

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**LITERACY
COUNCIL**
ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019



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.

Vision

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

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

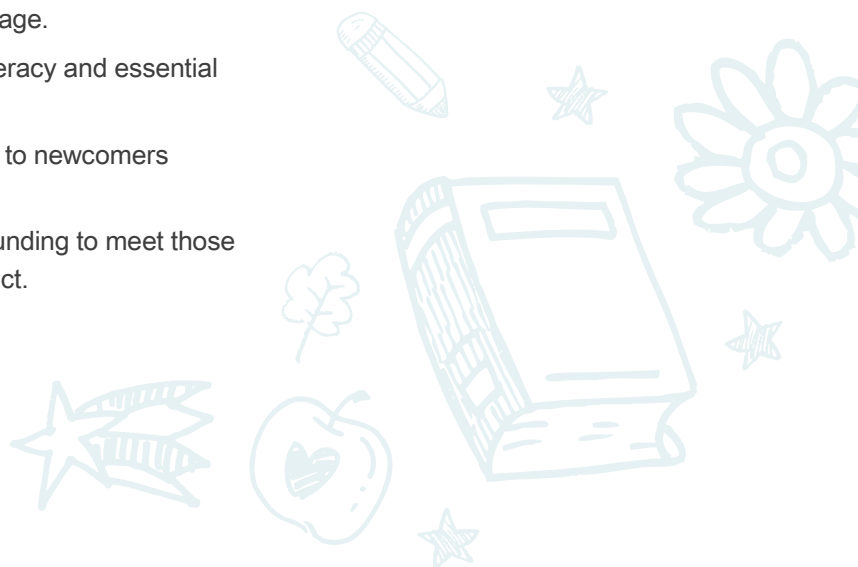
What we do

- Each year we provide workshops, training, and professional gatherings for community-based literacy practitioners. Topics include family literacy, Indigenous 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 since. 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, Indigenous 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, as well as promoting the use of plain language.
- We monitor and respond to territorial and national literacy and essential skills policies.
- We offer non-formal literacy and languages program to newcomers through our community connections program.
- We respond to needs in the community and obtain funding to meet those needs, such as our Community Learning Bond Project.



Our Board Members

- Ken Latour, President *(to October, 2018)*
- Beverly Garven, Vice President *(to October, 2018)*
- Beverly Garven, President *(October, 2018)*
- Ken Latour, Vice President *(October, 2018)*
- Amy Ryan, Treasurer *(to October, 2018)*
- Rosemary Gill, Deh Cho *(treasurer, October 2018)*
- Suzanne Robinson, Secretary *(to June, 2018)*
- Rachel VanderVeen, Yellowknife, Dettah and Ndilo *(September, 2018)*
- Melani Adams, Beaufort Delta *(Secretary, October, 2018)*
- Norma Gauthier, Tłıchǫ
- Minnie Whimp, South Slave



NWT
LITERACY
COUNCIL





Our Staff

- Kathryn Barry Paddock, Executive Director
- Helen Balanoff, Project Manager
- Katie Johnson, Coordinator, Youth and Adult Services
(Parental Leave to June, 2018; Coordinator, Family Literacy, June, 2018)
- Charlotte Upton, Coordinator, Family and Community Literacy
- Emily Smith, Coordinator, Youth and Adult Services
- Christine Barker, Coordinator, Family and Community Literacy
(Parental leave coverage, to July, 2018; Canada Learning Bond Coordinator, March, 2019)
- Uma Sivakumar, Office Manager
- Karen Johnson, Community Connections Coordinator
- Catriona Profit, Summer Student
- Aishah Mohammed, Summer Student



Emily Smith
Coordinator,
Youth and Adult Services



Aishah Mohammed
Summer Student





Beverly Garven
President, NWT Literacy Council

Message from the President

This is the end of my first year as President of the NWT Literacy Council. I have been a member of the Board of Directors since 2011, and have served in various capacities such as Beaufort Delta Representative, Vice President, and Secretary.

2018-2019 saw the Council continue to forge partnerships with government departments, as we respond to needs and broaden the reach of literacy programming available to NWT residents. We wrapped up our pan-territorial NALES (Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills) project with Ilitagsiniq (the Nunavut Literacy Council) and the Yukon Literacy Coalition. We began a new project with Employment and Social Development Canada to increase the take-up of the Canada Learning Bond among eligible NWT families. We began a new partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services on an Oral

Health Literacy project. We will create learning materials such as a book and an animatic (interactive digital story) around the oral health theme.

Our Bison Bus was given its decorative bison wrap, retrofitted, and hit the road for a soft launch in late summer of 2018. The bus will be a wonderful addition to family literacy programming in communities with road access outside of Yellowknife. I can't wait for it to venture up the Dempster Highway for a visit to the Delta.

Our committed, passionate staff and board members continue to work hard to build

relationships in communities throughout the NWT, and to support the people living in those communities to be full and active participants in their family, their community, their culture, and in today's society.

Mársı | Kinanāskomitin

Thank you | Merci

Hqı' | Quana

Qujannamiik | Quyanainni

Máhsı | Máhsı | Mahsi



People like to use our resources

Our resources are in high demand. In 2018-2019, we distributed our resources across the Northwest Territories. We received additional requests for resources from across Canada, and across the globe. Our Everyday Math series remains some of our more popular resources.

We also created the following resources:

1. *Cooking and Counting Fridge Magnets – September 2018*
 - Created for NWT Literacy Week 2018 to go with our theme “Everyone in the Kitchen”.
2. *Everyone in the Kitchen Recipe Book – September 2018*
 - Created for NWT Literacy Week 2018, Everyone in the Kitchen Recipe Book contained several recipes of varying difficulty for family members of all ages to make together.
3. *Northern Memory Card Game – February 2019*
 - Created for National Family Literacy Day to go along with our theme of the International Year of Indigenous Language. We made our Northern Memory Card Game. This game was created in two sets, one English and one with a blank space to be filled in with one's own Indigenous language.

NABE and Adult Resources

We continue to work closely with Aurora College and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment on the development of courses for learners in Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE) programs in Community Learning Centres.

This year we pilot tested the Introduction to Community Caregiving course in three communities: N'dilo, Fort Simpson, and Tsiigehtchic. Instructors and students responded positively with only a few suggested revisions.

We reviewed Introduction to Early Learning and Child Care

course. We revised it and added a component to let participants work in the Early Learning laboratory in Yellowknife. The revised course will be pilot tested in Fall 2019.

We focussed strongly on course development to fit in the new framework for ALBE.

We completed the following courses for pilot testing in the 2019-2020 academic year:

Literacy Skill Builders 1
(formerly Literacy Essentials)

Numeracy Essentials 1

Northern Perspectives
(formerly Northern Studies).

As always, we are very grateful to all the adult educators who give us such constructive feedback on the courses we develop. Together we are making a difference for adult learners.



Promoting family literacy across the NWT

We promoted family literacy by building capacity in communities through training and by creating resources for the use of families and community programs.

Funding through the Healthy Children's Initiative allowed us to spend two days training five Aboriginal Head Start staff members in Fort Providence in Little Chefs and Science Fun. Literacy Council staff modeled the two programs with the students in the Aboriginal Head Start Program and provided the staff with materials to continue the programs.

Our Family Literacy Training Institute (FLTI) attracted 20 community members from Aklavik, Hay River, Ndilo, Inuvik, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort McPherson, Behchoko, Dettah and Yellowknife. This year we offered these workshops: Introduction to Family Literacy, 1-2-3 Rhyme with Me, Storytime Adventures, Brain and Language Development,

Science Fun, Felt Stories, Choosing Books, Resources and Funding, and Family Literacy Nights.

Our Advanced Family Literacy Training Institute was for community members who have taken our FLTI and have run family literacy programs. Fifteen people from Hay River, Kát'odeeche, Fort Resolution, Dettah, Fort Providence, Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort Smith and Yellowknife attended. Participants created Storysacks, and learned how to deliver our Little Chefs, Books in the Home, Take a Break and Talking Books programs.

We travelled with DeBeers Books in Homes program to eight NWT communities this year. The Books in Homes program works like a

traveling book fair. Books are set up and each student in the community picks out three free books to take home. We visited Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì, Hay River, Fort Resolution, Łutselk'e, Ndilo and Dettah. We presented literacy games or activities that promote reading and learning during the Books in Homes visits.

The Bison Bus was vinyl wrapped to look like a bison this summer and then hit the road for a few events in Yellowknife before hibernating for the winter. The Bison Bus was at the YWCA Open House, Fall Harvest Fair, Labour Day BBQ as well as special trips to the Yk Pop Up Park. The bus has been filled with games, toys and activities for families to do on the bus, as well as free books to take home. We offer free programs to families and their children 0-6 years.



Creating Community Connections for Newcomers

The Community Connections program offers activities to Permanent Residents in Yellowknife to introduce them to our city, Indigenous culture, the local environment and activities. When possible, Community Connections includes all newcomers regardless of their immigration status.

The federal department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is the program's principle funder. The signed Contribution Agreement with IRCC will continue to March 2020. United Way Northwest Territories and City of Yellowknife also provided grants.

Participants learn about Yellowknife, other cultures, nature, etc. while practicing English through non-formal literacy and language learning. Through these experiences, newcomers meet each other, make new friends, and improve their English skills. By engaging in a range of experiences, a newcomer's sense of belonging and comfort with living in Yellowknife will increase. When possible, long-time Yellowknifers and established immigrants joined the activities to encourage connections

between the new immigrants and local residents.

We offered a variety of activities to help newcomers integrate into Yellowknife. Global Cooking (monthly) and the Speak English Café (weekly) are the most popular programs with up to 20 immigrants attending. Leadership rotates in the cooking program with a different person in charge of the menu and meal preparation each time. The Speak English Café covers northern topics or topics that help new people adapt to life in Yellowknife. We also offered a family literacy program for mothers and their pre-school-aged children, community music with Mary Kelly, and outdoor art workshops facilitated by Dianne Boudreau.

We promoted healthy living through events such as canoe paddling

opportunities at three summer picnics, gymnastics, ladies-only yoga and swimming, cross-country ski days at the Yellowknife Ski Club and a few snowshoeing events. We ran digital literacy workshops for youth, including a March break camp that introduced youth to photography, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

To date, Community Connections has served 57 permanent residents from over 10 countries in our various programs. One participant, who has attended many of the programs, says: "Since I have started attending your programs, I've improved my English language (conversation) and also got the opportunity to meet many people. All my family members are enjoying your programs."



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.

This year, the trainings included:

- Skill Builders for Youth Training
- Proposal Writing
- Skill Builders for Youth Facilitation training with BYTE
- Family Literacy Sessions at the Early Childhood Symposium
- Healthy Children's Initiative
- Family Literacy Training Institute




We also participated in teacher leadership with campus staff and adult educators from across the North.

Our staff attended different trainings and conferences throughout the year, such as:

- NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) & Youth Centres Conference
- NWTRPA Community Leaders Retreat
- Side-by-Side: Fatherhood Matters in the Early Years
- The MEHRIT Centre Self-Regulation Foundations Program
- Indigenous Languages and Education Symposium
- Aurora College Professional Development
- Embedding Literacy and Essential Skills Inservice
- Econous 2018 Canadian Community Economic Development Network
- Peter Gzowski Invitational (PGI) Networking meeting



NWT LITERACY COUNCIL Community Map

-  Community Projects
-  Community Member Trained
-  Community Visit





In 2018-2019, approximately 151 community members were trained in many aspects of literacy and essential skills. Over the past five years, the NWT Literacy Council has trained approximately 1100 people.

People who attend our training then facilitate literacy programs in their community.

2018-2019: Approx. 150

2015-2016: Approx. 300

2017-2018: Approx. 150

2014-2015: Approx. 200

2016-2017: Approx. 300

2013-2014: Approx. 200

Special Events We Attended:

- NWT Human Rights Commission Lunch
- Aurora College Residence Nights
- Rising Youth North's Open House
- Fall Harvest Fair
- YWCA NWT's Open House
- Labour Day BBQ
- NACC's Children's Festival of Silliness
- Chinese New Year
- Centre for Northern Families Healthy Baby/Toddler Club
- Anti-Poverty Roundtable



Family Literacy



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Youth and Adult Literacy

Our Skill Builders for Youth project is based on the tried and true model of our longstanding Family Literacy project. We provide training and mentorship to develop community capacity, and then offer funding and ongoing support to help communities run youth literacy programs.

13 participants from 10 communities came to our Skill Builders for Youth training workshop. The training helps

prepare community facilitators to run youth programs, with embedded literacy and essential skills, in their community. A total of 14 projects took place this year.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment funds the Skill Builders for Youth program.

This was the first year in a three-year contribution agreement.

Another capacity-building effort for NWT youth was a Youth Facilitation Skills training. This was a partnership with BYTE Empowering Youth and was open to facilitators running Skill Builders for Youth Programs and people who work with youth around the NWT. 21 participants attended this training and the workshop was well received. All participants indicated that the information will be useful in their

Indigenous Literacy

In February, we partnered with the Office of the Languages Commissioner for the Northwest Territories as well as the Indigenous Languages Secretariat on “We Love Our Languages”, the Indigenous Languages and Education Symposium.

This symposium included a Keynote address by Dr. Lorna Wanosts’a7 Williams. Dr. Williams is Lil’watul from the community of Mount Currie and a Professor Emerita, University of Victoria. Dr. Williams’ focus has been Indigenous Language Revitalization,

Curriculum Development, Teacher Development, Mediated Learning, Cognitive education, effects of colonization on learning and Indigenous ways of knowing.

The symposium included a presentation by Dr. Angela James on the Role of the GNWT in Language Revitalization, and a presentation by Official Languages Commissioner Shannon Gullberg on the need to connect at the community level when developing language legislation and policy. In addition, workshops included ‘Our Languages’ Curriculum:

Promising Community Practices, the Whole School Approach to Indigenous Languages, Tlicho Camp Yoga, Brain Development and Language Learning in Young Children, a presentation on CBC’s Indigenous Languages Archiving Project, and a panel discussion on We Love Our Language Partnerships.

The Symposium was a wonderful way to connect with those who work within Indigenous Languages and to hear different perspectives on language revitalization and partnerships.

Canada Learning Bond

In March 2019, we received funding from the Government of Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, to increase the awareness and take-up of the Canada Learning Bond over the next 25 months.

The Canada Learning Bond can provide up to \$2,000 towards a child's post-secondary education, but a child can only receive this funding if an adult opens a Registered Education Saving Plan (RESP) for the child.

We will host training events in Yellowknife, Norman Wells, Hay River and Inuvik. We'll train community champions to host Canada Learning Bond take-up event events. The community champions will continue to support families to access the Canada Learning Bond program in the future.

More than 4,400 children are eligible but not receiving the funding from this program in the NWT.

NALES

Our NALES project (Northern Alliance of Literacy and Essential Skills) with Ilitaqsiniq (Nunavut Literacy Council) and the Yukon Literacy Coalition ended in June, 2018. The project ended with a visit to an embedded cooking program in Rankin Inlet, which incorporated traditional foods and on the land

experiences. Our final resource for the project was A Northern Approach: A Guide to Embedded Literacy and Essential Skills. This resource guide is of interest to, and useful for all northern organizations involved in formal and non-formal learning for adults.

Promotion and Information Sharing

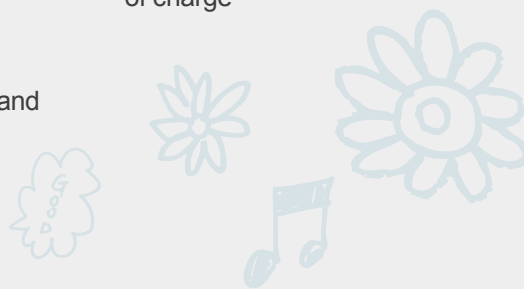
Throughout the year, we promote literacy and essential skills within our networks, around the NWT and across Canada. We do this through special events, activities and awareness building promotions.

Promotional Events

- 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
- Indigenous Languages Month
- YWCA's Yes We Care Days
- Aurora College Family Nights on Campus
- Children's Festival of Silliness
- Community Health Fairs
- ECE Early Childhood Symposium

Information Sharing

- Literacy Matters newsletters twice a year
- Literacy this Week weekly e-news sent to 475 subscribers.
- Regularly updated website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube pages
- 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, 2019

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 369,330	\$ 638,343
Short term investments (Note 3)	214,078	212,509
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	177,361	87,761
Prepaid expenses	1,000	-
Government remittances receivable (Note 8)	9,661	8,427
	771,430	947,040
Restricted cash	2,547	2,570
Investments (Note 5)	133,252	127,736
Property, plant and equipment (Note 6)	28,389	24,861
	\$ 935,618	\$ 1,102,207
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Trade payables and accruals	\$ 45,727	\$ 65,676
Wages and benefits payable	42,593	70,305
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	48,806	94,021
	137,126	230,002
NATURE OF OPERATIONS (Note 1)		
Balance	798,492	872,205
	\$ 935,618	\$ 1,102,207

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31, 2019

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2018 Actual
REVENUES			
	\$ 1,745,767	\$ 1,509,263	\$ 1,590,423
Contribution revenue			
Administration and other	22,720	60,786	55,187
Donations	-	3,044	25,694
In-kind Contributions	-	750	7,500
Memberships	-	259	275
Resource revenue	-	870	5,690
Interest income	-	1,461	6,075
Recoveries of Expenses	-	128	32,096
Special Events	42,892	600	-
Contribution refunds	-	-	(1,493)
Transfer to/(from) deferred revenue	1,811,379 1,577,161 - (37,715)		1,721,447 (3,729)
	1,811,379	1,614,876	1,725,176
EXPENDITURES			
PGI expenses	18,000	632	850
Advertising and promotion	21,000	21,183	17,359
Amortization	-	9,645	4,735
Fees and dues	1,000	826	800
Administration fees	64,561	65,217	50,257
Computer expense	11,200	13,428	15,997
Contract fees	283,355	266,963	195,573
Equipment rental	-	-	122
Hospitality	-	6,825	4,451
Honoraria	750	7,778	12,250
Insurance	2,500	2,504	5,306

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (Continued)

For the year ended March 31, 2019

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2018 Actual
EXPENDITURES			
Interest and bank charges	-	903	203
Community literacy projects	160,000	159,615	166,053
Miscellaneous	-	-	769
Office and administration	14,500	17,739	21,531
Printing	84,513	76,578	41,953
Postage and courier	10,550	6,514	17,712
Professional development	1,000	997	3,093
Professional fees	35,420	49,019	49,121
Rent	49,973	45,506	47,601
Repairs and maintenance	5,224	15,048	8,809
Resources	16,387	28,124	51,411
Office supplies	14,000	13,095	7,933
Scholarships and distributions	-	5,400	-
Communications	16,080	16,890	12,112
Travel	99,591	99,653	89,832
Utilities	8,689	7,914	7,109
Wages and benefits	648,517	614,519	596,450
Workshops	158,027	154,764	180,575
	1,724,837	1,707,279	1,609,967
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	86,542	(92,403)	115,209
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)			
Writeup(writedown) of investments		5,516	(2,220)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES BEFORE TRANSFER TO CAPITAL ASSETS	86,542	(86,887)	112,989
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL ASSETS	-	(13,174)	(28,175)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR	\$ 86,542	\$ (73,713)	\$ 141,164

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
- Employment and Social Development Canada- Office of Literacy and Essential Skills
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Employment and Social Development Canada- Canada Summer Jobs Program
- Aurora College
- NWT Recreation and Parks Association- Get Active Program
- United Way, Yellowknife
- City of Yellowknife

Corporate Sponsors and Donors

- The Yellowknife Book Cellar
- Stuart Olson Industrial Constructors



Individual Donors and Donations In-Kind

Kristina Hogan
Aggie Brockman
Sahtu Divisional Education Council
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Sara Hoffland
Charlotte Babicki
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Jennifer Rafferty
100 Men Who Give a Damn
Marianne Bromley
Tony Whitford



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