



Yukon Literacy Coalition

2012-2013 Annual Report

- community-based
- literacy & essential skills
- culturally & geographically relevant

The Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) is a community-based organization committed to increasing literacy and essential skills for adult learners in the Yukon. It is founded on the belief that literacy and essential skills are the foundation that allows adults to succeed in life, work and their community; and that the best way to improve these skills is through programs, tools and research that are culturally and geographically relevant. The YLC is a centre of excellence for literacy research and practice in the Yukon and works with its territorial partners to be a literacy leader in the North.



**Yukon Literacy
Coalition**

www.yukonliteracy.ca

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Executive Director and President's Report

June 2013

The Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) continues to thrive and flourish in the Yukon. This past year was a year of completion and closure on several big projects, as well as the beginning of some new initiatives, and the start of a big change in our Federal support.

With both our NWT and Nunavut partners and Yukon support, we successfully organized and hosted the Pan Northern Gathering – Made in the North held in October 2012 in Yellowknife. It was, by all accounts, a wonderful gathering that included participants from every corner of the three territories, Labrador and across Canada. The response by many attendees was to have a regular gathering and an opportunity for networking and sharing. We took this feedback to heart, and the Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills was created; an alliance formed by the three Territorial Coalitions.

Our dedicated and hardworking researchers, Andre Gagne and Jeanine O'Connell, completed the Workplace/Workforce Research Project. This is a very important report, and is used as the basis of many of our workplace initiatives. A copy of the report is on our website and a hard copy can be obtained from the YLC offices.

The Family Literacy Centre (FLC) has had a very good year. Our data indicates that the number of Family Literacy Center users was tripling every month during the winter season. We continue to offer a variety of programs, including a daily drop-in time that provides a space for all people to play and learn from our literacy experts. We also have many user groups that offer a variety of literacy related services. Schedules are posted on the YLC website.

This summer, we are expanding to offer literacy and learning programming in the Pioneer Hotel in Shipyards Park. Our partner, the City of Whitehorse, will use the Family Literacy Center for their summer camp. Thanks to Khristiane and Stephanie, who are the heart of the FLC programming, and to Lisa who recently expanded her work responsibilities to include part-time management of the center. Lisa is also the Yukon lead of the NWT youth research project. She is working with our NWT and Nunavut partners, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, Tr'ondek Hwech'in and the Ta'an Kwach'an Council.

Our Outreach program is also growing. The success of our outreach program is largely due to our outreach coordinator, Colleen, who divides her time between planning and developing programs and partnerships, and visiting Yukon communities and agencies in Whitehorse. This summer she was officially in Burwash, Teslin and Dawson City. Colleen is also the Yukon lead of the Nunavut men's research project. She is working closely with our NWT and Nunavut partners, and in the Yukon with the Tr'ondek Hwech'in and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

This spring our federal funders announced that they were no longer funding the national literacy organizations, or the Territorial and Provincial coalitions. Instead, they were going to solicit applications for agencies to become members of a Literacy and Essential Skills Pan Canadian Network (PCN). The coalitions were all given "transition" funding for one year- July 1st, 2013 to June 30th, 2014. The Yukon Literacy Coalition, the NWT Literacy Council and the Nunavut Literacy Council applied collectively as the Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills (NALES) to be members of the PCN. We are very hopeful, and are anticipating notification of the Governments' decision this fall.

We are also looking forward to the results of the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) results in the fall of 2013.

Literacy and Essential Skills are vital to our health and well-being. By acquiring these skills, we are given the opportunity to live to our full capacities, walking through doors that were once closed. It is an honour and a privilege to work in this field, both as paid staff and as volunteers. We thank all of our partners, volunteers and supporters.

Dawn Marino – President
Beth Mulloy – Executive Director



Snapshots

2004

The *Yukon Literacy Coalition* becomes a registered Society in the Yukon Territory

2005

YLC hosted the first-ever *Yukon Literacy Summit*

2007

Launched the largest geographic *Dolly Parton Imagination Library* program ever, in partnership with Whitehorse Rendezvous Rotary Club

2008

Current Board Member, Gordon Hardie, was awarded the Annual *Council of the Federation Literacy Award*

2010

Grand Opening of *The Family Literacy Centre* in partnership with the City of Whitehorse

2011

Tales to be Told Senior's Storytelling receives funding from Human Resources and Skills Development department

2012

Workforce and Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills Yukon-wide report completed.
Pan Northern Literacy Forum

2013

Creation of Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills (NALES)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dawn Marino (president) – Pelly and Carmacks

James Miller (vice president) – Whitehorse

Gloria Johnson (secretary/treasurer) – Burwash Landing and Haines Junction

Gordon Hardie (director) – Dawson City and Mayo

John McDonald (director) – Old Crow

Peter Johnson (director) – Teslin

Patricia Brennan (director) – Whitehorse, Francophone



Pan Northern Literacy Forum

Made in the North: Policy & Practices Exchange on Skills Development was a forum for some 140 adult educators, employers, policy makers, language experts, literacy practitioners, aboriginal and community leaders, and others working in the area of literacy and essential skills development in the three territories and Labrador. The Yukon Literacy Coalition, NWT Literacy Council, and Ilitasqiniq – the Nunavut Literacy Council jointly organized the event, which was held in Yellowknife, NWT, from October 23-25, 2012.

The purpose of the gathering was to support made-in-the-north approaches to adult learning, including literacy and essential skills; the sharing of ideas and resources; and the creation of a northern action network. The event was funded by the Government of Canada's Office of Literacy and Essential Skills; Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture and Employment; Government of Nunavut's Department of Education; and Yukon Territorial Government's Labour Market Programs and Services, Advanced Education.

The Program offered keynote presentations by leading thinkers and dynamic workshops on current policies, practices and innovations in literacy, adult learning, and essential skills development in northern Canada. The program culminated in large-group dialogue sessions, designed to build on the wealth of perspectives of the many stakeholders in the room and led by professional facilitators with a strong foundation in the North. Each workshop, presentation, and plenary session offered a balance of theory, policy discussion and grounded practice.

Research Project: "Skills for our Lives"

Yukon Literacy Coalition project coordinators have conducted an environmental scan of workplace/workforce literacy and essential skills programs in Yukon. The relationship between training, education and work was to be explored throughout the project's timeline.

One of the key elements of the project was to meet with stakeholders in Yukon communities to discuss needs and interests related to future literacy and essential skills programs, either in the workplace or in preparation for the workplace. In the process, coordinators inquired about successful past and current programs. Lessons learned and best practices also informed the scanning process.

The end result is a public report with Yukon Literacy Coalition's recommendations for the future. We hope it will serve as a useful tool for all involved or interested in the evolving workplace/workforce literacy and essential skills field.

Youth Project

The Youth Literacy Research Project is a three-year pilot project in NWT, Yukon, Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador. The NWT Literacy Council is taking the lead. The literacy organization in each of the four jurisdictions is working with existing or creating new community programs to embed literacy and essential skills (LES) learning into programs that engage youth. This work builds on similar efforts underway for some time in the area of family literacy.

Goals of the Project:

1. Increase community capacity to support learning among disengaged youth, using an established community-based model and approach.
2. Re-engage disengaged northern youth in learning to prepare them to enter and succeed in the workplace, in school, further training and/or participate more fully in family and community life.

Yukon Literacy Strategic Plan

The development of a new Yukon Literacy Strategy began in December 2012, when the Department of Education hosted *New Horizons Education Summit: A Focus on Literacy*. The YLC has been actively participating in monthly working group meetings to develop the strategy that is scheduled to be completed by January 2014.

Little Libraries

Through the generous donations that amounted to \$5000 we received from using The Small Change Fund, YLC has begun a new initiative to provide outreach and raise awareness in communities. Each Yukon community is eligible to receive funds to create their own Little Library. We are working with Challenge, who is able to build libraries for communities that are unable to build their own.

Northern Men's Research Project (NMRP)

The NMRP is a three year research project (2012-2015) in Yukon, NWT, Nunavut and Labrador. Research is conducted in each region by community-based researchers.

The purpose of this project is to clarify the barriers northern men face and most important the supportive factors for men's success. A stronger, collective understanding of these issues will enable governments, community groups, employers and community members to take informed action and create positive change.

Dolly Parton/Yukon Imagination Library

The Yukon Imagination Library continues to be a great success throughout the Territory. Parents and children rave about the opportunity to receive one book per month for a total of five years – all for free.

This year, the Yukon Government, Department of Health and Social Services, came on board as a partner with YLC and the Whitehorse Rendezvous Rotary Club. This support will aid in opening the registration for children at any age under five and not be restricted to registering in their first year.

The FLC continues to celebrate the Yukon Imagination Library with monthly Saturday Drop-In. Families using the program are encouraged to meet, read the stories and share learning experiences together.

Book Bike

The Book Bike was a roaring success last year and as we bring it out for a second summer season, excitement is in the air. It will be a part of several parades and festivals, and has already grown to be an integral part to YLC's outreach.

Hundreds of books have already been given-away from the bike, in Whitehorse and throughout the Territory. It is visually stunning and was an immediate hit!

The Literacy Tent

Our colourful and recognizable wall tent continues to attract crowds wherever it is located. The past year was busier than ever, making appearances at: the Halloween Spooktacular (disguised with webs and spiders), Swan Haven, DisABILITY Expo, Dawson Riverside Arts Festival, Kluane Lake School Muskrat Camp and more.

The tent was a great success as a weekly fixture at the Fireweed Market, attracting families and visitors from far and wide. Activities ranged from learning how to use an old fashioned typewriter to book making. Countless stories were enjoyed. By visiting the Literacy Tent, families discover the existence and location of the FLC, to which they soon venture for further family literacy opportunities.



The Book Bike and Literacy Tent bring smiles wherever they go.

Training

The Yukon Literacy Coalition staff took financial literacy intensive training, through support of the Canadian Centre for Financial Literacy and SEDI (Social and Enterprise Development Innovations). This two day course was attended by Victoria Gold staff, as well as a member from Kwanlin Dun. YLC is now planning to share the workshop with Victoria Gold employees and others.

Many of the staff also took their First Aid training, whether to certify themselves or renew their certifications. This qualification is essential for all the work with the public and Outreach.

Drop-In

Much emphasis has been put on the Drop-In program at the FLC during the past year. A casual, friendly and welcoming environment has been created. New colourful rugs, puppets, a painting easel, sturdy wooden blocks, books aplenty, and a large creative supply of craft materials have enticed families to play and learn together on a regular weekly basis. First-time visitors to the FLC are known to gape in awe and surprise as they enter our space. "We had no idea that all this was in here," and "We'll be back, for sure!" are comments often overheard.

Events

The FLC took part in a wide range of local events during the past year including: Halloween Spooktacular, Christmas camps and summer camps run by the City of Whitehorse, Quest Fest, Moon Festival, Pyjama Bedtime Storytime, Mini Break-Out-West music celebration, The Fireweed Market, Muskrat Camp and weekly story reading on stage at Arts in the Park.

Family Literacy Day

The FLC's third anniversary on January 27th 2012, was a day of celebration. Families and primary school children from all over Whitehorse were invited to participate at fun learning stations located throughout the Canada Games Centre and the FLC. Snacks and live music were also part of the celebrations. Our partners included the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Department of Education, Yukon Wildlife Association, Whitehorse Public Library, L'Association Franco-Yukonnaise and the Learning Disabilities Association.

Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies (CPNP)

During the past year the FLC has developed a growing relationship with the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program in both Carcross and Whitehorse. Young mothers and their babies are encouraged to take part in literacy and craft workshops that have included learning nursery rhymes, singing songs, learning how to read stories and make blankets for their babies. Confidence in parenting is gained with a resulting bond that helps in a lifetime of learning for both mother and child. We are finding many of the parents who participate in this program return to visit us during Drop-In at the FLC.



Enjoying a good story at the Family Literacy Centre.

Community Use of the Family Literacy Centre

The FLC is an integral part of the Whitehorse community with more partnerships growing all the time. 'Pere Poule' run by L'AFY, weekly tutoring and camps with Learning Disabilities Association of the Yukon, '3 O'Clock Craze' after-school group run by City of Whitehorse staff, Yukon Child and Families Services and Yukon Home Educators Society are some of the user groups that make regular use of our wonderful space. Our resources, materials and the setting we have within the FLC enhance their programs and promote lifelong learning for all.

Community Outreach

Community outreach efforts are increasingly in demand as we continue to strengthen and build relationships. We participated in many regular events and activities during the year, including a weekly outreach program at the Kwanlin Dun House of Learning, story times at the Yukon College residence, and visits to the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program's various Whitehorse locations. An exciting new initiative was developed between Yukon Quest and the YLC to hold a yearly story writing competition. Other activities included: Kids Fest at Frostbite, community visits to Dawson, Pelly, Carmacks, Burwash and Carcross, as well as promotion at local expos and conferences.

During the summer of 2012, our regular outreach included the Wall Tent and Book Bike at the Fireweed Market, story reading at Arts in the Park. We also participated in Canada Day celebrations, ADAKA, the Atlin Arts and Music Festival and the Discovery Day/ Riverside Arts Festival weekend in Dawson.



The Literacy Tent visits Dawson.

Our Partners, Supporters and Funders

ABC Life Literacy Canada	Kobayashi & Zedda Architects Ltd.
A-I Moving	Kwanlin Dun
Adam Schellenberg	Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon
Andrea Shillolo	Lusia Stetkiewicz
Angellina's Toy Boutique	M & K Transfer Ltd.
Anilee Ault Interiors	MAC'S Fireweed Books
Association Franco-Yukonnaise	Many Rivers
Barbara A. Nimco & Associates	McKay and Associates
Canada Flooring Enterprises Ltd.	Meadia Solutions
Bottom Line Bookkeeping	Montessori Borealis Preschool
Canada Games Centre	National Adult Literacy Database
Canada Games Centre Staff	Nellie Dale
Canadian Literacy and Learning Network	Northwestel Inc.
Canadian Tire	Northwest Territories Literacy Coalition
CBC Yukon	Nunavut Literacy Council
Cecile Gerard	Outside the Cube
Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives	Partners for Children
CHON fm Native Broadcasting Association	Rendezvous Rotary Club of Whitehorse
Cinderwood Kitchens Ltd.	Ria Tromp
City of Whitehorse – Canada Games Centre	Robert Fendrick
CKRW The Rush	SOFA Yukon
Council of Yukon First Nations	Steve Slade
Diana Mulloy	Strongside Construction
Dollywood Foundation	TD Canada Trust
Evelyn and Larry Thorogood	Tantalus School
First Nations Bank of Canada	Tanya Handley
Ghùch Tlâ Community School	Teslin Tlingit Council
Glen Mills	Well Read Books
Grey Fox Karaoke	Whitehorse Lions Club
Home Hardware Building Centre	Whitehorse Star
Hometown Vacuum	Yukon College
Horwoods Mall	Yukon Government Canada/Yukon Northern Strategy
Icycle Sport	Trust Fund 2009
Invest in Kids	Yukon Government Department of Education
Jenny Trapnell	Yukon Learn Society
Kate Swales	Yukon News
Ken Mulloy	Yukon Surface Rights Board
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Please visit <http://www.yukonliteracy.ca/about.htm> for our year-end financial statements.



Yukon Literacy Coalition

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