

NWT Literacy Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



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, 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 Indigenous 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.

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

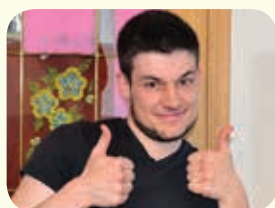
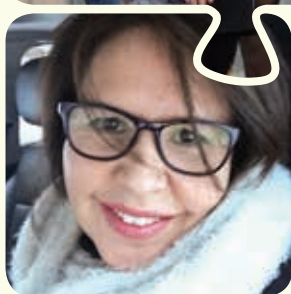
The NWT Literacy Council builds capacity through literacy training, research, resource development, and promotion for the benefit of all Northerners.

Our Board Members (2016-2017)

- Ken Latour, President
- Suzanne Robinson, Vice President
- Amy Ryan, Treasurer (October 2016)
- Beverly Garven, Secretary
- Emma Amundson, Deh Cho (to November 2016) (missing from photo)
- Melani Adams, Beaufort Delta
- Rachel Gauthier, Yellowknife, Dettah and N'dilo
- Norma Gauthier, Tłıchǫ (October 2016)
- Amy Ryan, South Slave (to October 2016)
- Minnie Whimp, South Slave (February 2017)
- Sharon Allen, Deh Cho (February 2017)
- Mary Anne Vital, Sahtu

Our Staff (2016-2017)

- Kathryn Barry Paddock, Executive Director
- Helen Balanoff, Project Manager
- Charlotte Upton, Family and Community Literacy Coordinator
- Emily Smith, Family and Community Literacy Trainee (September 2016)
- Patricia Ilgok, Family and Community Literacy Coordinator (to May 2016)
- Katie Johnson, Coordinator, Youth and Adult Services (July 2016)
- Amanda Grobbeck, Youth Services Coordinator (to July 2016)
- Uma Sivakumar, Office Manager
- Nathan Denroche, Summer Student
- Danita Frost-Arey, Summer Student, Indigenous Literacy Coordinator (casual)



Message from the President

When I reflect on the valuable work that the NWT Literacy Council's staff accomplishes each year, it reminds me what creative and highly-competent people can accomplish when they are focused on an important mission. Our mission statement, which reads "The NWT Literacy Council builds capacity through literacy training, research, resource development, and promotion for the benefit of all Northerners," captures the essence of our work.

This mission is one we are all proud of at the Council. It builds on the strengths, passion, and commitment of previous boards and staff; it reflects our ongoing efforts to be effective and efficient; and it powerfully states what we are here to do. As you read through this report, you will see what a great job the Council staff is doing to implement our mission statement.

This mission brings the Council and literacy into the lives of many Northerners, including mine. This year I experienced some of that 'capacity building' first hand. Over the winter, my wife and I took turns taking our three-year-old son to the *1-2-3 Rhyme with Me* program that the Hay River Centennial Library offered, thanks to the Hay River Literacy Society. The program teaches parents and children rhymes, many of them classic nursery rhymes. This is a great way to strengthen a child's language abilities as well as the bond between parent and child. We had a lot of fun attending the program, and while I spent much of my time chasing my son around the library, he is now capable of delivering a very spirited version of *Little Miss Muffet*.

I also experience the work of the NWT Literacy Council through my work at Aurora College. As an adult educator, I use the resources the Council creates in my own classes, and I see other adult educators doing the same. This year the Council continued to develop short courses, known as *Literacy and Essential Skills* courses, for Aurora College. These courses are shorter and focus on employable skills, while they teach literacy, numeracy, and other essential skills. I have witnessed and enjoyed the high success rates of students who completed these courses. I've also enjoyed seeing a student discover a passion through one of these courses, or when something they studied in the course leads to further education and training or, occasionally, employment.

My experience with the Council and its work is just one example of how this organization touches the lives of so many in the North. The work is done by a very talented staff working with a diverse board of directors, made up of members from each region of the territory. On behalf of the NWT Literacy Council Board, I thank all the staff at the Council for the wonderful and worthy work they do to support literacy development in the NWT.

Thank you for reading our report, and for your interest and support of the Council.

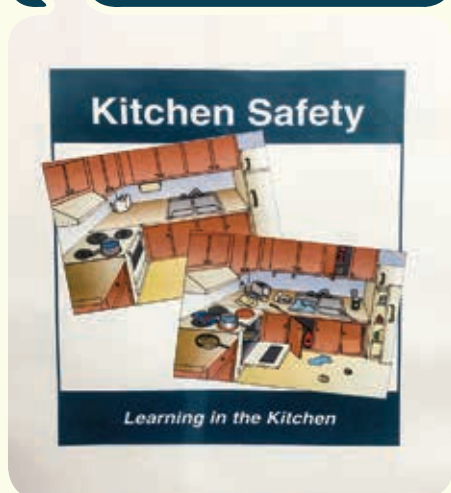
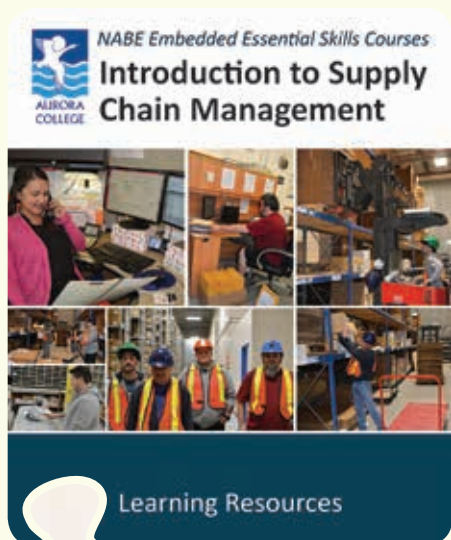
Wishing you a great year,

Ken Latour
President, NWT Literacy Council

New Literacy and Essential Skills Resources



Pat Kane



Family Literacy Resources

- *How to Kit – Storymakers*
- *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*
- *Granny and Grampa Talking Bag*

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 partnered with the Department of Health and Social Services to choose books for their baby boxes, which are distributed through the NWT birthing centres.

Youth and Adult Resources

- *Learning in the Kitchen*
- *Telling Our Stories – Youth Digital Literacy*
- *Youth Literacy Nights*

We also developed two new short courses for Aurora College:

- *Introduction to Northern Leadership*
- *Introduction to Supply Chain Management*

Introduction to Northern Leadership was pilot tested in 2016-2017. *Introduction to Supply Chain Management* will be pilot tested in 2017-2018.

For curriculum resources for Aurora College this year, we developed:

- *Introduction to Paragraph Writing*
- *Expository, Narrative, and Persuasive Paragraphs*
- *Introduction to Essay Writing*
- *Expository Essay Writing*
- *The Birchbark House Novel Study*

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 25
- Skill Builders for Youth training – Yellowknife, October 25 to 27
- Family Literacy Training Institute – Yellowknife, November 21 to 24
- Granny and Grampa Talking Bags training – Yellowknife, January 17 to 18
- Proposal Writing – Norman Wells, February 7 to 9
- Proposal Writing – Fort Good Hope, March 21 to 23
- Skill Builders for Youth Digital Literacy Training (*Telling Our Stories*) – Inuvik, March 22 to 24
- Healthy Children's Initiative Family Literacy Training for Deh Cho Region – Fort Providence, December 7 to 8
- Healthy Children's Initiative Family Literacy Training for South Slave – Kátł'odeeche, June 27 to 28
- Family Literacy Training in Fort Simpson, December 12 to 13
- We also participated in professional development sessions for community adult educators. The sessions took place in Yellowknife and Fort Smith, November 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 sessions at Education, Culture and Employment's Early Childhood Symposium again this year. We held one session on *1-2-3 Rhyme with Me* and *Felt Stories* for early childhood workers from throughout the NWT.

Our annual Family Literacy Training Institute in November 2016 took place over four days, with participants from 14 different communities. 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*.

With funding from the Healthy Children's Initiative, we held Family Literacy Training for the Deh Cho and South Slave Regions. Participants did sessions on *Introduction to Family Literacy*, *Story Time Adventures*, *1-2-3 Rhyme with Me*, *Felt Stories*, *Brain and Language Development*, our new parental engagement program, *Take a Break*, and our new physical literacy resource, *Get Moving*.

This year we funded and supported 27 family literacy projects in 16 communities through our funding from the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

We continued 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 for family literacy programs and to give away. We'll offer free programs to families and their children 0-6 years, 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.



Pat Kane



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 success of our Family Literacy Project. Using the model of the Family Literacy Project, we are providing community capacity building, and then providing money and ongoing support for communities to run youth literacy programs.

Community members from eight different communities came to a workshop in Yellowknife. The training was to help them run a youth program that embeds literacy and essential skills. Another community was given training through mentorship. We ran an additional training session on digital storytelling in Inuvik in March. A total of 11 projects took place, including some communities with facilitators trained in previous years. This project was a renewal of our previous Skill Builders for Youth Project.

Again this year, we participated in professional development workshops sponsored by Aurora College. We participated in training with 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 program funding. Trainings took place in Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope, funded by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Workshops have also been requested in other communities, and we hope to have funding to continue this work next year.



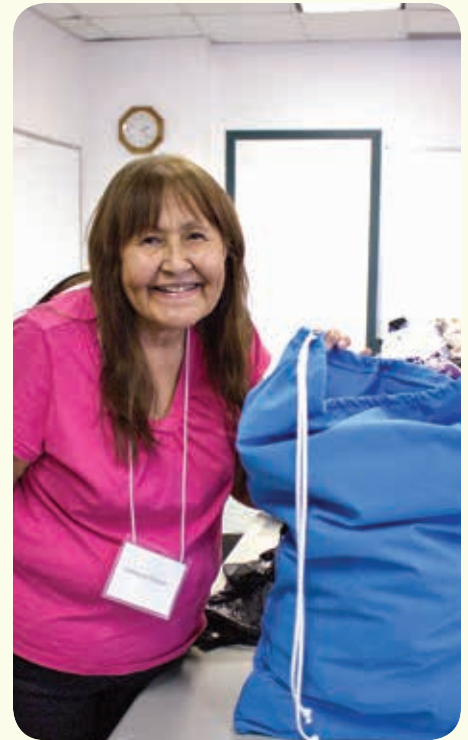
Community Literacy Projects continued

Indigenous Literacy

We organized our Indigenous Languages Networking session, which was to take place in April 2017. 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 Indigenous Languages Facebook page.

Community Projects included:

- 1-2-3 Rhyme with Me
- Story Time Adventures
- Books in the Home
- Storysacks
- Cultural Activities
- Little Chefs
- Science Fun
- Indigenous Language activities
- Family Literacy Nights
- Seniors' Book Club
- Snowshoe Making
- Cooking
- Film Making
- Youth Literacy Nights





Pat Kane



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
- Long John Jamboree
- YWCA's Yes We Care Days
- Aurora College Family Nights on Campus
- Children's Festival of Silliness
- Chinese Cultural Experience
- Community Health Fairs
- ECE Early Childhood Symposium
- Summer Camps

Information Sharing

- *Literacy Matters* newsletters twice a year
- *Literacy this Week* weekly e-news sent to 650 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, 2017

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current		
Cash	342,724	290,025
Short-term investments	207,852	335,243
Accounts receivable	170,148	66,707
Prepaid expenses	3,274	-
Government remittances receivable	53,166	36,679
	777,164	728,654
Restricted cash	2,592	2,615
Investments	128,541	-
Tangible capital assets	1,420	2,242
	\$909,717	\$733,511
Liabilities		
Current		
Trade payables and accruals	57,938	48,263
Wages and benefits payable	22,988	12,506
Deferred revenue	97,750	104,703
	178,676	165,472
Fund Balances		
Balance	731,041	568,039
	\$909,717	\$733,511

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 Budget unaudited	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Revenues			
Contribution revenue	\$1,491,786	\$1,464,747	\$1,461,272
Administration and other	45,000	48,811	39,392
Donations	5,000	9,526	25,256
In-kind contributions	-	-	4,744
Memberships	200	300	445
Resource revenue	17,000	4,776	1,789
Interest income	3,000	3,666	2,449
Recoveries of expenses	10,000	47,974	20,752
	1,571,986	1,579,800	1,556,099
Transfer to (from) deferred revenue	(22,617)	(6,953)	58,618
	\$1,594,603	\$1,586,753	\$1,497,481

Statement of Operations continued

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 Budget unaudited	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Expenses			
Advertising and promotion	14,500	4,780	13,818
Amortization	-	822	1,350
Fees and dues	250	1,250	1,447
Administration fees	44,173	43,124	41,521
Computer expense	8,500	5,622	9,597
Contract fees	259,623	212,014	193,763
Hospitality	-	3,443	4,359
Insurance	2,500	2,770	4,616
Interest and bank charges	-	690	787
Meeting expenses	-	-	2,706
Community literacy projects	160,000	155,597	141,944
Miscellaneous	-	-	342
Office and administration	14,000	13,800	15,231
Printing	51,000	42,044	40,536
Postage and courier	15,570	17,608	21,285
Professional development	2,000	3,006	3,088
Professional fees	-	42,927	47,963
Rent	37,500	39,746	40,179
Repairs and maintenance	2,924	5,492	7,361
Resources	3,500	46,802	22,417
Office supplies	6,000	5,779	6,223
Scholarships and distributions	-	3,000	6,216
Communications	17,000	11,716	17,060
Travel	56,520	89,296	89,596
Utilities	7,902	6,771	6,227
Wages and benefits	555,052	522,394	503,702
Workshops	199,545	141,158	155,250
	1,458,203	1,421,651	1,398,584
Excess of revenues over expenses from operations	\$136,400	165,102	98,897
Other income (expense)			
Writedown	-	(2,100)	-
Excess of revenues over expenses from operations	\$136,400	163,002	98,897

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 – Industry, Tourism and Investment
- 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



Corporate Sponsors and Donors

- The Yellowknife Book Cellar
- Union of Northern Workers
- Alhstrom Wright Oliver and Cooper



Individual Donors and Donations In-Kind

- Melani Adams
- Anonymous
- Helen and Wayne Balanoff
- Aggie Brockman
- Jessica Garland
- Rachel Gauthier
- Legal Registries GNWT
- Amber and Paul Henry
- Sara Hoffland
- Sidney Johnson
- Bill and Trudy Joosse
- David Lemire
- Ben Linaker
- Bette Lyons
- Kelly Martin
- Nicole Normand

- Danica Patterson
- Amy Ryan
- Kathryn Scott
- Anita Stewart
- Rachel and Jeremy Vanderveen Kielstra
- Peeranut Visetsuth
- Bronwyn Watters

Bison Bus Supporters

- Abdalla Abdi
- Daniel Alexandre
- Joseph Ambrosi
- Ray Eduard Apat
- Darrell and Diane Vikse





Lifelong Learning: It's Essential

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