

In May 2008, two Saskatoon teachers received support from their school board to travel to St. John's to participate in a week long training workshop at the Mathematics Learning Centre (MLC), Memorial University. The intent of this workshop was to provide the Saskatoon teachers with the tools to facilitate the incorporation of a remedial program for students in grade 9. This fall they are piloting a similar program in their school using pedagogies observed at the MLC.

During the weeklong workshop these teachers, Garry Davis and Kevin Sawatzky, delivered a public lecture facilitated by the MLC and sponsored by the Atlantic Association for Research in the Mathematical Sciences (AARMS). The title of the lecture was, *"Island on the Prairies: The Important Role of Teachers in Curriculum Revision"*.

Davis and Sawatzky shared some of their experiences, both positive and negative, of teaching high school mathematics in Saskatchewan over the past 20 years. Kevin Sawatzky has taught high school mathematics for 21 years with the Saskatoon Public School division. Kevin is a former University of Saskatchewan Huskie football player and now coaches high school football, and tutors current Huskie athletes. Garry Davis has been involved with mathematics education for 23 years as a teacher as well as an educational consultant. Garry has worked with Pearson Education as a contributing author for their textbooks series for Western Canada and is currently acting as a learning leader in his school. Both Kevin and Garry presently teach mathematics at Evan Hardy Collegiate in Saskatoon, where they have worked together for the past five years.

In their lecture, Davis and Sawatzky explained the process that Saskatchewan previously used to pilot new mathematics courses. During this time mathematics teachers were able to collaborate, reflect on their teaching, and encourage each other as they prepared for implementation. The Western Canadian provinces are now moving away from a piloting process. In response, the Saskatoon Public School Division is embarking on a process of collegiate renewal through the development of initiatives so that teachers can still be involved in a similarly rich experience of curriculum development. Davis described some of these initiatives.

On another evening during the workshop, AARMS hosted a round-table discussion involving Sawatzky and Davis and several teachers from the K-12 Newfoundland school system. The discussion focused on specific curriculum issues common to both provinces. Dr. Sherry Mantyka, Director of the Mathematics Learning Centre, and Jon Mauger, high school teacher in St. John's, co-facilitated this event. collaboration was particularly timely given the Newfoundland government's recent decision to abandon the Atlantic Provinces common curriculum in favour of the Western and Northern Canadian protocol, which is being used in Saskatchewan now. Other Atlantic Canada provinces are considering the same shift. Conversations with the two teachers from Saskatoon gave those in attendance at either of the events useful insight into what can be expected here in Newfoundland (and possibly all of Atlantic Canada) from this shift. These events represent a significant contribution to the community as a whole in the area of mathematics education.

Expenses (funded by AARMS):

1. Honorarium for Public Lecture Speaker - Kevin Sawatzky	100.00
2. Honorarium for Public Lecture Speaker - Garry Davis	100.00
3. Catering for Public Lecture on May 13, 2008	766.03
4. Room Rental for Round Table Discussion on May 15, 2008	169.50
5. Catering for Round Table Discussion on May 15, 2008	185.20
Total	\$1320.73

