

## Literacy Definitions

**There are many definitions for literacy. Which one do you like most?**

- Literacy is the ability to understand and employ printed information in daily activities, at home, at work and in the community. It is not about whether or not one can read but how well one reads. (Literacy BC)
- To be literate means that you have the skills to understand what you read, communicate with others and engage fully and confidently in life's activities and opportunities – at work, at home and in the community. (ABC Canada)
- Literacy involves a complex set of abilities to understand and use the dominant symbol systems of a culture for personal and community development. The need and demand for these abilities vary in different societies. In a technological society, the concept is expanding to include the media and electronic text in addition to alphabets and numbers. Individuals must be given life-long learning opportunities to move along a continuum that includes reading, writing, and the critical understanding and decision-making abilities they need in their communities. (The Centre for Literacy of Quebec)
- All Nunavummiut have the right to participate fully and be included in their community. Literacy is much more than reading and writing, it also means being connected to your language and culture. Literacy involves everyone and is fundamental to the development of health and well-being. Literacy is fostering and nurturing understanding, knowledge and wisdom. (Developed at a literacy summit in Arviat.)
- Literacy is the lifelong development of a broad range of skills with one of more of the NWT official languages for the purpose of expanding an individual's potential for optimal health, personal success and positive participation in community wellness and development. (Literacy Strategy for Government of the NWT)
- Literacy, numeracy and problem solving are essential to function in today's world. For individuals, they are the key to realizing their full economic and social potential and the foundation upon which they acquire additional knowledge and skills throughout adulthood. They are strongly associated with individual outcomes and enable people to participate in their communities, make wise consumer decisions, and construct social networks. (International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey)