



Yukon Literacy
Coalition

2018-2019 Annual Report

STAFF



Beth Mulloy – Executive Director
bmulloy.literacy@northwestel.net

Lisa Young – Senior Leader
lisa.young@yukonliteracy.com

Alexis Johnson - Office Manager
yukon.literacy.coalition@northwestel.net

Stephanie Parker – Family Literacy Centre Program Coordinator
stephanie.literacy@northwestel.net

Carrie-Anne McPhee – Family Literacy Centre Program & Outreach Coordinator
carriannemcphoe@yukonliteracy.com

Darby MacWilliam – Community Outreach and Program Coordinator
darby.macwilliam@yukonliteracy.com

Contractors: Lisa Moore, Leticia Valadan

Bookkeeper: MP Computing Ltd.

Accountant: Crowe MacKay LLP



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Board of Directors

Kelly Johnston (President) – Teslin

Patricia Brennan (Vice President) – Francophone

Dawn Marino (Secretary/Treasurer) – Pelly/Carmacks

Deb Chadwick (Director) – Watson Lake

James Miller (Director) – Whitehorse

Sam Johnston (Director) – Yukon First Nation Elder



President's Report:

I am very pleased to be writing my first Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) President report. I wish first to say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to long time board member and President James Miller. James was an exceptional President and guided and supported the coalition into the very successful and stable place that it sits in the Yukon society. Thank you, James.

This has been a very busy year. YLC touches so many people in so many ways. As the President of the board I can only marvel at the hard work of the staff, contractors and volunteers. There are events throughout Whitehorse and the communities constantly - from the opening party at the Pioneer Hotel in Shipyards Park in Whitehorse, with hundreds of children and their families eating cake and making books, to being invited to see the commercial greenhouses in Haines Junction that YLC has been running as part of the CAFN skills and employment project. There is never a dull moment at YLC!

The Yukon Literacy Coalition works nationally, pan-territorially, regionally, and locally. This speaks to the fact that the YLC society culture is one of persistence, flexibility and resilience. I take off my hat to the staff – some new and some have been with us for a very long time. I hope the newcomers become the old timers.

To my fellow board members, thank you. You have been a solid team and I think fondly of the hours of policy development under the midnight sun at Marsh Lake this summer. Only a very dedicated group of individuals would have endured!

Thank you to our funders, supporters, and all of the families we get to work with. I am honoured and thrilled to be the President of this society and I look forward to many years of service.

Kelly Johnston



Executive Director's Report

June 30, 2019

The Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) is a vital and growing society. We receive so much support from all of the Yukon communities; special thanks to the Yukon Government and the City of Whitehorse for their continued support of the Family Literacy Centre (FLC). We continue our interesting and eclectic programming at the center and again hosted many special events in partnership with the Canada Games Centre staff. Our outreach program continues to be very successful. The Yukon Imagination Library is still flourishing. Yukon families are fully engaged and appear to love the program.

We are halfway through the Dan Ts'ānanān project working in partnership with Champagne Aishihik First Nation (CAFN) and Yukon College. This is a very interesting project and this summer YLC staff created and facilitated a 21-week Greenhouse course in Haines Junction running two commercial greenhouses and outside gardens. This learning, wellness and employment opportunity for CAFN citizens who are struggling with employment went extremely well. The gardens and greenhouses produced large crops for the community. We are grateful to work on such an important project that is changing people's lives.

We travelled to Iqaluit in June 2019 to work with the NWT Literacy Council and Iłitāqsiᓂiq - Nunavut Literacy Council to develop a new pan-northern project, using the lessons learned in our previous Northern Alliance Literacy and Essential Skills (NALES) project. The application for this youth initiative will be submitted in July and we hope to start work by the spring of 2020.

With generous support from Yukon Government we continue delivering financial literacy workshops across the Yukon and will be expanding our work to include two new initiatives: Youth Financial Literacy and Constructing Effective Learning and Literacy Societies (CELLS).

We continue to have great staff including Lisa Young – Senior Leader, Stephanie Parker - Family Literacy Centre Program Coordinator, Carrie-Anne McPhee - Family Literacy Centre Program & Outreach Coordinator, and Darby MacWilliam - Community Outreach and Project Coordinator.

We are all grateful for and want to thank all of our partners, volunteers, supporters and funders that enable us to do the very important work of improving Literacy and Essential Skills in the North: assisting all northerners to reach their capacities and to live their lives fully.

Beth Mulloy



2018-2019 Highlights

Dän Ts'anānān - Our People Working Together Program

The Yukon Literacy Coalition, Champagne Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), and Yukon College are working together on a 40-month project - Dän Ts'anānān, which is a federally funded program designed to increase capacities and employment for CAFN citizens. The vision of the program is to deliver innovative and culturally appropriate programming that focuses on peoples' strengths and brings about positive change for at-risk citizens. The intention is to increase literacy and employment skills of CAFN youth and adults that are out of school, under-employed, or unemployed.

Our work includes designing and facilitating community-wide workshops, working closely with job coaches and the cultural support team to assist in Literacy and Essential Skills (LES) development, and assisting the project team in a number of other ways.



*Vegetables grown during the Greenhouse/
Garden Workplace Training program*

One of our program initiatives is a Greenhouse/Garden Workplace Training program. The 21-week program started in April of 2019 on the traditional territory of Champagne Aishihik First Nation. It was designed to combine wellness, non-formal learning (soft skills) and formal learning (hard skills), with the operation of two commercial greenhouses.



The Family Literacy Centre

The Family Literacy Centre (FLC) is continually growing and is now recognized by Whitehorse and the wider community as a public learning centre that specializes in early childhood education programming to promote literacy and language development, with the ultimate goal of families learning together for life.

Our attendance numbers show a steady and constant increase of participants and the diversity of our visiting families continues to grow as Whitehorse and the Yukon sees new families relocating to the north from countries all around the world. We continue to help connect families to the community and to the resources they need, while supporting them in becoming lifelong learners.

*'Baby Senses'
program on
a Tuesday
morning at the
Family Literacy
Centre*



The number of community groups and organizations using the FLC continues to grow as we reach further out into the community. Our space is highly valued by all who use it. User groups appreciate access to the space for their learning events, and we often collaborate with organizations throughout the community to share our skills.

Our programs are always expanding and growing. Community members drop by with their children to participate in programs or to request resources like books. We also provide training in a number of ways, including leading play or song/rhyme groups. Participation in programs can vary from six to thirty plus parents and children. Along with our past programs, we are always creating and implementing new programs like Sing and Sign, Fun with Felt and the Handle with Care Program.

The FLC hosted and/or participated in multiple special events over this past year. One of those events was the Pyjama Bedtime Story event for National Family Week with special guest, the Commissioner of Yukon, Angelique Bernard. Other events included the Festival of Lights, the Yukon Quest Story Writing Contest, and the Kwanlin Dun First Nations Kindergarten Fair.

Pioneer Hotel

The 2019 summer season at the Pioneer Hotel ran from June 6th to August 22nd. The summer opening party and annual closing party were both well-attended, and widely enjoyed by the community. Program attendance throughout the summer was often high, with the largest daily number exceeding two hundred people. As in previous summers, YLC partnered with numerous community groups and organizations and collaborated on summer programming, which included Learning Disabilities Association Yukon; Multicultural Centre of the Yukon; and the KDFN Healthy Families, Healthy Generations program. The Free Book store and Book Bike continue to be popular, and a high volume of books were taken to enjoy by community members.

Family Literacy Day 2019

This year's Family Literacy Day was held on January 27th in Shipyards Park, in partnership with Yukon Quest.

As in previous years, the event was free, and everyone was welcome. We estimate our attendance was between four hundred and fifty and six hundred people. The event included snacks, cake, and an outdoor hot dog roast. Hot chocolate was donated by Tim Hortons. Activities included kick sleds, outdoor snow toys, sleds for the sledding hill, free dog mushing rides, crafts, face painting, and of course the Free Book Store in the Pioneer Hotel, along with a Yukon Imagination Library information booth. We also had live music performed by father and son duo Alex and Douglas Petriw, a dance set by the Dakwakada Dancers, and fire dancing performed by Joe la Jolie. Storytime by the fire was read by Mayor Dan Curtis, the Honorable Angelique Bertrand, and the Honourable Tracy Ann McPhee.

The event was tremendous fun, and YLC continues to receive positive feedback from community members.



Families enjoying the free outdoor hotdog roast

Community Outreach and Engagement

It has been another exciting and busy year for outreach. We partnered with and attended various culture camps, events, and festivals across the territory – including Muskrat Camp and Harvest Camp with Kluane First Nation, and Haa Kusteeyi in Carcross. We continued to work with the popular after school program at the House of Learning with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN), by providing cooking classes and facilitating other literacy-based activities including reading aloud, arts and crafts, knitting, and fibre arts. We also provided books to support the program's library.

Other outreach initiatives included a Family Pajama Night in Old Crow; building libraries in daycares and maintaining tiny libraries around Whitehorse; providing consultation and resources to after-school programs; partnering with vital community programs such as the KDFN Healthy Families, Healthy Generations program; and we facilitated a workshop on Diversifying Storytelling at Little Blue Daycare in Dawson City.



Financial Literacy

We continue to use our Northern and First Nation adapted learning modules for our Financial Literacy workshops, meeting the learners at their individual skill levels and tailoring each workshop to be relevant and meaningful to our participants. Two YLC staff completed Prosper Canada's online facilitator training in the Fall of 2018 to help make this experience even more beneficial. This past year, YLC delivered six two-day Financial Literacy workshops to fifty-five participants in Pelly Crossing, Carmacks, Old Crow, Watson Lake and two workshops at the Kwanlin Dun House of Learning in Whitehorse. The project took place from February 1st, 2018 to February 28, 2019. This was our second Financial Literacy project funded by Yukon Education. We have many upcoming Financial Literacy workshops planned for the fall and winter and continue to receive requests from communities across the Yukon for our workshops.

YLC developed and launched an online budgeting tool in this past year. This free, accessible tool can be found on our website (www.yukonliteracy.com) and allows users to download and save their personal budgets. We are currently developing an online consumer tool that will be launched in the near future.

YLC continues to be a part of the Canada wide network for the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada and has been invited to attend their Financial Literacy Conference in Ottawa in November of 2020.

The Yukon Imagination Library (YIL)

Our partnership with the Yukon Imagination Library continues to be successful, both for themselves and YLC. Yukon Literacy Coalition staff receive regular positive feedback from families who appreciate the assistance we provide with their children's accounts. YLC staff continue to manage YIL accounts and returned books.

The Yukon Imagination Library has added many new books and has further expanded their Northern/Canadian books selection with the inclusion of more titles from Tundra Books, such as "Carson Crosses Canada" and "Racoon and Fox."

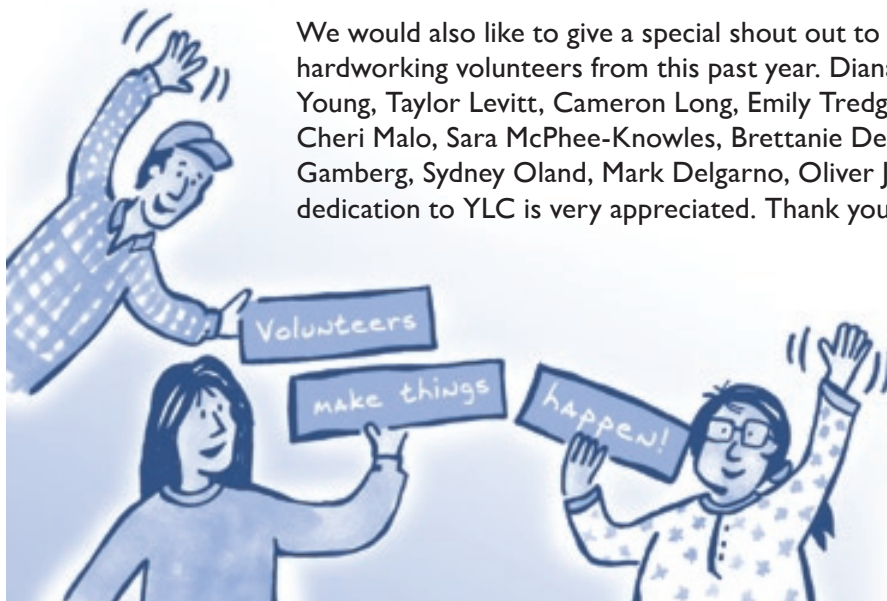
Special events, conferences and training that YLC attended this year:

- Prosper Canada Online Facilitator Training
- Kids in the Kitchen (KIK-Health Promotions Unit, YG)
- Yukon Childcare Conference
- Active Start (Early Physical Literacy) with Special Olympics
- First Aid and CPR with Red Cross
- Naloxone Training
- Motivational Interviewing
- FASD Informed Consent Training



Volunteers

We would also like to give a special shout out to some of our hardworking volunteers from this past year. Diana Mulloy, Laci Young, Taylor Levitt, Cameron Long, Emily Tredger, Marion Primozic, Cheri Malo, Sara McPhee-Knowles, Brettanie Deal-Porter, Mary Gamberg, Sydney Oland, Mark Delgarno, Oliver Jones - your work and dedication to YLC is very appreciated. Thank you!



Our Partners, Supporters and Funders

<i>Adaka Festival</i>	<i>Japanese Cultural Association of the Yukon</i>	<i>Sue Warner</i>
<i>Alayak Dog Mushing</i>	<i>KDFN Healthy Families Healthy Generations</i>	<i>Ta'an Kwach'an Council</i>
<i>Angelina's Toy Boutique</i>	<i>Kluane First Nation</i>	<i>TD Canada Trust</i>
<i>Arts in the Park</i>	<i>Kluane First Nation Harvest Camp</i>	<i>Tanya Handley</i>
<i>Association Franco-Yukonnaise</i>	<i>Kwanlin Dun First Nation</i>	<i>Teen Parent Centre</i>
<i>Augusto Haines Junction</i>	<i>Kwanlin Dun Health Centre</i>	<i>Teslin Tlingit Brooks Brook Culture Camp</i>
<i>Bambino's Bilingual Montessori Daycare</i>	<i>La Leche League Canada-Yukon</i>	<i>Teslin Tlingit Council</i>
<i>Bubbles Daycare Inc</i>	<i>Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon</i>	<i>Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation</i>
<i>Canada Games Centre</i>	<i>Learn with Joy Daycare</i>	<i>Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre</i>
<i>Carcross/Tagish First Nation</i>	<i>Les EssentiElles</i>	<i>Victoria Faulkner Parent and Child Group</i>
<i>Carcross/Tagish First Nation Development Corporation</i>	<i>Little Blue Daycare</i>	<i>Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation</i>
<i>Carcross/Tagish First Nation CPNP</i>	<i>Little Dreamers</i>	<i>Well-Read Books</i>
<i>Carcross Commons</i>	<i>Little Munchkins</i>	<i>What's Up Yukon</i>
<i>Care-a-Lot Daycare</i>	<i>Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation</i>	<i>Whitehorse CPNP</i>
<i>CBC Yukon</i>	<i>Love to Learn Daycare</i>	<i>Whitehorse Public Library</i>
<i>Champagne-Aishihik First Nation</i>	<i>MAC's Fireweed Books</i>	<i>Yukon College</i>
<i>Chickadees Preschool</i>	<i>Moms of Multiples</i>	<i>Yukon Government</i>
<i>Intergenerational Program</i>	<i>Monika Melnychuk</i>	<i>Yukon Health and Social Services</i>
<i>Child Development Centre</i>	<i>Montessori Borealis Daycare</i>	<i>Yukon Homeschooling Association</i>
<i>Chinook Booking</i>	<i>Moosehide Gathering Tr'ondek Hwech'in</i>	<i>Yukon Learn Society</i>
<i>City of Whitehorse</i>	<i>Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation</i>	<i>Yukon News</i>
<i>Council of Yukon First Nations</i>	<i>Nunavut Literacy Council</i>	
<i>Dollywood Foundation</i>	<i>NWT Literacy Council</i>	
<i>Dunena Ko'honete Ko Daycare</i>	<i>Parents of Premies</i>	
<i>Dusk'a Headstart and Family Learning Centre</i>	<i>Partners for Children</i>	
<i>Elijah Smith School Literacy Nights</i>	<i>Partners Take a Break</i>	
<i>Elks Lodge 306</i>	<i>Prenatal Nutrition Program</i>	
<i>Fireweed Market</i>	<i>Rendezvous Society</i>	
<i>Haa Yatx'l Hidi Early Childhood Development Centre</i>	<i>Rotary Club of Whitehorse</i>	
<i>Ha Kus Teyea Early Learning and Childcare Centre</i>	<i>RPAY Recreation Parks Assoc. Yukon</i>	
	<i>Skookum Jim Friendship Centre</i>	
	<i>Solstice Haiku</i>	
	<i>Girl Guides of Canada</i>	
	<i>Special Olympics</i>	



Yukon Literacy Coalition

www.yukonliteracy.ca

Suite #207 100 Main St., Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2A8
Phone: (867) 668-6535

Email: yukonliteracy@yukonliteracy.com