

NWT Election, November 2015: Responses from candidates to literacy issues

Candidate	How will improving literacy and essential skill levels be a part of your platform?	If elected, what will you do within the government to position and promote literacy and essential skills as a priority in the NWT?	What will you do to ensure that addressing literacy and essential skills needs is integrated into the development of all social programs?
<p>Jan Fullerton FRAME LAKE</p>	<p>When it comes to addressing adult literacy issues, I have heard very good results from the Northern Adult Basic Education courses developed and delivered by the NWT Literacy Council and Aurora College. By all reports, people are more receptive to a model of learning where they can learn as part of broader, relevant training rather than through academic “adult upgrading”. I think this should be continued and expanded to other education and training programs as well as workplace learning. There also may be opportunities to partner with the federal government to cost-share on NWT-based initiatives.</p> <p>To improve long-term literacy</p>	<p>I would advocate for literacy and essential skills as a component of education at all levels including K-12, post-secondary, and adult upgrading. This complements the move toward competency-based education through the K-12 education renewal project but is also reflective of discussions at national skills and post-secondary education conferences regarding the best direction for post-secondary training and education.</p> <p>I would highlight the increasing recognition that literacy and essential skills are being given at all levels of education and government and the way in which they can be incorporated</p>	<p>I would advocate for a strong partnership with the NWT Literacy Council to ensure that we are properly informed about the government’s effectiveness in addressing literacy and essential skills needs in our social programs.</p> <p>I would push for plain language documents for government programs, recognizing that many people accessing these programs may have lower literacy or may not speak English as their first language. Finally, I would look for training and education opportunities for MLAs and GNWT employees to better understand literacy and essential skills so they can more effectively oversee their incorporation in social programs.</p>

	<p>and essential skills among NWT residents, I am advocating for a broad early childhood development strategy that will give all children access to affordable early learning. This combined with a focus on mental health would build a foundation for life-long success in all levels of education.</p>	<p>and applied to learning environments. This is particularly relevant for workplace learning; initiatives that use embedded literacy and essential skills could be an ideal way forward for developing our northern workforce on the job rather than in a classroom. This would allow learners to earn income and employers to meet their labour needs more quickly.</p>	
<p>Kevin O'Reilly FRAME LAKE</p>	<p>There are serious consequences for NWT individuals, families, and society when low literacy and essential skills are present. Low LES limit an individual's ability to <i>contribute</i> to society in a meaningful way and affects personal and social well-being. Awareness about LES is important and should be promoted. Fortunately there is a lot of information on LES written in the NWT and all MLAs should become more familiar with this material. Development of LES</p>	<p>There are several ways in which I will work within the GNWT to promote LES. The common problem of funding and jurisdictional "silos" often prevents the development of long-term, comprehensive, collaborative programming, which would be more effective. GNWT departments need to work together to develop and coordinate work and decrease doubling of efforts. NGO participation from groups like the NWT Literacy Council</p>	<p>We need to develop an approach that looks at how LES can be incorporated in social programs. In particular, we need to consider how a program can improve LES for the target group involved. It is more efficient when LES is integrated into different training programs such as cooking courses, prenatal, well baby programs, gardening/farming training, trapping to name a few. One way to reach different projects is to focus on "community literacy". This involves giving people the training, resources, and support they need to develop LES programs in their communities. Community leaders tend to focus on economic development, not recognizing that it is dependent on people having a certain level of LES. Community literacy projects demonstrate the value of LES to the whole community and help to build community capacity. Community literacy projects get everyone involved: families, schools, communities, businesses (big and small) and service providers in health and social services.</p>

	<p>should be integrated into early childhood programs, throughout the school years and in adult upgrading. There are barriers that prevent developing LES. Accessing LES training is complicated, and needs to be supported in many ways—adults need time, childcare, transportation, a <i>relatively</i> stress-free life, confidence, trust in the education system and an understanding of the benefits of upgrading LES.</p>	<p>should be encouraged. I also commit to meet with the NWT Literacy Council at least annually and to make myself available to meet with the Council upon request to ensure LES is part of the way we collectively move forward.</p>	
<p>Glen Abernethy GREAT SLAVE</p>	<p>As indicated in my platform, I believe that people should have the opportunity and resources to live healthy and productive lives. Literacy and essential skills development are key components to this. The GNWT must continue to place a priority on literacy at all levels including adult basic literacy, family literacy and the basics of literacy being provided within schools throughout the NWT as well as the assessment</p>	<p>In my opinion, increased levels of literacy and focused essential skills development can help lift many of our residents out of the poverty cycle. I want to include educators and organizations such as the NWT Literacy Council in the development of recommendations and solutions. Experts like the members and staff of the NWT Literacy Council bring valuable information and insight to the</p>	<p>We need to recognize that not all of our residents are at the same level of literacy or essential skills. As a result, we need to ensure that when we are developing social programs (often for those at lower levels of education) we need to ensure that they are easy to understand. The GNWT must ensure that it uses clear, concise and well-organize plain language to introduce and explain its programs. I believe that the GNWT should be working with partners like the NWT Literacy Council to ensure that our public programs and documents meet the test of plain language. Further, there is significant benefit to making “Plain Language” training mandatory for all GNWT employees tasked with program design or promotion. We must also ensure that during the development and delivery of programs and services that the client realities are understood and addressed. If re-elected I commit to working with MLAs and government</p>

	<p>and development of essential skills need for the workplace. This includes additional attention being placed on Aboriginal and French languages.</p> <p>I believe people and education are the keys to our future. To maximize benefits of economic development and activity we have to ensure that there are enough educated Northerners to do the work. Not enough of our children are graduating from high school. We need to address the root causes of this failure.</p> <p>The GNWT needs to support local and territorial options for post-secondary education and training to prepare our people to take advantage of opportunities.</p>	<p>table and must be present.</p> <p>As the MLA for Great Slave I will continue to take opportunities to promote literacy, essential skills development, and the important work of the NWT Literacy Council throughout the NWT.</p>	<p>to ensure that an Equity Based Analysis is utilized during the design and implementation of program and services. This will require that Equity Based Analysis training is provided to all staff (policy/program design/etc.) responsible for program review, monitoring and design.</p>
<p>Wally Schumann HAY RIVER SOUTH</p>	<p>One of the key areas of my platform is the need to focus on education. With the implementation of the ERI, I believe we need to place special attention on higher attendance and academic levels to better prepare our students for post-</p>	<p>There is clearly a vital need to improve literacy levels and essential skills within our communities. If elected, I would look forward to meeting with the NWT Literacy Council to discuss how we can move these issues forward to be a priority</p>	<p>I believe we need to take a hard look at the social programs in place to see what's working, what isn't, and how we can do better. I would look forward to meeting with the NWT Literacy Council to find out how we can better address the need to improve literacy and essential skills in our communities.</p>

	<p>secondary success. Part of this would mean ensuring student literacy levels are where they need to be.</p> <p>Another key component of my plan involves inspiring youth to grow their careers in the north with job shadowing, internship and career opportunities. I believe we can grow capacity within our communities by looking at how our social programs can be more effective in improving literacy and essential skills for those outside the school system who are interested in furthering their careers.</p>	<p>in the legislative assembly.</p>	
<p>Brain Willows HAY RIVER SOUTH</p>	<p>This is an area for concern and is represented by the participation rate in the work force of those with low literacy. The group of northerners with less than high school education was half (4300) of all persons not in the labour force in 2014.</p>	<p>First and foremost we have an overall deficit in funding for education. I have committed to working with my other MLA's to address the priorities of education in the 18th Assembly.</p>	<p>I believe the next government needs to hold a round table very early on in its mandate to prioritize its vision, focus and implementation for education and social programs. I believe it is a priority for the vast number of candidates in this election cycle and we need to put that vision into action and not the platitudes we have been receiving during the 17th Assembly.</p>
<p>William Firth MACKENZIE</p>	<p>I am a strong advocate of Literacy and all that it involved within our</p>	<p>I feel that everyone should be able to be involved in the evolution of Literacy, at all</p>	<p>I will keep Literacy in the forefront in all aspects of our work when I am elected into the LA</p>

DELTA	society in the North.	levels and in each community.	
Rosemary Gill NAHENDEH	Improving literacy and essential skills are already a part of my platform. I think it is unacceptable that approximately 42% of adults in the NWT do not have the literacy skills they need to function well in their daily lives. (This statement was taken from a NWT Literacy Council document) I commend the NWT Literacy Council and Aurora College for developing several short essential skills courses such as Introduction to Office Skills courses. I believe we need to go further to develop short courses/workshops that people in the community can use immediately such as information for “Adults Returning to School”, How to navigate post-secondary education application system, financial planning to return to school, How to advocate on behalf of your child, How to lobby politicians to further	I will lobby other members to garner support and introduce the issue in the Leg.	I will ensure Family literacy programs are focused on families participating in their children’s education not replacing the parent’s responsibility by delivering programs outside the home. A review of existing programs should be conducted to enhance integrating literacy and essential skills.

	<p>community concerns, etc.</p> <p>I will lobby for a coordinated approach, perhaps utilize a community development model to address literacy rates in the NWT as well as student support and program support to raise literacy levels. Student support in the NWT should not be tied to employment. I believe as stakeholders and partners in education, we must ensure our graduates are leaving the school system with the skills needed for further education.</p> <p>I will also lobby to integrate the trades and technologies better in the secondary schools.</p>		
<p>Kevin Menicoche NAHENDEH</p>	<p>I will work to ensure that private and public funding are secured for a strong daycare system for our residents so that our adult learners can make use of the opportunities to go and learn in our aurora college facilities. The aurora college has to continue to have mobile centers so that those</p>	<p>I will work with my elected colleagues to ensure that literacy and essential skills are part of the 18th assembly's priorities.</p>	<p>Those with lower literacy skill do statistically use our social supports system more frequently. I would advocate that those using our safety nets be made aware of self-development for self- improvement. That there is more opportunities for training and learning in our adult education classes. Public awareness and encouragement to this sector of our population is critical.</p>

	living in small and remote communities have the opportunity to develop their literacy skills.		
Shane Thompson NAHENDEH	A big component of my platform is education. Literacy and essential skills fall under education. It is my belief that there not only needs to be focus on K – 12 education but adult education as well. Offering educators the support they need to help them help their students be successful is key. This support may come in the form of more funding, more support staff or up to date technological resources. For adults support we need to be offering programs in the smaller communities so that they are more easily accessible so people are not leaving to get the assistance that they need.	If elected to help position and promote literacy and essential skills as a priority it would have to come down to team work and communication within all members of the 18 th Legislative Assembly. Bringing attention and trying to influence change in regards to this issue will not be too far away from my desire to enhance the education system. By enhancing the education system there should in turn be an improvement on literacy and essential skills. It will be about creating awareness and working together with other MLAs to see the change that needs to happen.	Literacy and essential skills impact all that we do in our daily lives. When addressing the needs in social programs there needs to be proper support and training in place to assist those of all levels. Creating an environment where people feel safe regardless of literacy level is important for successful programming.
Daryl Dolynny	Low levels of literacy and essential skills are critical	If I am elected, I would work within Caucus and with the	This is a complicated question and I don't have a ready answer to how this can be done for all of the social programs delivered in the NWT. A good

<p>RANGE LAKE</p>	<p>challenges facing all communities in the Northwest Territories. As noted in the introduction to this questionnaire, improving literacy skills in the NWT will improve the ability of individuals to develop skills that leads to healthier individuals, families and communities. It also leads to higher employment levels and productivity in the NWT's economy to fuel the NWT economy.</p> <p>Given the importance of this issue to the NWT, my platform includes a commitment to support additional resources for community-based programming that improves literacy levels in the Northwest Territories.</p>	<p>new Cabinet to make literacy and essential skills training a priority of the 18th Assembly. This would include a commitment to make more funding available to address this issue at both the community and territorial level.</p> <p>I also believe it is important to work in partnership with the private sector as they also have an important role to play to promote and increase literacy in the NWT .</p>	<p>start would be a regular forum that allows for a dialogue of how we can better integrate literacy in the policy development process between policy makers for the GNWT, organizations that support and promote literacy and community practitioners.</p>
<p>Michael Miltenberger J THEBACHA</p>	<p>Education will continue to be a priority in the 18th assembly, and improving literacy and essential skills is key to success on a personal and work level. I will commit to the NWTLC to actively promote the retention of funding</p>	<p>We have a new federal government which recognizes the importance of literacy and the type of work done by your organization. I would ECE to work with the Council to develop a new approach that</p>	<p>The now exists Social Program committees of Cabinet and also of the regular members. These committees are designed to work together and to provide better coordination and integration of services across the social programs spectrum. I will advocate that one of the priorities of the 18th assembly be literacy and that this issue to referred to those committees as one of the first orders of business as they review the departmental business plans for the upcoming fiscal year.</p>

	for the Literacy Council so you may continue to do your good work.	would allow us to mitigate some of the less progressive direction of the former federal government.	
Julie Green YELLOWNIFE CENTRE	My platform includes investing in child care to make it more affordable. I see universal affordable child care as an important and effective way to help children achieve better literacy and essential skills.	I will lobby for the investment outlined in the Feasibility Study on Child Care in the NWT (2015). This investment would provide trained staff to deliver early childhood education to children ages 0 to 4. It's my understanding that this is the age in a child's life where families and other care givers can make the greatest difference to their development. There is also a need for greater investment in family support centres for parents. I have heard that a dollar invested in early childhood education is \$7 saved on trying to catch up later.	I know that the Literacy Council is already working on ways to reach families with literacy support, such as the cooking program at the YWCA Yellowknife Family Housing Program. This is an example of outreach that has many benefits that include but are not limited to literacy. I would like to see a greater investment in the NWT Literacy Council to expand programming of this kind.
Edwin Castillo YELLOWKNIFE	I place emphasis on the development and sustainability	If elected, I would advocate the following directions and work	Research has illustrated that gains in literacy skills impact the lives of individuals in many positive ways. In turn, the positive impact will accrue social benefits to society as a whole. With a close relationship established

<p>NORTH</p>	<p>for the north as part of my platform through my ABC priorities. Literacy and essential skills are an essential component of this particularly from an educational perspective and are the primary keys to our future. Illiteracy and poor quality of education will only increase the poverty cycle relative to socioeconomic inequalities and disparities of opportunities. And all the negative factors will further threaten the sustainability of our northern society. Currently, there is a disconnect on governmental policy attention to education and allocated resources including the absence of strong connections between literacy and lifelong learning opportunities. This needs to be addressed.</p>	<p>together with the NWT Literacy Council and with my MLA colleagues to ensure education, literacy and essential skills are considered priorities. Equitable access to the high quality literacy learning opportunities to promote lifelong learning. Literacy must be promoted for all ages, but prioritizing disadvantaged groups. Qualified and motivated teachers, facilitators and other professionals as well as recognized seniors should be made available, especially in social programs. Encourage innovative and interactive approaches to the teaching and learning of essential skills and literacy. New teaching methodology and technology should be utilized to continuously improve the curriculum and</p>	<p>between social programs and literacy/essential skills, I would recommend and work with the legislative assembly in having more coordinated and synergetic strategies implemented by the government for each social program and literacy/essential skills; but, more importantly to have more cross-program efficiency and effectiveness realized by integrated planning involving active consultation between key stakeholders such as social envelope departments, NGOs (e.g., NWT Literacy Council), educators/schools and local communities.</p> <p>For example, within the government program designing process inter-departmental coordination should be enhanced to ensure literacy programs can be integrated/implemented/evaluated bearing the following aspects and have active involvement/sharing from the relevant departments within GNWT and NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtain a job or a better-paying job • be more productive employees • design literacy programme in aboriginal languages • adapt to changing needs in the workplace- workplace restructure and HR development. • achieve independence without relying on welfare • lead healthier lives • manage their health • access quality health care when they need it • succeed in society without resorting to criminal activity • ensure that their children succeed in school • raise healthier children who are less likely to be socially alienated • engage in responsible family planning and bear healthier children
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		<p>learning processes. The potential of information and communication technologies should be implemented and explored to make literacy learning more accessible and relevant to learners and their communities by providing conducive learning environments and appropriate learning resources.</p> <p>Efforts in promoting functional literacy has helped empower the most marginalized social groups, especially women and those mentally challenged, to access financial services and secure justice. It is important to, focus on financial and legal literacy, which will empower them to strengthen their asset base, secure justice and expand the range of choices available.</p> <p>Building robust learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• have a positive self-image
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		<p>partnerships and creating synergies between government and NGOs including the Literacy Council to implement a comprehensive literacy strategy is required. I would work in strengthening and widening of networks and partnerships for literacy in the north including effective coordination of financial resources for the development and coordination of joint programs. In short, I believe more active participation from all stakeholders is required to address literacy and essential skills as a priority in the NWT.</p>	
<p>Ben Nind YELLOWKNIFE NORTH</p>	<p>Education for all learners in the NWT is a central pillar of my platform. Literacy is included within this. I am calling for a massive investment in education, health and wellness and identity. We have a small window of opportunity to ensure that all</p>	<p>Literacy support, through the education mandate, has to be a priority if there is going to be a bright future for the NWT. We need to invest heavily in the human potential to see real and sustainable growth. The ability to read, write and communicate</p>	<p>I will advocate strongly that education for all learners needs to be integrated into the delivery of programs. Healthy social development goes hand in hand with active education whether it is with justice and youth, job training or addiction programming. A society that reads, writes and can speak is able to create, communicate and develop. If it cannot then it has limited options.</p>

	northerners are equipped with the literacy skills to allow them to better their opportunities in the workplace and their personal lives.	effectively is central to this. This needs to be instituted as a core value for the mandate of the new Assembly.	
Dan Wong YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	Building healthy communities where workers are well-housed, well-educated and no longer struggling with additions is a core commitment in my platform (www.votedanwong.com) I believe literacy skills are essential building blocks of a healthy community because literacy addresses the needs of NWT residents of all ages in the various roles they play at home, in the workplace and in the community. Increased literacy levels will translate into renewed hope, expanded opportunities and improved quality of life for NWT individuals, families and communities.	<p>If elected, I'll stand up to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the literacy levels of people of all ages in the NWT. • Support literacy in the official languages of the NWT. • Build integrated partnerships across the NWT to address literacy priorities. • Build community capacity to meet local literacy needs, including support for community literacy projects. • Ensure organizations that promote literacy across the NWT have the adequate funding to do so. 	<p>We can do a better job at implementing the Literacy Strategy and better reporting and accountability on literacy activities across GNWT departments and with external stakeholders. A strategy is only as useful if implemented properly and adequately resourced. At the same time, we need a targeted approach. If we focus on making significant positive accomplishments in a few key areas, rather than spreading resources thinly across a wide spectrum of activities, we can accomplish much more.</p> <p>I believe one area we can do more is in aboriginal languages and literacy. We can build off the excellent resources available and translated into the official aboriginal languages by the NWT Literacy council at: http://www.nwtliteracy.ca/Aboriginal%20Languages%20and%20Literacies%20%28Resources%29</p>

<p>Robert R Mcleod YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH</p>	<p>Approximately 70% of the non-Aboriginal population has literacy skills at level 3 and above; the inverse is true for the Aboriginal population as about 70% has skills below level 3. Since 50% of our population is Aboriginal, the literacy deficit represents a significant impediment to the success the territories and our communities. At least two-thirds of our communities have unemployment rates exceeding 40%. Literacy is a key to altering this statistic.</p> <p>The future of the NWT is very bright with opportunities and jobs. Yet a significant portion of NWT jobs are filled southerners due to the lack of skilled workers. It starts with improving our literacy and numeracy rates. To use an analogy here, it's impossible to hit a home run if you don't know how to hold a bat. Tackling literacy is a game of</p>	<p>The Department of Education, Culture and Employment in the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) published the first NWT Literacy Strategy in 2001, after the NWT Literacy Council had raised literacy as an important issue that needed to be addressed, through its research project, <i>Making the Case for Literacy. Towards Literacy: A Strategy Framework</i> has now been updated with a new plan extending through 2018.</p> <p>Family literacy is a high priority within the Government of the Northwest Territories, and is a major pillar of the NWT Literacy Strategy. Families are a cornerstone of First Nations and Métis culture, and family literacy is seen as a culturally appropriate and non-threatening way to engage parents in learning.</p>	<p>While integration into social programs is possible, I would approach this from a number of different angles. First of all, I would promote increased literacy levels from our education system amongst school-aged children and youth and motivate parents to take a more active role in their children's education. Secondly, convert the illiterate adults too literate ones, it is fundamental to motivate them to learn in the first place. I would use Adult Educators and Aurora College to build capacity in the communities through Family Literacy and other programs. I would also coordinate workplace literacy, adult literacy and basic education courses and skill development projects with community organizations. I also recommend that we assess and create an inventory of informal approaches that have had success. We hear the stories, we need to bring more of them to life.</p> <p>For more than 10 years, the GNWT has funded the NWT Literacy Council to provide support to family literacy through training, resource development, information sharing and outreach and support. Consistent with research from other places, evaluations of the Council's family literacy work demonstrate the efficacy of the programs, and the benefits for both adults and children. We need more of that kind of success.</p> <p>The literacy deficit is a significant impediment to the territories fulfilling its promise. We need to think outside the box and focus on eradication of the literacy problem. It's in everyone's best interests.</p>
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	<p>bunts and singles. That's why I'm a big fan of home literacy programs, Like De Beers Books in Homes Program where the company distributes books in communities that are absent access to libraries and encourages home readership.</p> <p>The literacy deficit in our territories is ingrained; it's intergenerational. I believe Family Literacy Programs can help alter that reality. As I said it's a game of bunts and singles and if we can engage parents and children alike we can break the cycle.</p> <p>Literacy is the first step in empowering people and that is a key to ensuring individual opportunities, community development and economic success. Improving literacy levels in the NWT is integral to the success of the people and of our communities. I support a greater emphasis on and greater</p>	<p>A strong motivator for adults to participate in family literacy is the desire to help their children succeed in school. I believe this is the path we should take and we should allocate the resources to make a significant difference at the grassroots level through community-based family literacy initiatives. It's a priority.</p>	
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	resources for appropriate programs.		
Nigit'stil Norbert YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	<p>Improved literacy and essential skills are absolutely central to our communities' overall well-being. If these foundational skills are not developed from children's earliest years, then they risk encountering increasing vulnerabilities as they may be marginalized from the work place and from accessing social and economic supports. As a member of the legislative assembly, I will be working tirelessly to ensure that early childhood education and development receives the attention and resources required so that our smallest and most vulnerable citizens have an equal opportunity to succeed. This means a greater focus on women's issues, more supports to pregnant women and new mothers and a strong emphasis on supporting families and communities in caring for their</p>	<p>The NWT Literacy Council has been pivotal in developing resources for embedded literacy – recognizing that strengthening literacy and essential skills can and must be integrated in all aspects of our lives.</p> <p>In Government, collaboration between departments is too often overlooked and yet, when it comes to literacy cross-pollination is absolutely essential. Low literacy skills – whether related to verbal communication, interpersonal relationships, reading and writing, numbers or problem-solving – leave NWT's most vulnerable people unable to access even basic government supports. This is a stumbling block for every department. I believe therefore, that all Departments should have an integrated literacy strategy and</p>	<p>Although we have long known that all components of our residents' and communities' health and well-being, are integrated, our government departments continue to operate in isolation. Literacy is a fundamental indicator that highly correlates to other wellness factors. If young people begin to encounter low literacy, they can be socially marginalized, a cycle that can continue into adulthood. People with low literacy rates are less likely to secure well-paid employment and, caught in cycles of poverty, are more likely to encounter challenges with health or with the justice system. In order for these cycles to be interrupted, literacy has to be a central factor in all programs.</p> <p>For some departments, prioritizing literacy in programming may require more tweaking than full overhauls. For others, it will require a complete paradigm shift. For one, literacy has to be first and foremost when we speak about economic development in the NWT. Already, our mines are not able to meet local hiring targets because of challenges associated with literacy, essential skills and wellness. Rather than investing in massive infrastructure projects, NWT's employment and poverty figures will improve only when we start to invest in individuals. All programs focusing on economic development including granting or lending programs, should require explicit strategies to provide literacy development opportunities over the long-term. Funding programs that connect intermittent or seasonal workers with funded essential skill building opportunities during the off-season can build the long-term resiliency of workers and businesses.</p> <p>A recent GNWT pilot program attempts to address these interconnected factors through a pilot project to address homelessness through the</p>

	<p>youngest members. Globally, we know that investments in early childhood development is one of the most cost-effective that we can make and yet this area has not received the attention that it requires in the NWT.</p> <p>Though I firmly believe that strong literacy starts before birth, literacy needs to be prioritized throughout childhood and adult life. As a government, we need to find creative and consistent solutions to ensure that literacy is developed in the classroom and further supported through family, community and work place literacy programs.</p>	<p>all front-line program workers should have mandatory training in adult literacy. If elected, I will be questioning how every department handles literacy challenges and investigating to what degree literacy is acknowledged and addressed across departments.</p> <p>I also believe that programs for literacy development need to be tailored to the local context. While regional and territorial resources and resource-people need to be made available for training and support, only community organizations know what their literacy challenges are and what sort of programs are going to succeed best for those that need them most. Too often, programs targeting community social needs, including literacy, are small, single year pots each requiring separate applications and reporting. This ends up being more burdensome to</p>	<p><i>housing first</i> model. This model recognizes that housing is an essential stabilizing factor but that it isn't enough. The model provides funds first for housing, but also for supportive services to surround an individual with tools for a healthy and productive life. Such services can and should include those that build literacy. If elected, I will advocate for increased investments into the housing first model and I will advocate that funding contributions be adequate to ensure that effective literacy supports can be mobilized.</p> <p>All departments require such a holistic view however. Literacy must be integrated into addictions programs and justice programs to ensure that individuals are building the skills and self-confidence to take advantage of opportunities in the future. GNWT must create an integrated strategy that builds on its previous work, creates meaningful indicators and tracks them over time. All departments must be bound to its recommendations.</p>
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<p>Roy Erasmus FRAME LAKE</p>	<p>Literacy is a big part of my platform. I am an example of someone who returned to school as an adult after realizing that literacy and adult education was a critical part of the solution to improving my life. I went on to get a law degree and a masters degree. I know from personal experience that literacy is synonymous with opportunity.</p>	<p>Because of my experience outlined in 1A, I will do everything that I can do, as a Yellowknife MLA, to fight for support for literacy and all adult education programs. We need a lot more educational opportunities for adult learners in Yellowknife. We need many more education programs and funding supports for adult learners and this starts with supports for literacy and essential skills learners. And it doesn't stop there. We need</p>	<p>Financial assistance for adult literacy students is critical. We often end up supporting many adults who do not possess functional literacy levels and essential skills through a variety of social programs. Supporting adult learners though funding and educational program availability is an obvious improvement over paying for social service and justice initiatives that are far less constructive and empowering. The old adage comes to mind. 'You can pay me now or pay me later'. Let's choose to pay for progressive, innovative, creative literacy and essential skills programs and individual and family supports.</p> <p>As MLA I will make the logical arguments that will make literacy program supports a no-brainer. All MLAs have seen the negative results of a lack of supports. Solid arguments and fiscal equations that present these arguments are needed. I will present these arguments and equations.</p>

		many more technical, career and university level programs for those folks who succeed in attaining functional literacy levels and we need these opportunities to be available in Yellowknife where we have a large population of adults who aspire to better themselves through education.	
David Wasylciw FRAME LAKE			
Chris Clarke GREAT SLAVE			
Robert Bouchard HAR RIVER NORTH			
Karen Felker HAY RIVER NORTH			
Rocky Simpson HAY RIVER NORTH			

Jane Groenewegen HAY RIVER SOUTH			
Desmond Loreen INUVIK BOOT LAKE			
Alfred Moses INUVIK BOOT LAKE			
Jimmy Kalinek INUVIK TWIN LAKES			
Robert Mcleod INUVIK TWIN LAKES			
Dave Ramsay KAM LAKE			
Kieron Testart KAM LAKE			

Frederick Blake Jr MACKENZIE DELTA			
David Krutko MACKENZIE DELTA			
Norman Snowshoe MACKENZIE DELTA			
Jackson Lafferty MONFWI			
Arnold Hope NAHENDEH			
Deneze Nakehk'o NAHENDEH			
Randy Sibbeston NAHENDEH			
Dennis Nelner NAHENDEH			

Ethel-Jean Gruben NUNAKPUT			
Jackie Jacobson NUNAKPUT			
Judy Tutcho SAHTU			
Daniel Mcneely SAHTU			
Don Jaque THEBACHA			
Louis Sebert THEBACHA			
Tom Beaulieu TU NEDHE- WILIDEH			
Richard Edjericon TU NEDHE- WILIDEH			

Robert Hawkins YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE			
Sean Erasmus YELLOWKNIFE NORTH			
Cory Vanthuyne YELLOWKNIFE NORTH			
Samuel Roland YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH			
Herbert Nakimayak NUNAKPUT			
John Stuart Jr NUNAKPUT			
Caroline Cochrane RANGE LAKE			
Paul Andrew SAHTU			

Yvonne Doolittle SAHTU			
Robert Kuptana NUNAKPUT			
Ronald Bonnetrouge DEH CHO			
Lyle Fabian DEH CHO			
Michael Nadli DEH CHO			
Gregory Nyuli DEH CHO			

