



Literacy This Week

Literacy Dates

Indigenous Languages Month- February
Black History Month- February
International Mother Language Day- February 21
Freedom to Read Week- February 21-27

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Blog



Language: Why is it Important?

Guest blog written by Jaylene Delorme-Buggins

Growing up, all I ever spoke was English. I heard my mom often say odd words in other languages that I later found out were Cree and Inuktitut . My father hosted radio shows and always talked to my grannie in a language I never understood: Chipewyan. My father is a residential school survivor. He was shamed for speaking his language. He decided not to teach us how to speak Chipewyan for fear that we would also be shamed for speaking it...[Read more](#)

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Ribbon skirt by Candia Flynn of [Healing Stitches](#)

Announcements and Events

Elders' Circle with Gwich'in Elder William Greenland

The City of Yellowknife is pleased to host Gwich'in Elder William Greenland for a sharing circle and one-on-one conversations at the [Yellowknife Public Library](#) on Friday, February 26. During this session, topics discussed may include culture, health, wellness, healing, history and more. Call 920-5642 for more information or to register.

February Blahs to Ahhs - Inuvik

The Town of Inuvik Recreation Department is happy to announce the upcoming February Blahs to Ahhs Events for Youth. The programs are open to youth between the ages of 6-12 years. Limited capacity and pre-registration with a \$10 deposit is required...[Read more](#)

The Arctic Youth Network Webinar Series Presents: Cultural Revitalization Through Arctic Arts

The final session of this edition of the Arctic Youth Network Webinar Series will look at how arts are used to revitalize culture. The session aims to inspire youth to pursue arts and traditional creative practices to become a new generation of cultural leaders. Speakers will speak of their own projects, lessons learned and reflections on culture revitalization through Arctic arts...[Read more](#)

A Reading Study - Research Participants Needed

The University of Manitoba's [Early Years Reading Lab](#) is recruiting children ranging from kindergarten to grade 4, and adults aged 18 and over, to help them learn about the relationship between reading difficulty and visual attention. Participants must have access to a laptop or computer. Contact info@earlyreadingproject.ca for more information.

Black Voices in Can Lit

Join us for a conversation with Jael Richardson, Ian Williams, and Andrea Davis about their personal journeys as Black writers and professionals in Canadian literature, and explore how Black writers are shaping the future of Canadian literature by working at the crossroads of identity, culture, and creativity...[Read more](#)

Funding

Samuel Connected North Youth Leadership Fund

[The Samuel Connected North Youth Leadership Fund](#) was established to support emerging Indigenous youth leaders creating meaningful change within and beyond their communities. Whether it's a social entrepreneurship idea or a community service project, apply for the grant that speaks to your needs and we'll work together to make it happen.

Learning Supports for Persons with Disabilities

The [Learning Supports for Persons with Disabilities Fund](#) helps NWT residents with disabilities achieve their learning goals. Individuals (over 18 years old) or organizations may apply for funding. Proposals must show that the funding requested will help to overcome barriers to learning. Individuals or organizations may apply for funding.

Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Funding

The GNWT has established a new funding program to provide non-profit organizations and Indigenous governments with funding for infrastructure repairs and retrofits to support the creation of new licensed, centre-based child care spaces in communities. There is \$500,000 in funding available for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Priority will be given to communities with limited or non-existent early learning and child care programming...[Read more](#)

News, Research, Opinion

Black leaders in literacy

This Black History Month, [The Reading Partnership](#) is celebrating and honouring Black leaders in literacy. Canadians who have made significant contributions to the literacy landscape of our nation. Follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) as they profile inspiring individuals whose achievement in literacy has elevated our communities, championed change within our education systems and/or gave us great books to read! Know a literacy leader you want to share? Please contact them!

International Year of Indigenous Languages in the Arctic (Part 2)

This article aims at providing an overview of the state of Indigenous languages in the Arctic. [Part 1](#) of this series focuses on the example of Canada and examines

some of the relevant controversies, cases of dispute, and the delicate balance in state support of Indigenous languages. This article, [Part 2](#), aims at providing an overview of the state of Indigenous languages in the Arctic, relevant and current issues, as well as the role that regulations play in maintaining and strengthening Indigenous languages.

Why aren't schools teaching typing more widely these days?

I look at my kid and know that something is wrong with this picture. She sits on a chair, rhythmically two-thumb tapping on her phone. Her forehead is creased, her mouth pursed. Her posture makes me fearful of early-onset Dowager's hump. "Can you please stop texting?" I ask, "you're supposed to be working on your scene study." She shoots me that arched-eyebrow look. "I am. I'm doing it on my phone." [Read more](#)

How the Blackfoot Creation Story inspires learning through movement

Every day we learn something new about the way that children learn, but one thing has become abundantly clear. Physical literacy is an integral part of their development. So how does one integrate movement into lessons? Creatively. It began as all great projects start: at a Tim Hortons...[Read more](#)

Meet Joanne Weber, Canada's first-ever research chair in deaf education

A public school resource teacher and professor at the University of Alberta has been named as Canada's first research chair in deaf education...[Read more](#)

Spotlight on Board Members



Minnie Whimp,
South Slave Region Representative

Minnie Whimp is a member of Deninu Kue First Nation, and lives in Fort Resolution, NT. She has been running literacy programs since 2005, with a few years off along the way. Minne has been a representative on the NWT Literacy Council Board of Directors for four years.

Minnie started with family literacy programming, and now also runs Skill Builders for Youth programs. Minnie also organizes a prenatal program for First Nation and Inuit mothers, and also includes other local families to join community events. She has often shared her experiences as a literacy facilitator during NWT Literacy Council annual training institutes.

Minnie says “regardless of my Crohns disease, I don’t let it stop me from working and doing what I love. I enjoy working with kids as I don’t have any of my own, they are my passion. Seeing happy kids makes happy parents and when they are happy it makes me feel good about doing a good job for them.”

Minnie works as a Deninu Kue First Nation Lands Coordinator.

Resources and Websites

Resources for Black History Month

[Which books to read during Black History Month](#)

[6 Black-led CBC podcasts you don't want to miss](#)

[Children's books Theme Guide: Black History Month](#)

Black History in Canada Quizzes:

[Easy](#)

[Medium](#)

[Hard](#)



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