

# This Week in Literacy **December 15, 2011**

NWT Literacy Council



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The NWT Literacy Council is a non-profit, non-government agency dedicated to supporting the development of literacy and essential skills in all official languages of the NWT.

## Literacy Dates

Family Literacy Day - January 27

The NWT Literacy Council office is closed - Dec. 21-Jan. 2

*We wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season!*

## Announcements and Events

### Holidays a great time for family literacy

Families can get together to colour and answer questions in the second annual Family



Literacy Day Colouring Contest. Contest closes on Family Literacy Day January 27, 2012. There's also time to enter the family literacy story contest. Both are sponsored by [ABC Life Literacy Canada](#).

### 13th Annual Postcard Story Competition

The [Writer's Union of Canada](#) is accepting submissions until February 14, 2012, for the 13th annual postcard story competition. The winning entry will be the best Canadian work of 250 words or fewer in the English language, fiction or nonfiction. You can use humour, poetry, dialogue... anything goes.

### Students asked to promote charities sector

Imagine Canada and the Muttart Foundation have launched [Students \(Verb\) Charities](#). This contest asks students enrolled in publicly funded post-secondary institutions to produce a public awareness campaign

that talks about the depth, scope and reach of the sector. There is a total of \$100,000 in cash prizes. Deadline to enter is November, 2012.

### **"Not Our Youth" Film Festival extends deadline**

The ["Not Our Youth Film Festival"](#) deadline is extended to January 30, 2012. Youth are invited to make and submit films for the chance to be screened at the festival and enter to win some great prizes (including a grand prize trip for 2 to Hollywood!).

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## **Funding**

### **Celebrate Canada! funding**

[Canadian Heritage](#) provides financial support for activities organized from June 21st to July 1st. In 2012 the Department will give priority to activities that celebrate one or both of these anniversaries: the 60th anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty as Queen of Canada or the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. The deadline to apply is January 16, 2012. For information contact: [joel.frohman@pch.gc.ca](mailto:joel.frohman@pch.gc.ca) or 1-800-661-0585.

### **Family Literacy Funding**

The [NWT Literacy Council](#) still has some funding available this fiscal year for community family literacy projects. Contact [pat@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:pat@nwtliteracy.ca) or 1-866-599-6758 for more information.

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## **News**

### **NWT MLAs urge Anti-Poverty Strategy**

Ordinary MLAs voted unanimously in favour of a motion yesterday urging the NWT government to complete an anti-poverty strategy. Cabinet members abstained from the vote in the [Legislative Assembly](#) where poverty was the day's theme. MLA Bob Bromley [tabled research](#) showing that the NWT has the widest gap in Canada between households at either end of the income scale.

## **Great Big Sea gives boost to distance learning**

*CBC news, December 12, 2011*

Students in some of the smallest communities in Newfoundland and Labrador got a special music lesson from Great Big Sea, with neither having to leave home base...[Read more](#)

## **Test Messaging: Basically Addictive or Essentially Addictive**



*Decoded Science, December 12, 2011*

Considering the popularity of text messaging, what role do textisms and textese play in the overall literacy or illiteracy of young people today? Interested in texting, and its affects on literary skills, Clare Wood, Sally Meachem, and their research team investigated text messaging and spelling ability in children aged 8-12 years in 2011...[Read more](#)

## **Books vs. screens: Which should your child be reading?**

*Globe and Mail, December 13, 2011*

Last week, Canadian author Margaret Atwood thrilled her Twitter followers by defending their kind as "dedicated readers" who are boldly exploring new frontiers in literacy...But many of those who have studied what lights up when people read have come to sharply different conclusions...[Read more](#)

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## **Resources and Websites**

**Ideas for giving the gift of literacy**  
[during this holiday season](#)

**SmartKids**  
[with Learning Disabilities](#)

**New Brunswick Aboriginal Workplace Essential Skills Curriculum**

[Eight courses in the series](#)



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**Statistics on educational systems**

[Canadian Education Statistics Council](#)