

Media Release

Literacy and essential skills in the NWT

Yellowknife – (October 8, 2013) Initial results from the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) were released today.

Not surprisingly, an initial look at the results tells the story of a significant labour market challenge in the Northwest Territories (NWT), and shows the need for continued attention to, and investment in the development of literacy and essential skills and in adult education.

"This survey gives us much more in-depth information than we've ever had before about skill development among young people and adults," says the Council's executive director, Helen Balanoff. "More than ever before, people need those foundational skills to benefit from the economic opportunities available in the NWT. A deeper analysis of the results should allow everyone involved in skill development to better understand the needs of our population and better target initiatives to boost skills."

The assessment provides important information that will help inform literacy and essential skills policies and programs across Canada and in the NWT, with a view to improving the development of those skills. In the NWT, 900 people participated in PIAAC, which involved 27,000 adults across Canada. The Government of the NWT invested in an oversampling of the Aboriginal population here.

For a summary of the findings, go: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-555-x/89-555-x2013001-eng.htm>. For the full report, go to www.piaac.ca.

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