



Yukon Literacy Coalition

2013-2014 Annual Report

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

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The Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) is a community-based organization committed to increasing literacy and essential skills for everyone in the Yukon. It is founded on the belief that literacy and essential skills are the foundation that allows each individual 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

President's Report:

The Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) has had a challenging year, but continues to make a difference in Yukon. This past year saw a great deal of perseverance and strength among every member of the staff. Federal funding challenges have forced us all to work closer together and reevaluate what we are doing and how we carry out that work.

With our NWT and Nunavut partners, the Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills, an alliance formed by the three Territorial Coalitions, we continue to move forward to overcome our ongoing funding challenges. It is through the dedicated work of all three groups that I remain ever more optimistic about YLC's future.

Thanks to support from the Yukon government and the City of Whitehorse the Family Literacy Centre (FLC) had another very good year. Thanks to our hard working staff we continue to offer a wide variety of programming. The FLC has become a place for all people to play and learn and become evermore ingrained as members of the Canada Games Centre family. The number of user groups continues to grow and it's encouraging to see so many take advantage of the many literacy related services FLC offers.

This summer we will continue to offer literacy and learning programming at the Pioneer Hotel in Shipyards Park thanks to our partner, the City of Whitehorse. The Pioneer Hotel has become a fixture over the past 2 years on the waterfront and reaches out to more people every season.

Although it has been a year filled with challenges, the hard work of everyone involved in the YLC shows a promising future ahead. It is an honour and a privilege to work with both our paid staff and volunteers.

James Miller

President
Yukon Literacy Coalition



Board of Directors

James Miller (President) – Whitehorse
Dawn Marino (Vice President) – Pelly and Carmacks
Patricia Brennan (Secretary/Treasurer) – Francophone
Gordon Hardie (Director) – Dawson City, Mayo
John McDonald (Director) – Old Crow
Kelly Johnston (Director) – Teslin
Darcy Larvedere (Director) – Watson Lake
Vacancy – Faro/Ross River
Vacancy – The North Highway

The Yukon Literacy Coalition continues to maintain excellence in our family and community literacy program while developing creative approaches to help people gain the Literacy and Essential skills needed for the workplace.

This has been a year of transition and change. Our core funding from the Federal Government ended on June 30th. We had been given a year of transitional funding and have been asked to apply to be a member of a Pan Canadian Network, which, if successful, would provide us funding for a 3 year term. We submitted an application as the Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills and at the time of this writing are working with the Federal Office of Literacy and Essential Skills to fine-tune the application. Although this is happening much later than anticipated, we are hopeful that this project provides us, in a timely manner, the resources to continue our work. Many literacy organizations across Canada are suffering from the loss of core funding. This is a difficult time for the Canadian literacy community.

This year we signed a three-year lease with the City of Whitehorse to continue offering literacy and learning programs in the Pioneer Hotel in Shipyards Park. As partners, the City of Whitehorse will also continue to use the Family Literacy Center for their summer camp. Thanks to our family literacy staff Stephanie Parker, Emma Hanes and our student. We said goodbye to Colin Wright this summer, who is relocating to New York City. For a short while Katie Mead helped us out at the center when Khristiane Woods relocated to the Dominican Republic.

Our Yukon wide Outreach program continues to grow. Thanks Colleen Segriff and her occasional sidekick Moira Sauer, who also doubles as the Communications Officer. Colleen continues to divide her time between planning and developing programs and partnerships and visiting Yukon communities and agencies in Whitehorse. Look for our little libraries across the Yukon. Take a book and leave a book.

Working in partnership with Victoria Gold and Nacho Nyak Dun, YLC launched a financial literacy training program. Our first session was fabulous and we are anticipating a second session in Mayo in the fall of 2014.

Another success this year was phase one of our Young Adult Engagement Research Project, supported by Yukon College through NABE funding. This research is taking place in Carmacks and Watson Lake in partnership with the Community campuses and the First Nations Governments in each community. We are hoping to get support for phase two (data selection), to be completed in the fall of 2014. This is an important project that is looking closely at what engages young adults to complete their education and participate in workplace training and education programs; a concern expressed to us by most Yukon communities is dis-engaged youth.

As always I want to thank Lisa Young and Moira Sauer who work tirelessly in the YLC office ensuring the office and the communications run smoothly.

We are all grateful to and thank all of our partners, volunteers, supporters and funders who enable us to continue to do the very important work of improving Literacy and Essential Skills in the North; assisting all northerners to reach their potential and to live their lives fully.

Beth Mulloy

Executive Director
Yukon Literacy Coalition

2013-2014 Highlights

Financial Literacy

In May 2014, the Yukon Literacy Coalition, in partnership with Victoria Gold, offered the first financial literacy training during a two-day workshop in Mayo for Na-Cho Nyak Dun employees and citizens. The training was such a huge success that word is spreading of the potential benefits this training will have on individuals and communities. Local business and First Nations governments are expressing interest in financial literacy training. Topics include: exploring our relationship with money, income and taxes, budgeting, banking and financial services, saving, credit, debt, and the wise consumer.

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. In Yukon, research is being conducted in partnership with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation.

The purpose of this project is to clarify the barriers northern men face and 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.

This past year, interviews and surveys have been completed and will inform the final stages of research. In August 2013, the entire research team met in Dawson City and presented the project to the community.

Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies (CPNP)

YLC has continued its partnership with the Victoria Faulkner Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program. Over the year, we have developed a variety of activities to help new parents learn skills that will allow them to strengthen their relationship to their child and support their parenting abilities. Some of these activities include: sewing baby blankets, Christmas stockings, baby booties, Waldorf dolls. Carcross and Teslin CPNP programs have shown interest in our work and we look forward to developing these new partnerships.

Reading Support for Parents

In partnership with the Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon, YLC developed a 2 hour workshop directed to parents of school-aged children who are interested in learning how to support their children's reading development. Presentations were delivered at the Family Literacy Centre and Whitehorse Elementary School.



Little Libraries

Through the generous donations received from The Small Change Fund (\$5000) we began 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. The libraries are a place where books can be donated and borrowed by community members and tourists alike.

We have been working with Challenge, who builds libraries for communities who are unable to build their own. We hope to have all libraries installed by summer 2015.

Yukon Literacy Strategy and Action 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. The timeline for the completion of the strategy has been extended to December 2014.

Council of the Federation Literacy Award

The 2013 Council of the Federation Literacy Award was presented to our very own Beth Mulloy for her ongoing work and dedication to literacy development in the Territory.

The YLC is pleased to have nominated Tina Jules, Director of Education with Council of Yukon First Nations, for the upcoming award in 2014.

Enhancement of Official Languages Project

This partnership project with the Association franco-yukonnaise (L'AFY) allowed for our Family Literacy Centre to create bilingual signage and schedules for our French community, along with designing a French program for the upcoming Fall schedule.

Young Adult Learning Engagement in Yukon Communities

This research project focused on working-age young adults in two Yukon communities: Watson Lake & Carmacks.

It provided an understanding of what 'engagement' looked like in northern communities and identified barriers to young adult engagement in communities in the context of work preparation, adult basic education and skills training.

Yukon First Nation Literacy Framework

The YLC was invited to participate in the creation of a Yukon First Nation Literacy Framework. It was a pleasure to work with First Nations from across the Yukon. Consultations were engaging and a draft framework was developed and presented at a First Nations Education Summit.

Community Outreach

Community outreach efforts are increasingly in demand as we continue to strengthen relationships and build programs. Events and activities during the year included; a weekly outreach program at the Kwanlin Dun House of Learning, story times at the Yukon College residence, visits to the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (various Whitehorse locations). YLC also gave presentations to Children and Youth Services and Baby's Day Out (Health and Social Services), Story Time on Wednesday's at Arts in the Park, Kluane First Nation's Muskrat Camp, and the Ta'an First Nation's Fish Camp. Community visits included: Dawson, Carmacks, Watson Lake, Teslin, Haines Junction and Burwash Landing.



Youth Literacy Research 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 and/or 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. The two community programs delivered in the Yukon were:

1. **Learning Through Culture** The Yukon Literacy Coalition partnered with The Ta'an Kwach'an Council (TKC), Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee, and Community Channel 9 (Northwestel) to assist youth with literacy skills and increase knowledge of culture and fishing through a youth-lead multi-media project at the TKC annual Family Fishing and Culture Camp for one week on August 12-16. A group of youth leaders between the ages of 15-29 collectively created a film about their culture camp. The film can be view at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuMdjhV7s8w>
2. **Gearing Up** A collaborative endeavor between the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Education Department and Youth Centre, Robert Service Public School and the Dawson City community. The project aimed to empower male and female youth ages 12-18 to develop and/or utilize technical skills in bike maintenance and repair as well as to rebuild bikes using parts sourced from the community.

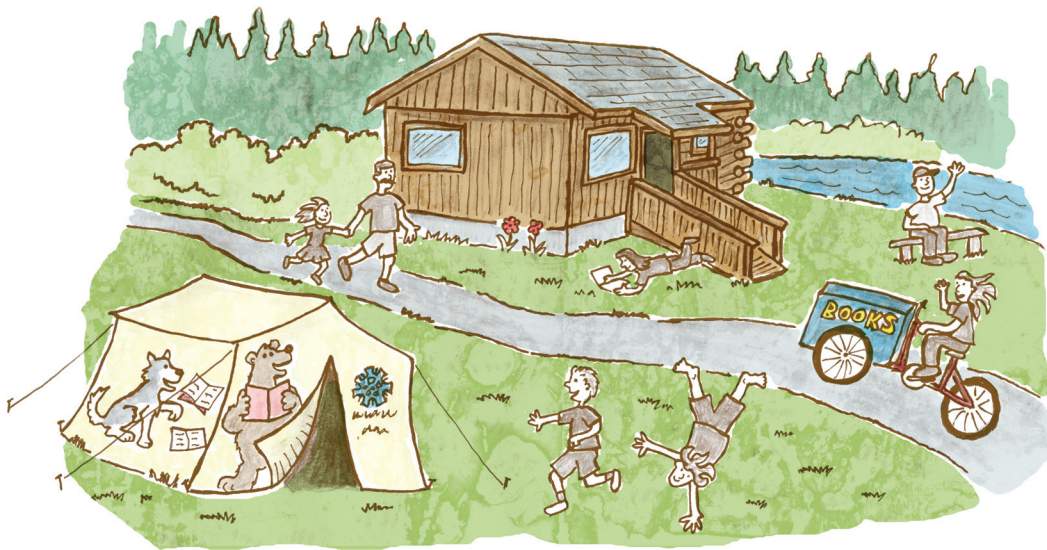
The Family Literacy Centre

The Family Literacy Centre (FLC) promotes the development of literacy and related life skills through everyday fun learning activities for multi-generational family members. The centre enhances and promotes literacy skills to enable individuals to achieve their life goals.

The FLC located in the Canada Games Centre has now been a staple in the lives of parents, practitioners, caregivers and partner groups since 2009. The number of users increases monthly indicating that our programming is meeting Yukoners early learning needs. These numbers and the feedback we get assures us that the FLC is successfully providing literacy activities and programming for the community of Whitehorse and beyond.

Pioneer Hotel

The 2013 summer season at the Pioneer Hotel was a great success. The inaugural season in our summer space accommodated both indoor and outdoor programming. It is located close to the downtown core, easily accessible via bus routes and city footpaths. The Pioneer Hotel catered to daycares, families, tourists and anyone interested in stopping-in. Now that the space has been established, and the City of Whitehorse has agreed to a three-year lease, we will focus on building on the successes of the first year. Relationships built over the course of the summer with a variety of user groups reflect successful partnerships and we are excited for the Pioneer Hotel's future!



Literacy Wall Tent

The Literacy Wall Tent continues to be a staple of the YLC outreach program and the FLC identity. This year, with a generous donation from Duncan's Limited, we were able to purchase a woodstove for the tent. This allowed us to use the tent to its maximum capacity at events like Muskrat Camp where the temperature can dip down to the minus twenties!

Book Bike

The Book Bike continues to make regular weekly appearances at Arts in the Park and at special events around the territory. We continue to receive community support in the form of donations of books for distribution on the bike. This year the bike also traveled to Dawson City for Discovery Days.

Family Literacy Day

The FLC's fifth anniversary was celebrated on Sunday January 26th 2014. Holding FLD on a weekend has become a huge success as families are able to fully participate in the event. This year we were able to incorporate more of a First Nations presence with the amazing Elijah Smith Dancers and an interactive display of traditional medicines that had many of us sneezing for hours! Our partners included the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Department of Education, Whitehorse Public Library, L'Association Franco-Yukonnaise, the Yukon Learning Disabilities Association, Yukon College and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. Additional participants included Arctic Edge Skating Club, and Well Read Books. Thanks to everyone who continues to make this day such an important family event!

Community Events

The YLC/FLC took part in a wide range of community events during the past year including:

Special Events:

ADAKA Cultural Festival
KDFN Bike Rodeo
Whitehorse Pride Parade
Canada Day Celebration
Kluane First Nations General Assembly
Ha Kus Teyea Celebration
KDFN Choices Youth Conference
Ta'an Fish Camp
Discovery Day's/ Riverside Arts Festival
Children's Wish Foundation Fundraising
Event
Literacy and Essential Skills Day
Culture Days Expo
Canada Games Centre Halloween
Spooktacular
Yukon Quest Fest
Family First Night
Kluane First Nations Muskrat Camp
5 year old Health Fair

Conferences

YLC staff attended the following conferences:

KDFN Choices Youth Conference
Elementary Teachers Conference
Early Years Conference
CYFN Literacy Framework
CYFN Education Summit
NABE Conference
Labour Market Summit

Staff Development

French class
First Aid Training
LDAY's Aurora Workshop
Customer Service Training

Our Partners, Supporters and Funders

ABC Life Literacy Canada

A-I Moving

Adam Schellenberg

Andrea Shillolo

Angellina's Toy Boutique

Anilee Ault Interiors

Association Franco-Yukonnaise

Barbara A. Nimco & Associates

Canada Flooring Enterprises Ltd.

Bottom Line Bookkeeping

Canada Games Centre

Canada Games Centre Staff

Canadian Literacy and Learning Network

Canadian Tire

CBC Yukon

Cecile Gerard

Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives

CHON fm Native Broadcasting Association

Cinderwood Kitchens Ltd.

City of Whitehorse – Canada Games Centre

CKRW The Rush

Council of Yukon First Nations

Diana Mulloy

Dollywood Foundation

Evelyn and Larry Thorogood

First Nations Bank of Canada

Ghùch Tlâ Community School

Glen Mills

Grey Fox Karaoke

Home Hardware Building Centre

Hometown Vacuum

Horwoods Mall

Icycle Sport

Invest in Kids

Jenny Trapnell

Kate Swales

Ken Mulloy

Kluane Lake School

Kobayashi & Zedda Architects Ltd.

Kwanlin Dun

Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon

Lusia Stetkiewicz

M & K Transfer Ltd.

MAC'S Fireweed Books

Many Rivers

McKay and Associates

Meadia Solutions

Montessori Borealis Preschool

National Adult Literacy Database

Nellie Dale

Northwestel Inc.

Northwest Territories Literacy Coalition

Nunavut Literacy Council

Outside the Cube

Partners for Children

Rendezvous Rotary Club of Whitehorse

Ria Tromp

Robert Fendrick

SOFA Yukon

Steve Slade

Strongside Construction

TD Canada Trust

Tantalus School

Tanya Handley

Teslin Tlingit Council

Well Read Books

Whitehorse Lions Club

Whitehorse Star

Yukon College

Yukon Government Canada/Yukon Northern Strategy
Trust Fund 2009

Yukon Government Department of Education

Yukon Learn Society

Yukon News

Yukon Surface Rights Board

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**The Yukon Literacy Coalition is funded by the Government of Canada's
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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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