

NWT Literacy Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



Who We Are

The NWT Literacy Council is a not-for-profit organization. We promote and support the development of literacy and essential skills in all the official languages of the NWT.

What We Do

- Each year we provide workshops, training, and professional gatherings for community-based literacy practitioners. Topics include family literacy, Aboriginal language literacy, embedding literacy and essential skills, youth and adult literacy, proposal writing, program planning, facilitation skills and workplace learning. Our flagship annual Family Literacy Training Institute (FLTI) began in 2001, and has been highly successful. We shape much of our training after the success of FLTI.
- We develop, publish, and distribute resources and learning materials for community-based family literacy, youth and adult literacy, and Aboriginal language programs.
- We mentor and support local literacy and essential skills practitioners and their projects.
- We conduct research into issues that affect literacy and essential skills development in the NWT, and monitor and share research from other places that impacts our work here.
- We promote the value of literacy and essential skills through the materials we produce and the events we sponsor. Events include International Literacy Day, NWT Literacy Week, National Family Literacy Day, Adult Learners' Week, Aboriginal Languages Month, and the Peter Gzowski Invitational Fundraiser for Literacy.
- We have an extensive network of interested stakeholders and partners, and share information about literacy and essential skills with them through our newsletters, e-news, social media, and website.
- We offer fee-for-service plain language design, writing, and editing services. We also promote the use of plain language.
- We monitor and respond to territorial and national literacy and essential skills policies.

Vision Statement

People in the NWT will have the skills they need to be full and active participants in their family, in their community, in their culture, and in today's society.

Mission Statement

The NWT Literacy Council builds capacity through literacy training, research, resource development, and promotion for the benefit of all Northerners.

Our Board Members (2015-2016)

- Jeri Miltenberger, President (to November 21, 2015) (missing from photo)
- Ken Latour, President (November 21, 2015)
- Suzanne Robinson, Vice President
- Ken Latour, Treasurer (to November 21, 2015)
- Norma Gauthier, Treasurer (November 21, 2015)
- Beverly Garven, Secretary (missing from photo)
- Emma Amundson, Deh Cho (missing from photo)
- Melani Adams, Beaufort Delta
- Rachel Gauthier, Yellowknife, Dettah and N'dilo
- Norma Gauthier, Tł̨chq̨ (to November 21, 2015)
- Amy Ryan, South Slave
- Mary Anne Vital, Sahtu



Our Staff (2015-2016)

- Michael Corbett, Executive Director (to May 14, 2015) (missing from photo)
- Kathryn Barry Paddock, Executive Director (May 14, 2015)
- Kathryn Barry Paddock, Family and Community Literacy Coordinator (to May 14, 2015)
- Helen Balanoff, Project Manager (May 2015)
- Charlotte Upton, Family Literacy Trainee (August 19, 2015)
- Patricia Ilgok, Family and Community Literacy Coordinator
- Katie Randall, Coordinator, Youth and Adult Services (on maternity leave July 29, 2015)
- Amanda Grobbeck, Youth Services Coordinator (June 22, 2015)
- Cheryl Deforest, Office Manager (to November 5, 2015) (missing from photo)
- Uma Sivakumar, Office Manager (November 4, 2015)
- Emily Thagard, Summer Student



Message from the President

It is with great pride that I pen this year's President's Message. This is my first opportunity to recognize the great staff, board, and supporters of the NWT Literacy Council in the annual report. It is also a moment to reflect on the importance and success of the Council's work in the field of family literacy. This year marks our 15th anniversary of providing programming in this important area.

Family literacy programs are built on the understanding that a child's first classroom is the home and the first teachers are the child's parents, siblings, and extended family. For the past 15 years, the Council has provided programming at the community level to help parents and families to support their children's literacy development. At the same time, the Council has built capacity by training and supporting local people to offer family literacy programs within their own community.

In fact, in the last 15 years the Literacy Council has trained over 750 people across the NWT to deliver family literacy programs. This has resulted in a steady stream of family literacy programs running at the community level, and has also resulted in some unexpected successes as well. For example, we know of at least one trainee who went on to a teacher education program, and some trainees have ended up presenting at national conferences.

These successes are possible because of the amount of work and attention that the staff at the NWT Literacy Council puts into developing resources, and facilitating engaging and meaningful workshops and programming in all the NWT's communities. This is a core strength of the Council. Since its early days, the Council has demonstrated a unique and vital ability to take research and best practices, and to turn this knowledge into short-term, engaging training programs that transfer skills and empower people in our large centres and small communities. This is no small feat, and this model has impacted and benefited all of the programs it delivers.

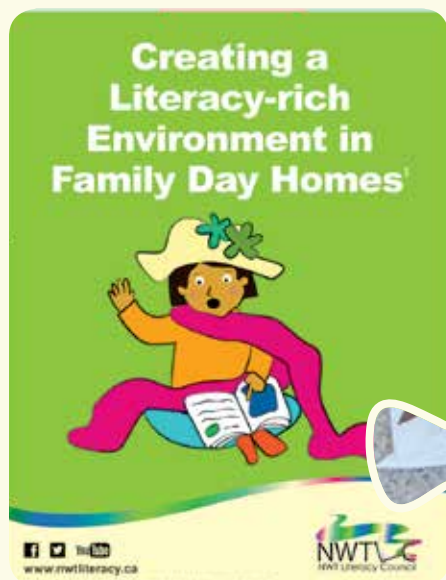
For a small organization, though, the NWT Literacy Council has routinely done remarkable things. This year, we received the Premier's Collaboration Award for our work with the Department of ECE on the Education Renewal Initiative. This is a reflection of the excellent staff that has worked for the Council over the years. As with most years, this past year saw changes to the Council's staff. Kathryn Barry Paddock moved from Family and Community Literacy Coordinator to take on the position of Executive Director. Cheryl Deforest left the Council this year, and we want to thank her for all the work she did for the Council. Katie Johnson left on maternity leave. Meanwhile, joining us is the new office manager, Uma Sivakumur, our family literacy trainee, Charlotte Upton, and our youth coordinator, Amanda Grobbeck.

I also want to recognize the board – made up of representatives from each of the NWT's regions – which provides the Council with oversight, leadership, and connection to communities. As well, there are also our funders and donors, without whom the Council could not operate. We are extremely grateful to the GNWT's Department of Education, Culture and Employment for all their funding support to the Council. We also want to recognize the Government of Canada, which continues to support the Council through the Council's involvement in the Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills (NALES) project.

In closing, I ask you to read our Annual Report to see what else the Council has accomplished this year, whether it is continued success with the Literacy Essential Skills courses developed for Aurora College, the development of a new strategic plan, or the revision of our Vision and Mission Statement. It has been a busy and productive year, and we look forward to being your partner in literacy in 2016-2017.

Ken Latour

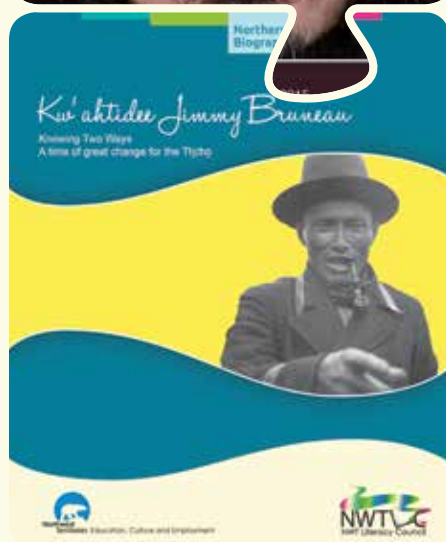
New Literacy and Essential Skills Resources



Family Literacy Resources

- *How to Kit – Indoor and Outdoor Winter Games and Activities*
- *Creating a Literacy-rich Environment in Family Day Homes*
- *StoryWalk® Kits*

We have created so many popular resources over the 15 years of promoting family literacy. Some of the earliest ones are still well-loved today. We continually reprint many family literacy resources, and provide them upon request. We provided several family literacy resources to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for their kindergarten backpack program. We also provided several of our family literacy resources to the Department of Health and Social Services to be distributed as part of the Early Childhood initiative.



Youth and Adult Resources

- *What about the Men? Northern Men's Research Project Final Report*
- *Northern Biographies: Kw'ahtidee Jimmy Bruneau*

We also developed and pilot-tested three new short courses for Aurora College:

- *Ready to Work NWT*
- *Introduction to Retail and Hospitality*
- *Introduction to Construction Labourer Basics*

Community Literacy Projects

Training

We offered training throughout the NWT. Training sessions included family literacy, embedding literacy and essential skills into youth programming, proposal writing and training for community adult educators. The training included:

- Education, Culture and Employment's Early Childhood Symposium – Yellowknife, August 27 to 30
- Family Literacy Training Institute – Yellowknife, September 14 to 18
- Storysack Training for Tłıchǫ Region – Yellowknife, September 30 to October 1
- Skill Builders for Youth training – Yellowknife, October 20 to 22
- Storysack Training for Beaufort Delta Region – Inuvik, October 22 to 23
- Proposal Writing – Hay River, November 16 to 18
- Proposal Writing – Inuvik, January 27 to 29
- Healthy Children Initiative Family Literacy Training for Sahtu Region – Norman Wells, March 29 to 31
- Professional development sessions for all community adult educators. The sessions took place in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, and Inuvik in November, December, and January.

Approximately 300 community members were trained in many aspects of literacy and essential skills. People who attend our training then facilitate literacy programs in their community.



Map to Literacy



Community Literacy Projects continued

Family Literacy

We presented at Education, Culture and Employment's Early Childhood Symposium again this year. We held one session on *Science Fun*, and one on *Little Chefs* for early childhood workers throughout the NWT.

Our annual Family Literacy Training Institute in September 2015 took place over four days with participants from 13 different communities throughout the NWT. Participants did sessions on *Introduction to Family Literacy*, *1-2-3 Rhyme with Me*, *Felt Stories*, *Brain and Language Development*, *Book Making*, *Choosing Books*, and *Family Literacy Night Planning*.

We held *Storysack* trainings for both the Tłıchǫ Region and for the Beaufort-Delta Region. Participants learned about *Storysacks* and their value in supporting literacy development. They then made their own *Storysack* to take back to their community.

With funding from the Healthy Children's Initiative, we held Family Literacy Training for the Sahtu Region for three days in March 2016. Participants did sessions on *Introduction to Family Literacy*, *Felt Stories*, *Brain and Language Development*, and our new parental engagement program, *Take a Break*.

This year we funded and supported 30 family literacy projects in 20 communities through our funding from the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

We started fundraising for a new family literacy project this year. A few years ago, we came up with the idea of a mobile family literacy bus that could tour northern communities that are accessible by road.





Our idea is to buy a small school bus, decorate it with northern themes and fill it with books, toys, and craft materials to give away to families and family literacy programs. We'll offer free programs to families and their children, and will train more community members to run family literacy nights. The Bison Bus will allow us to work face-to-face with more parents and other caregivers.

This year we participated in the Aviva Community Fund competition with hopes of funding this dream. We didn't win any money from the Aviva contest, but we did get a lot of publicity for our idea, which is moving us closer to having our dream become a reality. Companies and individuals have supported the idea and we are about half way there!

Youth and Adult Literacy

Our Skill Builders for Youth Project, funded by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, continued this year. This project has been shaped by the 15-year success of our Family Literacy Project. Using the model of the Family Literacy Project, we are building community capacity, and then providing money and ongoing support for communities to run youth literacy programs.



Community members from six communities came to a three-day workshop in Yellowknife. The training was to help them run a youth program, with literacy and essential skills embedded. Another community was given training through mentorship. A total of eight projects took place, including some communities with facilitators trained in previous years. Projects included: a drama program; sewing items such as bullet bags, pack sacks and mitten; making and marketing crafts; snowshoe making; and cooking. This project was a renewal of our previous Skill Builders for Youth Project, and is a new three-year contribution agreement.



Community Literacy Projects continued

Projects included:

- 1-2-3 Rhyme with Me
- Story Time Adventures
- Books in the Home
- Storysacks
- Cultural Activities
- Little Chefs
- Science Fun
- Aboriginal Language Activities
- Family Literacy Nights
- Senior's Book Club
- Mitten Making
- Snowshoe Making
- Screen Printing
- Cooking
- Drama
- Film Making
- Arts and Crafts Marketing

Again this year, we participated in professional development workshops sponsored by Aurora College and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We provided training on modularization to community adult educators from across the NWT.

Several community members were interested in our Proposal Writing workshops, and we had more requests than we could fulfill in the year. This training helps people to plan a program for their community and then write proposals for the program for funding. Training sessions took place in Hay River and Inuvik, with both workshops full, plus a waitlist. Workshops have also been requested in other communities and we hope to have funding to continue this work next year.

Aboriginal Literacy

We organized our Aboriginal Networking session, which was to take place in April 2016. Language coordinators contributed their ideas to the agenda and we made all the arrangement so that the session would go smoothly. We continue to post articles about language acquisition, retention, and revitalization to our Aboriginal Languages Facebook page.



Research



We completed work on the Northern Men's Research Projects this year. Ilitaqsiniq – the Nunavut Literacy Council led this pan-northern project, along with the Yukon Literacy Coalition, Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador, and NWTLC. The research took place in two communities in each territory and province, asking what has led to success or barriers in men's engagement in learning or work. A final report was produced with findings and a presentation of the findings made at a community engagement session in Yellowknife. The final report can be found on our website, under the Research tab.



Promotion and Information Sharing

Throughout the year, we promote literacy and essential skills within our networks, around the NWT, and across Canada. We do this through special events, activities, and awareness building promotions.

Promotional Events

- Adult Learners' Week in Canada
- Canada Day
- Yellowknife Farmer's Market
- Northern Territories Federation of Labour Labour Day Barbeque
- International Literacy Day Breakfast with the Yellowknife Book Cellar
- NWT Literacy Week
- National Family Literacy Day
- Aboriginal Languages Month
- Long John Jamboree
- YWCA's Yes We Care Days
- Aurora College Family Nights on Campus
- Children's Festival of Silliness
- Chinese Cultural Experience
- Moms, Boobs, and Babies Breastfeeding Challenge
- Community Health Fairs
- ECE Early Childhood Symposium
- Summer Camps
- Aviva Community Fund Contest

Information Sharing

- *Literacy Matters* newsletters twice a year
- *Literacy this Week* weekly e-news sent to 650 subscribers
- Regularly updated website, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages
- Added Instagram page in 2015-2016
- Literacy calendar and other materials and resources mailed to educators and communities free of charge



Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2015

	2016	2015
Assets		
Current		
Cash	290,025	21,604
Short-term investments	335,243	352,797
Accounts receivable	66,707	226,438
Government remittances receivable	36,679	20,376
	728,654	621,215
Restricted cash	2,615	2,637
Tangible capital assets	2,242	3,592
	\$733,511	\$627,444
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	48,263	65,564
Wages and benefits payable	12,506	46,653
Deferred revenue	104,703	46,085
	165,472	158,302
Net Assets		
Balance	568,039	469,142
	\$733,511	\$627,444

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2016

	2016 Budget unaudited	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
Revenues			
Contribution revenue	\$1,445,473	\$1,461,272	\$1,604,133
Administration and other	40,000	39,392	41,070
Donations	-	25,256	14,975
In-kind contributions	-	4,744	4,066
Memberships	-	445	200
Resource revenue	15,000	1,789	26,313
Interest income	-	2,449	1,992
Recoveries of expenses	-	20,752	134,852
Special events	-	-	14,023
	1,500,473	1,556,099	1,841,624
Transfer to (from) deferred revenue	(15,803)	58,618	(38,963)
	\$1,516,276	\$1,497,481	\$1,880,587

Statement of Operations continued

For the year ended March 31, 2016

	2016 Budget unaudited	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
Expenses			
Administration fees	40,556	41,521	36,335
Advertising and promotion	-	13,818	13,755
Amortization	-	1,350	2,246
Communications	24,700	17,060	15,678
Community literacy projects	140,000	141,944	169,990
Computer expense	8,500	9,597	7,647
Contract fees	151,750	193,763	429,707
Equipment rental	-	-	123
Fees and dues	250	1,447	3,275
Honoraria	-	-	3,515
Hospitality	-	4,186	6,392
Insurance	2,250	4,616	3,641
Interest and bank charges	-	787	420
Meeting expenses	35,000	2,706	5,410
Miscellaneous	-	342	-
Office and administration	15,500	15,230	29,097
Office supplies	6,000	6,223	3,513
Postage and courier	14,000	21,285	18,121
Printing	28,000	40,536	58,490
Professional development	3,900	3,088	3,728
Professional fees	96,076	47,963	59,459
Rent	41,804	40,179	45,706
Repairs and maintenance	2,924	7,361	5,100
Resources	4,450	22,417	2,886
Scholarships and distributions	-	6,216	11,296
Translation services	-	-	2,200
Travel	59,494	89,596	170,122
Utilities	7,902	6,227	6,744
Wages and benefits	571,343	503,702	670,049
Workshops	206,877	155,424	221,061
	1,461,276	1,398,584	2,005,706
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$55,000	98,897	(125,119)

Our full financial statement is available on our website, www.nwtliteracy.ca, or from our office.

Thank You to Our Literacy Friends

The Board of the NWT Literacy Council thanks all of the people who support our work. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without you.

Funders

- Government of the Northwest Territories – Education, Culture and Employment
- Government of the Northwest Territories – Health and Social Services
- Government of the Northwest Territories – Municipal and Community Affairs
- Employment and Social Development Canada – Office of Literacy and Essential Skills
- Employment and Social Development Canada – New Horizons for Seniors Program
- Employment and Social Development Canada – Canada Summer Jobs Program
- Aurora College
- NWT Recreation and Parks Association – Get Active Program



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- Enbridge Pipelines
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- Geraldine Miltenberger
- Amber and Paul Henry



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- Jonathan Vokey
- Paul Winterhoff
- Nicole Wirth
- Xuhua Yu





Celebrating 15 Years of Family Literacy

Box 761
5122 - 48th Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6
Canada
Telephone: (867) 873-9262
Toll Free in NWT: 1-866-599-6758
Fax: (867) 873-2176
E-mail: nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca
Web Site: www.nwtliteracy.ca