

# Literacy Matters

## Literacy Across the NWT



## What's Inside

- ✓ Sponsor Highlight
- ✓ Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament
- ✓ Family Literacy Day Highlights
- ✓ Teaching Reading to Adults: A Balanced Approach
- ✓ Upcoming Electronic Conference
- ✓ Training Opportunity
- ✓ Aboriginal Literacy Research
- ✓ Research in Practice
- ✓ Children's Book Drive
- ✓ Literacy and Health
- ✓ Poems by Fort Providence Learners
- ✓ NWT Literacy Strategy Mid-point Evaluation
- ✓ Staff and Board Contact Information





# Literacy Matters

## In the Spotlight - NorthwesTel

### **NorthwesTel**

#### **Literacy Champion Since 1999**

NorthwesTel has been an important sponsor of the NWT Literacy Council for several years. Through their support, we were able to continue to publish several volumes of Northern Writes, the anthology of stories from the NWT Writing Council. They are also long-time supporters of the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.

More recently, NorthwesTel has made a significant in-kind contribution to our operations and is on-board as the sponsor of our new Community Writing Workshop series, which we are currently developing.

The Writing Workshops series will help individuals interested in learning more about writing and publishing stories and books. The series will offer training, support and expertise in writing and publishing. The workshops will be delivered in various communities in the NWT.

Special thanks to Anne Kennedy, Director of Public Affairs, and Mark Walker, Vice-President Customer Service, for their ongoing support and commitment to literacy in the Northwest Territories.



*Mark Walker, Vice President of NorthwesTel, receives gift and many thanks from Katherine Peterson, President of the NWT Literacy Council, during NWT Literacy Week 2001.*



# Literacy Matters



## Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament

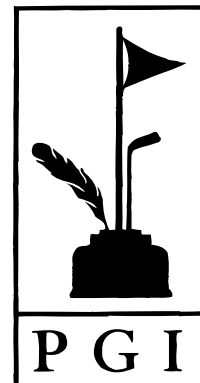
The Literacy Council is pleased to announce that the 2004 NWT PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy will be held in Holman from May 18 – 20 .

The PGI is much more than a golf tournament. It is a community celebration of literacy.

Joining in the celebration in Holman are special guests Nellie Cournoyea, patron of the 2004 NWT PGI and IRC Chairperson, Premier Joe Handley, Minister of Education Charles Dent, comedian Rick Mercer, broadcaster Shelagh Rogers of CBC Radio's Sounds Like Canada, actor Jonathon Torrens, Alison Gzowski, daughter of Peter Gzowski and musicians Mike Stevens, George Tuccaro and John Tees.

Special guests will visit the school, daycare and community events to share in the celebration of literacy. There will be a host of events including, the Premier's Dinner, a Community Feast, and golfing on the Beaufort Sea. There is sure to be lots of laughs, singing and dancing!

Check out our website at [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca) for information about the PGI to find out how you can become a sponsor!



For more information about the PGI or to find out how you can become a sponsor, please contact the NWT Literacy Council at (867) 873-9262 or [info@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:info@nwtliteracy.ca)

**FIRST AIR**



**NorthwestTel**



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# Literacy Matters

## Family Literacy Day Highlights

January 27th was Family Literacy Day across the country. Family Literacy Day is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family.

Many NWT communities joined in the celebrations and held family literacy events.

### **Deline**

Deline held several events at the school for family literacy day. They invited parents to come and read to their children in the gym. They had almost 200 people participating in their Read for 15.



### **Wekweti**

Even though it was -47 C on January 27th in Wekweti, six families (20 people) showed up to celebrate Family Literacy Day. Families came together to do family portraits and make family books. Everyone had lots of fun!



*Participants making family portraits.*



# Literacy Matters



## Family Literacy Day Highlights

### Fort Providence

Fort Providence decided to have a Family Literacy Week instead of Family Literacy Day, with lots of activities for families.

They held a \_\_\_\_\_ for parents in the Aboriginal Head Start Program. Parents and children enjoyed caribou stew and bannock and then learned lots of rhymes and songs. Each family took home several free books!



*Mother and child read their free book!*

The Family Literacy Coordinator also started a *Books in the Home* program with the adult learners at Aurora College during Family Literacy Week. Participants will learn more about reading to their children over the next six weeks and will take home books each week.



*Adult learners show off their home-made books!*

On Tuesday, February 27th, the Family Literacy Coordinator held the big event of the week, a *Family Literacy Night*, at Deh Gah School. The event was well attended with eight adults and twelve children. Each family was given a free book called *Said the Raven* by Dianne Brookes. They read the book together and then made a paper bag raven. The children really enjoyed acting out the story with their paper bag ravens.



*Aline Gargan, Family Literacy Coordinator, helping one of the participants make the raven craft*



*Fort Providence family making the raven craft*





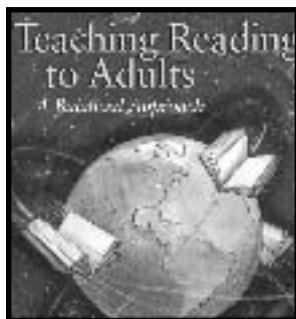
# Literacy Matters

## Teaching Reading and Writing to Adults

Recently, the staff of the NWT Literacy Council attended a workshop on Teaching Reading to Adults: A Balanced Approach facilitated by Dr. Pat Campbell. The workshop was very informative and gave us new information on how to assess students and how to address their learning needs.



Dr. Pat Campbell is the author of the Canadian Adult Reading Assessment(CARA) and the book and video set Teaching Reading to Adults.



Teaching Reading to Adults is great a resource for adult educators who want to learn more about reading assessment and instruction.



These tutor training videos show word recognition and comprehension strategies in detail.

### **CARA**

The CARA assessment tool is an excellent tool to help literacy practitioners assess a learner's reading skills and comprehension. The assessment tool uses high interest, low vocabulary stories to engage learners.

The tool not only assesses the learner but provides insight into their reading patterns through miscue analysis. When the learner's miscues are coded, a pattern will usually emerge. This is because most struggling readers tend to rely on the same language-cueing system(s) when they are reading material at their instructional level.

There are four common word recognition patterns:

#### **1. Print-based Pattern**

Learners with this pattern rely heavily on letters and sounds in order to identify unfamiliar words. These learners need to learn how to use meaning cues and their background knowledge to identify unfamiliar words. A print-based pattern is evident when the majority of the reader's miscues look similar to the text word but do not make sense.

For example: She <sup>want</sup>went into the pawn shop.







# Literacy Matters

## Teaching Reading to Adults

### An Electronic Conference with Dr. Pat Campbell

The NWT Literacy Council invites you to take part in the first of its online electronic conferences for adult educators and literacy practitioners in the NWT. This is professional development you can do right from your home community - all you need is access to the Internet!

#### Teaching Reading to Adults

Pre-conference Apr. 12-16, 2004

Conference Apr. 19-30, 2004

\* Week 1 Assessment

\* Week 2 Teaching Reading

Facilitator Dr. Pat Campbell

Place North of 60, electronic conferencing

Space is limited, so please register early. Contact

[dmulders@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:dmulders@nwtliteracy.ca)

or call 873-9262

Registration Deadline:  
Friday, April 2, 2004

#### About the Facilitator

Pat Campbell has worked in the field of adult literacy since 1985. She specializes in reading techniques and assessment for adult learners. She has developed a number of resources related to teaching reading, assessment and best practices in adult literacy programs.

#### How does an electronic conference work?

First you have to register with the NWT Literacy Council for the conference. Once you are registered, you will get a 'user id' and 'password' for North of 60. After that, it's as easy as going to the website (<http://n60.learnnet.nt.ca>) and taking part in the discussion. You can join in the conference anytime of the day - all you need is access to the Internet,

#### This workshop will highlight:

- √ Learner assessment tools
- √ CARA - Canadian Adult Reading Assessment
- √ Strategies for word recognition
- √ Comprehension strategies
- √ Teaching a beginning reader

**Don't miss out - register today!**



# Literacy Matters



## Training Opportunity

**The Canadian Indigenous Language and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI)** supports Indigenous language speakers and educators in promoting, protecting, practicing and passing on their traditional languages to the next generation. The University of Alberta is pleased to present the 5th annual institute during Summer Session 2004.

CILLDI provides a unique opportunity to earn university credits while learning about selected Canadian Indigenous languages and cultures.

### 2004 Course Offerings

EDEL 395-Introduction to Language and Literacy Development

EDEL 445/595-Teaching Second Languages in the Elementary School

EDEL 496/595-Ethnography: Social Content Language & Literacy Learning

EDES 401/501-Literacy & Drama in Aboriginal Language Education

LING 101-Introduction to Linguistics

LING 205-Practical Phonetics

LING 399/599-Practical Semantics

NS 380-Immersion in Cree Literacy

NS 380-Web-based Resource Development for Indigenous Languages

There will be a special Elders' Cultural program offered as well.

### Tuition and Housing

Application	\$60
Tuition	Undergraduates \$547.85 (3 credits) \$1098.77 (6 credits)
Housing	On-campus housing available at a rate of \$30 -45 per day
Food Service	On-campus meal service available for \$20 per day
Daycamp	Limited spaces

### Contact Information

CILLDI Office  
(780) 492-4188  
(780) 492-7622 (fax)  
[daghida@ualberta.ca](mailto:daghida@ualberta.ca)

Open Studies Application  
(780) 492-3113

Telephone Registration  
(780) 492-4607

Housing  
(780) 492-4281 or  
1 800-615-4807

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~cildi>





# Literacy Matters

## Aboriginal Literacy Research

In February, Helen Balanoff, from the NWT Literacy Council, and Cynthia Chambers, from the University of Lethbridge, went to Holman to talk about the Aboriginal literacy research project. The project will look at different forms of literacy, traditionally (before Europeans came), historically (when Europeans first arrived) and today. We want to know if you can still see traditional and historical forms of literacy in modern literacy.

They met with many different people, including the Mayor, the chair and vice-chair of the Community Corporation, the chair of the DEA, and representatives from the Elders' and Youth Council. People strongly supported the project.

On the first evening, we went to the Elders' and youth games. What a lot of fun we had! In one game, you had to get dressed in long underwear, a hat and gloves. In another hilarious game, people had to wear a blindfold and crawl

around the floor trying to find prizes. String games and skipping were also very popular. People laughed all evening.

Emily Kudlak will be the community researcher on the project. Alice Kaodloak will work with her. Together they will select Elders who know about particular topics, such as naming people, or weather forecasting. They will interview the Elders in Inuinnaqtun, and transcribe and translate the information from the interviews. Even in the short time we were there, we found out a lot about traditional forms of literacy, and we saw some examples of it in modern literacy. The project runs for two years.



*Emily Kudlak and Alice Kaodloak*



# Literacy Matters



## Research in Practice

### What is research in practice?

Research in practice is an important idea in adult education: it links research and practice, by encouraging people, like literacy providers, to think critically about their practice, and about how they might improve it. It is also a form of professional development.

Research in practice means research that literacy providers carry out in their own programs. It may include:

- Reading about something that will improve their practice
- Reflecting on their practice
- Responding to research that someone else has done related to practice
- Applying other people's research to their own practice.



*Participants at the Research in Practice Course in St. John's, Newfoundland*

Research in practice is becoming increasingly important in the literacy field in Canada. In 2000, a Research in Practice in Adult Literacy (RiPAL) network was established. Since then there have been three Research in Practice gatherings: in Edmonton (2001); in Vancouver (2002); and in St. John's Newfoundland (2003).

Helen Balanoff, from the NWT Literacy Council, has attended the last two gatherings. In St. John's, she was lucky enough to be one of eight people chosen to go to Mary Hamilton's course on Researching Literacy Practices. The people taking part had to do a case study about a specific literacy event.

Everyone in the course had to collect information about a literacy event and include photos. Then everyone analyzed the events together. They looked at a visit to the doctor, community gardening, a murder, tattoos, Mexican food, aging, instructions in the workplace, and literacy sensitivity. The idea is that literacy is not just about measuring literacy levels, but about what people do with literacy.

The Literacy Council is hoping to involve some adult educators in a research-in-practice project over the next two years.





# Literacy Matters

## United Way Family Literacy Project

Yellowknife programs were busy this year with family literacy projects. With funding from the United Way, the NWT Literacy Council supported three organizations in Yellowknife to run family literacy programs.

The **YWCA** provided a *Families First Parenting* program to parents in the Transitional Housing Project. Parents came each week to the parenting program while their children attended a Books in the Home session. Each week children learned about a book and then took the book home.



They had a big party with caribou stew, bannock and munchies to celebrate the completion of the program. There were 25 people at the event!

The **Yellowknife Family Centre** delivered both the *Families First Parenting* and *1-2-3 Rhyme With Me* programs. For the first 20 minutes families shared rhymes and stories together. Afterwards, parents spent time discussing different parenting topics.

The program was very successful and they are planning to run it again in the spring. For more information call Ruth at 669-6772.



The **Dettah Language Centre** ran several family literacy programs this year. Many of the programs were in Dogrib! They have also produced some cultural materials for their program.



They are creating books, dolls and other material to help revitalize the Dogrib language.



# Literacy Matters



## Book Drive a Huge Success

Thank you **Yellowknifers** for your generous donations of good quality used books. We collected around 45 boxes of children's, adult and youth books to send to three NWT communities that do not have access to books through libraries or stores.

We would also like to thank the **Yellowknife Rotary Club** for collecting the books and **Air Tindi** and **North Wright Air** for sending the books into the communities for free.

### **Wekweti**

Wekweti enjoyed the 11 boxes that were sent to their community. They had a **Book Party** to distribute the books to community members. Around 30 people attended the celebration and more came the next day.

The children were thrilled to be able to bring the books home and keep them. Wekweti would like to thank Air Tindi for sending the books in for free!



### **Colville Lake**

Colville Lake School was a buzz of activity on the evening of December 2nd. Almost the entire community of Colville Lake came out to look through the volumes of books collected by the Yellowknife Rotary Club and distributed by the NWT Literacy Council to northern communities. Many of the residents took advantage of the opportunity and took home books they were interested in.

The evening was capped off by participants talking about the books they chose over bannock and juice. Colville Lake would like to thank North Wright Air for sending in the books for free!





# Literacy Matters

## Literacy and Health by Pat Campbell

*What happens when a group of women with low-literacy levels come together to discuss their health issues?*

This question was addressed by Tammy Horne when she evaluated a women's literacy and health project that was initiated at the Learning Centre in Edmonton. The purpose of the project was to develop a participatory education program that integrated literacy development and health promotion.

Two health literacy programs were offered to low-income women in the Edmonton area. The women in the program identified the topics they wanted to discuss. These topics included stress, saying "no", anger, weight, eating and exercise, menopause, STDs, and living healthily on a low budget.

Two themes that surfaced from the evaluation: social support and coping skills.

### **Social Support**

The participants placed a high value on community - connection with other women and the importance of group support. They felt comfortable discussing their needs and personal issues within a supportive environment. The following quote illustrates how their

sense of isolation was reduced by sharing their experiences: "I thought I was the only person in here was like that [abused], but no, there was quite a few of them."

### **Coping Skills**

The women learned how to establish boundaries in order to balance their needs with the needs of others. For example, the women felt more confident in saying "no" to family's and friend's requests. By saying "no" more frequently, they demonstrated assertiveness and increased the degree of control they had over their lives. One participant says:

"I used to be really shy and quiet person but not anymore. They told us it's okay to say "no" 'cause sometimes a person can take advantage of you, and you get stressed out, and that's no good for your health."

**For more information on this study and others, check out the Directory of Canadian Adult Literacy Research at <http://www.nald.ca/crd/>**

*Horne, T. (1999). Learning for our health: Outcomes for women in a participatory literacy and health education program. Edmonton, AB: The Learning Centre Literacy Association.*



# Literacy Matters



## Poems from Adult Learners

Thanks to Fort Providence adult learners for the following submissions for our newsletters.

### Daddy



Daddy so kind, loving, caring  
always teaching me from right  
and wrong.

Telling me to be strong  
showing me that life isn't  
as easy as it should be.

But no matter what I say  
you'll know I'll love you  
always and forever.

Remember be caring for the  
ones you love

### Carpenter

Hammer and nails  
drywall, mud in pails  
measuring and cutting  
filling in holes, cracks  
just by mudding.

Pounding and working  
trying to get the job done  
putting in hours of working  
overtime, forgetting about lunch

by Maryella Squirrel



### My Poem

William Shakespeare  
Edna St. Vincent are the same  
They wrote their own poems  
From scary to sad  
Winter and Summer  
Fall and Spring  
Buy they all rhyme

### Paydays



Time for paydays  
On time, never late  
It's a special day  
Time is slow by day  
Days are getting longer  
But not alone  
Have to wait for the time  
hour to minutes times up  
Here's your pay.

by Evelyn Constant

### Summer Time



I remember  
Summer time  
Lots of work for the young  
It is cold in winter  
Summer weather  
Is better  
Picking berries with my mother  
Playing soccer together  
Smelling the flowers  
Hearing the sounds of the lawn mower  
Mowing  
Calling it a day  
Time to hit the hay.

by Joseph Landry





# Literacy Matters

## NWT Literacy Strategy Mid-Point Evaluation

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is currently carrying out a mid-point evaluation of the NWT Literacy Strategy. The purpose of the evaluation is to identify what's working with the Strategy and what needs be strengthened in order to better support literacy development in the NWT. Consultants Bernie Hogan and Lynn White have been awarded the contract and will be meeting with literacy providers, Aurora College, Aboriginal language communities and others to discuss the impact of the Strategy to date.

The report should be available in late spring and will contain a number of recommendations for the government to consider.

### Quote of the Day

*"We want a Canada where every child arrives at school ready to learn. A Canada where everyone has the opportunity for post-secondary education regardless of geography or means. A Canada where universal literacy and lifelong learning are part of the national fabric."*

This quote came from Prime Minister Paul Martin's response to the Throne Speech.



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