



Yukon Literacy Coalition

2010-2011 Annual Report

The Yukon Literacy Coalition is a Yukon-wide literacy organization that is community governed and committed to supporting and encouraging literacy and essential skills in all the languages of the Yukon. We adhere to the founding belief that individuals and communities know their challenges, know their resources and should be supported in meeting their literacy goals.

The YLC will achieve these objectives through:

- Family/Community Literacy Initiatives
- Workplace/Workforce Literacy and Essential Skills Promotion
- Practitioner Training
- Information Sharing and Communications
- Resource Development
- Research
- Essential Skills Training

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President's Report

As the President of the YLC Board, it has been my privilege and pleasure to continue to work with my fellow board members, the staff, the learners and all of our partners to move the Literacy and Essential Skills agenda ahead in the Yukon and across Canada.

I would like to thank our Executive Director Beth Mulloy for her excellent work; the Yukon Literacy Coalition continues to thrive under her management. I would also like to thank all of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

The Yukon Literacy Coalition is a wonderful agency that continues to evolve and grow. We would be nothing without our major funders, the Government of Yukon and the Federal Office of Learning and Essential Skills (OLES) and without our many partners and supporters including Whitehorse Rendezvous Rotary Club, Yukon Learn, LDAY, City of Whitehorse and so many others. Thank you all so much.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the President of the Yukon Literacy Coalition in 2010/ 2011.

Dawn Marino
President
Yukon Literacy Coalition

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dawn Marino (*President*) - Pelly and Carmacks

Birgit Martens (*Vice-President*) - Teslin

Tanya Duchaine (*Secretary/Treasurer*) - Ross River and Faro

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Elian Steffen (*Director*) - Whitehorse, Francophone

Adam Schellenberg (*Director*) - Whitehorse

Gloria Johnson (*Director*) - Burwash Landing and Haines Junction





Executive Director's Report

2010- 2011 has been another exciting year for the Yukon Literacy Coalition (YLC). We continue to be well supported by the Office of Learning and Essential Skills and have been working closely both with them and our many other partners.

This year we shook things up in the office. Evelyn Thorogood retired as Communications Officer and now works on a variety of contracts from her Vancouver office and with us here in Whitehorse. Moira moved into the Communications Officer position and we welcomed Jeanine O'Connell as our new Office Manager.

Some highlights this year included receiving funding from OLES to undertake a Yukon- wide LES Workplace/Workforce research project. Moira began a film project on LES in the Yukon. She and Jeanine travelled to Dawson City and filmed people sharing their thoughts about Literacy and Essential Skills. Beth travelled to Yellowknife to meet with our partners from the NWT Literacy Council and the Nunavut Literacy Council to further plan the Pan Northern Gathering that will be held in Yellowknife in April, 2012. Sierra Van der Meer is helping the YLC develop a strategic plan and will be presenting a first draft to the Board of Directors in October, 2011. Evelyn is developing a Learners Circle project in partnership with Yukon College and CYFN; she expects the project will be in full swing by the fall of 2011. This is a pilot supported by Yukon Government and will shape further YLC LES projects.



Our Family Literacy Center continues to grow and build momentum. Many Yukon individuals and agencies continue with their commitment to the center by sitting on the advisory committee and/or donating time and resources to the center. After a summer visiting every Yukon community presenting workshops, story-telling and magic shows we said good- bye to Allen Murray the center Director and hello to Christine Spinder who took on the role of Director. Brendan Wiklund joined us as program coordinator and Colleen Segriff as a Community Outreach Worker. They were all extremely busy over the winter with programming, partnership building and looking for ways to keep the center running. Our NST funding for the Family Literacy Center will end in October 2011.

The board and staff of the Yukon Literacy Coalition are continuing to work hard to develop Workplace/Workforce LES initiatives and partnerships and to retain and further develop our commitment work in the areas of family and community literacy.

We are enjoying our growing partnerships with our colleagues and supporters in the Yukon and in NWT and Nunavut.

Many thanks to all of you who make our work possible.

Beth Mulloy
Executive Director,
Yukon Literacy Coalition



Beth Mulloy, Christine Spinder, Jill Pitt, Colleen Segriff
Moira Sauer, Jeanine O'Connell, Brendan Wicklund



Message from the Director, The Family Literacy Centre

This first year with the Family Literacy Centre has been amazing.

Yukoners said, 'Yes. This works for us. This works for our community.' 'Yes' is what we heard over and over again, as the Family Literacy Centre gathered momentum and reached out. We've learnt a lot.

At the Family LC we know that people develop incredible skills to cope in today's world if they cannot read and write. They develop diverse and strong people relationships, complex memory skills, and are resourceful and resilient to build a life without using written communication/ information. Sometimes learning differences mean that people are instead highly visual, or mechanically inclined, or musical, or have deep networking skills.

Our aim is to bring these abilities together with the skill set of literacy.



Home is our base for learning. We learn best by exchanging in relationships of trust, and these start in the family. Family Literacy programs support both children's and parents' literacy development. For parents and caregivers, whether they are aunts and uncles, grandparents or cousins, Family Literacy Programs build up confidence and a range of literacy skills. With confidence, positive learning experience and curiosity sparked, families then have the tools for stepping into deeper levels of literacy.



Family Literacy
Day, 2011 at
the Canada
Games Centre

Research shows that we learn most deeply when we play. Even the act of ‘playing school’ or ‘playing astronauts’ or ‘playing hunting’ makes us all into teachers, teaching each other. Play lets us explore without risk, and opens us to new stories about what we can or cannot do. It becomes theatre and storytelling. In Yukon First Nations and in traditions around the world, stories teach us language development and working with others, they teach us how to collect information and make decisions, and how, where and what we express.

So at the Yukon Family Literacy Centre we learn through play, story and creativity, sparking curiosity and concrete action to let the learning go deep.

The Family Literacy Centre had an amazing year. We are grateful to Allen Murray, our programming partners, our advisory group, and all our participants for stepping into the Centre. This Autumn 2011 our initial NST funding will end; we are looking into options and hoping that the Family Literacy Centre continues as long as Yukoners keep saying, “Yes.”

Christine Spinder
Director, Family Literacy Centre

Family Literacy Centre Programs

Spring ArtWord Workshops

Over 9 Spring Saturdays, the FLC piloted a series of ArtWord Workshops led by Stephanie Parker, with kids aged 8-13 making Hero Mobiles, Peace Banners, and On the Land Block Print Posters. Enabling the Centre to be open on Saturdays, the series showed that there is huge interest in in-depth creative approaches to literacy development.



Saturday workshops

Youth Night

Journal Making, Collage, Animation, Theatre Improv and Media Literacy engaged teens on Friday nights starting in January 2011, in collaboration with the Canada Games Centre Youth program. As teens got to know the Centre and the staff, they opened up with their stories and questions about learning.

Tales to be Told: New Horizons Seniors Storytelling

For 14 weeks 15 Whitehorse seniors got together to practice the art of storytelling. Facilitators Celia McBride, Steve Slade, Sharon Shorty and Bernard Walsh coached participants on creating story narrative, expression and performance, using writing and daily practice as guides. A new Whitehorse storytelling circle has been seeded. Funded by New Horizons Canada.

Principles and Practice Introductory Train the Trainer Workshop

12 early childhood and College educators from 7 communities came for a 2-day workshop that introduced principles of community-based family literacy, fundamental skills for reading and writing, learning disabilities, adult training, and how to initiate family literacy programs in their communities. Demand was more than we could supply; participants were keen for next steps and more programs. Many thanks to the Department of Education for funding this pilot.

Family Literacy Centre First Anniversary: Family Literacy Day January 27, 2011

Over 460 children, educators, community representatives and parents came to Play with Literacy and help us celebrate the FLC's first birthday. LDAY, Yukon Learn, Whitehorse Library, Whitehorse Boys and Girls Club, Yukon Council on Disabilities, and the Yukon Council of Occupational Therapists helped us host card printing, book making, obstacle courses, media literacy, word puzzles, and storytelling. "That was the best day ever!" told us again that learning through play works.

Health and Social Services
Minister Glenn Hart confirmed,
"Literacy affects us all. We all
need to be involved."



Family Literacy
Day learning
fun



Kwanlin Dun Partnership

The Parents and Preschoolers Book Club (formerly: Bond to Literacy and Our Steps) at Kwanlin Dun began in February under the direction of Colleen Segriff, with programming continuing into next year. The book club is integrated into the existing daycare program. Focused on 3 - 5 year olds, the children participate with their families and have an opportunity for weekly fun and learning. Each week, every child takes part in story and craft time. The goal is to have other family members along with the children. Regardless of parental participation, each family takes home a book with the hope that extension activities will continue in the home. Participants thus far have expressed great love for this program - not only does it benefit the children and families who participate, but it has inspired the daycare staff in their daily programming. The 20 weeks of activities will be available to other communities that are interested in building their family literacy programming.



Bringing literacy into the family

Learning Circles – Linking Essential Skills to Life pilot project

The pilot *Learning Circles – Linking Essential Skills to Life* project will be held at Whitehorse Correctional Centre Oct.-Nov. 2011. There will be six participants and nine sessions. The Learning Circle project was created to help people improve one of the nine essential skills through a project of their own choice and through the creation of a small community of support and change.

The main goal of the project is to help people find, keep and/or advance at work; however, we know that healthy family and community lives also contribute to success at work. Partners in the project are the Council of Yukon First Nations and Yukon College Whitehorse Corrections Campus. The project is funded by Yukon Government Labour Market Community Development Trust fund.

The *Learning Circles – Linking Essential Skills to Life Pilot Project* is a project-based self-directed learning project. Participants will make a choice to participate; they will have an opportunity to learn about the 9 Literacy and Essential Skills (LES); they will choose one LES to focus on for their lives; and they will be encouraged to support and celebrate each other's learning projects.

Literacy and Essential Skills (LES)

The Yukon Literacy Coalition has taken a slightly different approach in bringing LES to the communities and Whitehorse. The Coalition is visiting each of the 14 communities, as well as areas in Whitehorse, and interviewing anyone who is willing to participate. Age ranges from pre-schoolers to elders. The participants are asked to share their thoughts on what they feel are the essential skills they have used to have a successful and fulfilling life within their community.

Many are willing and eager to have a discussion about it. Fewer are willing to be recorded on the video, but everyone who takes part is then introduced to the 9 LES and how they can fit into our lives.

The end result will be a series of 5 minute videos representing each of the communities. The words and thoughts of the people, along with the images of their villages and surroundings, will present a clear and honest picture of each unique place throughout the Yukon Territory. In this way, a collection of thoughts and beliefs from each Community will be archived and we will have offered many people a one-on-one introduction to the 9 LES.

The nine literacy and essential skills are:
reading,
numeracy,
computer use,
continuous learning,
writing,
thinking skills,
document use,
working with others
and oral communication.

CAP

The Yukon Literacy Coalition created a project in conjunction with local consultants Outside the Cube and through funding from the Community Access Program (Special Project), part of the Economic Development Department of the Yukon Government. The Coalition will be linking their series of Literacy and Essential Skills (LES) videos with an interactive computer based workshop throughout the communities. The goal behind this project is to allow access with hands-on and friendly introductions to the world of technology for those who have not yet been given the opportunity. The agreement was extended in order to work in combination with the LES touring and has thus far met with good reception.

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Framework

The Yukon Literacy Coalition has been actively involved in the Community Advisory Steering Committee in working with the Yukon Governmental process of creating a social inclusion framework for the Yukon Territory. Along with numerous other community front-line groups, the Coalition has worked diligently to help create an initial set of goals and objectives for the government to use in implementing changes and filling needs specific to the Territory. The process in itself is a new and challenging one, with many speed bumps and unknowns. However, the work is essential to a healthier and stronger community and the Coalition is proud to be a part of it. We look forward to seeing great outcomes over the coming years.



Telling tales at
Arts in the Park

Partnerships

The Yukon Literacy Coalition is working closely with representatives from Yukon College, Yukon Learn, Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon and the Government of Yukon to address Yukon literacy concerns, challenges and opportunities. We have met several times and have discussed ways to work together on effective strategies that involve individuals, community organizations, employers, industry, government and families to support the development of literacy and essential skills in everyday life. As well as discussing new projects and ideas the group has examined the Yukon Literacy strategy developed by the Yukon Government in 2001 and is hopeful that resources will be made available for both its renewal and implementation.

Our goal is to work with all of our literacy partners to ensure the development of LES in the Yukon.



Great tunes at the Family Literacy Centre

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

The Imagination Library's success continues to grow throughout the Yukon Territory. This year was an opportunity to focus on the needs of future funds in order to continue administering and offering the program throughout the Territory. At the current rate of registration, the present money allocated for Dolly will last for about one year. Registration is open for every Yukon child during their first year of age. Once registered, they receive one book a month mailed to their home for the first five years of their life, for a total library of 60 books. Response from children and parents for this program has been outstanding!



Our Partners, Supporters and Funders

ABC Life Literacy Canada
A-1 Moving
Adam Schellenberg
Andrea Shillolo
Anilee Ault Interiors
Association Franco-Yukonnaise
Barbara A. Nimco & Associates
Canada Flooring Enterprises
Bottom Line Bookkeeping
Canada Games Centre
Canada Games Centre Staff
Canadian Literacy and Learning Network
Canadian Tire
CBC Yukon
Cecile Gerard
Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives
CHON fm Native Broadcasting Association
Cinderwood Kitchens Ltd.
City of Whitehorse
Council of Yukon First Nations
Diana Mulloy
Dollywood Foundation
Evelyn and Larry Thorogood
First Nations Bank of Canada
Glen Mills
Grey Fox Karaoke
Home Hardware Building Centre
Hometown Vacuum
Horwoods Mall
Invest in Kids
Jenny Trapnell
Kate Swales
Ken Mulloy
Kobayashi & Zedda Architects
Kwanlin Dun
Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon
Lusia Stetkiewicz
M & K Transfer Ltd.
Many Rivers
McKay and Associates
Montessori Borealis Preschool
National Adult Literacy Database
Nellie Dale
Northwestel Inc.
Northwest Territories Literacy Coalition
Nunavut Literacy Council
Outside the Cube
Partners for Children
Rendezvous Rotary Club of Whitehorse
Ria Tromp
Robert Fendrick
SOFA Yukon
Steve Slade
Strongside Construction
TD Canada Trust
Tanya Handley
Teslin Tlingit Council
Whitehorse Lions Club
Yukon College
Yukon Government Canada/ Yukon Northern Strategy Trust Fund 2009
Yukon Government Department of Education
Yukon Learn Society
Yukon News
Yukon Surface Rights Board

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Please visit <http://www.yukonliteracy.ca/about.htm> for our year-end financial statements.



Yukon Literacy Coalition

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