

# This Week in Literacy

January 27, 2011

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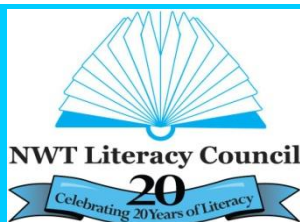
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## NWT Literacy Council



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

## Literacy Dates

Family Literacy Day - January 27

Heritage Day - February 17

## Announcements and Events

### Happy Family Literacy Day! How are you celebrating?

Lynn Taylor, the librarian at Ecole J.H. Sissons in Yellowknife, says her school made a copy of the NWT Literacy Council's *Let's Play and Learn How to Kit* for each of the school's 170 families. "Lots of busy, working parents say they forget to take the time to play with their children, says Ms. Taylor. "The kit has great suggestions for families with kids of all ages."

Please send the Literacy Council details and photos of your Family Literacy Day events to [nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca). We would like to feature your stories in our spring newsletter.

### Let's Play and Learn on Family Literacy Day!

The NWT Literacy Council Family Literacy Day event is Saturday at Northern United Place in Yellowknife from 2-4 pm. All families with children aged 3-7 are welcome! Children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be crafts, stories, snacks and more!

### Behchoko Proposal Writing Workshop Postponed

The NWT Literacy Council Program Planning and Proposal Writing Workshop planned for February in Behchoko has been postponed. We'll keep you posted when we have a new date. For upcoming training opportunities check out [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca)

**"Violence Free- Aaniatirivuaanailuni"**

## **National Youth Poster Contest**

If you are between the ages of 12 and 26, have a voice in the campaign to end violence and abuse in your life and in your community. Pauktuutit is holding a [national poster contest](#) for youth. Submit an original piece of artwork that reflects the theme of life without violence by January 31, 2011.

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## **Funding**

### **Indigo Love of Reading Foundation grants for schools**

The Indigo Love of Reading Foundation commits \$1.5 million to 20 high-needs schools in Canada each year. Submissions are accepted until February 11, 2011. You can download an [application and other information](#).

### **RBC After-School Grants**

RBC After-School Grants Project is offering more than \$2 million in grants to fund programs during the 2011-2012 school year. RBC After-School grants of up to \$40,000 are provided by the RBC Foundation to programs in at-risk or underserved communities. The deadline for funding applications is March 4, 2011. [Applications can be downloaded](#) or contact 416-974-2176 or [frances.bedford-jones@rbc.com](mailto:frances.bedford-jones@rbc.com)

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## **News**

### **Conference focus is on labour shortage**

Construction labour constraints in Canada's north are not a new issue...A study commissioned by the N.W.T. Construction Association noted that "their efforts are stymied by relatively low levels of education and/or lack of interest in technical vocations on the part of N.W.T. youth and, perhaps more crucially, their parents."...[Read more](#)

### **A New Year's resolution with lifelong impact**

This month many Canadians across our great nation will usher in resolutions with the hope of making personal improvements for the year ahead. Odds are most will not think about improving their literacy skills. Literacy offers tremendous lifelong value to workplaces, families and communities...[Read more](#)

## **Minister urges families to celebrate literacy together**

The GNWT Minister of Education, Culture and Employment issued a news release to mark National Family Literacy Day...[Read more](#)

## **Text messaging 'improves children's spelling skills': British study**

*The Telegraph, Jan 20, 2011*

The use of "textisms" can improve literacy among pupils by giving them extra exposure to word composition outside the school day, it was claimed...[Read more](#)

## **Aboriginal, small-town students more likely to drop out of school**

Recent research out of the University of Ottawa suggests certain students are more at risk of facing obstacles than others when it comes to completing their postsecondary education...[Read more](#)

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## **Resources and Websites**

### **365 Days of Children's Books**

[This blog features a different children's book each day](#)

### **Voice of Literacy**

[This website tracks the latest in literacy studies](#)

### **Ellen's Story**

[One woman's struggle for literacy](#)

### **PeaceJam: Education programs for all ages**

[Young people and Nobel Peace Laureates tackle tough issues](#)