



**NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

**NWT Literacy Council congratulates new Minister of Education, Culture and Employment**

YELLOWKNIFE (November 2, 2011) – The NWT Literacy Council congratulates the Hon. Jackson Lafferty on his reappointment to cabinet as Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. This portfolio includes responsibility for literacy and essential skills.

The Council looks forward to working again with Mr. Lafferty. “We believe that Mr. Lafferty understands the success that community-based programs bring to literacy and essential skills development,” said the Council president, Suzanne Robinson today.

“The prosperity of the Northwest Territories is tied to increasing literacy and essential skills through various initiatives with adults and youth, families and especially children,” says Ms. Robinson.

The Literacy Council hopes the Minister will be able to put even more emphasis on prevention strategies while maintaining and improving intervention programs for adults and youth who need to develop their skills.

“To break the cycle and invest in the future we need this Legislative Assembly to focus on programs that prevent the problem in the first place. That means starting with programs that reach families with children three years of age and under,” she says.

The NWT Literacy Council has worked with Mr. Lafferty in the position of Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the NWT Literacy Strategy, a review of Adult Literacy and Basic Education programming, and the Aboriginal Student Achievement initiative, as well as family literacy programs.

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For more information, contact:

Helen Balanoff

Executive Director

867-873-9262

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