



**National Indigenous Literacy Association**  
**2007 - 2008**  
**Annual Report**



## Table of Contents

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Executive Director's Message</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>National Speaker's Message</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>NILA Highlights</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>A Brief History of NILA</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Financials</b>	<b>Page 12</b>





## President's Message

### Rhonda McCorrison

Blaine Lee, a world-class leadership development trainer, said, *“What we actually learn from any given set of circumstances, determines whether we become increasingly powerless or more powerful.”*

This, for NILA, has been a year of gaining strength. After a time of building internal capacity, and a strong board, NILA is poised to advance Aboriginal literacy.

Incorporated in 2003, NILA got its wings at the first ever National Aboriginal Literacy Gathering in 2000. Since that time, NILA has made consistent efforts to develop a national network of Aboriginal literacy practitioners, learners and allies.

Our vision is immense, but we believe we have created the team and the board to carry it forward. This year, we have worked toward building a strategy to raise awareness of Aboriginal literacy issues, from discussions with Nunavut College in Arviat, NU to participating in several national research initiatives and discussions. In all of these events, we met with practitioners, learners, politicians, best practice program boards, and international literacy agents.

Our goal to build a network to support strategic approaches to Aboriginal literacy is coming to fruition as NILA becomes more active in supporting programs and isolated practitioners, particularly through addressing a curriculum resource-limited field. We have created new partnerships, and are looking forward to providing a new professional development opportunity in the near future. We also correspond regularly with the other national literacy organizations, and explore best practices.

NILA's web-site is up and running ([www.nila.ca](http://www.nila.ca)), and we are looking forward to feedback as well as participation. If your network has resources, research, or other news postings, NILA will host these on our web-site.

As a national agency, NILA has come a long way this year! We will only get stronger through our relationships built by bringing practical assistance and services supporting Aboriginal literacy development in communities.

Just wait until next year!

Rhonda McCorrison



## Executive Director's Message

### Doug Bartlett

Many Aboriginal people do not read and write well enough to meet the demands of today's society. However, Canada's Indigenous people carry a rainbow of other strengths and gifts that need to be more widely recognized. The challenge is that literacy barriers (In the official languages of this country, English and French) stand in the way of their getting and keeping good jobs and giving their children the head start they need to succeed.

These barriers impact not only poverty and health, but illiteracy and lack of numeracy skills also create obstacles to participation in society. No longer can literacy remain low in priority for governments, communities, families, or individuals. Lack of literacy affects all of us.

It has been a privilege to meet new partners and friends across the nation this year. Our work focused mainly on the development of a website to provide relevant and respectful content for learners and practitioners.

NILA moved its office and began setting long-term goals. Funding gaps strained the ability of NILA to reach across Canada but new organizational and individual friends and allies have made our year of reflection and development promising.

NILA board and staff look forward to an exciting new year where we hope to work with provincial, regional, national, and local groups and organizations to work together to ensure that every Aboriginal adult can access learning opportunities, to create synergies with groups and individuals to development a strong movement of people who are interested in Aboriginal adult education through information exchange and sharing best practices.

NILA's support includes the NILA website, a research resource centre, and links to information about Aboriginal literacy and adult education programs and services; professional development opportunities for instructors and tutors (Aboriginal and those who work in the Aboriginal community); a database of literacy programs and services; support to Aboriginal literacy organizations; a forum for Aboriginal adult learners, and access to events and programs to inform the public and policy makers about Aboriginal literacy issues.

The next year will build on the strong foundation we have solidified this year and promises great opportunities as we move forward! Please join us on our website. We look forward to working together to eradicate illiteracy in our communities in the future!

Doug Bartlett



## National Speaker's Message

This past year has been full of events - some challenging and some exciting. With foresight and careful financial planning, NILA was able to narrowly avert a funding gap. I believe it's a statement of the commitment of staff that they were able to stay focused on their work in the face of other projects closing their doors.

Some of our partnership activities made it possible for NILA to be involved in national initiatives. In November 2007, I facilitated a workshop with Program Officers through Correctional Service of Canada at the Joyceville Institution in Kingston on various approaches to literacy with Aboriginal inmates.

NILA provided input from Aboriginal literacy practitioners who were part of national projects to inform a research project through Literacy B.C., "Focused on Practice: A Framework for Adult Literacy Research in Canada." The final report is at [http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/focused\\_on\\_practice/focused\\_on\\_practice.pdf](http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/focused_on_practice/focused_on_practice.pdf)

I was part of a research project through Literacy Alberta - "Integrating Research in Practice: A Practitioner Model." A group of eleven practitioner-researchers from British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario looked at the impacts of violence and trauma on learning. We met as a group several times to establish an understanding of the work, and then we each did our own individual projects. Mine was 'How Spirit, Heart, Mind and Body are Being Recognized in Literacy Programming.' For more information on this project and other research, go to <http://www.learningandviolence.net/>

A partnership with the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre (ABLKC) required both a listing of resources pertinent to Aboriginal literacy, and literature review that helped NILA to identify gaps in the areas of working with youth and Elders/seniors.

The ABLKC partnership resulted in my representing them at Literacy B.C.'s 2007 Summer Institute at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, July 2007, where I was able to network with the other Knowledge Centres, and make connections with literacy practitioners and learners, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. It was through this speaking engagement that NILA recruited Steve Mattice of Williams Lake, B.C., as a learner representative. Steve is a shining example of using strength and determination to overcome seemingly formidable odds. It was at this institute that NILA became aware of the B.C. Association of Friendship Centre Family Literacy Initiative, and began discussions on working together. To learn more about this, go to <http://www.bcaafc.com/content/view/24/273/>

The ABLKC contracted me to do a literature review, "Nourishing the Learning Spirit in Aboriginal Literacy Programming." One of the ABLKC's co-leads, Marie Battiste, and I did a joint presentation on this at the ABLKC's second annual conference, "Seeing Ourselves in the Mirror: Giving Life to Learning" in Vancouver, February 2008. For more



information on this event, go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeCentres/AboriginalLearning/KCEvent/KCEvent/InformationNationalConference2008.htm>

I also spoke at the “Rekindling the Learning Spirit” conference, in Saskatoon, March 2008, a joint initiative of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre and the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre.

NILA was part of the planning for the February 2008 “Reaching for the Tipping Point in Literacy” roundtable discussion in Ottawa, a joint venture between the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre in concert with the Work and Learning Knowledge Centre. To learn more about this, to go [http://www.ccl-cca.ca/NR/rdonlyres/4CD6F35B-2FC8-49DD-BFFC-5F06BD0405B3/0/ExeSum\\_TippingPoint\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/NR/rdonlyres/4CD6F35B-2FC8-49DD-BFFC-5F06BD0405B3/0/ExeSum_TippingPoint_ENG.pdf)

In terms of workplace/workforce literacy, I wrote a booklet for Ningwakwe Learning Press entitled, “Winning in Your Workplace for Aboriginal Workers.” This involved identifying themes from interviews with: Aboriginal learners on the path to the workforce/workplace, employers of Aboriginal peoples and an Essential Skills trainer. For information on how to purchase this resource, go to <http://www.ningwakwe.on.ca/cat.pdf>

I’ve had the privilege of serving as the Vice-President of the National Aboriginal Literacy Foundation (NALF). The NALF is a national network of people with an interest in raising awareness of Aboriginal literacy issues while generating revenues to supporting under-resourced Aboriginal literacy initiatives across the country.

In addition, I sit as the Aboriginal representative on the board of Curriculum Services Canada (CSC). CSC is ‘the Pan-Canadian standards agency for quality assurance in learning products and programs.’ For more information on CSC, go to <http://www.curriculum.org/>

The most promising partnership in terms of impact/or and sustainability is with ArrowMight Canada, where I am a part of a Canadian team working with a group of educators from Cuba on developing literacy programming for delivery via DVD. This curriculum is based on the Yo Si Puedo model for which Cuba has been awarded the King Sejong Literacy Prize “for its contribution to improving the education level in the world.”

Keep your eyes on the NILA website for updates on each of these partnerships.

Ningwakwe (Priscilla George)



## NILA Highlights for the year April 1, 2007 - March 31 2008

### Spring

In February 2007, the launch of the new NILA website brought much excitement to our board and staff. Being state of the art, easy to navigate and aesthetically pleasing to the eye made this the cornerstone for the communications strategy.



### Summer

We were pleased to have the honorable Vic Toews MP, President of the Treasury Board of Canada, here on Thursday July 26th, 2007 to present us with our latest funding. He enjoyed a website demonstration and a gift from NILA.



### Fall

NILA began negotiations for core funding with new federal government (OLES).

This would prove to be a fruitful venture for NILA.



### Winter

We moved to our new location at 678 Main Street in Winnipeg. This new office space would give us the opportunity to grow while still being in the heart of the city.





## A brief history of NILA

In April 2000, the NADC (National Aboriginal Design Committee) coordinated the National Aboriginal Literacy Gathering in Morley, Alberta. This event increased awareness on a national level of Aboriginal perspectives on literacy, confirmed the need for a strong network, and provided key links with numerous national and international literacy stakeholders and potential partners.

The NADC was given the direction by NALG participants to establish a national network; therefore, the NADC prepared a Position Paper on Aboriginal Literacy, and presented it to Senator Thelma Chalifoux, Chair, Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, in 2002.

Within the document (<http://www.nald.ca/fulltext/position/position.pdf>) were the themes that emerged from a number of documents and initiatives on Aboriginal literacy. These became the guiding principles for the proposed national network.

This network became a reality when the National Indigenous Literacy Association received its letters patent as a national non-profit corporation in 2003.





## Mission Statement

The National Indigenous Literacy Association (NILA) serves as the eyes, ears and voice of Aboriginal literacy in Canada, and reflects the spirit and values of Aboriginal peoples and nations in all of its work.

NILA recognizes the need for literacy by listening to the concerns and experiences of those literacy programs and service providers that work directly with the grassroots community, by conducting research and by considering national statistics.

NILA will respond by becoming an organization that will provide networking and support for Aboriginal literacy practitioners, acknowledgement of distinct approaches to literacy, and by advocating the preservation of indigenous languages and cultures.

## Mandate

- ✦ Undertaking research to develop distinct Indigenous approaches to literacy training and disseminating the results of research;
- ✦ Working with Aboriginal Education Institutions, Federal and Provincial governments and other stakeholders to develop, coordinate and deliver services to providers of literacy training and learners;
- ✦ Establishing a Centre of Excellence in the provision of services for Indigenous literacy development, research, partnerships, training and networking; and
- ✦ Undertaking activities that are ancillary and incidental to these objects.



One of our Successes this Year: Please check out the website.

**FOUR DIRECTIONS TEACHINGS.com**

FourDirectionsTeachings.com is a visually stunning audio narrated resource for learning about Indigenous knowledge and philosophy from five diverse First Nations in Canada.

FourDirectionsTeachings.com est un ensemble visuellement saisissant de ressources avec narration audio permettant de découvrir les connaissances et les philosophies de cinq Premières nations canadiennes distinctes.

Flash Version - English

Version Flash - Français

HTML Version - English

Version HTML - Français

Subtitles Version - English

Sous-titre - Français

About Four Directions

This site was made possible through the Canadian Culture Online Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Produced by:



National Indigenous Literacy Association

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*it's the angle*

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canadien

**Canada**



## Financials

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# NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LITERACY ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 2008

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**HAUGEN MORRISH ANGERS**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of  
National Indigenous Literacy Association

We have audited the statement of financial position of National Indigenous Literacy Association as at March 31, 2008 and the statements of revenue and expenditures, changes in fund balances, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the National Indigenous Literacy Association's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Indigenous Literacy Association as at March 31, 2008 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
September 19, 2008



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# NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LITERACY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT 1

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MARCH 31

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund	2008	TOTAL 2007
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash	\$ 3,029	\$ -	\$ 3,029	\$ 61,446
Accounts receivable	665	-	665	4,469
Prepaid expenses	3,694	-	3,694	9,213
				75,128
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,958</u>	<u>30,958</u>	<u>6,247</u>
	<u>\$ 3,694</u>	<u>\$ 30,958</u>	<u>\$ 34,652</u>	<u>\$ 81,375</u>

## LIABILITIES

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Bank indebtedness	\$ 17,016	\$ -	\$ 17,016	\$ -
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	11,520	-	11,520	8,845
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	-	-	-	71,647
	<u>28,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,536</u>	<u>80,492</u>

## FUND BALANCES

<b>FUND BALANCES (Statement 2)</b>	<u>( 24,842)</u>	<u>30,958</u>	<u>6,116</u>	<u>883</u>
	<u>\$ 3,694</u>	<u>\$ 30,958</u>	<u>\$ 34,652</u>	<u>\$ 81,375</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board

.....  
Director **JOHN WEBSTER**

.....  
Director **George**



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## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LITERACY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT 2

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

MARCH 31

	2008	2007
<b>OPERATING FUND</b>		
BALANCE, <i>beginning of year</i>	\$( 5,364)	\$( 5,364)
Excess of expenditures over revenue ( <i>Statement 3</i> )	<u>( 19,478)</u>	<u>-</u>
BALANCE, <i>end of year</i>	\$( <u>24,842</u> )	\$( <u>5,364</u> )
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>		
BALANCE, <i>beginning of year</i>	\$ 6,247	\$ 5,364
Acquisition of capital assets	31,417	2,450
Amortization of capital assets	( 2,016)	( 1,567)
Loss from disposal of capital assets	<u>( 4,690)</u>	<u>-</u>
BALANCE, <i>end of year</i>	\$ <u>30,958</u>	\$ <u>6,247</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ <u>6,116</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>883</u></b>



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## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LITERACY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT 3

### SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

MARCH 31

	2008	2007
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	\$ 274,997	\$ 250,060
Literacy BC		3,000
Other revenue	<u>2,098</u>	<u>3,557</u>
	<b>277,095</b>	<b>256,617</b>
Deferred revenue from prior year	<u>71,647</u>	59,404
Deferred revenue current year	<u>-</u>	<u>( 71,647)</u>
	<b><u>348,742</u></b>	<b><u>244,374</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Administration	<b>48,522</b>	42,794
Capital expenditures	<b>31,417</b>	2,450
Consultants	<b>6,750</b>	12,884
Materials and supplies	<b>4,917</b>	5,353
Publicity	<b>16,472</b>	18,856
Salaries, wages and benefits	<b>222,853</b>	139,811
Travel	<u><b>37,289</b></u>	<u>22,226</u>
	<b><u>368,220</u></b>	<b><u>244,374</u></b>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUE	<b><u>\$( 19,478)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ -</u></b>



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## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LITERACY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT 4

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

MARCH 31

	2008	2007
<b>OPERATING FUND</b>		
CASH FLOWS FROM:		
<i>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</i>		
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada Literacy B.C.	\$ 274,997	\$ 250,060
Other revenue received	2,098	3,000
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	( 324,140)	( 238,756)
	( 47,045)	17,861
<i>INVESTING ACTIVITY</i>		
Acquisition of capital assets	( 31,417)	( 2,450)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH DURING THE YEAR	( 78,462)	15,411
CASH, <i>beginning of year</i>	<u>61,446</u>	<u>46,035</u>
CASH, <i>end of year</i>	<u>\$ ( 17,016)</u>	<u>\$ 61,446</u>



# NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LITERACY ASSOCIATION

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2008

### 1. ORGANIZATION

National Indigenous Literacy Association was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization under the Canada Business Act on February 11, 2003. The objectives of the organization are to raise awareness of Aboriginal Literacy issues, provide a network to support strategic approaches to Aboriginal Literacy, attract new partners in Aboriginal Literacy, and provide practical assistance and services supporting Aboriginal Literacy development to communities.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and include the following significant accounting policies:

#### *REVENUE RECOGNITION*

National Indigenous Literacy Association recognizes revenue as it becomes receivable under the terms of applicable funding agreements. Funding received under the funding arrangements which relates to subsequent periods is recorded as deferred revenue in the year of receipt.

#### *USE OF ESTIMATES*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the year in which they become known.

#### *FUND ACCOUNTING*

National Indigenous Literacy Association uses fund accounting procedures which result in a self-balancing set of accounts for each fund established by legal, contractual or voluntary actions. The funds maintained include:

Operating Fund: reports the general activities of the Association

Capital Fund: reports the capital assets of the Association, together with related financing.

#### *CAPITAL ASSETS*

Capital assets acquired are stated at cost and recorded in the Capital Fund. Amortization of the capital assets is recorded on a straight line basis at the following rates:

Computer equipment	20%
Office furniture and equipment	20%
Leasehold improvements	10%

#### *FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS*

The financial instruments of National Indigenous Literacy Association consist of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximates their carrying values.



## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LITERACY ASSOCIATION

PAGE 2

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2008

#### 3. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	
			2008	2007
Computer equipment	\$ 16,322	\$ 1,200	\$ 13,240	\$ 3,484
Office furniture and equipment	17,318	1,483	17,718	1,557
Leasehold improvements	-	-	-	1,206
	<u>\$ 33,640</u>	<u>\$ 2,683</u>	<u>\$ 30,958</u>	<u>\$ 6,247</u>

#### 4. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2008	2007
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	\$ -	\$ 71,647

#### 5. LEASE COMMITMENT

The Association leases premises under a long term lease that expires on December 31, 2013. Under the lease the Association is required to pay rent of \$43,793 including utilities and property taxes. Future minimum lease payments as at March 31 2008, are as follows:

2009	\$ 43,793
2010	43,793
2011	43,793
2012	43,793
2013	<u>32,845</u>
	<u>\$ 208,017</u>

#### 6. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

National Indigenous Literacy Association receives a major portion of its revenues pursuant to a funding arrangement with Human Resources and Social Development of Canada.