



NWT Literacy Council

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Yellowknife (July 15, 2011) – The NWT Literacy Council is helping families support newborn babies in literacy development.

The Council will be distributing Richard Van Camp's new book, *Nighty Night: A Bedtime Song for Babies*, to each NWT family of a newborn baby starting this fall. The Council recorded Richard singing the lullaby and will be sending a CD along with the book.

"We recorded Richard singing the lullaby so parents can play it to their children, or to help them learn how to sing the lullaby themselves," says Helen Balanoff, the Council's Executive Director.

"Singing, reading and talking to babies is so important to a baby's early development, including their literacy development. We know now much more about how critical the early months and years of life are."

Distribution of the book is possible through a partnership with Richard, his publisher, McKellar & Martin, the Yellowknife Book Cellar and the NWT Literacy Council. The Council receives funding for its family literacy work from Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the NWT.

This newest initiative builds on the baby book bags already being distributed by the Council.

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