



NWT Literacy Council

Box 761, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6

**Media Release: For immediate release**

**NWT Literacy Council Joins Call for NWT Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Yellowknife (March 31, 2010) – The NWT Literacy Council has formally joined the call for an NWT Poverty Reduction Strategy, calling attention to the link between low literacy skills, poverty and employment prospects.

“Low literacy, unemployment and poverty are all inter-related and tend to have a multiplier effect.” noted NWT Literacy Council president, Suzanne Robinson, when the Council board of directors agreed at a recent meeting to formally join a coalition of organizations and municipalities calling on the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop a NWT poverty reduction strategy.

“The disadvantage facing people with low literacy tends to affect their children too, thus continuing the cycle. Poverty and low literacy impact on health as well, increasing government costs in several areas, and reducing the potential for tax revenue from earned income,” said Ms. Robinson.

The NWT Literacy Council believes that a holistic approach such as a poverty reduction strategy with government departments and social agencies working together would be an important step to reducing the disadvantage faced by some NWT residents.

“This is the kind of commitment to social and economic justice that could make a real difference in peoples’ lives,” said Ms. Robinson.

The coalition of groups and municipalities calling for a poverty reduction strategy is lead by Alternatives North and now has 21 members.

For more information about the NWT Literacy Council position on a poverty reduction strategy, contact:

Suzanne Robinson  
President  
NWT Literacy Council  
Tel: (867) 873-9262  
Toll Free: 1-866-599-6758  
E-mail: [Robinson.zan@gmail.com](mailto:Robinson.zan@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca)