



NWT Literacy Council

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News Release: For immediate release

NWT Literacy Council releases new book to celebrate International Adult Learners' Week

Yellowknife (April 6, 2011) – The NWT Literacy Council is pleased to announce its new book, *Stories of Progress on a Learning Journey*, featuring 56 NWT adult learners. The book is just in time for **International Adult Learners' Week, April 2-9, 2011**.

"The learners featured in the book talk clearly about how important adult education has been to them, beyond getting a job or better job," says Helen Balanoff, Executive Director of the NWT Literacy Council. "And the stories really speak to the resilience and determination needed to overcome the barriers facing adult learners."

The learners featured in *Stories of Progress on a Learning Journey* identify adult education non-academic outcomes such as: improved self-esteem; a better life; ability to provide for their children; being able to read or teach their children, or help them with homework; being more willing to take risks; improved relationships; and a new sense of commitment to themselves, to others and to learning.

These personal and social outcomes are important not only for adult learners, but also for their families and society – leading to a growing recognition of adult education's contributions to social capital, says Ms. Balanoff.

"Social capital is the social connections and understandings that let people work together, live together and learn from each other," she says. "This week is a good time to acknowledge the courage of adult learners as well as the role that adult education plays in strengthening the social fabric of NWT communities."

You can view *Stories of Progress on a Learning Journey* online at www.nwt.literacy.ca or contact the NWT Literacy Council for a hard copy.

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