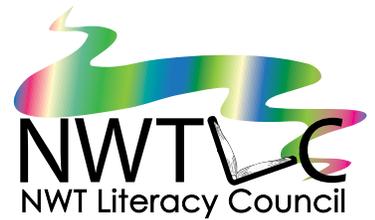


Literacy Matters



SUMMER 2014

Xavier Canadien **Computer Training Opens World to Fort Providence Man**



Xavier Canadien advises adult learners not to give up. He didn't, and his persistence is paying off.

"I wanted to be able to use a computer to find benefits for disabled people and the computer is the best way. But I didn't know how to work it," says Xavier. He tried to enrol in an evening computer program at the employment office but found it hard to access the computers and get the help he needed.

After months of asking the local employment office for individual computer training, he received the help he needed from the Fort Providence Aurora College community adult educator, Reez Khimji. Reez contacted the NWT Disabilities Council and completed the paperwork, including a successful funding proposal, to get Xavier a tutor

under the Learning Supports for Persons with Disabilities Program.

"Don't give up," urges Xavier. "Even though they say no, there are other avenues."

Things fell further into place when Reez found Xavier the perfect tutor, Eddy Gordon, an information technology engineer and administrator, who moved to Fort Providence last year. Eddy tutors Xavier four hours a week.

In the past year Xavier has learned how to use Microsoft software programs such as Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint. He practises his typing with Mavis Beacon software and can Skype with friends and relatives.

Xavier has a physical disability related to an injury 12 years ago. Prior to his injury he worked

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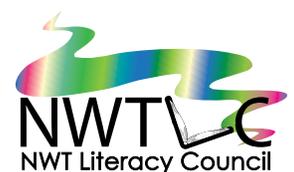
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President's Message: Cate Sills

There's Lots Going on at the Council

There's been a whirlwind of activity at the Literacy Council this spring and into the summer.

We held our strategic planning meeting in April. Watch for our 2014-17 plan on our website once it is approved by the Board of Directors. Strategic planning helps the Board continually ensure that we're addressing the needs of the people of the NWT in the most efficient and effective way possible with our available resources.

And, after an extensive hiring process, we have a new Executive Director. We welcome Michael Corbett who comes to us from CanNor in Yellowknife. Our outgoing Executive Director, Helen Balanoff, remains with the Council managing some programs and easing the transition to new leadership.

In May, Helen and Michael met with literacy coalitions from across Canada to establish a new working group to help the organizations support each other and pool resources to coordinate literacy actions across the country. This follows the creation of the northern network, NALES (Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills) in 2013.

We hope that by the time this newsletter comes out our year of work with the federal Office of Literacy and Essential Skills

Canada (OLES) will have resulted in funding for NALES for projects to improve learning and employment in the north.

We're fortunate to have ongoing funding and support from the NWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) for family literacy, adult and youth supports and other programs that support NWT literacy. We're also working with Aurora College to develop more new courses for the Northern Adult Basic Education program with funding from CanNor.

We were hugely grateful for the positive energy at the Aboriginal Languages in the Home workshop we hosted in May. Our financial literacy workshop funding ended in June. These workshops were very successful and we hope to secure new funding to bring this popular and needed training to more communities.

The NWT Literacy Council participates actively in most of the GNWT's strategic planning processes addressing such issues as early childhood, poverty, homelessness, economic and resource development to name a few. We sit on numerous committees and partnerships, including the North Slave Regional Training Partnership



Committee and the Learning Supports for People with Disabilities Committee.

Currently we're helping plan this October's Labour Market Symposium to be held in Yellowknife. The Council is also part of ECE's education renewal process.

We're a positive force within the territory thanks to our supporters and partners, both corporate like the Yellowknife BookCellar and First Air, and from within the territorial government and Aurora College.

I encourage you to participate as much as you can in two great events coming this fall. The first is NWT Literacy Week September 21-27, and then the bi-annual PGI for Literacy (Peter Gzowski Invitational Fundraiser for Literacy) the week of October 6.

The NWT Literacy Council Board of Directors and staff continue to work hard to keep literacy an integral part of NWT development.



Mark Your Calendar Now!

PGI for Literacy
October 6–9

We hold the PGI for Literacy every two years to raise money for community literacy projects in the NWT and to celebrate how literacy changes lives. See page 10 for more information about the plans for the NWT PGI for Literacy 2014.

NWT Literacy Council Annual General Meeting

Please go to our website www.nwt.literacy.ca for the date of our AGM this fall. We didn't have a firm date as of the printing of this newsletter.

International Plain Language Day

October 13 is International Plain Language Day. This day brings attention to the advantages of clear communications. Plain language means putting readers first. Contact us for information about our plain language design, writing and editing service.

Save Money and Paper!

We are committed to the wise use of our money and our natural resources, including paper.

Please send an email to nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca if you would like to receive *Literacy Matters* by email instead of a paper copy.

September 21 – 27 Celebrate NWT Literacy Week 2014

The theme for NWT Literacy Week 2014 is Literacy: Our health depends on it!

There are many connections between health and literacy. We learn better if we're active, eat healthy food and have a good night's sleep.

In addition, health literacy means that people and communities can take actions that promote and maintain good health. To do that we all need skills and confidence to understand health information and services.

Health literacy is also about the responsibility our health programs and services have to respond to the needs and rights of all citizens, regardless of their literacy skills. This means taking time to answer questions, using plain language and improving access to information and services that help people make good health decisions.

There are many great programs taking place in communities around the NWT to help everyone understand health issues better! Take time this week to find out what is happening in your community. If there is a health topic you are passionate about and would like help promoting in your community, please contact us.

Watch for your NWT Literacy Week package in the mail or check our website for our new booklets, *Eating and Learning* and *Playing and Learning* and our literacy week bookmarks.





We're Embedding Literacy in Youth Programs

We're working with community groups to help improve young parents' literacy and essential skills. We're doing this by training local people to embed literacy in programs and activities that interest young parents.

This two-year youth literacy project, Skill Builders for Young Parents, began a year ago with funding from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Last winter and spring potential facilitators from Fort Providence, Inuvik, Fort Resolution, Jean Marie River, Fort Good Hope, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok and the Centre for Northern Families in Yellowknife took part in our embedded literacy and essential skills training. They learned about literacy and essential skills, as well as how a cooking and nutrition program could incorporate and support literacy learning.

Facilitators ran pilot programs in Jean Marie River, Fort Resolution, Fort Good Hope and at the Centre for Northern Families in Yellowknife. The program participants had a great time learning, cooking and

sharing together. They learned new recipes and new skills, and facilitators saw lots of confidence boosts! These programs were mostly attended by mothers, but some dads joined in on the fun too. We are very grateful to the pilot program facilitators for testing the program and giving us good feedback on how to improve the program. Thank you!

We also visited a few communities to hear from dads about what they enjoy doing, and would like to do with their kids. We heard so many great ideas, and are excited to work with community groups to get some new programs started. We're looking forward to the fall, when some programs for dads will start, and a second round of cooking programs will run.

Contact katie@nwtliteracy.ca if you would like information about literacy and cooking training for Skill Builders for Young Parents.

Adult Educator Remembers Northern Literary Hero

By Suzanne Robinson



Robert Alexie Jr. leaves a legacy of service, friendship, leadership, photography, poetry and writing.

As an Aurora College instructor in Inuvik I was fortunate to read letters of recommendations Robert wrote for incoming students, celebrate with him at college events and to study his books in my English class. His contribution to northern literature is immense and in the Beaufort-Delta region he is our first great literary hero.

Robert's first novel, *Porcupines and China Dolls*, was unflinching in its portrait of residential schools. Richard Van Camp, author of *The Lesser Blessed*, suggests in his review of *Porcupines and China Dolls*, "[t]his book will initiate more healing than any of us will ever know. It's hard but good medicine."

Author Thomas King was inspired by Alexie's important novel for one of his CBC Massey Lectures. King explains the novel's title, describing children's induction into

residential school as "the girls had been scrubbed and powdered to look like china dolls and the boys had been scrubbed and sheared to look like porcupines".

King noted: "No one heard the little china doll that night, but if she were given a voice, it would've sounded like a million porcupines screaming in the dark."

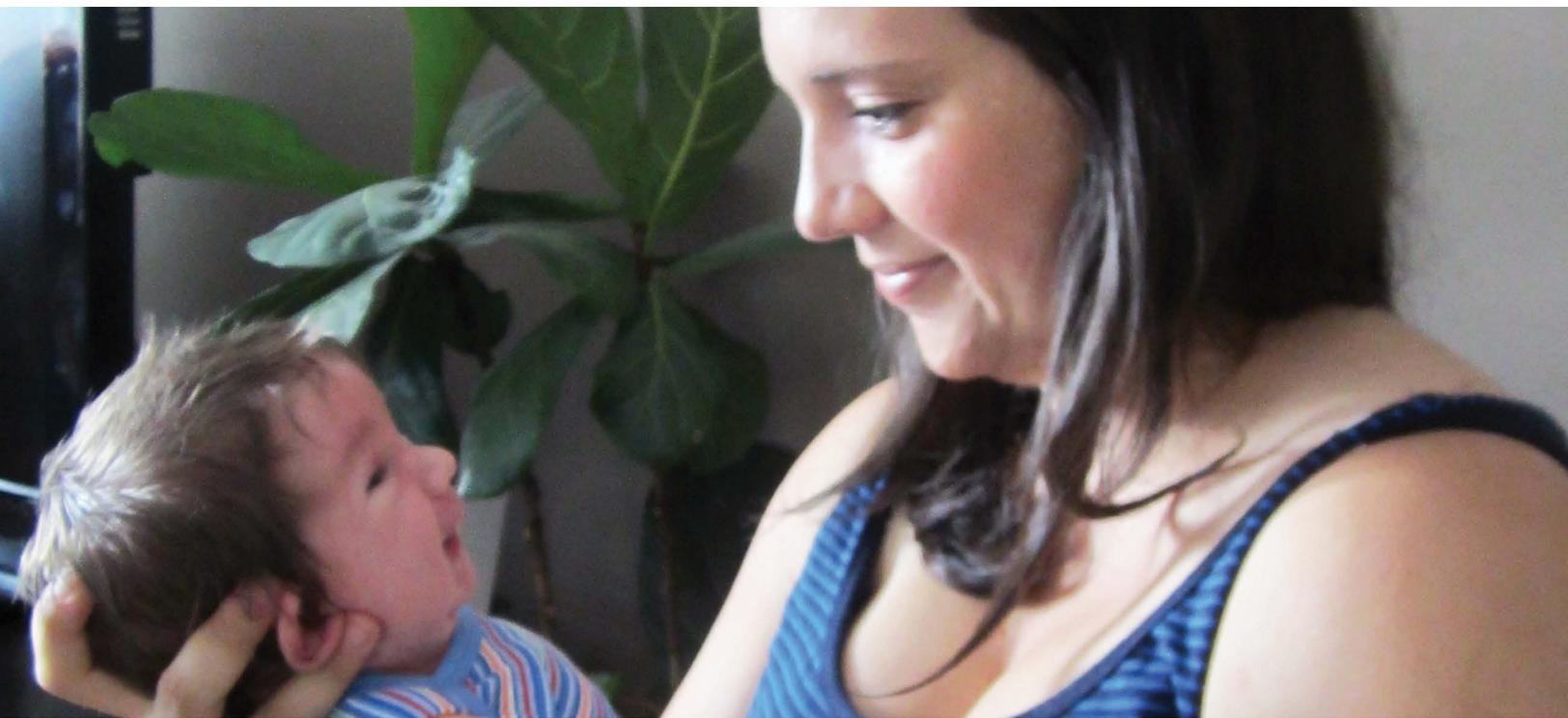
Robert's books were difficult and raw, but literature is meant to challenge. Robert's writing confronted students and made them think and become more critical. Students wanted to study his first book and his second, *The Pale Indian*. He broke trail for Northern writers and his example will likely inspire others to put their pen to paper to tell northern stories.

Robert Alexie wrote for his community. According to King, Robert wrote "primarily for a Native audience, making a conscious decision not so much to ignore non-Native readers as to write for the very people they write about".

Community was first for Robert. The man behind the words was kind, positive, dedicated and funny. I thank Robert for his words, his work for students and the inspiration he provided for both my students and myself. I wish him good hunting, hard ice, blue skies, an excellent camera and all the blank paper he needs.

Suzanne Robinson is Vice-President of the NWT Literacy Council and works now at Aurora College's Yellowknife campus.

Why it's Never too Early to Talk to Babies



Have you ever found yourself talking to a baby using a strange kind of language that you would never use with an adult? Your voice becomes high-pitched, with a sing-song tone. You exaggerate your words and facial expressions and draw out sounds. You speak slowly and clearly and repeat yourself. Most likely, you do this naturally, without thinking about it.

It turns out that it is a natural thing to do. People in cultures around the world unconsciously speak this way to infants. It's technically called “parentese,” and studies show there is a reason that most people do it naturally: babies like it and respond to it, and it helps an infant learn language.

Babies begin to learn language much earlier than we once thought. In fact, well before

infants actually say a word (or something that sounds like a word), their brains are busy storing and sorting millions of bits of information simply by listening. By the time children begin to speak, they already have complex knowledge of the language(s) spoken by the people around them.

We are all born “global citizens”, with the ability at birth to hear the difference between all the

sounds made in every language in the world. This means the brain is prepared to learn any language it hears. And that is the key: an infant learns language by hearing it.

By the age of six to eight months, a baby's brain loses this ability to hear all sounds, and learns to respond to and “prefer” the language(s) the infant hears most. Infants must learn which distinct sounds—for example, between different consonants—are meaningful in the language(s)

spoken by their caregivers. By 12 months they already have the rules down. They are mastering language simply by listening to people.

The more children are spoken to in their early years, the more quickly they learn to tell the difference between the sounds of their home language. Recent studies show that the earlier a child is able to distinguish speech sounds, the easier it will be later to master more complex language skills such as reading. This is where parentese comes in. The musicality and exaggerated slowness we use when talking to babies helps them grasp words because we emphasize the difference between sounds and when one word ends and another begins.

At the same time, parents should have real conversations with their infants from birth—even if it may seem one-sided. Hearing lots of different words used in full sentences trains a baby’s brain to learn through context, an essential language skill.

Children learn language more efficiently and quickly when they are spoken to directly. Listening to someone talk on a television or other electronic device, or even overhearing a conversation, does not help the brain learn language. Babies and toddlers need personal interaction to learn.

So what’s the most important message here? Babies learn sounds and words from you. The sooner you start talking to a baby, and the more you do it, the better it is for the child. And, turn off the television.

Welcome to Our New Board Member

Welcome to Norma Gauthier, a teacher at Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Behchokò, our newest board member.

Norma came on the board early this summer. We also acknowledge the contributions of our former Tłı̄chǫ region board member, Lisa Mackenzie Nitsiza, who resigned this spring due to work commitments.

Norma is concerned about the children in her region who are not speaking their language and the young people and adults who are behind academically.

“I think if I help out, the more I learn, the more I can be able to help in my community,” says Norma. “Literacy is more than books. It’s everything around us. I hope more people will take part in our culture, in our language and learning.”

Norma is on maternity leave with her third child, but normally teaches grade 4 and coaches a number of sports, including volleyball, soccer and track and field.



What's Happening With Family Literacy

Kathryn and Pat worked with the Fort Providence Aboriginal Headstart program during this past year and were invited to their year-end barbeque. We enjoyed the visit just before they finished for the summer holidays. We had a lot of fun at Our Lady of the Falls campground. There was great food and fun science activities in a beautiful park.

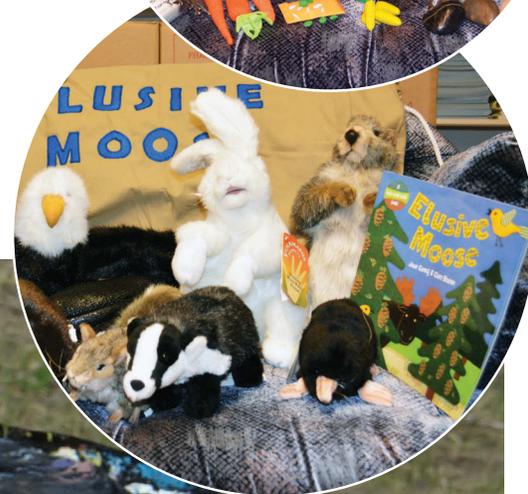
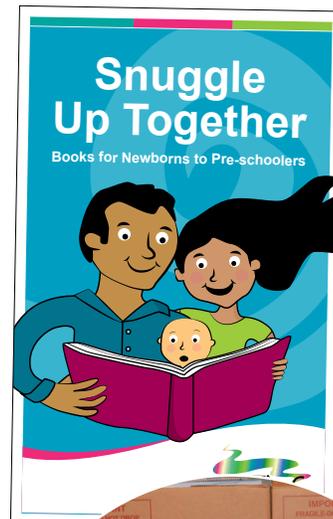
The NWT Literacy Council continues to do Family Literacy activities at the Farmer's Market in Yellowknife each Tuesday until September 16. We're having a lot of fun along with the many parents and children who visit our table to make crafts or paint our new family literacy tent. The tent will be used for special events, and children are enjoying painting it. Artist Diane Boudreau is helping us with this

project. Stay tuned for pictures of the completed project.

Martha Hamre, the Council's summer student, is busy working on new resource materials, like felt stories, flip books, and book marks. We always have something exciting up our sleeves.

We also have three new storysacks for schools, preschools, day homes, and family literacy programs to borrow: *Stone Soup*, *The Three Snow Bears*, and *Elusive Moose*. You can call our office for more information and we will be happy to let you borrow one.

We're almost finished the new resource, *Snuggle Up Together*. It is a listing of our 100 favourite children's books for ages 0-6 years old. Look out for it this Fall.



Literacy Matters | Summer 2014



Sign Up for Our Training Events

Youth Embedded Literacy Training

Yellowknife – September 16 – 18

Contact Katie to learn about this training for community-based projects for young parents.

Family Literacy Training Institute

Yellowknife – December 1 – 5

Always a hit and full of fun, interactive learning, this training is necessary before people can receive our family literacy program funding.

Contact Kathryn or Pat for more information.

Apply for Family Literacy Funding

We fund Family Literacy activities and projects in NWT communities. The application form and criteria are on our website under Funding, or you can contact Pat at 1-866-599-6758 or pat@nwtliteracy.ca

Thanks for the Book Donations

A big thank you to everyone who responded to our call for book donations. We received lots of high quality adult and children's books to give away from our book mobile at summer events, including the weekly Yellowknife Farmers Market.



We've had Some Staff Changes

Michael Corbett began work as our new executive director on May 20.

Our former executive director, Helen Balanoff, remains with the Council at reduced hours as the project manager and to help with the transition to new leadership.

Michael comes to the NWT Literacy Council from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) where he was a Community Economic Development Officer. Before joining CanNor, Michael was the executive director of the Smart Communities Society, delivering such programs as Computers for Schools and the Community Access Program.

Michael has a real interest in information and communications technology training and awareness. He sees potential in using technology as a tool for community development, particularly in delivering education and training. Michael's long-standing involvement with education, training and literacy stretches back to his several years working with libraries in northern Ontario.

In midsummer we said goodbye to David Buchanan, who accepted a teaching position in Tulita. David was a youth and adult services coordinator with the Council for the past year. During the years he studied education to become a teacher he worked four summers with the Council.

This summer we all enjoyed working with Martha Hamre, our latest summer student employee. You may have seen Martha at the Yellowknife Farmers Market each Tuesday during the summer. Martha will resume her environmental engineering studies at the University of Guelph this fall and winter.



Celebrate Literacy With Us!

Get ready to hear some great music in October! The PGI (Peter Gzowski Invitational) for Literacy happens the week of October 6-9, 2014. The PGI is a celebration of literacy, music and storytelling, to raise money for a great cause - literacy projects in the NWT.

During the PGI, well-known Canadian celebrities such as Jonathan Torrens, Russell deCarle (formerly of Prairie Oyster), Barney Bentall, Dustin Bentall, Connie Kaldor, Mike Stevens, Shelagh Rogers and the NWT's own Wesley Hardisty will visit schools in Yellowknife, Ndilo, Dettah and Behchokò.

You'll recognize many of the names of celebrities who participated in previous NWT PGIs. That's because our renowned northern hospitality makes the NWT PGI a popular

return engagement for celebrities. In addition, these performers volunteer their time because they are committed to promoting literacy in all its forms.

You can meet our special guests at events, such as a community feast. Or, come see them perform on stage along with talented local performers at two action-packed, fun concerts at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre on October 7 and 8.

Contact the NWT Literacy Council for information about

buying concert tickets or to be a PGI for Literacy sponsor.

The PGI for Literacy is held in the NWT every two years. It's our major fundraising event. The money raised supports community-based literacy activities and programs.

Please contact Cheryl if you want to be a sponsor and help to change lives through literacy. Our sponsor benefits include media recognition and passes to an invitation-only reception.

See you at the PGI!

Encouraging People to Use Aboriginal Languages in NWT Homes

Thank you to the representatives of each of the NWT Aboriginal language communities who participated in our Aboriginal Languages in the Home workshop in May in Yellowknife.

In the past the NWT Literacy Council translated some of our family literacy resources into Aboriginal languages. We organized the workshop to find a more appropriate way to support language development.

We were happy to see that people really enjoyed sharing their language resources and learning from each other. NWT Aboriginal language workers are innovative and strategic in how they produce resources. For example, in the South Slavey region, people are using smart boards to adapt materials for different situations and dialects. People

are producing everything from animated videos to puppets for teaching and learning Aboriginal languages.

Quluq Pilakapsi, from the Nunavut Literacy Council, made everyone laugh when she demonstrated her homemade paper accordion and pop-up book. One person remarked how she also demonstrated the 'strong like two people' model of having the skills of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures. She used her computer to provide background music for her demonstration and her granddaughter to translate her presentation from Inuktitut to English.

Marianne Bromley's presentation on how children learn language was very popular. At the request of workshop participants we will

videotape the presentation so language workers can share it with parents and other community members.

Workshop participants gave us clear direction on how we can best support Aboriginal languages and the work of language workers across the territory. We learned at the workshop that the Aboriginal language communities want the Council to play a convening role, helping them connect and network with each other. People who work to revitalize Aboriginal languages can often feel isolated in their region and community.

We will also be seeking funding to work with the language communities to more actively promote Aboriginal language use in NWT homes.



Eligible Families Missing Out on Canada Learning Bond

The Canada Learning Bond is one of the things we learned about in the past two years while delivering Financial Literacy workshops. We discovered that only about 8 percent of the more than 3,000 eligible NWT children receive the Canada Learning Bond.

The Canada Learning Bond is a national program for children born since January 1, 2004 in families that receive the National Child Benefit Supplement. It helps those families save money for their child's post-secondary education.

The Canada Learning Bond provides \$500 on sign up, then \$100 a year up to a total of \$2,000 into Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs). Families do not have to contribute any of their own money to receive the Canada Learning Bond.

In our workshops, hardly anyone knew about the Canada Learning Bond. The NWT Literacy Council began its information campaign to tell people about the Canada Learning Bond a year ago when we produced an infographic about it for NWT Literacy Week (You can find this on our website under family and community resources.).

We held an open house in Yellowknife on May 12. The more we talk with people, the more we realize there are several barriers beyond information for families to access this program. To sign up your child, you have to have a Social Insurance Number for

them. To get that from Service Canada, you need to have a birth certificate, and birth certificates cost \$20.

To get the Canada Learning Bond, you must go in person to set up a RESP at a bank or other financial institution. That's pretty difficult for families when 27 of the 33 NWT communities don't have a bank. The good news is that someone other than a parent can set up the RESP, if they have both the parent's and the child's social insurance numbers.

Most of the Yellowknife bank managers we talked with say that they automatically apply for the Canada Learning Bond whenever someone sets up an RESP. That way banks don't have to ask about a family's income.

There are other barriers too.

- Lower-income families already face stresses making ends meet so a program with only long-term benefits may not be a priority.
- Parents may lack child care for a bank appointment.
- There are different kinds of RRSPs and the information about them may seem complicated or not be clearly explained.



- People may mistakenly believe that income assistance counts Canada Learning Bond money as income or an asset.

Even in big, southern cities parents face barriers to accessing the Canada Learning Bond, as social policy analyst John Stapleton discovered when he helped some women to access this program. His blog about the experience from January 22, 2013 is at www.openpolicyontario.com

Meanwhile, our funding to provide financial literacy workshops has ended. We hope we were able to help many people gain greater control of their money through the information we provided at the workshops. We know we learned a great deal from all the workshop participants, including barriers people face to access the Canada Learning Bond.



Short Courses a Success for Learners and Instructors

For many years, adult educators (and learners) have been asking for short skill-based courses that embed literacy and essential skills. In other words, learners increase their foundational skills while learning technical skills, like basic office skills.

With funding for the Northern Adult Basic Education program (NABE), Aurora College contracted the NWT Literacy Council to develop a number of six-week courses, and then support pilot testing of them.

The suggested topics – from learners, adult educators, ASETS (Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategy) holders – were numerous. In the end, the courses are:

- Introduction to Office Skills
- Start Your Own Business (Part 1)
- Funding and Marketing Your Business (Part 2)
- Introduction to Early Learning and Child Care
- Ready to Work NWT, with the addition of specialist units

Most courses have a classroom component and

a workplace component. The business classes have a business project instead of a work placement.

To date, we've pilot tested two courses, which were a huge success. We had between 75% and 100% retention in them, which is quite remarkable. Learners and instructors alike sang their praises.

Instructors liked the courses because they had everything they needed to teach the courses, including videos downloaded from YouTube. This was a huge boon for classes in communities with low bandwidth.

Learners liked them because they were very hands on. They also let them experience quick success. And many of the learners excelled at their work placement.

These courses have been a long time coming. We're proud to have been a part of this initiative, and we look forward to continuing to work on this project.



Joint Presentations Northern Adult Basic Education Symposium

Adult educators showcased innovations and best practices from the three northern territories at the Northern Adult Basic Education (NABE) Symposium in Whitehorse in May.

The Symposium was put on by Yukon College, Aurora College and Nunavut Arctic College to promote innovation in adult education.

Lisa Campbell and Helen Balanoff represented the NWT Literacy Council at this unique gathering. They showcased the short, embedded literacy courses that the Council developed and pilot tested this year for Aurora College.

Yukon College highlighted a hugely successful course where they provided laptops and tutoring to students who had only one or two courses to complete to get their Grade 12

graduation certificate. Nunavut Arctic College highlighted some of its many embedded literacy, language and culture courses. Everyone left with practical ideas that they could put to use right away in their classrooms.

There were lots of social events too. Two highlights were an evening reception with amazing food provided by the Yukon College Culinary Arts students, followed by great entertainment from Dayit, a young musician from the Yukon. There was a two-hour drive along the edge of Kluane National Park to Haines Junction for a feast and entertainment by young dancers.

The meeting finished with territorial caucuses where people provided input for next steps in the NABE project, funded by CanNor (Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency).

Helen and Lisa said they have never seen adult educators so engaged and stimulated as they were by this gathering. Adult educators mingled and learned with colleagues from across the north. They broke out of the isolation many experience working on their own at community learning centres. Let's hope adult educators have more opportunities like this.

For more on the symposium check out Helen Balanoff's May 12 blog on our website.



Xavier Canadien continued from page 1

as a seasonal forest firefighter and did carpentry work on construction jobs.

Xavier received a home computer to further his skills. Now at 54 years of age, he is amazed at how the Internet is opening up the world and learning for him. As a band councillor with the Deh Gâh Got'ie First Nation, he researches treaties and devolution. The computer allows him to receive band council business by email as well. But, it's not all work.

"Every day is something new. Mostly I am on Facebook. I also am on Google a lot. I search for information related to my role as a member of the community justice committee. Now there's less time for crosswords and Sudoku," laughs Xavier.

Xavier uses his newfound access to disability information to help other community members complete forms that he finds on the Internet, such as the application for the Disability Tax Credit.

One of his favourite websites is gopro.com where he can watch videos shot with small, lightweight cameras. Xavier took photography in high school.

"It was always something I thought about and thought I wanted to do more of. The computer is giving me access to that and to words too." You can view Xavier's photographs and poetry on the website he created as part of his training. The address is www.xaviercanadien.wordpress.com

Xavier's computer training helped him get back to work part-time. He is naming the streets of Fort Providence, while finding a practical application for Google Maps.

"Success of this kind needs a willing, determined student, as well as a willing, determined tutor," says Reez. "They were able to click and work as a team. Now that I have heard about his job, I feel my work is done."

You can learn more about the Learning Supports for Persons with Disabilities program at <http://nwtability.ca/Programs/LearningSupportsforPersonswithDisabilities.aspx> or call the NWT Disabilities Council toll free 1-800-491-8885.

Family Literacy Training for Staff and Dehcho Family Literacy Workers

What do magic carpet rides*, brain games*, rhymes and songs and a cow bus* have in common?

They were all part of the Centre for Family Literacy's Family Literacy Training Institute held in Calgary, Alberta on May 12-16, 2014.

Most years, the NWT Literacy Council sends staff, as well as family and community literacy facilitators from NWT communities to the Centre for Family Literacy's Family Literacy Training Institute in either Calgary or Edmonton. This year, Kathryn was joined by Sabrina McLeod from Dezoah Unda Etleh Koke Aboriginal Head Start in Fort Providence, and Myra and Ariel Sanguéz from the Jean Marie River First Nation. In previous years, we have sent participants from Ulukhaktok, Fort Good Hope, Inuvik, Deline, Whati, and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Attending workshops in other places allows people to find out about different programs, and to network. They can share ideas with other family literacy facilitators, learn about new programs, and gain insight into what may work in their community.

This training event is always a great combination of learning and fun. In addition to the workshops, conference participants visited the Calgary tower, checked out downtown restaurants, and went to the mall once or twice!

***Magic Carpet Ride** is a family literacy program for parents and preschoolers.

***Brain games** was part of a workshop called "Let's Talk About the Early Years – Early Brain Development & Family Literacy".

***COW bus** is a really cool modified school bus that visits communities around Alberta. COW stands for classroom on wheels, and the bus has all sorts of books, games, puzzles and other learning materials for parents and children to play with.

To read about what Kathryn Barry Paddock learned at this conference check out her June 4 blog on our website.

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Become a Literacy Council Member

Literacy and essential skills touch all aspects of our lives.

Literacy and essential skills impact our social and economic well-being, our health, our families and our communities.

The NWT Literacy Council is committed to ensuring that all NWT residents have access to the literacy supports they need to:

- get jobs
- continue their education
- take care of their families
- participate fully in their communities

The NWT Literacy Council is a strong non-government literacy voice and service provider.

Why become a member of the NWT Literacy Council?

A strong network is key to creating solutions that address the complex issues of literacy and essential skills.

Your support is important to us. It's easy and it's fast!

Join the Literacy Council and strengthen the voice of our network of literacy workers and supporters across the NWT.

Literacy is everyone's business!

Yearly Dues

- Individual, \$10.00
- Family, \$20.00
- Organization, \$25.00

Membership dues can be waived on request, if necessary.

Donate Online

Donations are essential for the NWT Literacy Council's work.

To donate online at www.nwt.literacy.ca click on the CanadaHelps button.



We're on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

Please search for NWT Literacy Council.

Keep in Touch!



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