

Update for Library Meeting

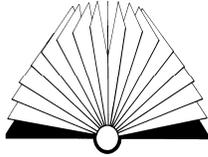
- Nunavut Literacy Week was very successful. We had 7,855 people participate. Nunavut won the Read for 15 Territorial Challenge (see press release attached).
- Cayla and Quluaq are delivering a Storysacks workshop to Community Therapy Assistant students November 4th in Iqaluit. Participants will also be given copies of all of our family literacy resources.
- The NLC has just started a project to pilot a literacy development initiative in one of Nunavut's non-decentralized communities. This project will also be a research project; monitored from start to finish by external evaluators who will look at the impact and outcomes of working intensely with a community as a whole. The project includes:
 - Choosing one decentralized community from applications that we have received;
 - Hiring a local Inuit beneficiary who will act as the local literacy coordinator (LLC);
 - Mentoring and training the LLC who will work closely with representatives from various community groups, organizations, and agencies to provide them with the training and resources they need to address literacy issues within their own organizations and programs. The NLC will co-facilitate the workshops and training to build the LLC's skills and to build community capacity. We will provide training in best practice for high quality family literacy programs. We will also provide training in project planning, building community/partnerships, proposal writing, project management, and evaluation, and we will provide on-going advice and access to resources.

Should the results be as positive as we hope them to be, we will use this as a case for increased investment in this type of community capacity building approach.

- We continue to analyze the research gathered on Inuit language acquisition and we will be holding a policy roundtable to discuss the results in January. (I have attached a summary of the project)
- We are revamping our Tools for Community Building manual and have a complementary website at www.toolsforcommunitybuilding.ca.
- The 2009 PGI will be held in Pond Inlet from April 29th to May 1st.
- This year all of the nominees for board of directors were acclaimed. The results of the elections are as follows:
 - Sandy Kusugak, President
 - Rhoda Ungalaq, Vice President/Secretary

- Elizabeth Lyall, Kitikmeot East Representative (Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk)
- Sharon Qiyuq, Kivalliq Representative (Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Whale Cove)
- Lizzie Alikatuqtuq, South Baffin Representative (Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Sanikiluaq)

The NLC will be holding it's Annual General Meeting on December 6th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. MST. The meeting will take place at the NWT Literacy Council offices at 5122 - 48th Street. Everyone is welcome.



NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Nunavut regains title in 2008 Read for 15 Challenge

Yellowknife/Cambridge Bay (October 17, 2008) – Nunavut regained the Read for 15 Challenge title, out-reading the Northwest Territories by 4%.

Nunavut had a participation rate of 27 per cent in the Read for 15 Challenge held on Tuesday, September 30th as part of NWT and Nunavut Literacy Week. The NWT came in closely behind with a participation rate of 23 per cent.

A total of 7,855 Nunavummiut out of a total population of 29,475 participated in this year's challenge. In the NWT, 9,742 people out of the NWT's population of approximately 43,000 read for 15 minutes.

Kim Crockatt, Executive Director of the Nunavut Literacy Council, was pleased to hear that Nunavut had regained the Read for 15 Challenge title. "We were concerned that the Federal and Territorial elections would overshadow Literacy Week events and the Read for 15 Challenge. It's rewarding to see that so many people understand the literacy challenges we face in Canada and care about the issue enough to participate in these events."

NWT Literacy Council Executive Director Mandie Abrams says she's proud of the level of participation in the NWT. "Almost ten thousand people, a quarter of the population of the NWT, participated this year. Win or lose, that is a success any way you look at it."

This year, The Read for 15 Challenge had some exciting elements to it. The Workers Safety and Compensation Commission held an internal challenge. Employees from the NWT challenged Nunavut employees to see who could get the highest number of employees to participate. Alice Cowans, Senior Human Resources Advisor for The Workers Safety and Compensation Commission reported that 100% of employees present on September 30th in both Nunavut and the NWT participated!

Abrams says, “It is exciting and inspiring to see the enthusiasm that individuals, organizations and schools have for the Read for 15 Challenge. We had phone calls, faxes and e-mails coming in starting first thing in the morning and continuing for the next two days! People really support Literacy Week and the event.”

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Atatittiniq

In 2005 The Nunavut Literacy Council (NLC) received funding from the Social Development Partnership Program, HRSDC and Health Canada to conduct the **Atatittiniq** research project. The project name, '**Atatittiniq**' or 'to link together' was chosen to reflect the NLC's objective to begin to investigate the links between first language acquisition and literacy development in Nunavut. The **Atatittiniq** research project marks the beginning of our goal to work towards a better understanding of the complex language and literacy environment in Nunavut and other Inuit language regions, and to share this information with literacy stakeholders.

The overarching question that guided the development of the research was "What is hindering or favouring the acquisition of desired language skills in Nunavut communities?" With guidance from NLC board members and a research consultantⁱ, staff members developed interview questions and selected communities in which the research would be carried out. NLC board members assisted with the selection of interviewees based on their suitability as 'language role models'. For the purposes of this research, a language role model is 'a parent of any age who works to strengthen their own Inuit language skills and also encourages and assists other people in their community to do the same. A language role model might be someone who works to strengthen language informally and doesn't necessarily get formal recognition for this work'. A total of 20 language role models – 5 in each of the communities of Cambridge Bay, Taloyoak, Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet participated in the interviews. Information gathered from the interviews was supplemented by interviews with 3 Nunavut Literacy Council board members and radio shows hosted in Inuktitut by two NLC staff members. Five call-in radio shows took place – one territory wide show as well as one in each community where language role models were interviewed.

This research was supplemented by discussions at regional training events that have taken place in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Baffin regions. Information from those training events is now being analyzed and we expect that the final report will be ready this fall.

ⁱ Shelley Tulloch, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics, Saint Mary's University, Halifax.