creighton Community School in Saskatchewan received a numbers of supplies from Art for Aid after suffering devastating losses from the wildfires. Land based supplies were sent to St. Theresa's Point in Manitoba.

Posted with permission from:
www.facebook.com/SOARINGCIRCLE

BETA CHAPTER CHATTER

Learning About Search and Rescue Work



Submitted by: D. Caron

At our November 5th meeting we welcomed Cpl. John Whitters, conservation officer and K-9 handler and his partner, Sgt. Phiero, a German Shepherd search-and-rescue dog. John and Phiero were awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Royal Commemorative Medal in 2023 in the NB Legislature for their outstanding rescue of a person lost in the woods. John gave a very interesting talk about his work with Phiero, the training of search-and-rescue dogs in general, and explained his equipment. At the end of the presentation, John brought Phiero inside and we were able to see both as working partners. John is the grandson of our Co-President Dianne and her husband Roger Caron.



Photos: M Goodin

Beta Chapter Events

Christmas Luncheon



Members of DKG NB met at Sam Snead's Restaurant, Kingswood Lodge, Fredericton, for lunch on December 6, 2025 to celebrate the holiday season. They enjoyed good food, participated in a gift exchange and told stories about their past Christmas traditions. The group collected children's books for Transition House, a shelter for women and children. It made Christmas 2025 brighter because they shared fellowship and gave heartfelt donations of books for reading enjoyment.



Photo credit: D. Caron

Beta Chapter Events

Celebrating International Women's Day

An online presentation on March 11, 2026, hosted by DKG NB brought together DKG attendees from Canada and the United States. Special thanks to Eileen Little, our Northeast Regional Director, for her generous provision of our Zoom link.



Cooks Who Feed

Seema Sanghavi, a young woman who grew up in Moncton, NB and now lives in Ontario, told of her journey from being a teacher to becoming the founder of *Cooks Who Feed*, a Canadian Certified B Corporation and social enterprise that feeds millions of hungry people globally, through the sale of kitchen linens and aprons. Seema and two other employees work in Ontario with famous chefs, the Celebrity Cruise Line, cafes, restaurants, culinary schools, wineries, and companies purchasing corporate gifts, in her “give-back-to-humanity” company.

Seema is passionate about her work. She has received the 2024 *Entrepreneurial Women of Impact Award* and was the recipient of the 2024 *BMO Grant* that celebrates women in business enterprises.

Seema decided on her entrepreneurial journey after visiting India in 2016. She wanted to give village women the opportunity to work by providing a decent wage and encouraging them to feel confident working outside the home, while helping others in the world fulfill their basic need of hunger. *Cooks Who Feed* employs 31 women in a village north of Delhi, India, to sew the linens using recycled or organic materials, with no plastic. Each seamstress has her name attached to the apron so it becomes a personal accomplishment as well as a benevolent venture.



Seema's charitable online business offers kitchen linens and aprons for sale with the proceeds going to charitable organizations e.g. *Second Harvest* (Canada) and *No Kid Hungry* (US). Her company that began in 2019 has supplied over 2 million meals to date. Over 900 million people are still not secure in having daily food and the number keeps rising so there is a need for this worthwhile project.

The purchase of one apron supplies 100 meals for those less fortunate.

Check out <https://cookswhofeed.com> for more information. At the checkout, educators receive a \$5.00 discount on their purchase.

Submitted by Dianne Caron

Celebrating Poetry Month



Credit: M. Goodin

DKG NB members met in person at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fredericton to celebrate April as Poetry Month. Guest speaker was Fawn Parker, Fredericton's Poet Laureate. She shared the story of how poetry influenced her life and career. She also shared two poems about Spring. Members shared their poetic experiences.

Bursaries Awarded to UNB Teacher Candidates

DKG NB Co-president Dianne Caron awarded UNB Teacher Candidate Erica Toth a \$500 bursary at the April meeting held at Knights of Columbus Hall in Fredericton. Erica is presently enjoying her practicum at one of the area schools.

A second \$500 bursary was awarded to Brittany Perreault. Her practicum is in one of the schools outside the Fredericton area.

The Scholarship Committee received a number of applications. NB students will be in good hands as these teacher candidates take their place in the classrooms of the province.



Credit: M. Goodin

In Memoriam

DKG NB Members Pay Tribute to Sister Toni



Sister Toni Sheehan (DKG Ontario) died on November 12, 2025 at 102 years of age.

“Sister Toni was a DKG guiding light for many years in Ontario. Anytime I met her she was always a “cheerleader” for DKG and very much involved in all aspects of her Chapter. She is revered by many and she will be missed.” (Joan Somerville)

“Sister Toni Sheehan was a remarkable woman who lived a life of service including being influential in DKG International and here in Canada. When I was ARC she was able to join some of the virtual Canadian meetings and it was always so nice to see her and hear her input. May the memories of her continue to be an inspiration to us.” (Marjorie Sinclair)

With sincere appreciation,
DKG NB Members

DKGIEF Ambassador



Congratulations to Yemisi Kehinde, our DKGIEF Ambassador for DKG NB. She is a liaison between the Foundation and our province. She will be meeting with other Ambassadors online and reporting to DKG NB members. Thank you, Yemisi, for stepping up to this position. We are proud of your leadership.

Highlights from DKGIEF Ambassador Report

Congratulations were sent to the following states on receiving Cornetet Seminar Professional Development Awards.

- Illinois—Advancing Teacher Leadership
- Maine—S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Teaching Workshop
- Pennsylvania—Keynote Address and Follow-up Simple Interactions Workshop by Emma Swift Lee, Director of the Fred Rogers Institute
- Tennessee—LIGHTING the WAY: Illuminating Strategies for Personal and Professional Success as an Educator

Congratulations were also sent to 10 recipients of the Cornetet Individual Personal Development Awards.

Next Steps for DKG NB

Co-presidents Dianne Caron and Marjorie Sinclair were invited to speak to the teaching staff at Garden Creek School on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. We were excited to speak about our Society, the opportunities for membership and our commitment to education. We shared a DKG NB PowerPoint with the teachers. Principal Alex Yaychuk was very welcoming and assisted us in using the school's technology. There was interest in the work we do locally and we were pleased with the response.

On February 18, 2026, we met with Dr. Grant Williams, Associate Professor, School of Education, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, to provide information on DKG International and the work of DKG NB in the local community. St. Thomas University has 105 Teacher Candidates. In September we will be contacting Dr. Williams to select a convenient date for presenting information on DKG NB and how we might support these young teachers as they begin their educational careers. We will also be providing an opportunity for them to apply for one of our bursaries.

Proposals for Canadian Project 2026-2028

Dr. Shar McGowan, ARC, received two proposals for our next Canadian Project. Voting will take place at the provincial AGMs. Results are to be submitted by Wednesday, June 17, 2026. A cross-Canada Zoom Canadian Forum meeting will take place on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at 10:00AM CDT (Noon ADT) where the Canadian Project will be officially chosen.

DKG NB has submitted a proposal for *True North Aid's Back to School Program* which provides backpacks filled with school supplies. A donation of \$50 will provide one backpack. In 2025, True North Aid received requests from 36 northern, remote communities. They were only able to support 12 communities in 6 provinces and territories. A total of 1997 backpacks were donated (1287 elementary kits and 770 high school kits). Some communities only requested school supplies.



Providing the necessary school materials, will ensure students have a successful start to the school year, ready to learn and pride in having items selected specifically for them.

More information is available at the True North Aid website <https://truenorthaid.ca> in the section *Stones of Support—Education*.

The second project is *Children First Canada (CFC)* proposed by Joan Kabotoff, DKG Alberta. This organization is focused on the rights of children in Canada by conducting research and raising awareness of issues. This includes equipping children and youth as leaders and change-makers, and uniting our country around a shared vision and plan to make Canada the best place in the world for kids to grow up. They also host *Young Canadians Parliament* to educate youth on democracy. More details are found on the website at <https://childrenfirstcanada.org/>

Choosing a Canadian Project for the next biennium is a responsibility that all DKG Canadian members accept and fully support.



DKG International Educators Foundation



Vision: Giving to Educate the World

May 1, 2026 DKGIEF Cornet Professional Development Application (CIPD)

Submissions Deadlines

May 15, 2026 *Bulletin: Journal* Submissions

Ongoing *Impact Spotlight* (Project) Submissions

Ongoing *Leadership Discovery Centre* Submissions

Ongoing *Membership Spotlight* Submissions

Ongoing *Quotes that Inspire Us* Submissions

Save the Date

April 14, 2026	Inside Connections —Membership & Expansion @ 2:30 PM ADT
April 16, 2026	Inside Leadership—Leadership Development @ 2:30 PM ADT
April 28, 2026	Meet the Candidates: Your Voice, Your Choice @ 2:30 PM ADT
May 5, 2026	Inside International @ 2:30 PM ADT
May 6, 2026	DKG NB Meeting 6:30 PM ADT at K of C Hall, Fredericton
May 12, 2026	Inside Connections—Membership & Expansion @ 7:30 PM ADT
May 14, 2026	NE SOP Meeting Zoom Meeting, 8:00 PM ADT
May 21, 2026	Inside Leadership—Leadership Development @ 7:30 PM ADT
June 2, 2026	Inside International @ 7:30 PM ADT
June 20, 2026	DKG Canadian Forum Zoom Meeting, 12:00 Noon ADT
June 30-July 4, 2026	International Convention @ Gaylord Rockies in Aurora, CO

NEXT PUBLICATION DEADLINE

**Beta members submit items to Dianne Caron dicaron47@gmail.com
Editorial Staff - Marjorie Sinclair, Dianne Caron**