

Literacy This Week

March 17, 2016

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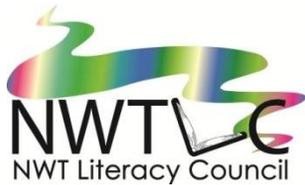
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We're the family, youth and adult literacy and essential skills centre for excellence.

We support literacy and essential skills in all the official languages of the Northwest Territories.

We're also plain language specialists.

[Check out our website to
learn more](#)

Literacy Dates

NWT Aboriginal Languages Month - March

World Poetry Day - March 21

Poetry Month - April

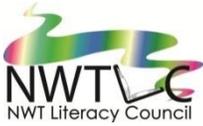
Our Blog

Giving Babies a Good Start in Life

Baby onesies, a snow suit, other warm clothes, diapers, a huge box for a new baby to sleep in, bedding, a book, and on and on ... Those are just a few of the 50 items every new mum in Finland finds in their Finnish Baby Box. The Finnish Baby Box began more than 75 years ago...[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

Connect With Us!

Like us on Facebook

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View our videos on YouTube

Contact Us

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Announcements and Events

Learn more about us!

At the end of February our executive director, Kathryn Barry Paddock, and Suzanne Robinson, our vice-president, gave a detailed overview of our work to the NWT Legislative Assembly Priorities and Planning Committee. The video of the presentation is on the [NWT Legislative Assembly YouTube channel](#). Our representatives made the case for stable funds to sustain our efforts building skills among northerners.

Participate in the Canada Day Challenge

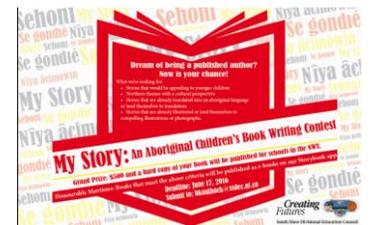
Youth between the ages of 8 and 18 are invited to draw a picture, take a photo, or write a short story, a poem or an essay to celebrate Canada's birthday. The theme is [What makes you proud to be a Canadian](#). The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2016

Have your say on the next NWT government budget

NWT Finance Minister Robert C. McLeod invites NWT residents to answer questions on the [Department of Finance website](#) that give direction to the government about how to spend its money. The consultation results will inform debate on the 2016-2017 NWT budget. The deadline to submit your opinions is May 20, 2016.

Enter Aboriginal Languages Month writing contest

The South Slave Divisional Education Council is offering a \$500 prize and publication of the winning entry in its [Aboriginal Children's Book Writing Contest](#). The deadline to enter is June 17, 2016. The contest is open to anyone in the NWT.



Funding

Youth Contribution Program

The NWT [Youth Contribution Program](#) is geared to people under 25 years of age. It supports initiatives that promote positive lifestyles to improve the quality of life and well-being of youth in their communities. Applications are accepted on a first come-first served basis.

Funding for school environment initiatives

The [RBC-Evergreen Watershed Champions Award](#) recognizes classes that demonstrate learning about their local watershed and who take action to care for it. The deadline to apply is April 8, 2016. [Ecology North](#) has resources to help teachers with their projects.

News, Opinion and Research

Education must focus efforts on ecological literacy, Matt Henderson says

Our species has just reached a new high. The average temperature in the northern hemisphere reached two degrees Celsius above normal for the first time on March 3 - a milestone long held to be a dangerous level of warming...[Read more](#)

Free money: Post-secondary scholarships are begging for candidates

Tall Clubs International says it probably comes up a little short when it comes to the number of applications it receives for its scholarships. The social organization, with 50 international chapters including Canada, offered 11 scholarships for US\$1,000 last year...[Read more](#)

Why should critical literacy matter to information professionals?

Critical literacy is an approach to learning and teaching that has gathered momentum in recent years as it has become widely used in classrooms around the world. Critical literacy is not just important for formal education settings however. It is also relevant for libraries...[Read more](#)

Indigenous languages recognize gender states not even named in English

"Back in the old days," Cat Criger, a Cayuga elder, recently told me, "our indigenous responsibilities were charted out for us like 'water carrier' or 'fire keeper,' but we wouldn't wait for a woman if we were thirsty or for a man to throw wood in the fire if we were cold." ...[Read more](#)

The surprising lack of data about literacy

In many ways, campaigns to improve literacy are more sophisticated than ever. Nonprofits, K-12 and adult continuing educational systems, and government agencies have gone far beyond a literate-illiterate dichotomy in their day-to-day work, expanding the scope of literacy and applying programs focused on issues like health and technology...[Read more](#)

Resources and Websites

Essential skills mobile app

[Evaluate your proficiency in nine essential skills](#)

Canada Learning Bond made easy

[SmartSaver video](#)

Free online religious literacy course

[HarvardX](#)

