



Literacy This Week

Literacy Dates

Indigenous Languages Month- February
Black History Month- February
Freedom to Read Week- February 21-27

In this issue

- Our Blog
- Announcements and Events
- Funding
- News, Research, Opinion
- Spotlight on Community Literacy Programs
- Resources and Websites

Blog



Huvi or Suvi?

Guest blog written by Inuksuk McKay

I grew up in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, before Nunavut had become its own again. Although many Inuit lived, and still live, in Yellowknife, most of

my family live in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions. I grew up hearing Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut dialects all the way from the western to central to eastern arctic. Among the many dialectal differences, one of the main ones is whether you use an 'h' sound or 's' sound in certain words. For example, "huvi" or "suvi" for "what?" [Read more](#)

Announcements and Events

2020 NWT Ministerial Literacy Awards

The Government of the Northwest Territories, the Premiers of Canada Council of the Federation, and the NWT Literacy Council are pleased to announce the 2020 literacy awards, including eight Ministerial Literacy Awards and the Premiers of Canada Council of the Federation Literacy Award for the NWT. With [this video](#), we celebrate the winners of the NWT Ministerial Literacy Awards and acknowledge their contributions to literacy in the NWT. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Oral health story book available to communities

NWTLC has partnered with Department of Health and Social Services to create a beautiful oral health story book written by Richard Van Camp and illustrated by Neiva Mateus. Would you like to help families in your community receive a copy of *Our Ever Awesome NWT Brushing Song* along with oral health supplies and activities? Please email stephanie@nwtliteracy.ca to discuss.

Our Climate Our Arctic Virtual Youth Conference

The 2021 Our Climate Our Arctic Conference will bring together community members, youth, and researchers from across Inuit Nunangat. Using regional challenges with climate change as a base, the conference aims to discover what is happening across our Arctic through a series of discussions and workshops and will brainstorm immediate, short, and longterm actionable ideas...[Read more](#)

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is looking for an Inuvialuk Youth leader

Are you an Inuvialuk youth under 30? Interested in community and regional representation and offering the Inuvialuit perspective as a young person? Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is looking for an Inuvialuk youth to chair the Regional Youth Advisory Group and sit on the National Inuit Youth Council as the Inuvialuit appointee...[Read more](#)

Call for submissions! Trans Anthology for Young Readers

Trans/nonbinary/Two-Spirit/genderqueer/gender creative/gender noncompliant folks, this is a call for you. Annick Press is creating a beautiful, illustrated anthology for binary and nonbinary trans readers ages 12 and up

and for their friends and allies, by binary and nonbinary trans people. Idea submissions are due March 1, 2021...[Read more](#)

Funding

Nominations for free registration for Indigenous Canadians to attend May 2021 Canadian Evaluation Society Conference

Increasing the presence and participation of Indigenous presenters is part of the [Canadian Evaluation Society Conference](#)'s work to uphold TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP. Because this conference is online, we have enough sponsorship to offer free registration to 60 Canadian Indigenous delegates who would otherwise not attend. There is additional sponsorship to support the participation of 60 Indigenous evaluators from professional evaluation networks around the world. Please email [Andrealisa](#) by March 14 to nominate yourself or others.

Skill Builders for Youth funding

Community facilitators who have taken NWTLC's Skill Builders for Youth training since 2013 are eligible to apply for funds to run a youth literacy program in your community. Visit our [website](#) for applications.

News, Research, Opinion

Submission to the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2021 Federal Budget submitted by literacy organizations

On Feb. 19, as part of the Government of Canada's 2021 Pre-Budget Consultation process, the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation made a written submission on behalf of ourselves and 28 other organizations. In [this submission](#), we support the development of a high-quality, accessible and affordable early learning and childcare system in Canada. In order to enable its success, we recommend that improved children's literacy be articulated as one of the goals of this system.

Dene Talk: A new podcast on the exploration of identity, Indigenous storytelling

Cassidy Villebrun-Buracas says "I really wanted to focus on the strength of Indigenous people and the strength of their stories." Through [Dene Talk](#), he's doing just that. Villebrun-Buracas created a podcast to highlight Indigenous voices and found his along the way... [Read more](#)

Inuk artist receives Governor General's Award in visual and media arts

Inuk artist Germaine Arnaktauyok has won a Governor General's Award in visual and media arts. Arnaktauyok is a printmaker, painter and drawer, originally from Igloolik, Nunavut, and now based in Yellowknife...[Read more](#)

NWT projects win Arctic Inspiration Prize youth category

Two NWT youth projects emerged victorious at Friday's Arctic Inspiration Prize ceremony, between them receiving almost \$200,000 in funding. In a ceremony broadcast by APTN, the Beaufort Delta's [Western Arctic Youth Collective](#) received \$97,000 while Yellowknife project [Artspace](#) won \$100,000. The non-profits were the only two finalists in the youth category...[Read more](#)

Students spread kindness in Ulukhaktok for Pink Shirt Day

Students posted reminders to be kind throughout Ulukhaktok in honour of Pink Shirt Day. "The kids have come up with some great ideas and some great positive words and blurbs and quotes to be put out there. Together we've all created some pink ice bricks, put some posts in them, so these positivity signs spread kindness throughout all of Ulukhaktok," said Sandra Summers, a teacher at Helen Kalvak Elihakvik School...[Read more](#)

David A. Robertson wins the 2021 Freedom to Read Award

Robertson is a Swampy Cree author and graphic novelist based in Winnipeg. He has published more than 20 books across a variety of genres including novels, children's books and memoir. He also hosts the CBC Manitoba podcast *Kiwew*. The award is given in recognition of work that is passionately supportive of the freedom to read...[Read more](#)

Spotlight on Community Literacy Programs



The NWT Centennial Library, Hay River

The NWT Centennial Library has been actively supporting the literacy development of Hay River community members for decades. Staff have offered NWTLC's Family Literacy programming as well as Skill Builders for Youth, and have hosted special events for occasions such as NWT Literacy Week and Family Literacy Day. Program Librarian, Marissa Oteiza, has been very creative over the last year to continue offering literacy programming during the COVID-19

restrictions. The Library has offered Family Literacy Kits, Take and Bake kits and virtual story times; all allowing families to learn together at home. Youth and adults have been invited to online games, paint nights, and various virtual wellness activities.

Thank you to the NWT Centennial Library for being such a strong literacy partner in the NWT!

Resources and Websites

Resources for Freedom to Read Week

[Freedom to Read](#)
[12 Canadian books that have been challenged](#)
[Banned Children's Books we Love](#)



[Visit our website](#)

[Email us](#)

[Make a donation](#)