



Yukon Literacy Coalition

2022-2023 Annual Report

The Yukon Literacy Coalition is a society of people dedicated to improving the quality of life of all Yukoners. We do this by building the foundational skills required for lifelong learning; acknowledging that we are all adapting to an ever-changing world.

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YLC Board of Directors

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President's Report

The Yukon Literacy Coalition is a society guided by the values of unity, honesty, kindness, loyalty, and generosity. These values are expressed by the services offered in our communities.

The Yukon Literacy Coalition continues to grow both in reach and in staff. The Pioneer Hotel has spilled into the Learning Garden, thanks to our garden team. The garden is a treasure in the middle of Shipyards Park, nestled beside the Yukon River; we have our very own beaver swimming by daily and two eagles nesting nearby. The family literacy summer programs continue to draw crowds of all ages. The Go for Literacy bus was launched in Carcross this spring and went to many Yukon communities throughout the season. It has proven to be a wonderful way to reach Yukoners in the summer months. Thank you to our many sponsors.

We continue to build and deliver youth programs across the Yukon. This spring the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program team worked in Carcross and Dawson City with enormously talented groups of youth and content specialists from across the Yukon. The program is designed to build skills and support youth to transition into the job market. This summer they will be working with Whitehorse youth to build skills through outdoor adventures. The team develops a winning combination of skill development and engaging activities. This is a tri-territorial project, working with NWT Literacy Council and Ilitaqsiq.

Our Skills for Success program is moving ahead. We are offering five workshops – again the model is doing interesting things from a northern perspective while learning a new skill. For instance, a 5-day canoeing workshop learning adaptability and a hiking and navigation workshop focused on communication.

We are also working on our Social Enterprise program – training has been developed and our product is ready to go. We will be selling 5 recipes of Wild Sauce at the Fireweed Community Market this summer. Training will be offered to Yukon entrepreneurs this fall.

The Pathways project team is busily building partnerships and developing programs in three Yukon communities. They are working with Meta and Harold at Long Ago Peoples Place to develop and facilitate a 4 week on-the-land Indigenous hospitality program with a newccmex component.

Another exciting venture is the re-building of NALES (Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills). We are meeting in Iqaluit with our territorial partners this summer to discuss the future of our partnerships and what our next steps are.

We are grateful to our funders and the people who believe in our work, support us and trust that our commitment to lifelong learning is a good investment.

Thank you to all our supporters and those who participate in our programs. You are the reason we do this work.

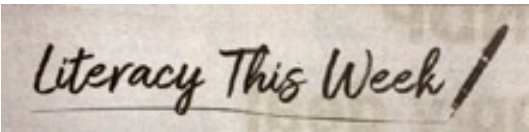
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Kelly Johnston - President
(and her busy team of workers and board members)

2021-2022 Highlights

Literacy This Week!

The Yukon News has an article space donated to the Yukon Literacy Coalition. A weekly article called Literacy This Week is put out every Wednesday. All articles are written by our staff and include a variety of topics such as recipes, adventure stories, activities, and fun facts. Occasionally, we advertise programming via these articles.



Financial Literacy

This past year, we delivered financial literacy workshops in Whitehorse, Ross River, and Watson Lake. In collaboration with Yukon University, workshops were delivered to a youth employment program in Ross River. In Watson Lake, workshops were delivered at Signpost Seniors. Topics included online banking, online shopping, and financial scams. Locally, we worked with Opportunities Yukon in their employment program on financial planning and budgeting. We also continue to train YLC’s new staff on the Prosper Canada Financial Literacy Facilitator training and continue to review financial literacy best practices.

YESS Program

The Youth Employment and Skill Strategy (YESS) program is a tri-territorial project in partnership with NWT Literacy Council and Ilitagsiniq that focuses on building the necessary skills to obtain successful employment. These highlighted skills include adaptability, time management, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.



Our staff hosted two 6-week long workshops out of the Pioneer Hotel. The third workshop was split between Dawson and Whitehorse with activities focused on the winter season. Each group consisted of 8-12 youth, varying in age from 15 to 30. Activities included financial literacy, digital literacy, physical literacy, skills for success and employment skill building, snow sculpture design and execution, winter survival skills, traditional and modern trapping and snaring, avalanche safety training, and helicopter skiing.



In March of 2023, a project extension was approved for one additional year which provided funding for three additional youth employment cohorts. The first employment program took place in the community of Carcross. Yukon University provided a space for the program and Carcross/Tagish First Nations provided funding to help employ participants for the entire summer. Through the Carcross program the participants engaged in First Aid, Food Safe, WHMIS as well as financial literacy, digital literacy, physical literacy, skills for success, employment skill building, painting, and ceramics. Some on the land skill building activities included fire starting, fishing, storytelling, frisbee golf, mountain biking, canoeing, and hiking. Three youth from this cohort gained employment with Single Track to Success where they maintained and built Montana Mountain trails. Forty-one youth have participated in this project thus far. Staff are looking forward to delivering two additional cohorts in the next fiscal year.



Three for Change

Three for Change is another tri-territorial project in partnership with NWT Literacy Council and Iłit̨aqsiniq. It is directed at developing and delivering Skills for Success training opportunities as well as developing social enterprises across the North and within each territory.

This past year was spent sourcing knowledgeable content specialists, adequate delivery spaces and doing an environmental survey of what the community needed to support the development of the Skills for Success workshops. From there, YLC drafted a series of 5 workshops highlighting one principal skill per workshop. The workshops are:

- 1. Canoe course focusing on adaptability from a northern perspective
- 2. Navigation and backcountry orientation focusing on communication
- 3. Bentwood box construction focusing on creativity and innovation
- 4. Vehicle maintenance focusing on problem solving
- 5. Children’s book creation focusing on collaboration

Workshop delivery will begin July 2023 and will host up to 10 participants each.

In addition to the workshops, staff started the development of a northern approach to creating social enterprises. One social enterprise has been started thus far, Wild Sauce Co., with preparation for the second underway.

Wild Sauce Co. is a business that makes sauces using local ingredients from the land where we live. The sauces have been sold at local markets and it’s been a great success. Proceeds are donated back into the Yukon Literacy Coalition in support of lifelong learning. The plan for the second social enterprise is to focus on physical literacy for Yukon children and youth, getting them outside and active through 6 weeks of exciting summer camps throughout the summer of 2024.



With this program, a tri-territorial social enterprise will also be developed in partnership with the other two territories. We’ve begun initial stages of this with brainstorming and we plan to have the tri-territorial team meeting in the fall to start moving our ideas forward.

Youth Financial Literacy

The Youth Financial Literacy Program was in full bloom this year. Our staff were able to deliver 31 workshops in the schools with classes ranging from kindergarten to Grade 12. Staff travelled to 6 communities and visited 8 schools in Whitehorse, visiting multiple grades in each school. We also hosted a workshop for a group of girl guides to help them learn about earning, spending, and saving money.

Yukon Pathways to Success

Yukon Pathways to Success is a three-year project designed to address the needs faced by the hospitality and tourism sector in the Yukon.

Change has broadened the scope of the project to include several hotels, restaurants, and service industries across the Yukon.

YLC staff have been building on initial industry connections and working to create new relationships. A land-based hospitality and tourism training program was developed in partnership with Long Ago Peoples Place and was set to take place in May 2023. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the training program had to be postponed until the Fall.

YLC is excited about the possible outcomes of the program and is moving forward in creating more innovative and engaging training programs for Yukon First Nations and Newcomers.

Constructing Effective Literacy and Learning Societies (CELLS)

Constructing Effective Literacy and Learning Societies supported a past community facilitator, Leatha Anderson, to host a quilting workshop for the Signpost Seniors in Watson Lake. Over four weekends, Leatha and 11 seniors used sewing machines and pre-made kits to create colourful quilts.

In May 2023, local writer Tara Borin hosted a week-long creative writing program where students collaborated and developed their skills through different writing and design processes.

Grades 8-12 students from Robert Service School in Dawson City gathered for a week of writing and other engaging hands-on activities facilitated by experts, including former students, Yukon First Nations Elders, and knowledge-keepers.

We are expanding our CELLS program this year and are looking forward to the upcoming travel to rural communities to consult about what kind of programming Yukon communities want.



The Family Literacy Centre (FLC)

Fall and early winter 2022 was an eventful time for the Family Literacy Centre. With a shortened fall session, families enjoyed a few weeks of drop-in programming followed by two months of music and science-based activities. The new “Mini Mozart’s” baby group was a favourite. Rather than continue fall programs until Christmas Break, a month of holiday crafts and activities were organized through December. We also hosted the first Family Christmas Party at the FLC since the pandemic! Families wrapped gifts, made wreaths, and sang carols. It was a great send-off to 2022.



Winter session at the FLC ran from January 5th to March 11th, and the Baby Sing and Sign, Power of Painting, Construction Zone, and Hooked on Stories programs were well-attended. The library was upgraded to include a group of toddler-height bookshelves and an augmented “first words in international languages” section. They also spent weeks playing with the giant boxes the shelves came in.

Come spring, staff were excited to introduce an open greenhouse growing area to the FLC. Using seeds harvested from last year’s Learning Garden, participating families planted starters for the upcoming growing season, and watched them grow as the snow melted and we prepared to move down to the Pioneer Hotel.



Beyond programming, the 2022/2023 year was a time of big changes for the FLC team. In October, our long time FLC staff Stephanie Parker retired, moving on to a new phase in the adventure of her life!

The Pioneer Hotel (PH) and Learning Garden

Summer 2022 was one for the record books, full of unique learning opportunities and exciting events. With extra staff on the team, FLC increased the Summer Camp program bookings, hosted fun pop-up events like the city-wide Big Squeeze and Ukulele in the Garden with Steve Slade, and held two popular pottery workshops – all in the garden. In addition to the Free Bookstore and interior library, we redesigned the Book Bike into a little free library and installed it outside of the Pioneer Hotel. Children and families can now ride the bike in place while they choose a book to take home.

As usual, the annual Closing Party bookended the summer. It was well-attended and enjoyed by all. Highlights included face painting with Teagyn Vallevand from the Yukon Imagination Library and a garden crown craft that was such a hit we saw kids wearing them around town for days after the party. With the weather unusually warm and sunny, time at the PH was extended for a week while we transitioned to the Family Literacy Centre.

Summer 2023 got off to a great start. The PH opened three weeks early to maximize outdoor program time and allow families greater involvement in planting the garden. People loved planting seeds and starters, and watching seedlings grow in the beds. This was our first season without the help of a master gardener, so it was extra exciting.



This summer, each day had a theme that centered the Learning Garden, and related activities took place all day rather than at set times. On Tuesdays the program was “Grow Garden, Grow.” Participating families learned about, tended, watered, and otherwise cared for the Learning Garden. This format allowed staff to take advantage of teachable moments and give learning in the garden a less formal, more organic feel. Garden tours during the weekly market were especially popular, with interested folks walking into chat with staff and children playing in the mud kitchen or water table.

Community Outreach and Engagement

YLC staff travelled to Watson Lake twice: for an event at Wye Lake Park, and for the first ever Family Fall Fair. Following that, we went to Dawson for the Moosehide Gathering, and provided children’s activities in partnership with Trondek Hwetchin and the CPNP program. Harvest Camp with Kluane First Nation (KFN) was a seasonal favourite. Outside of community travel, the FLC team participated in a variety of partner events and programs in Whitehorse, such as Spooktacular at the CGC, and the Yukon Arts Centre Birthday Bash in Shipyards Park.

Our annual spring trip to Zana (Muskrat) Camp with KFN was highly unusual this year! There was so much snow that Pickhandle Lakes flooded, making setting the traplines impossible. As a result, the kids had a lot of downtime – but we had lots of extra games and activities! When the roads cleared, the FLC team made a trip to Dakwada for the Romp N Run program and started making plans to unveil the Go for Literacy Bus. During this time, FLC staff were also busy with partner events, such as the Council of Yukon First Nations Family Wellness Fair and KDFN Kindergarten Fair.

Get Caught Reading Photo Contest

We received hundreds of photos submitted from all over the Yukon for our Get Caught Reading photo contest this year. All contest prizes were sourced locally, with examples including a family photo session with Star Flower photography, a year pass to the Wildlife Preserve, and a Kicksled. To promote the contest YLC staff travelled to Dawson City. They visited the local CPNP family program and daycares, passed out contest info during the sHiver Festival, set up an outdoor mini library in the snow, and took polaroid pictures of families getting caught reading outdoors.



The Go for Literacy Bus

This past year was filled with endless learning curves when it came to getting the Go for Literacy Bus operational. Thanks to builder Michel Gignac, the interior was completed in February 2023. The whimsical and inviting exterior of the bus was designed by Mark Steudle.

The official launch of the bus as a mobile literacy center came to fruition in the early spring at the reopening of the Carcross Commons. The bus was wrapped in giant ribbons and an official ribbon cutting party was held with the Honourable Angelique Bernard, Minister John Striker and local MP Dr. Brendan Hanley cutting the ribbon to a cheering crowd. Following this, the bus made its way to Watson Lake for another family fair, this time to celebrate summer safety and promote summer programs. With numerous bookings through July and August, it's looking like summer 2023 on the bus will be a good one!



Contractors

Bart Bounds, Tanya Handley, Sue Folinsbee, Michel Gignac, Sue Warner, Aaron Janke, Aurora Safety Training, Yukonstruct, Leatha Anderson, Yukon Tourism Education Council, Cat McInroy, Long Ago People's Place, Robyn Gillespie, Steve Slade, Tara Borin, Meta Williams, Sidrock Industries, Kevin Chung, Snowshoots Productions, Equinox Camps, Devin Wittig, Tyson Isted, Josie's Old Crow Adventures

Accountant: Crowe MacKay LLP

Our Partners, Supporters, Donors and Funders

Air North	Dusk'a Head Start	Multicultural Centre of Yukon	Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre
Angellina's Toy Boutique	Eliza Van Bibber School	Murdoch's Gem Shop	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
Arctic Star Printing Inc.	Elks Whitehorse	Nelna Bessie John School	Walker Home Construction
Aroma Borealis	Employment and Social Development Canada	Northern Division Development	Watson Lake Daycare
Arts in the Park	Fireweed Market	Northwest Territories Literacy Council	Well Read Books
Association Franco-Yukonnaise	First Nations Bank of Canada	Northwestel	What's Up Yukon
ATCO Electric	Ghùch Tlâ Community School	Nunavut Literacy Council	Walmart
Atlin Mountain Coffee Roasters	G-P Distributing	Na-Cho Nyak Dün First Nation	Well Bread Culinary Clinic Inc.
Aurora First Aid	Government of Canada	Paradise Alley Gifts	Whitehorse Food Bank
Baked Cafe	Healthy Babies, Healthy Futures	Partners for Children	Whitehorse Public Library
Boreal Clinic Therapeutic Summer Camp	Healthy Families	Polarity Brewing	Whitehorse XC Ski Club
Boreal Kennels	Horwoods Mall	Pretty, Neat Yukon	Winterlong Brewing
Boston Pizza	Icycle Sports	Rambles	Wykes Independent Grocer
Bubbles Daycare	Itsy Bitsy Yarn Store	Real Canadian Superstore	YTEC Food Safe
Bullet Hole Bagels	Janna Tait	Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon	Yukon Arts Centre
Canada Games Centre	Japanese Association	Robert Service School	Yukon Brewing
Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program	KampYukon	Ross River School	Yukon Built
Canadian Tire	Kaushee's Place Women's Transition House	Save-On-Foods	Yukon College
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Klondike Kettle Corn	Scotiabank	Yukon Drivers Academy
Carcross/Tagish Development Corporation	Klondike Rib & Salmon	Single Track to Success	Yukon Energy
Carmacks Recreation Center	Kluane First Nation	Snowshoot Productions	Yukon Film Society
CBC Yukon	Kluane Lake School	Skills Canada	Yukon Government
Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Skookum Jim Friendship Centre	Yukon Health and Social Services
Challenger Geomatics	L'AFY	Staples	Yukon Health and Wellness Fair
CIBC	La Leche	Sue Warner	Yukon Heli Skiing
City of Whitehorse	Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon	Ta'an Kwach'an Council	Yukon Imagination Library
CKRW The Rush	Les Essentielles	Tara Riders	Yukon Public Libraries
Coast Mountain Sports	Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	TD Canada Trust	Yukon Territorial Government
Coles Bookstore	Long Ago Peoples Place	Tantalus Community School	Yukon News
Commission Scolaire Francophone du Yukon	Lumel Studios	Tatshenshini Expediting	Yukon University
Community Foundations of Canada	Mac's Fireweed Books	Teslin Tlingit Council	Zero Waste Yukon
Community Women's Group	Mayo Daycare	Tim Hortons	
Council of Yukon First Nations	Michel Gignac	Triple J's Canna Space	
Crowe MacKay LLP	Monika Melnychuk	Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation	
Cultured Fine Cheese	Mount Sima	United Way	
Del Van Gorder School	Multicultural Association of the Yukon	UPS Store #302	
Due North Maternity & Baby			



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