



News Release: For immediate release

NWT Literacy Council welcomes new adult basic education funding

Yellowknife (February 23, 2012) – The NWT Literacy Council welcomes today’s announcement of new federal funding for adult basic education in the three northern territories.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced today in Iqaluit that the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will provide \$27 million over five years to expand adult basic education in Nunavut, Yukon and the Northwest Territories (NWT).

“This money will expand the opportunities for NWT adults who want to upgrade their skills. Many adults, particularly those in more remote communities, face great barriers to improving their literacy and essential skills,” says Helen Balanoff, the Council’s executive director. “This new funding will make a broader range of programs and services available and allow more Northerners to benefit from the economic opportunities in the NWT.”

This new initiative is called the Northern Adult Basic Education Program (NABEP). The program aims to help Northerners get jobs or be able to take job-specific training. Funding will go to the three territorial colleges.

“The Council is very pleased to be invited to be part of the planning process for this program,” said Ms. Balanoff. “We look forward to continuing to work with Aurora College to improve access to adult education and to being a partner in some of the new initiatives,” she added.

For more than 20 years, the NWT Literacy Council has worked with NWT adult educators to promote the importance of literacy and essential skills, develop resources, deliver training and workshops, conduct research and share information.

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