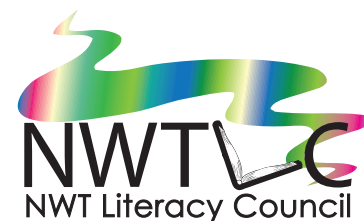
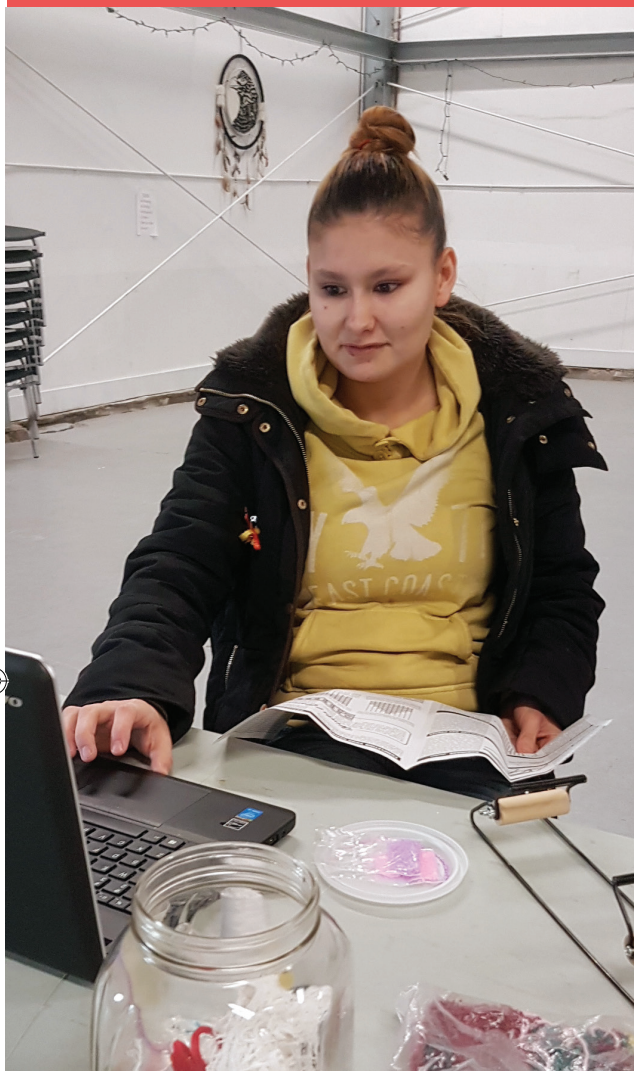


# Literacy Matters



SPRING 2017



## The BEAR Program is about Support and Empowerment

Shari Caudron, the executive director at the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre, felt her Hay River niece had fallen through the cracks when it came to her education. Shari's nickname for the young woman is Little Bear and she is the inspiration for the friendship centre's BEAR Program.

Once Shari had the name she had to decide what BEAR stood for. She came up with Beneficial Exploration of Ambition and Resourcefulness. Though it's a mouthful, the name does accurately describe what the program is about. Participants explore their interests and ambitions, learn essential skills, and learn how to identify — and practice tapping into — their inner resources.

The BEAR Program began in mid-November with student assessments. It aims to be a mix of literacy and essential skills in the morning, with practical skill-building in manufacturing and marketing in the afternoons using activities that embed essential skills.

“For one reason or another the participants need to enhance their skills and that's what this program aims to accomplish,” says Shari. “We want Hay River young people to get meaningful work.”

[...continued on pg 15](#)

## In this Issue...

The BEAR Program is about Support and Empowerment . . . . .	1
President's Message . . . . .	2
Check Out Our Resources. . . . .	3
We're Proud to Forge a New Path for Adult Learners. . . . .	4
Celebrate Indigenous Languages Month . . . . .	5
The NWT Celebrates Family Literacy Day . . . . .	6

Sharing Elders' Knowledge Through Granny and Grampa Talking Bags . . .	7
Now When I Look at Food, I Wonder: How Can I Enhance This? .	8
Family Literacy Training Institute. . . . .	10
Literacy Champions Honoured. . . . .	11

Thank You for Your Donations . . . . .	11
What's Happening in Family Literacy . . . . .	12
Building Skills with NWT Youth . . . . .	13
We Have New Staff and Board Members. . . . .	14



## President's Message: Ken Latour

### We are reading and sharing the Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission report summary

When this newsletter reaches you, spring will be fast approaching. I mention this because March is recognized as Indigenous Languages month in the NWT, a month set aside to recognize the richness and importance of Indigenous languages in our territory. We at the NWT Literacy Council believe in the importance of language and culture in shaping the health of individuals, families, and our northern society.

To support people learning Indigenous languages in the north, the NWT Literacy Council has resources on its website that are accessible to all. There are some general resources, such as the NWT Official Languages Map or program ideas for communities, but there are also resources for each of the nine official Indigenous languages of the NWT. We invite you to explore the resources we have and to download freely!

In recent years, the NWT Literacy Council received funding from the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment to bring together Indigenous language coordinators and practitioners from the north to develop and share best practices. It is important work, and we feel honoured to be a part of it.

Beyond supporting NWT Indigenous languages, the Literacy Council staff and board members also believe in the power of literacy to create positive change. For example, through reading we are able to access the thoughts, feelings and experiences of other human beings across time, physical space, and cultures. Being able to access other people's internal worlds through reading can, in turn, lead to a greater understanding of others, and this can then lead to mending rifts, if they exist.

For those who have followed the work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we know that there is a rift in this country between Indigenous societies and what many would consider to be 'mainstream' Canadian society. It is a rift brought on by a history with many dark chapters when it comes to Canada's relationship

with Indigenous peoples. But rifts do not have to stay rifts, and healing is a powerful force when approached correctly.

We at the Council believe that the correct approach to reconciliation needs to be built on a solid understanding of who we were before contact, what our shared history involves, and who we are now. To aid this understanding, the board and our staff members made a commitment that we would all read the *Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Volume One: Summary*. Despite being called a summary, it is a substantial document, and it will take us time to read and understand it and the implications for how we do the important work we do on behalf of all northerners.

The Council purchased five extra copies of the summary—one for each region in the NWT. We will send a copy of the summary to the first person from each region who contacts us and requests it. Our toll free number is 1-866-599-6758.

Enjoy the return of light to our northern lands, and have a good Indigenous Languages Month!



## Upcoming Events

### Indigenous Languages Month

March

### Northwards NWT Writers Festival

June 1-4, 2017

### NWT Literacy Week

September 24-30, 2017

Literacy Matters | Spring 2017

# Check Out Our Resources!

**One of our main jobs at the NWT Literacy Council is to help NWT communities build their capacity to support literacy programs. One way we do this is by developing new resources and learning materials. We are excited to share these new resources with you.**



We created the *Storymakers* booklet to celebrate this year's National Family Literacy Day. *Storymakers* contains a variety of different activities designed to encourage families to share stories together. Stories help us learn about ourselves — our culture, our language, and our traditions — and also about the experiences of others. They help us be creative and have fun. Telling stories, reading together, and sharing family stories are important family literacy practices. *Storymakers* is now available on our website.

Like all our materials, the printed version is available free to NWT residents.

We are currently pilot testing *Take a Break*, a parent-based program. It is made up of activities that support family literacy themes, such as bedtime routines, healthy eating, self-care, cultural parenting practices, and the benefits of reading to children.

Parents have to take care of themselves to be able to better care for their children and have meaningful time together as a family. *Take a Break* engages parents in enjoyable activities and encourages them to spend time with other parents. The pilot testing is taking place in Norman Wells, Fort Providence, and Yellowknife.

Our new *Get Moving* resource is in development. *Get Moving* focuses on physical literacy and the 12 fundamental movement skills identified by Physical and Health Education Canada. Each unit includes physical games and activities, as well as crafts, songs, rhymes, and story time ideas. We tested out a few of the units at the Aboriginal Head Start Program in Fort Providence and look forward to sharing it with other communities around the NWT.





# We're Proud to Forge a New Path for Adult Learners

*For many years, adult educators and others involved in adult learning have indicated a need for different learning paths for adult learners. The single approach of the Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE) program did not respond to the needs of all learners. The NWT Literacy Council is proud to be a part of forging a new path to success for adults.*

Since 2012, we have worked with Aurora College to develop a series of short courses that embed literacy and other essential skills. The Government of Canada provided the funding through the Northern Adult Basic Education Program. To date, we've developed, and the College has implemented, seven six-week courses:

- *Introduction to Office Skills*
- *Introduction to Early Learning and Child Care*
- *Start Your Own Small Business*
- *Small Business Funding and Marketing*
- *Introduction to Retail and Hospitality*
- *Introduction to Construction Labourer Basics*
- *Ready to Work NWT*

We also developed *Skill Boosters* and *Construction Math Essentials*, resources that support the development of literacy and numeracy skills in the various courses.

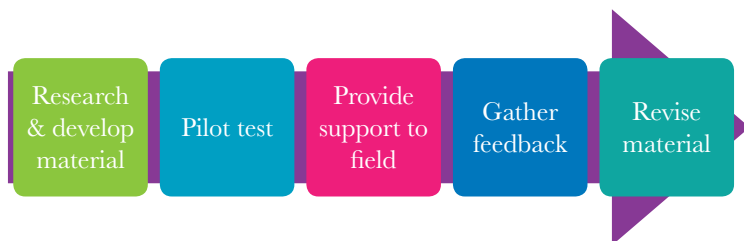
As well, we designed a two-week program, *Foundations for Success*, to re-introduce formal learning to adults who have been out of the education system for a while.

We are now pilot testing a new course, *Introduction to Northern Leadership*, and will pilot test *Introduction to Warehousing* (a working title) in the fall.

These courses are important for a number of reasons.

1. The funding allows us to follow a sound curriculum development process, resulting in materials that are relevant to learners, and useful to adult educators.

Literacy Matters | Spring 2017



*I love having all these materials to teach with.*

2. Almost 700 learners enrolled in the courses in small communities between 2013 and 2016.
3. Community learning centres saw a broader diversity of learners: young, old; males, females; adults who had never been to the learning centres before.

*I can't believe I can go to these types of courses right in my own community.*

4. Employers have sent some of their employees to the courses, in particular to the *Introduction to Office Skills* course.
5. The courses had high completion rates (70-100%; the average was 79%).

*I feel very good about completing this course.*

6. Participants gained valuable work and life skills: some were successful in getting jobs after the course; some entered an ALBE program; some applied to go to Aurora College campuses to continue their education in other courses.
7. New partnerships formed and old ones were strengthened during the development of the courses with Aurora College, the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) holders, the NWT Business Development Corporation, Government of the NWT Departments, NWT communities, and with adult educators.

The overall response to the embedded literacy and essential skills courses is overwhelmingly positive.

*This is just what we needed for our community learning centre.*

*These courses are a game changer for the college.*

# Celebrate Indigenous Languages Month

Do you want to help support Indigenous languages in the NWT? Participate in the events and activities marking Indigenous Languages Month in March.

You can enter our social media #Mylanguagematters campaign for a chance to win a prize.

Take a short video of yourself or someone else speaking one of the NWT's nine official Indigenous languages. Post it on our Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram accounts or on your own account using the #Mylanguagematters hashtag. You have to use this hashtag to automatically be entered into our weekly draws for great prizes.

You don't have to speak an Indigenous language to enter. Language speakers always appreciate the efforts of others to learn a sentence or two. The best way to learn is to ask someone to teach you. But you can also learn by downloading one of the apps developed for the NWT Indigenous languages. Or check out the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre website which has recordings of people introducing themselves in each official language.

You can also take part in the many community events or activities planned to promote the use of Indigenous languages. Join in the celebration of linguistic diversity in the NWT during Indigenous Languages Month in March.



# The NWT Celebrates National Family Literacy Day

NWT communities celebrated National Family Literacy Day on January 27 in different and unique ways. Here is a roundup of some of the celebrations.

The Lutsel K'e Dene School held a Storytelling Culture Camp, while in Fort Resolution the Deninu School hosted an afternoon of reading, crafts, and games for families.

On the Kát'odeeche Reserve, Chief Sunrise Education Centre students became community reading buddies with students visiting and reading to different community members.

In Fort Smith there was a Family Reading Lunch at Joseph B. Tyrell Elementary School and a Reading Photo Challenge for the students at Paul W. Kaeser High School. The Healthy Families program hosted a Cookout at the Lookout where children who attended received free books.

In Inuvik, the Centennial Library celebrated by kicking off its first session of *Books in the Home*. Families read a story, did crafts, had snacks, and each family took home a free book. The Children First Society invited elders to share stories, made crafts, and had snacks at a community event.

Fort Liard's Community Library hosted a snow-themed Family Literacy Night. It included crafts, story time, snacks, and books for everyone to take home.

In Norman Wells, there was a book launch with Sahtu author, Christal Doherty, for her new book *How Raven Returned the Sun*.

There were different events going on for families in Hay River. Harry Camsell School had a family morning of reading. Princess Alexandra School held a taco-in-a-bag lunch for families followed by reading in the gym, and Diamond Jenness Secondary School gave families 'passports' to fill out at different literacy stations around the school.

Mildred Hall School in Yellowknife combined their Eagle Awards with a Read with Your Parent Day. École St. Joseph School and Range Lake North School invited parents to read to their children during brown bag lunches. Yellowknife's Montessori groups invited the parents of students to the school to read their favourite books.

The Ulukhaktok Library celebrated Family Literacy Day with an afternoon of winter-themed crafts and books.

Thank you to everyone who shared their National Family Literacy Day photos and stories with us.

Literacy Matters | Spring 2017





## Sharing Elders' Knowledge through **Granny and Grampa Talking Bags**

Our new Granny and Grampa Talking Bags program aims to involve elders in teaching their language and culture within NWT family and community programs. The bags themselves will help elders reclaim their traditional roles as mentors and teachers.

We invited NWT elders to attend a two-day workshop in January to receive training, and then design and develop, a Granny and Grampa Talking Bag. Each elder who came to the training workshop created a bag that represents their region's culture and language. The cultural items in each bag can help elders tell stories, and pass on songs and dances to children. They can be used to teach children about Indigenous languages, traditions, and culture through interactive play and oral traditions.

On the first day of our training, the elders explored the concept of the project, discussed how to use this intergenerational resource in their communities, and used their cultural knowledge to design their Talking Bags. On the second day, we began producing the cultural items to include in each bag. The elders started by handcrafting a Granny doll and Grampa doll featuring traditional clothing. The elders talked about going back to their communities and asking others to contribute dolls that represent important regional figures, and other cultural items such as drums or tools.

During our workshop, the elders had an opportunity to connect, share knowledge, generate ideas, and recall past teachings and values from their ancestors for the purpose of this project. We worked collaboratively to shape Granny and Grampa Talking Bags for the NWT by integrating elders' knowledge and values into this project.

Our Granny and Grampa Talking Bags workshop was a success and the elders are excited to share this new resource with the communities in their region. We will document how this project happened and produce a manual or how-to resource. This project was funded by the Government of Canada New Horizons for Seniors program.





# Now When I Look at Food, I Wonder: **How Can I Enhance This?**



## *Beaufort-Delta residents are learning how to get added value from food from the land.*

People from all eight communities in the region took part in four 10-day food processing courses in Inuvik this fall. Much of their learning was hands-on in a well-equipped mobile food processing plant outfitted with freezers, work tables, dehydrator and smoker. Learners prepared tasty food, such as meat and fish jerky, pepperoni, smoked meat, fish pâté, pickles, jams and fruit leather.

“We focus on helping people get the most out of country foods. We prepare value-added products from parts of the animal that might be discarded otherwise,” says Jiri

Raska, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation’s director of community economic development and research. Jiri is the push behind the training project that can help students make better use of their harvested fish, moose, muskox, caribou and berries.

The training included in-classroom sessions at Aurora College in Inuvik where participants learned about food handling and processing techniques, laws and regulations, and marketing.

The food processing course has the potential for community economic development opportunities

Literacy Matters | Spring 2017



as well as teaching people how to process food at home. The food products can be stored for year-round eating and help reduce some of the reliance northerners have on store-bought processed foods.

“This could help reduce poverty,” says one of last fall’s learners, Georgina Jacobson-Masuzumi. “You can put stuff away for the winter and know that it will last. I look at food now and wonder: how can I enhance this? Shall I pickle it or jam it or can it and who can I share it with?”

Georgina sees many advantages to her new skills. “This can open many doors for a cottage industry. We could offer this food to tourists who come to Tuktoyaktuk on the new all-weather road. You can control the sugars in things like fruit leather. You know what you’re eating and that it’s healthy.”

Her favourite new food was fish pâté. “It was so delicious. I was blown away. I really enjoyed that. They showed us how to bring to the table different flavours.

“We had a ball. I’ve taken a lot of courses. With this one I woke up every morning wondering what this day would bring to me. We made things I never thought of before,” notes Georgina.

Future food processing business opportunities depend on reliable access to enough country foods, such as meat from the Canadian Reindeer herd between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. The mobile food processing plant can potentially be moved to any road-accessible community.

The training courses took place with the help of these partners: Aurora College, the Gwich’in Tribal Council and the GNWT departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment. The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency also provided funding.





# Family Literacy Training Institute

Each year, the NWT Literacy Council flies participants from across the Northwest Territories to our Family Literacy Training Institute in Yellowknife. The Institute is four fun-filled days of training on the fundamentals of family literacy.

In November, we had 21 participants attend from every region of the NWT from these communities: Hay River, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Déline, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope, Aklavik, Ulukhaktok, Fort Providence, Whatì, Wekweètì, Ndilo and Yellowknife.

Participants learn to facilitate some of the family literacy programs that we have developed over the years. We did workshops on introducing family literacy, choosing books, baby brain and language development, family literacy resources and funding as well as on our *1-2-3 Rhyme with Me*, *Story Time Adventures*, and *Science Fun* programs. We had a lot of positive feedback on our session about baby brains and how babies learn language.

Many participants were interested to learn that when it comes to literacy development, earlier is better. Our brains grow more between birth and age three than at any other time in our lives. This means that it's never too early to start talking, reading, and telling stories to your baby – love grows brains!

Participants also told us that they enjoyed the interactive

and hands-on aspects of our training. We always make time for games and group work. This is because we understand that participants learn in many different ways, including from each other. This is especially important when so many people gather from so many different backgrounds and places. For some participants, the training content was all new. For others, the week was a refresher, building on previous training and the family literacy work they're doing in their communities. This made for very lively discussions and the sharing of tried and true techniques as well as new ideas from fresh perspectives.

After the training, participants are eligible to apply for funding to run family literacy programs in their community. Many participants said they were excited to take the skills and knowledge from the Institute back to their communities. Applications for funding have begun to roll in, and we're looking forward to hearing how these programs go.

If you want to take part in NWT Literacy Council training, sign up for our weekly *Literacy This Week* email newsletter to learn about training dates and locations. Watch for information about our Family Literacy Training Institute in 2017. Applications will be accepted near the end of the summer. We often have more applicants than we are able to accommodate, so once the application opens, apply early!

Literacy Matters | Spring 2017





## Literacy Champions Honoured

Three literacy champions were honoured in September with NWT Literacy Awards.

Adult learner, Archie Larocque, of Fort Smith, received the Council of the Federation Literacy Award this year. This honour acknowledges an NWT adult learner each year who has faced and overcome barriers to improving their literacy skills.

Andy Bevan, the Deputy Minister of Education, presented the Ministerial Literacy Award for educators to Cathy James-Cutler, a literacy support teacher at École St. Joseph School. Cathy has taught in the NWT for 32 years.

Laney Beaulieu, a student at Deninu School in Fort Resolution, received the youth award. In her nomination form, Laney was described as: "a wonderful role model to other students...(who) provides an example to others of striving to do one's best."

## Thank You for Your Donations

2016 ended with a flurry of donations to our Bison Bus fundraising campaign, and to the NWT Literacy Council's general fund. We certainly appreciate the donations, encouragement, and help to get the Bison Bus on the road.

Our Bison Bus campaign kicked off more than a year ago with a donation from DeBeers at their annual networking breakfast during the NWT Geoscience Forum. Since then, individuals and groups have made other donations. For instance, the Legal Registries Division at the Department of Justice held a luncheon fundraiser and raised \$350 for the Bison Bus this fall.

The Bison Bus will visit road-accessible communities in the NWT with family literacy activities, games and books. We will continue to fundraise to keep it serving NWT communities every year. To donate, go to the Donate link on our website or send a cheque to NWT Literacy Council, Box 761, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6. We are a registered charity and issue charitable tax receipts for all donations over \$20.

### Thank you to the following contributors:

Aggie Brockman  
Alain and Nicole Normand  
Amy Ryan  
Ben Linaker  
Bette Lyons  
Bill & Trudy Joose  
Bronwyn Watters

Catherine Lorraine Seale  
David Lemire  
Jessica Garland  
Kathryn Scott  
Legal Registries Division,  
GNWT Department  
of Justice

Rachel and Jeremy  
VanderVeen Kielstra  
Sarah Hoffland

Please forgive us if we inadvertently overlooked thanking you publicly for your donation.



# What's Happening in **Family Literacy**



*We're always on the go promoting family literacy. This fall we have a new staff member, Emily Smith, who brings lots of new ideas and energy to our work.*

Since the fall we visited Fort McPherson, Fort Liard, Deline, Fort Providence, Enterprise and Jean Marie River as a part of the Community Health and Wellness Fairs organized by the Department of Health and Social Services. At the wellness fairs we met community members, shared our new and older resources, and took part in community cultural events. In the new year we will visit Tulita, Tsiigehtchic, Sambaa K'e, and Fort Good Hope.

Our photo contest for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten kicked off in October and was a huge success. More than 40 people entered from all around the territory! Keep your eyes open on our Facebook page and in *Literacy This Week* for our next contest.

In November, we delivered our annual Family Literacy Training Institute which you can read more about on page 10.

In December we did some training sessions on our in-development resources, *Take a Break* and *Get Moving* in Fort Providence with the staff at the Aboriginal Head Start Program. Thanks to the Healthy Children's Initiative

for funding this. We also held a Parent Night where participants got to make their own fleece tie blankets to take home. In Fort Simpson we were invited to Dean Harvey's Early Childhood Education class at the Aurora College Community Learning Centre. We provided an introduction to family literacy and trained students in how to deliver the *1-2-3 Rhyme with Me*, *Storytime Adventures*, and *Little Chefs* programs. You can find manuals for these programs on our website.

In January we held a training event for our Granny and Grandpa Talking Bags project, funded by New Horizons. You can read more about this on page 7.

Throughout the fall and winter we were invited to hold sessions at both Aurora College's Family Nights on Campus and at the Centre for Northern Families Healthy Babies Club and Moms and Tots programs in Yellowknife. We made muffins, created potato prints for Halloween, made cookies in a jar for Christmas, made homemade playdoh and created felt art with parents and children. We look forward to visiting with these programs more in the new year.

Literacy Matters | Spring 2017

[www.nwtliteracy.ca](http://www.nwtliteracy.ca)



# Building Skills with NWT Youth

We've helped more than a dozen NWT youth programs embed literacy and essential skills in the programs they offer to youth.

People from eight communities joined us for our annual Youth Literacy Training in October. They learned about literacy and essential skills, why increasing youth's skills is important, and ways they can embed skill development into their programs. We had fun cooking and learning about nutrition, planning literacy games, and we even made some luxurious sugar body scrubs. Participants also learned about evaluation, and how evaluating projects helps us learn and improve what we offer to youth.

"We are largely a drop-in centre, where youth come to spend their free time, get support and mostly to socialize with their peers," says the Executive Director of the Inuvik Youth Centre.

"The best part about the Skill Builders for Youth training from NWT Literacy Council was that they provided easy, yet creative and productive ways to embed literacy skills into programming that is already youth-approved. I learned how to better incorporate literacy skills so youth are learning more while doing the things they already love to do."

As part of our Skill Builders for Youth Program we tested and revised our *Learning in the Kitchen* resource during the

past four years. Thank you to the community programs that gave us so much useful feedback on our materials.

This year we created a draft resource called *Youth Literacy Nights*. We incorporated lessons that we've learned during the Skill Builders for Youth program and from our family literacy work. We wanted to give youth program facilitators easy, fun, hands-on literacy and essential skills activities to use in their programs. There are ideas for working as a team, planning a community feast, having a craft night, hosting a spa or games night and more. Five community groups are pilot testing these materials this year. We will add more activities to this resource based on their feedback.

All participants in the Youth Literacy Training are eligible for funding to run literacy programming for youth in their community.

The Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture and Employment funds the program. Contact [katie@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:katie@nwtliteracy.ca) for information about our next training session for youth program workers.





## We Have New Staff and Board Members

In September we hired a new family literacy staff member. Emily Smith joined us following her graduation from Trent University with a Bachelor of Arts and Science Degree. Emily has brought new ideas and energy to the Council and we are happy to have her on board. Check out *Storymakers*, the new resource that she created for National Family Literacy Day.

We are pleased to introduce you to two new board members.

Minnie Whimp is from Fort Resolution and will represent the South Slave. Minnie works for the Deninu Kue First Nation. She brings valuable experience as an adult learner to the board. She has also run family literacy programs for youth in Fort Resolution since 2001. For the last five years, she has coordinated the prenatal program, and she has run a nutrition literacy cooking program for three years.

"I have a passion for working with the youth and young mothers in the community," Minnie says.

Minnie replaces Amy Ryan, who is now an executive member on the board rather than the South Slave regional representative.

Sharon (Nahanni) Allen is the new Deh Cho representative on our board. Sharon lives in her home community of Fort Simpson. A University of Saskatchewan Bachelor of Education graduate, Sharon currently works as an Indigenous language instructor. Sharon also brings several years of experience serving as a volunteer board member.

Sharon takes over from Emma Amundsen, who served several years on the board. Thank you Emma for all your contributions.

Welcome Emily, Sharon and Minnie!

## We Need a Regional Board Member for the Sahtu

The NWT Literacy Council board of directors has an opening for a board member for the Sahtu region.

We thank Mary Ann Vital for serving the Literacy Council and the Sahtu region as a board member. Since joining the board in 2010, Mary Ann made many contributions through her family literacy work in Déline and her commitment to the North Slavey language.

If you are interested in putting your name forward for this board position, nominating someone for it, or voting for a board member, please become a member of the NWT Literacy Council and contact us.

Literacy Matters | Spring 2017



## ...continued from page 1

There are eight participants between the ages of 18 and 30 years. The program began with 11 students, but three were let go because of attendance issues. “We demanded a 90% attendance during the first week. The students need to want to change. That commitment is essential. We didn’t want to hold those with the commitment back.”

So far the participants have made Christmas ornaments, beaded lanyards, beaded necklaces and hair clips. They have their first order for lanyards for a conference planned for Hay River. They tried making boxes, but weren’t very successful; the program incorporates trial and error, learning through doing.

The Centre will eventually open a store run by the students where they can sell the things they make. One student is planning to build tip-ups for ice fishing, while another is considering what he can make with moose antlers.

“The Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre is right across from a Hay River hotel. Tourists come in looking for authentic made-in-the-NWT products. We think there’s a demand for the things the students are creating. We think this program will stimulate the local economy and create jobs,” notes Shari.

In February, students will take an intensive two-week entrepreneurial course developed by the Canadian Centre for Aboriginal Entrepreneurs, which offers follow-up mentoring and support.

It’s important to Shari that programs like this are offered in the community where participants have the support of

the community and their families. She says local learning opportunities have a higher success rate than online courses or those held in southern locations.

“Some people in the program have some post-secondary education, but they need structure and support or they need to enhance their skills with computers or get some industry certifications,” says Shari.

Youth in Hay River raised the issues of addiction and poverty at a youth empowerment workshop last fall. “It was a reality check for me to hear how serious these issues are in our community.”

The Light at the End of the Tunnel youth addiction awareness initiative came out of that workshop. The BEAR Program participants use this initiative as a vehicle to learn marketing skills. These skills will eventually be used to promote the friendship centre store and to market their manufactured items. The centre also plans to provide some office support services to these independent entrepreneurs when they finish the BEAR Program.

Different people in Hay River have helped the three men and five women learn how to make things. For example, Cathy Mouse has helped them learn beadwork and how to make mini-mittens.

The program is funded by the National Association of Friendship Centres, which recognized the work of the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre with an award this past summer.

“Any success they have is their success,” notes Shari. “We’re just here to support and empower them. Sometimes people just need to get a step up.”



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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.

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.

You can donate online at [www.nwtliteracy.ca](http://www.nwtliteracy.ca) or directly through Canada Helps.



It's easy and it's fast!



We're on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

Please search for  
NWT Literacy Council.

## Keep in Touch!



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