

## Literacy Dates

Indigenous Languages Month- February  
Black History Month- February  
Safer Internet Day- February 9  
International Book Giving Day- February 14  
International Mother Language Day- February 21  
Freedom to Read Week- February 21-27

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## Blog



**Standardised Dene: Yes or No?**

Guest blog written by Jiah Dzentu

Politicians loudly and proudly declare their support for language revitalization. CBC loves a good fluff story about a young person learning their language. The public school system claims they have integrated Dene and Inuit languages and culture into the classroom (Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit). Yet I can only count a handful of youth my own age (24) who can understand, let alone speak, their native tongue. We are not raising the next generation with their Indigenous languages...[Read more](#)

## Announcements and Events

### Future Skills Centre NWT Regional Sounding Tour

For this second round of local conversations, join the Conference Board of Canada from the comfort of your home, office, or home office on February 9. We'll discuss how the country has been impacted by COVID-19, what this means for the future of work, the impacts on the labour force market in our territory, and what the path to recovery will be... [Register here](#)

### Black History Month online scavenger hunt

NWT Human Rights Commission are hosting an online scavenger hunt so play along for your chance to win more great prizes. Visit their [website](#) for clues in English and French, as well as details on what else they are doing to mark Black History Month throughout February.

### Physical Literacy BINGO Challenge

Community members in Behchokò, Dettah, Enterprise, Fort Liard, Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Gamètì, Hay River, Jean Marie River, Kakisa, K'atl'odeeche, Łutsel K'e, Nahanni Butte, Ndilo, Sambaa K'e, Wekweètì, Whatì, and Wrigley are invited to participate in a month-long BINGO challenge. Visit Mackenzie Recreation Association's [website](#) to register. Practice your physical literacy skills and fill your card!

### YWCA NWT Family Centre Book Club

Included in this month's book club package, you will find *Our Ever Awesome NWT Brushing Song*, written by Richard Van Camp and illustrated by Neiva Mateus. There will also be toothbrushes and toothpaste for the family, a laminated brushing chart and an oral health craft based around flossing your teeth. This will come with step by step instructions and most of the supplies. These bags will be for pick up during business hours, and are intended for families with children 0-4 years old. Check out their [Facebook page](#) for details and to sign up.

## Funding

### **NWT Arts Council Funding**

Eligible NWT artists and organizations can apply for up to \$150,000 for a creative project in the 2021-22 fiscal year. Visit their [website](#) for the funding guide and application. Deadline is February 28.

### **NWTLC Youth Literacy 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.

### **Gro for Good Grants**

Canadian charitable organizations or non-profit groups are invited to apply for a grant to create or expand a garden or green space that will provide tangible benefits to the community. Grants will be valued at \$2,500 (cash and in-kind product donation) and will be awarded to projects across Canada based on community impact, youth involvement and sustainability...[Read more](#)

## **News, Research, Opinion**

### **Antoine Mountain wins NorthWords' 2020 book award**

Dene author Antoine Mountain is the winner of 2020's NorthWords Book Award, the NWT literary non-profit announced last week...[Read more](#)

### **New exhibit honours Yukon First Nations high school graduates and their regalia**

Rich colours, intricate beadwork, and creative designs.

That is just some of what encompasses the regalia Yukon First Nations high school graduates have been wearing for the past 45 years...[Read more](#)

### **How the animated film Chicken Run became a cult classic in the Mi'kmaw language**

A British animated film about a hen and rooster's daring escape from a chicken farm has become an unlikely tool for promoting the Mi'kmaw language in Nova Scotia and beyond... [Read more](#)

## **Spotlight on Board Members**



**Rosemary Gill,  
Vice President and Deh Cho Region Representative**

Rosemary joined the NWT Literacy Council as a board member in 2018 and is currently the Vice Chair. Rosemary grew up in Fort Simpson and attended Thomas Simpson School, Sir John Franklin High School, Aurora College, University of Alberta, as well as completing an after-degree program, Aboriginal Governance, at the University of Victoria.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Rosemary Gill retired June 8, 2020 after spending her working life in education, management, and career development, mostly in northern Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and finally the Northwest Territories. Rosemary taught elementary, secondary and post-secondary education and has worked in management and career development for provincial, territorial as well as First Nations governments.

Rosemary returned home in 2011 and went to work for Education, Culture & Employment as a Career Development Officer before moving over to Aurora College as the Program Head for the Dehcho Region in 2011. It was in this capacity that she was seconded to Dehcho First Nations as the Senior Advisor to the Grand Chief in 2019, a position she held until her retirement.

Rosemary firmly believes education is the one factor that will spell success in one's life. She states, "my career success in a lifetime of interesting employment opportunities can be tied directly to the education I've taken advantage of". A solid grounding in literacy, numeracy, and technology will serve one well, no matter the path one takes in life. Rosemary plans to stay active and continue to contribute while in retirement.

## Resources and Websites

### Resources for Safer Internet Day

- [Safer Internet Day](#)
- [Internet safety tips for adults](#)
- [Internet safety for teens](#)
- [Internet safety for kids video](#)



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