



Yukon Literacy Coalition

2017-2018 Annual Report

The Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) is a community-based organization committed to increasing literacy and essential skills for everyone in the Yukon. It is founded on the belief that literacy and essential skills are the foundation that allows each individual to succeed in life, work and their community; and that the best way to improve these skills is through programs, tools and research that are culturally and geographically relevant.

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Board of Directors

James Miller (President) – Whitehorse

Dawn Marino (Vice President) – Pelly and Carmacks

Patricia Brennan (Secretary/Treasurer) – Francophone

Gordon Hardie (Director) – Dawson City, Mayo

Kelly Johnston (Director) – Teslin

Sam Johnston (Director)- First Nations Elder Position

Vacancy – Old Crow

Vacancy – Watson Lake

Vacancy – Faro/Ross River

Vacancy – The North Highway



President's Report:

Another year has come and gone. The Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC) has experienced a mix of both professional success and personal challenges. We continue with the good work we have become known for, helping Yukoners across the territory. The work has been enormously successful by engaging in family-literacy programming in Whitehorse and in communities across the territory. It was visible to the public at the Family Literacy Centre located in the Canada Games Centre and at the Pioneer Hotel in Shipyards Park, as well as in any number of culture camps, libraries, daycares and special events we helped facilitate across the Yukon.

Being the president of any non-profit is challenging. Helping manage the course of the organization, setting goals, and working with the community at large to ensure we are serving the public and meeting the needs of our communities is a critical part of the work. On the other side of that equation are the people that help make it happen: our staff. On that front it has been a time of change as well. I have a great admiration for all of our workers and the passion they bring to the organization. Over my years with the coalition they have become more than that: they have become family. When they experience success or loss we feel it along with them.

On behalf of the board I want to send special thanks to General Manager, Lisa Young who steps up when needed at every occasion. Our long-time Office Manager, Lusia Stetkiewicz was married this summer. She and her husband are departing the territory to start their new life together. We wish them all the best. Lusia will be missed.

Our Executive Director, Beth Mulloy, whose family has deep roots in the Yukon, lost her father this year. Certainly a big loss for her and the Yukon.

Through all of this the YLC has continued to move forward in its efforts to serve all Yukoners.

It is important to note that none of that work was possible without the support of all of our partners, supporters, and my fellow board members. It is also critical to thank our funders, without your support we could not serve the needs of all Yukoners.

Thank you!

James Miller



Executive Director's Report

June 30, 2018

The Yukon Literacy Coalition continues to grow and thrive. After 4 years of hard work our tri-territorial project, The Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills (NALES), was completed on June 30th, 2018. Our final meetings were held in Rankin Inlet and we anticipate the resource guide that was developed as part of this project will be available in the fall of 2018. It was a tremendous project and we look forward to more partnership work with the NWT Literacy Council and Iliitaqiniq - Nunavut Literacy Council.

CAFN's application for their multi-year project was successful. We are partners and are working closely with Yukon College and the Dan Ts'ananan project team to reach the project goals of creating learning and employment opportunities for CAFN citizens who are struggling with employment. We are grateful for this opportunity to work on such an important project that will positively change people's lives.

Many 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 centre and again hosted many special events in partnership with the Canada Games Centre. Our outreach program continues to be very successful. Yukon Imagination Library is still flourishing: Yukon families are fully engaged and love the program.

With generous support from the Yukon Government we continue delivering financial literacy workshops across the Yukon. Please check our website and try our financial literacy budgeting tool.

There is nothing more consistent than change in the YLC offices. Fortunately Lisa Young continues as General Manager and Stephanie Parker continues as our senior Family Literacy worker. Lusia Stetkiewicz left to get married and Stephanie Newsome joined us as the Office Manager, Carrie-Anne McPhee joins us as Family Literacy Outreach worker, Jessica Gilray will be heading off to maternity leave at the end of the summer and Darby MacWilliam joins us as Community Outreach and Program Coordinator.

We are all grateful to, and 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



2017-2018 Highlights

Northern Alliance for Literacy and Essential Skills (NALES)

The Yukon Literacy Coalition partnered with the NWT Literacy Council and Iltaqsiq - the Nunavut Literacy Council on a collaborative agreement with the Northern Alliance on Literacy & Essential Skills (NALES) to complete various projects. The project began in December 2014 and ended in June 2018.

The goal of this project was to strengthen literacy and essential skills (LES) development and to improve market outcomes across the north. The team reached out to Aboriginal youth and adults, both men and women, who were out-of-school or unemployed with low levels of literacy and essential skills. Through this project, Aboriginal youth and adults had an opportunity to develop more transferable skills, become more employable, increase their access to the labour market, and experience more success within the northern economy. As part of this project YLC undertook two initiatives:

1. **Tagish Kwan Photo Parlour:** The Yukon Literacy Coalition, in partnership with Carcross Tagish Management Corporation (CTMC) and with generous support of the Yukon Government developed a social enterprise initiative as a means to both train and employ underemployed Carcross Tagish First Nation citizens and provide social benefits to Carcross.
2. **Na-Cho Nyak Dun Burger Shack:** The Yukon Literacy Coalition, in partnership with Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation, designed and implemented a 3-month summer training program providing hands on, workplace-based training, providing the participants (the summer staff of the First Nation owned and operated Burger Shack) with transferable skills and knowledge in the service/hospitality sector.



During the last phase of this project, the Yukon Literacy Coalition, in collaboration with the NWT Literacy Council and Iltaqsiq - the Nunavut Literacy Council developed "A Northern Approach: A Guide to Embedded Literacy and Essential Skills". This resource guide explains what a northern approach to embedded LES programming entails and it confirms effective practices and lessons learned for embedded LES programs in a northern context. It will be available fall of 2018.

Changing Systems - Women, Learning, and Violence

We are pleased to report that the Changing Systems - Women, Learning, and Violence project is complete. This research project was designed to support Indigenous women in Whitehorse and the surrounding areas who are "at risk of experiencing violence," to explore how their familiarity with violence impacts their involvement in education, and their vulnerability to further violence. This project was very moving and informative. We thank all of the people who worked with us, the people who gave their time in interviews and focus groups, and the funders who generously supported us. We intend to continue researching and supporting this important work.

Dan Ts'ananan - Our People Working Together Program

We are working as partners with Champagne Aishihik First Nations and Yukon College on a 40-month project -Dan Ts'ananan. Our work includes designing and facilitating community-wide workshops, working closely with Job Coaches and the Cultural Support team to assist in LES skill development and assisting the project team in a number of other ways. We are very excited about this opportunity.

Family Literacy Day: Jan 29, 2018

Family Literacy Day this year was held at Shipyards Park with an outdoor, physical literacy component. We had live entertainment, a fire dancer, dog musher, outdoor weenie roast and hot cocoa at the fire pits, down-hill sledding, snow shoeing, skating, and kick sleds. We offered a story time, craft and warm up in our cozy Pioneer Hotel, along with free food and refreshments with an obstacle course and live music in the Frank Slim building. We had a great turn out with families from Whitehorse and Yukon communities.

Our community partners this year were the Child Development Centre, Whitehorse Library, Association Franco-Yukonnaise, Imagination Yukon Library, the City of Whitehorse and Alayak Dog Mushing.



The Family Literacy Centre

The Family Literacy Centre (FLC) continues to provide rich and diverse literacy-based programming to children and families both in Whitehorse and across the Yukon Territory. Regular summer programs continue from the Pioneer Hotel in Shipyards Park, while Fall, Winter, and Spring programs run from the Family Literacy Center at the Canada Games Centre. FLC Outreach this year has included trips to culture camps, events, and festivals throughout the Yukon.

All FLC programs have been very popular, with increased attendance in most cases. Patrons of varied ages and abilities engage in programming and enjoy the centres' facilities. Example programs include "123 Rhyme With Me:" a singing and movement program that encourages learning and play through music, and "Little Chefs:" a preschool program that blends stories, various foods, and cooking skills. "Free-Play Drop-In" remains popular and continues to provide opportunities for a broader audience to visit the FLC. A multitude of users enjoy Drop-In. Community user groups with family literacy-based mandates continue to book the FLC for private use.

Carrie-Anne McPhee joined the FLC team December 2017, replacing Lisa Moore. Carrie-Anne is a long-time educator and literacy advocate and says she greatly enjoys her work with YLC. As in previous years, YLC has employed a Summer Training and Employment Program (STEP) student for both the 2017 and 2018 summer sessions. These students engage in a range of jobs and continue to be an asset to FLC summer programming.

The Free Book Store at the Pioneer Hotel has increased in popularity and has provided hundreds – if not thousands – of books to both citizens of Yukon and travellers from around the world. FLC staff members continue to use the Book Bike to distribute free books throughout the streets of Whitehorse, during the summer Arts in the Park festival, and for special events.

Pioneer Hotel

The Pioneer Hotel continues to be a beloved spot for our regular and new or visiting families during the summer. The outdoor surroundings lend to offering exciting physical literacy programming. We continue to be open late on Thursdays for the Fireweed Market which is a great success in attracting new demographics to our space. The extensive Free Book Store is visited frequently by all ages. We have many community partners that use our space in collaboration and as individual users.

With the nice weather the book bike frequently makes the community rounds and attends the Kids Day at Arts in the Park every Wednesday.



Community Outreach

We continue to increase community partnerships across the Yukon. In the fall and winter months we partner on a weekly basis with the House of Learning at Kwanlin Dun First Nation to offer after-school literacy programming. We brought family literacy programming to the Carcross Tagish First Nation Daycare and the CTFN Healthy Moms Healthy Babies group in Carcross. We attended luncheons at the Duska Head Start daycare at Kwanlin Dun First Nations. We continue to partner year round on a monthly basis with the Whitehorse Healthy Moms Healthy Babies group. We also brought programming to some of the local Whitehorse schools literacy nights such as Elijah Smith and Takhini Elementary.

In the summer months we bring family literacy programming to Fireweed Market Night, Arts in the Park, Adaka Festival, Kluane First Nation Harvest Camp, Teslin Tlingit First Nation Ha Kus Teyea, Teslin Tlingit Brooks Brook Culture Camp, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Moosehide Gathering, Champagne Aishihik First Nations Annual General Assembly, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Annual General Assembly, Chickadees Preschool and Macaulay Lodge Intergenerational Programming. We also host many of the day camps and daycares at the Pioneer Hotel throughout the summer.



Financial Literacy

We continue to use our Northern adapted learning modules for our Financial Literacy workshops, meeting the learners where they are at and tailoring each workshop to be relevant and meaningful to participants. In August 2017 YLC conducted a Financial Literacy workshop to Challenge Employment in Whitehorse. In September 2017 a one-day Financial Literacy workshop was delivered to CAFN Takhini River Subdivision citizens. In November 2017 an evening Financial Literacy workshop to moms and their children was given in Haines Junction with CAFN. In May 2018 a two-day Financial Literacy workshop was delivered to LSCFN citizens in Carmacks. We have many upcoming Financial Literacy workshops planned for the fall and winter. We continue to receive requests from across the Yukon for our workshops.

The YLC continues to be one of the cross-Canada networks for the Financial Consumer Agency Canada. Prosper Canada invited us to be a part of their Tax Time Study in 2017. YLC conducted research with participants across the Yukon and NWT. This information later helped inform Canada's Federal Government policy in offering free tax filing via telephone for low income Canadians.

YLC attended the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada's conference on Financial Literacy in Montreal in November 2017. We were then asked to be guest speakers at the ABLE Financial Empowerment Conference in Vancouver in May 2018 to speak to our work offering Financial Literacy to rural, remote and First Nation communities across Yukon.

The Yukon Imagination Library

The Yukon Imagination Library (YIL) continues to provide quality literature to children across the Territory, and membership increases steadily both for long-time residents and newcomers to Yukon. Many titles have been added recently, including board books for infants and toddlers, books with Northern-specific content, and books authored by Canadians. Currently, one of the newest and most popular titles is written by Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield.

YLC staff continue to manage local YIL accounts and assist families that require help to engage in the program. As a result, families that face challenges or technological barriers are more likely to both sign-up for, and retain membership. The positive feedback we receive for this service is consistent and high.

In light of recent global concerns regarding private data, the Imagination Library has initiated tougher security and privacy settings. There have been no reported breaches of privacy or internal reasons for concern.

The Family Literacy Centre's own Imagination Library collection continues to grow as titles are added to the service. YIL stories are utilised in programs and story times, and frequently serve as inspiration for activities. As YIL books are often included in donations, YLC is able to provide them to daycares and other relevant organizations across Yukon, and to offer them to the general public via our Free Book Store.

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

- Handle with Care Certified
- FCAC Fin Lit Conference in Montreal
- ABLE Fin Lit conference in Vancouver
- Active Start workshop
- Yukon Childcare Conference Professional Development Workshop
- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Workshop at Francophone Centre



Our Partners, Supporters and Funders

Adaka Festival
Alayak Dog Mushing
Angelina's Toy Boutique
Arts in the Park
Association Franco-Yukonnaise
Augusto Haines Junction
Bambino's Bilingual Montessori Daycare
Bubbles Daycare Inc
Canada Games Centre
Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Carcross/Tagish First Nation Development Corporation
Carcross/Tagish First Nation CPNP
Carcross Commons with CTFN
Care-a-Lot Daycare
CBC Yukon
Champagne-Aishihik First Nation
Chickadees Preschool Intergenerational Programming at Macaulay Lodge
Child Development Centre
Chinook Bookkeeping
City of Whitehorse
Council of Yukon First Nations
Dollywood Foundation
Dunena Ko'honete Ko
Dusk'a Headstart and Family Learning Centre
Elijah Smith School Literacy Nights
Elks Lodge 306
Fireweed Market
Haa Yatx'l Hidi Early Childhood Development Centre
Ha Kus Teyea Early Learning and Childcare Centre

Healthy Families group event at PH Health and Social Services
Japanese Cultural Association of the Yukon
KDFN Healthy Families Healthy Generations
Kluane First Nation
Kluane First Nation Harvest Camp
Kwanlin Dun First Nation
Kwanlin Dun Health Centre
La Leche League Canada-Yukon
Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon
Learn with Joy Daycare
Les EssentiElles
Little Dreamers
Little Munchkins
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation
Love to Learn Daycare
MAC's Fireweed Books
Mayo Daycare
Miles Canyon Society
Moms of Multiples
Montessori Borealis Daycare
Moosehide Gathering
Tr'ondek Hwech'in
Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation
Nunavut Literacy Council
NWT Literacy Council
Parents of Premies
Partners For Children- Handle with Care
Partners Take a Break
Prenatal Nutrition Program

Rendezvous Society
Rotary Club of Whitehorse
RPAY Recreation Parks Assoc. Yukon
Skookum Jim Friendship Centre
Solstice Haiku
Sparks/Girl Guides of Canada
Sue Warner
Ta'an Kwach'an Council
TD Canada Trust
Tanya Handley
Teen Parent Centre Camp
Teslin Tlingit Brooks Brook Culture Camp
Teslin Tlingit Council
Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation
Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre
Victoria Faulkner Parent and Child Group
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
Well-Read Books
What's Up Yukon
Whitehorse CPNP
Whitehorse Public Library
Yukon College
Yukon Government Child Services
Yukon Government Department of Education
Yukon Health and Social Services
Yukon Homeschooling Association
Yukon Learn Society
Yukon News



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