



Yukon Literacy Coalition

2019-2020 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.

STAFF



Beth Mulloy - Executive Director
bmulloy.literacy@northwestel.net

Lisa Young - Director of Operations
lisa.young@yukonliteracy.com

Victoria Menchinton - Office & Program Manager
yukonliteracy@yukonliteracy.com

Stephanie Parker - Family Literacy Manager
stephanie.literacy@northwestel.net

Carrie-Anne McPhee - Program and Community Outreach Coordinator
carrieannemcphee@yukonliteracy.com

Darby MacWilliam - Program Manager
darby.macwilliam@yukonliteracy.com

Andrew Bark - Program Manager
andrew.bark@yukonliteracy.com

Erin McArthur - Summer Student
erin.mcarthur@yukonliteracy.com

Contractors: Leticia Valadan, Amy Strathy, Leslie Cromwell, Aaron Janke

Accountant: Crowe MacKay LLP



Contents

President's Report.....	4
Executive Director's Report.....	5
2019-2020 Highlights.....	6
Dän Ts'ānanān - Our People Working Together Program	6
Financial Literacy	7
I yéi jinéiyi, i jeyées yéi jinganéi - Making Work, Work for You program	7
Community Literacy	8
Youth Financial Literacy	8
The Family Literacy Centre	9
Pioneer Hotel	10
Family Literacy Day 2020	11
Community Outreach and Engagement.....	12
Family Literacy Activity Bags	13
Professional development that YLC staff attended this year.....	14
Our Partners, Supporters and Funders.....	15

Board of Directors

Kelly Johnston (President) – Teslin

Patricia Brennan (Vice President) – Francophone

Dawn Marino (Secretary/Treasurer) – Pelly/Carmacks

Deb Chadwick (Director) – Watson Lake

James Miller (Director) – Whitehorse

Sam Johnston (Director) – Yukon First Nation Elder



President's Report

Let me start with saying how very proud and lucky we are to have such a great team, a big thank you to all the staff.

This year started off in a regular way with lots of excellent programs, happy clients and satisfied partners. We were anticipating that Lisa and Beth would be off on a very challenging walk across England in the spring of 2020 and we were all gearing up to pitch in when they were gone, but COVID-19 happened and everything was turned upside down. It has certainly been a very challenging spring and summer for us; both the staff and the board. The start of COVID-19 was a learning curve. The staff, under direction of Beth and Lisa, seamlessly managed to move programs online, make workspaces at home and then move back into the offices and offer modified face-to-face programming while being COVID-19 safe. Not at all what they expected to be doing in the spring of 2020.

We were able to finish up certain projects through all the concerns of COVID-19. I am so very proud of the work they put together as a team. They worked from home keeping the Coalition going then came together to assemble activity bags for the communities. Although 2020 has had special concerns when it came to the day-to-day activities we were, with laptops and cellphones, able to keep the communication open and our programs active.

Thanks to our funders, supporters, volunteers and partners without whom we could not keep doing the work we do.

I feel privileged to be the President of such an exemplary organization and I look forward to this coming year.

Kelly Johnston
President



Executive Director's Report

We are all grateful to and thankful for all of our partners, volunteers, supporters and funders that enable us to do the very important work of improving literacy and essential skills in the North: assisting all northerners to reach their capacities and to live their lives fully. A special thanks to the Yukon communities and to the Yukon Government and the City of Whitehorse for their continued support of the Yukon Literacy Coalition during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The year started much the same as every year. We continued with the Dan Ts'ānānān project working in partnership with Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (CAFN) and Yukon College, and successfully completed the 2019 gardening season. We worked as a support with the Indigenous Guiding program, created a gardening manual and YLC staff supported a second Greenhouse/Garden course in Haines Junction with one staff on-site. This is a learning, wellness and employment opportunity for CAFN citizens. The gardens and greenhouses are in production and this continues to be an important project that is changing people's lives.

With generous support from Yukon Government we continued delivering financial literacy workshops across the Yukon and then online when COVID-19 lockdowns began. With our youth financial literacy project, we were able to gather research and implement a youth entrepreneur program embedded with financial literacy training. Through our Constructing Effective Learning and Literacy Societies (CELLS) project we trained facilitators from three Yukon communities and they successfully ran community literacy projects unique to their communities. We are planning further community training and projects this coming year.

The Family Literacy Center had a very successful winter but had to temporally close its doors in March due to COVID-19. FLC staff moved their offices to their homes and created online resources and activities. They also fundraised and built literacy bags for all ages. These bags were very popular and were distributed to all Yukon communities. We anticipate creating more bags in the fall. We are also hoping that by the fall we are able to re-open the centre.

In July we will be starting a 12-week entrepreneur course in Carcross, "Making Work, Work for You".

We continue to have great staff including Lisa Young - Director of Operations, Stephanie Parker - Family Literacy Manager, Carrie-Anne McPhee - Community Outreach and Program Coordinator, Darby MacWilliam - Program Manager, Andrew Bark - Program Manager, Erin McArthur is our returning summer student, and Victoria Menchinton joined us as our Office and Program Manager.

All staff have adapted well to our new way of working and we continue to find creative ways to continue our most important work.

Beth Mulloy
Executive Director



2019-2020 Highlights

Dän Ts'anānān - Our People Working Together Program

The Yukon Literacy Coalition, Champagne Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), and Yukon College are working together on a 40-month project - Dän Ts'anānān, which is a federally funded program designed to increase capacities and employment for CAFN citizens. The vision of the program is to deliver innovative and culturally appropriate programming that focuses on peoples' strengths and brings about positive change for at-risk citizens. The intention is to increase literacy and employment skills of CAFN youth and adults that are out of school, under-employed, or unemployed.



Greenhouse Workplace Training Program

One of our program initiatives is a Greenhouse Workplace Training program. The 21-week program started in April of 2019 in the Village of Haines Junction, Yukon. It was designed to combine wellness, non-formal learning (soft skills) and formal learning (hard skills), with the operation of two commercial greenhouses. A similar 21-week Greenhouse Workplace Training program started in June 2020 while following COVID-19 guidelines.

Dän Dákeyi Uyenjì (That person knows our country) Program

The Dän Dákeyi Uyenjì program is a 21-week skill development course to train CAFN citizens in interpretive guiding on traditional CAFN territory. The course, designed by Yukon University in consultation with leading experts in the commercial guiding field, provides wellness, non-formal learning (soft skills) and formal learning (hard skills) and seeks to bring in traditional knowledge and skills together with current best practices of the guiding industry. Trainees in Whitehorse during the winter of 2019 learned new skills and honed existing skills such as group management, interpretive guiding, avalanche safety, traditional tool making, cross country skiing, fat biking, ice-climbing, wilderness first aid, back-country safety, helicopter awareness and camp cooking. We anticipate supporting a similar program in the fall of 2020.



Financial Literacy

This past year, YLC delivered six two-day Financial Literacy workshops in Pelly Crossing, Mayo and Dawson and two workshops at the Kwanlin Dun House of Learning in Whitehorse. We also provided six information sessions at Challenge DRG, Teen Parent Centre, Individual Learning Centre, and the Whitehorse Library. We had scheduled monthly “lunch and learn” sessions at the Kwanlin Dun House of Learning that were unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. We look forward to planning “lunch and learn” sessions again in the future.

This spring, we relaunched our ‘Yukon Financial Literacy’ Facebook page and have gotten back to sharing relevant financial tips. We continue to receive requests from communities across the Yukon for our workshops, and we are working on new ways to deliver workshops and information sessions following COVID-19 guidelines.

YLC continues to be a part of the Canada wide network for the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada and has also become the Territorial Review specialist for Prosper Canada’s Financial Relief Navigator Tool.

I yéi jinéiyi, i jeyéés yéi jinganéi - Making Work, Work for You program

The *Making Work, Work for You* program is a 12-week hands-on learning program that will start in Carcross in July of 2020. It is designed in partnership with Carcross Tagish First Nation to help participants plan, develop and operate their own small business. The program is also designed to foster an entrepreneurial spirit and encourage and support personal wellness through physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health.



The Making Work, Work for You Program

The Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) in partnership with Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) will be offering the Making Work, Work for You, small business development workshop program July 27th 2020 - October 16th 2020

The *Making Work, Work for You* Program will be a hands-on learning program that will run small “pop-up” businesses in the Carcross Commons, local craft fairs and markets to learn small business basics such as:

- Market Research
- Building an Online Platform
- Personal and Business Finance
- Creating a Business Plan
- Customer Service
- Managing Employees

C/TFN will be offering a training allowance to citizens and local residents of Carcross and Tagish for full-time participants of this 12-week program. Registration will be available for certain workshops within the program for those unable to attend the full 12 weeks. If you are interested, let us know and tell us what you would like to learn and experience during this program.

For more information on the training allowance contact Kato Coates C/TFN's Education, Employment and Training Officer by email: kato.coates@yfc.ca or by phone: (867) 832-2773

Contact YLC Program Manager Victoria Mouchkintseva by email: yukonliteracy@yukonliteracy.com or by phone at: (867) 846-6505

Community Literacy

Our Community Literacy project works with community facilitators from various Yukon communities to design and run unique literacy programs. Facilitators are trained in designing and creating their specific programs while learning how to embed literacy and essential skills. This past year, a facilitator from Carcross offered a traditional medicine and planting program, a facilitator from Teslin offered a carpentry program that made benches for their community, and facilitators from Mayo ran a food security program which provided the local daycare with a garden bed and planting supplies.



Youth Financial Literacy

We identified the need for a Yukon specific, youth-focused financial literacy training that met the unique circumstances and needs of our Yukon youth. We provide youth with relevant information that allows them to learn, understand and develop the skills required to become more confident and informed about the decisions they make regarding personal finances and their futures. This approach allows us to tailor learning and skill development to the unique circumstances of specific youth, their communities and their stage in life.

In June 2020, the Yukon Literacy Coalition launched a youth entrepreneurship initiative supporting and offering opportunities and guidance to Yukon youth (12-18 years old) who want to work for themselves. The Yukon Literacy Coalition helps with start-up costs, marketing, budgeting and anything else we can do to help the youth succeed.



The Family Literacy Centre

The Family Literacy Centre (FLC) continues to provide free, drop-in programming that promotes families learning together through play. Open 6 days per week, the FLC offers participating families a warm, welcoming, and fun environment to enjoy reading, crafting, exploring, and playing. Attendance at the FLC has increased through the 2019/2020 season, and includes many new visitors joining us for the first time. Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) staff continue to help families connect with local community organizations, programs, and relevant available resources such as Healthy Families, Mother Goose, and the Centre for Child Development in Whitehorse.

Family Literacy Centre programs focus on parents and children working together, and facilitate social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth. Enjoyed by people of all ages from communities across the Yukon, our programs offer opportunities to explore science, math, arts and crafts, reading skills, global cultures, language, and much more. One popular program, People in Your Neighbourhood, ran during our winter session of 2020 and included guest speakers such as Midwife Kathleen Cranfield, local author and educator Elaine McCleod, and Whitehorse dental hygienist Kristina Keenan. We even had a visit from a group of seniors from the Thompson Centre and celebrated one resident's 93rd birthday with songs and stories. New programs introduced in the 2019/2020 period include Construction Zone; Yukon Imagination Library Story Time; Let's Go Play Dough!; Books with Baby; Getting Messy; and Baby Chit-Chat.



The FLC hosts a vast, ever-growing, on-site library with multiple and diverse categories that include French Language; Science; Parent Resource; Board Book; Young Adult; The Yukon Imagination Library; Seasonal; Holiday; Northern Books; a rotating showcase of featured authors and topics. In winter 2020, FLC staff added an International Languages First Words library, composed of first word books in 20+ global dialects, to the collection. Many titles in this assortment came from the requests of attending families to include their languages of heritage, such as Gaelic, Yiddish, and Polish.

In January 2020, the Family Literacy Centre introduced a for-credit, secondary student volunteer program. Through this initiative we welcomed our new toy cleaner, a local high-school student with designated special needs who is interested in working with children. This program was unfortunately cut short by the outbreak of COVID-19 but will resume when the threat of COVID-19 has lessened.

Community user groups and organizations continue to use the FLC to host meetings, events, and to provide vital programs to families in a comfortable and familiar place. We are proud to include Whitehorse Beavers and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Healthy Babies Healthy Generations to our growing roster of user groups.

Due to COVID-19, the Family Literacy Centre closed to the public in March 2020. As a result of that closure, and in lieu of programming, FLC staff started a YouTube channel for children and families. Videos included story book readings; felt songs and games; circle songs and singalongs; greetings; and craft-alongs. The channel proved to be quite popular, with numerous families sending thankful messages and videos of their children enjoying its content. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsoAKkydC9BSeKIXJTNwXGQ>

Events hosted by the FLC through the 2019/2020 season included a Family Pyjama Night (Mayor Curtis and a local children's author read aloud to families as they ate cookies and drank hot chocolate in their pyjamas); a free book library, reading area and activities in Canada Game Centre (CGC) foyer in celebration of National Family Week; special FLC program activities throughout National Family Week; Halloween Spooktacular at the CGC; Family Literacy Day in Shipyards Park, and the FLC Family Christmas Party. As always, all events were free, drop-in, everyone welcome, and fun!

Pioneer Hotel

Following an exciting opening month, summer 2019 at the Pioneer Hotel (PH) was packed with family programs, events, and collaborations with community partner user groups. Open 5 days per week until August 21st, structured programs offered included 1, 2, 3, Rhyme with Me – a singing / circle time program for all ages; Fantastic Fibres – an opportunity to explore fibre arts through crafts, songs, stories and tutorials; Little Explorers – an outdoor exploration program with emphasis on natural curiosity and physical literacy; and Potluck Play – a hands on program that follows stories with a different surprise activity each week. Attendance this summer was higher than last, with an average of 20-40 attendants per day. Local partner organizations and community user groups included Healthy Families; Multicultural Association Yukon; The Victoria Faulkner Moms and Kids program; LDAY's Camp Raven; The City of Whitehorse Grandparent and Me program; various Whitehorse daycares such as Three H Preschool and more. Visiting groups enjoyed private, individualised, outdoor programming that focused on scientific sensory exploration, physical literacy, and most importantly – fun! Children and families browsed the free bookstore, made a variety of goopy doughs (cloud dough, slime, moon sand, etc.), played games, and enjoyed a range of outdoor toys.



Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the 2020 summer season at the Pioneer Hotel took place outside in Shipyards Park and included an outdoor free bookstore. Measures were taken to ensure participating families could easily practice the “safe six” and sanitize regularly. Staff also assembled dozens of free, take-home craft kits as a means to support families who were unable to attend programs. Attendance at the Pioneer Hotel was lower in 2019/2020 than in the 2018/2019 period, which was to be expected in light of the pandemic and government mandated precautionary measures. That being said, a number of our repeat user groups still joined us for summer programs, including the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon (MCY) summer camps, and Camp Raven from the Learning Disabilities Association of the Yukon (LDAY). MCY staff and campers created a great video of their day with us that can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qg68c5roKQ&ab_channel=MCYYouth

Family Literacy Day 2020

Family Literacy Day (FLD) 2020 was held on January 26th in Shipyards Park. As in previous years, the event was free with a focus on physical literacy.

Activities included Bhangra Dancing with local celebrity Gurdeep Pandher; medieval sword fighting demonstrations by the Company of the White Wolf; snowshoeing and kicksledding with staff from RPAY and Les Essentielles; an outdoor hot dog roast; and tobogganing on the sledding hill. Within the Frank Slim building attendees enjoyed the Yukon Imagination Library Kiosk, free snacks – including hot chocolate donated by Tim Hortons, ceremonial cake cutting with Mayor Dan Curtis and The Honorable Angelique Bernard, and live musical entertainment by father and son duo Alex and Douglas Petriw.



We were joined this year by Zero Waste Yukon (ZWY), who provided a free all-ages winter gear swap for attending families. The swap was so popular that we plan to host multiple future “swaps” in partnership with ZWY.

Attendance at FLD 2020 was estimated at roughly 200-250 people. This year’s event committee included members from Yukon Public Libraries; Recreation and Parks Association Yukon (RPAY); Learning Disabilities Association Yukon; Zero Waste Yukon; Les Essentielles; The Francophone Schoolboard; and L’Association Franco-Yukonnaise.



Community Outreach and Engagement

The 2019/2020 period has been yet another great year for our Community Outreach and Engagement program. YLC partnered with many Yukon First Nations, community organizations, and local groups to provide children and family programming across a range of events, cultural gatherings, and festivals throughout the Yukon. Examples of such events include The Carcross/Tagish First Nation's Christmas Fair; Kluane First Nation's Muskrat Camp and Harvest Camp; and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation's (KDFN) Pre-Kindergarten Fair. Other outreach initiatives included providing books to community organizations such as the KDFN Health Centre and tutoring program; stocking tiny libraries around Whitehorse; and a Diversifying Storytelling Workshop for the staff at the Kwanlin Dun Dusk'a Head Start program. This hands-on, experiential workshop instructed daycare staff in using felt stories, magnets, songs, and whiteboards to enrich storytelling and circle times and facilitated staff creating a collection of felt board stories for use in their programs. Prior to the workshop, YLC staff visited each of the centre's classrooms and modelled diversified storytelling through circle time with the children.

The Kenadan Ku (House of Learning) Kids in the Kitchen program continued to be both popular and successful with students in the Elijah Smith Afterschool Tutoring program. Over the course of the 2019/2020 school year, students progressed from 1:1 instruction in basic cooking skills to practicing cooking preferred recipes independently and teaching one another to cook snacks and small meals.



Family Literacy Activity Bags

When the Family Literacy Centre closed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, YLC staff took immediate action and developed a plan to reach families sheltering at home. With the help of donations and funding from Save-On-Foods; Canadian Tire; Superstore; Elks Whitehorse; TD Bank; and the Yukon Government; YLC staff assembled over 700 Literacy Activity Bags for families and distributed them to every community in the Yukon. This initiative prompted new partnerships with many community organizations and schools, such as Nelna Bessie John in Beaver Creek; Ross River School; Trondek Hwetch'in Family Services in Dawson City, and J.V. Clark School in Mayo. Each bag contained various arts and crafts materials; a dice/cards kit with instructions for games with each; a seed planting kit; a book; a YLC activity booklet; an adult colouring packet; and a craft kit. For distribution across Whitehorse, YLC staff produced food-themed bags containing the ingredients to make a family meal (soup, soda bread, and a hot drink mix); a DIY recipe book template; food-related activity instructions (how to make a rainbow grilled cheese); colouring pages and crayons or markers; a book; a copy of the story Stone Soup; and a YLC activity booklet. Whitehorse activity bags were distributed through the Food Bank, various programs and organizations including Kaushee's Place Women's Transition House, and "pop-ups" in multiple neighbourhoods. Public feedback on the activity bags was overwhelmingly positive, with many families sending photographs of themselves using their contents.



Two further rounds of cooking-themed activity bags were assembled for students in the KDFN Kids in the Kitchen program, and safely delivered to their homes by Kwanlin Dun staff. Initial activity bags contained the ingredients to make multiple breakfasts of pancakes, oatmeal and applesauce; colouring materials; dice/cards + games; a book; playdough; a seed-planting kit; adult colouring; and a YLC resource. The second round of activity bags contained the ingredients to cook a family meal plus all of the kitchen tools and materials needed to make it. These bags aimed to empower students in the program to continue cooking while at home with their families.

Professional development that YLC staff attended this year:

- Prosper Canada Financial Literacy Facilitator Training
- McGill University Personal Financial Essentials
- First Nations 101
- Teaching Adult Learners
- Assertive Communication
- Conflict Resolution
- Difficult Conversations
- Vicarious Trauma
- Trauma Informed Care
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Mindful Leadership
- De-Escalating Potentially Violent Situations
- Mother Goose Training
- Handle with Care Training



Our Partners, Supporters and Funders

Arts in the Park	Icyle Sport	Sue Warner
Angellina's Toy Boutique	Independent Grocer	Ta'an Kwach'an Council
Association Franco-Yukonnaise	Japanense Association	TD Canada Trust
Bubbles Daycare	Kluane First Nation	Tanya Handley
Canada Games Centre	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Teslin Tlingit Council
Canadian Tire	La Leche League	Tim Hortons
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon	Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation
Carcross/Tagish Development Corporation	Les Essentielles	United Way
CBC Yukon	Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	Victoria Faulkner Woman's Centre
Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives	MAC'S Fireweed Books	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
Champagne-Aishihik First Nation	Mayo Daycare	Well Read Books
City of Whitehorse	Monika Melnychuk	What's Up Yukon
CKRW The Rush	Multicultural Centre of Yukon	Prenatal Nutrition Program
Community Foundations of Canada	Northwest Territories Literacy Council	Walmart
Community Woman's Group	Nunavut Literacy Council	Whitehorse Public Library
Council of Yukon First Nations	Na-Cho Nyak Dün First Nation	Yukon Arts Centre
Crowe MacKay Accounting	Partners for Children	Yukon Film Society
Elks Lodge 306	Real Canadian Superstore	Yukon Government
Employment and Social Development Canada	Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon	Yukon Health and Social Services
Fireweed Market	Save on Foods	Yukon Imagination Library
Horwoods Mall	Skookum Jim Friendship Centre	Yukon News
	Staples	Yukon University
		Zero Waste Yukon





Yukon Literacy Coalition

www.yukonliteracy.ca

Suite #207 100 Main St., Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2A8

Phone: (867) 668-6535

Email: yukon.literacy.coalition@northwestel.net

