

Literacy This Week

April 7, 2016

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Literacy Dates

National Poetry Month - April

Talk With Our Kids About Money Day - April 20, 2016

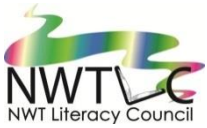
Our Blog

Parents take a break

Take a Break! That is the name and the message of a new parent engagement program that we are testing at the NWT Literacy Council...[Read more](#)



Support Literacy



You can support literacy in the NWT

- [Make a donation](#)
- [Join the Council](#)

Take part in literacy activities in your community

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Announcements and Events

NorthWords writing workshop this weekend

You can join writer Hayden Trenholm for a two-day workshop at the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre this Saturday and Sunday. Fiction and creative non-fiction writers will learn how to turn their personal or family stories and memoirs into strong compelling tales. Sign up at the Yellowknife Book Cellar or call 920-2220.

A NorthWords Workshop

Turning Your Life Into Your Life Story with Hayden Trenholm



Hayden Trenholm

Write the Story That is Your Life.

Join Hayden Trenholm, an award-winning playwright, novelist and short story writer for this two-day workshop, a hands-on master class that combines instruction and writing exercises to create strong narratives.

Fiction and creative non-fiction writers will learn how to turn their personal or family stories and memoirs into strong, compelling tales.

Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be provided. There will be a break for lunch. Find the full schedule on our website.

For more information, please email us at: info@northwordsnwt.ca

**Northern Frontier Visitors Centre
Cost \$120**

Sign up at the Yellowknife Book Cellar in person or by calling 867-920-2220.

There is a 10% discount for NorthWords Members.

northwordsnwt.ca

**Saturday, April 9
Sunday, April 10
10 am to 4:30 pm**



NorthWords
NWT



Follow us for updates!



National Poetry Contest on refugees and human rights

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and COSTI Immigrant Services invite students grade 4 to 12 to [write a poem on the theme of "Refugees and Human Rights"](#) to raise awareness of human rights and to reflect on the situation of refugees. The deadline for entries is April 29, 2016.

Financial literacy webinar for community groups

[ABC Life Literacy](#) is holding a webinar at noon on Thursday, April 14, 2016 on Money Matters for Newcomers and New Canadians. Learn more about this free program and how to run it at your organization.

Funding

Yellowknife Community Foundation scholarships

The Yellowknife Community Foundation has a number of scholarships available. Most of the deadlines are May 15, 2016, but check individual offerings. For example, the Friends of Fred Carmichael Scholarship for Beaufort Delta and Sahtu adult learners application deadline is April 22, 2016.

Support for women's empowerment

[Status of Women Canada](#) is calling for proposals under two program streams. The deadline for applications is April 20, 2016 for projects that fall under the Empowering Women for Political and Community Action stream and June 1, 2016 for projects that fall under the Empowering Indigenous Women for Stronger Communities stream. Project proposals should bring together co-applicants to identify and overcome systemic barriers that lead to women's under-representation in Canada's democratic and public life.

Nunavut families catch a break: GN ends its clawback policy

The Government of Nunavut will no longer claw back National Child Benefit Supplement payments from Nunavut families with children who collect social assistance, the GN said April 1 in a news release...[Read more](#)

Students flock to Cree class in Hay River

Cree is alive and well at the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre in Hay River...[Read more](#)

22 NEWS/NORTH NWT, Monday, April 4, 2016

around the NWT

Students flock to Cree class in Hay River

Course at Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre promotes aboriginal language and culture

by Diana Yeager
Northern News Services
Hay River

Cree is alive and well at the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre in Hay River. Instructors Liz Buckley and Doris Caudron have two full classes showing up to learn about the language and culture.

"The only way to learn is to say it over and over again," said Caudron to her class of six.

She is teaching them basic Cree conversational skills - greetings and everyday phrases.

"We're trying to cover the basics - things people use every day," she said.

"Even if it's just a few words, when you speak someone's native language, it creates a bond."

The two instructors are enthusiastic about keeping their language and culture alive. According to Caudron, the Cree people make up the largest aboriginal linguistic group in Canada with 117,000 people using the language but this number is a shadow of how many used to speak it.

"It has declined for sure," said Caudron.

"It has to do with the residential schools. They were told not to speak their own languages. My parents never spoke Cree. I think lots of people can understand Cree but not so many people are speaking it anymore."

Caudron said her Cree gets rusty when she doesn't use it, and she has to find ways to keep it sharp. Teaching the class is one of those ways.

"Lots of English words don't translate into Cree, so I have to erase the English from my mind and then I can remember," she said.

Buckley's mother tongue is Michif, a dialect of Cree with French influence.

Although she didn't pass her language on to her children, she still speaks with other family members in her native tongue.

The two instructors tell their students language and culture are tightly tied together.

"One thing about native people is that we always laugh," Caudron told her class.

"We laugh at ourselves, and at each other. It's a good thing."

Hay River North MLA Rocky (R.J.) Simpson said he found himself in the course after his girlfriend signed up.

Having a Cree grandfather, Simpson said he would like to know more about the culture and language and incorporate it into his work.

"I'd like to be able to make statements in the (legislative assembly) in Cree," he said.

As for the instructors, they hope by the end of the class their students will be able to communicate with Cree people in their native language and have a basic understanding of the culture.

"When you speak someone's native language to them, there is a commonality," said Caudron. "It brings people closer together."



ON THE Job

Cree language instructors Liz Buckley, left, and Doris Caudron hold up sweatpants with the word "bannock" in Cree written across the back. The sweatpants will be graduation presents for their students.

Photo: Ingrid Wills, press

IKALUKTUTIAK CAMBRIDGE BAY GUIDE "Good Fishing Place"

photo: courtesy of Jessica Mookherjee

The widespread problem of low health literacy

Only 12 percent of adults in the U.S. have proficient health literacy, and more than a third of adults have low health literacy levels that make it difficult for them to deal with common health tasks such as following directions for how to use prescription medications...[Read more](#)

How to reap the 'triple dividend' from early childhood education and care services

Early childhood education and care services have come to occupy an important place on the global policy agenda. However, the implications for women, as mothers or childcare workers, have been insufficiently reflected in the work of international organizations and many national-level policies that tend to focus mainly on children...[Read more](#)

Publishers recruit reading ambassadors to boost literacy

The (United Kingdom) Publishers Association is calling on members of the public to share their love of reading by volunteering to become Reading Ambassadors in their local communities...[Read more](#)

Resources and Websites

Statistics Canada Aboriginal Peoples fact sheets

[Northwest Territories](#)

[Inuvialuit region](#)

Universities Canada

[Principles on indigenous education](#)

Early childhood education report 2014

[Interactive map of provincial and territorial services](#)

Aboriginal language resources

[Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre](#)

