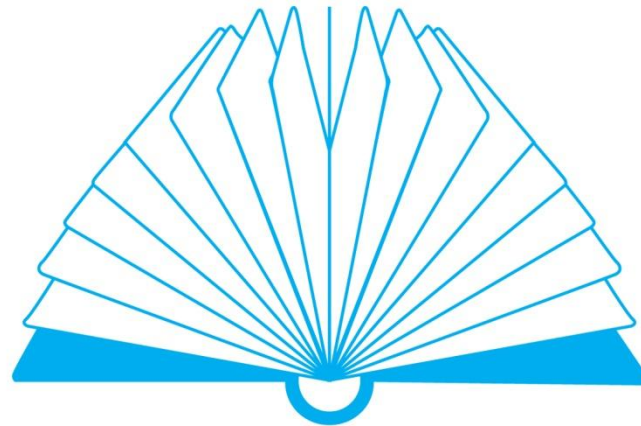


# Community Development



**NWT Literacy Council**



# What is community development?



- Community Development is when community members come together to take action and come up with solutions to common problems.
- The most important outcome of community development is improved quality of life.

# How does community development work?



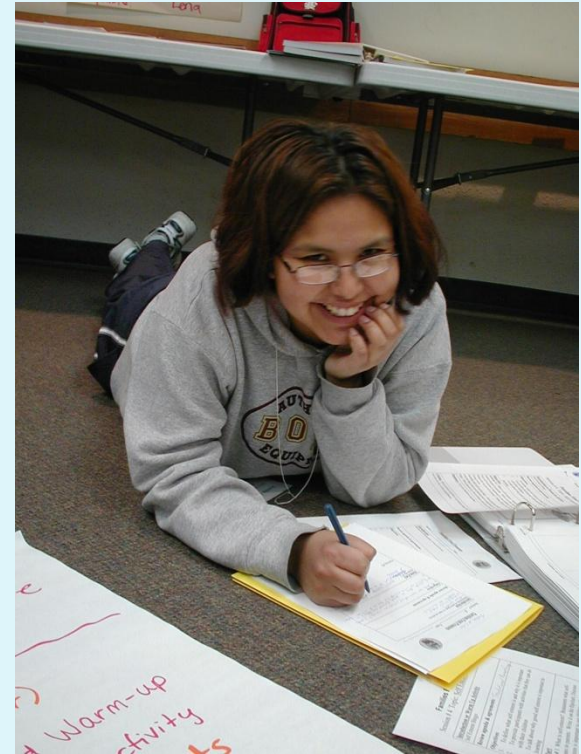
When community members:

- Organize and plan together.
- Develop healthy options.
- Empower themselves.
- Create employment & economic opportunities.
- Work towards social equity, economic development.
- Work towards a healthy community.

# What is capacity building?



- Capacity Building helps communities gain skills and knowledge so they can improve the quality of life for people in their community.
- Community development helps to build capacity in communities by addressing issues and taking advantage of opportunities for training and change at the community level.



# How has the NWT Literacy Council promoted community development?



Community development is our main goal. We want organizations, communities, and community members to be empowered to develop, deliver and manage their own literacy programs.

In 2001 we initiated Tools for Community Building, a 3 day workshop to help communities plan for literacy in their community.

# Tools for Community Building



- Day 1: Literacy in Your Community
  - What is literacy?
  - What is family literacy?
  - Literacy issues in your community.
  - Examples of literacy and family literacy programs.
- Day 2: Program Planning
  - 7 steps to planning.
  - What issues would the community like to address.
  - Develop a project.
- Day 3 : Proposal Writing
  - Write a proposal for a project



# What were the results?



Initially we delivered the Tools workshop in 4 communities. 2 of these communities were funded for a family literacy coordinator position. Nine years later they still have a family literacy coordinator position in the community.

We have since delivered this workshop to over 12 communities. The results vary. Some communities have started small family literacy projects and others have developed adult literacy initiatives.



# How do we support communities?



- Family literacy training institutes (5 day training)
- Onsite training (travel to communities to support projects)
- Free books
- Funding for family literacy projects
- Develop family literacy and adult literacy resources
- Access to resources on website





# Why was this project so successful?



- **Community driven** – community members come together to develop a project that meets the needs of their community.
- **Work with local people** – projects are developed and delivered by local people.
- **Training** – people are given the training that they need to be successful (training in their community and outside their community)
- **Ongoing support** – access to ongoing support through phone, onsite visits, email and website

# Free Books, Training, Family Literacy

