

Literacy

Matters

June 2010

A Message from Our President

2010 is a momentous year for the NWT Literacy Council: it's our 20th anniversary. We have grown from a small organization with no paid staff to six staff members, many volunteers, and an office building that's overflowing with resources. Today, we are a very credible organization known throughout Canada for our literacy work.

To all those people who have supported the organization – committed board members, staff and volunteers – we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We also applaud the funders and sponsors who have recognized the value of our work and have supported us over these 20 years.

This March, it was the NWT's turn to host the Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament – also the 20th northern golf tournament. Events were held in five different places - Yellowknife, Ndilo, Dettah, Hay River and the Katlodeeche First Nation reserve. According to all accounts, from the organizing committee to the celebrities, it was the most successful PGI ever, despite the freezing cold weather! I had a great time during my first PGI!

I'm happy to tell you that Helen, our Executive Director, has returned to work full-time and is fully recovered from her illness. Welcome back, Helen.

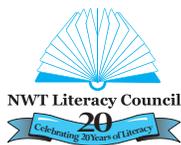
I want to thank Kathryn, Jill and Pat for all their hard work while Helen was away.

With that, I want to thank all the board members and staff for their commitment and hard work year round. We couldn't run such a great organization without you!

Suzanne Robinson

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Become a NWT Literacy Council Member

Literacy touches all aspects of our lives.

It is an essential skill that impacts our social and economic well-being, our health, our families and our communities.

The NWT Literacy Council is committed to ensuring that all NWT residents have access to the literacy supports they need to:

- get jobs
- take care of their families
- participate fully in their communities

The NWT Literacy Council is the NWT's only non-government literacy voice and service provider.

Sign up for E-news

Keep up to date on literacy trends, events, resources and news.

Sign up for the weekly enews.

Go to www.nwt.literacy.ca and click on the enews link.

Or send an email to nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca

Why become a member of the NWT Literacy Council?

A strong literacy network is key to creating solutions that address the complex issue of literacy.

Your support is important to us.

By joining the Literacy Council you strengthen the voice of our network of literacy workers and supporters across the NWT.

Please fill out and return the membership form enclosed with this newsletter.

Literacy is everyone's business.

Yearly Dues

- Individual, \$10.00
- Family, \$20.00
- Organization, \$25.00

Membership dues can be waived on request, if required.

Donate online

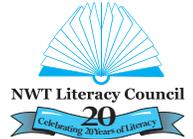
Donations are essential for the NWT Literacy Council's work.

You can now donate online at the NWT Literacy Council website.

Go to www.nwt.literacy.ca. Just click on the Canada Helps button on our home page. It's easy and it's fast!



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NWT Literacy Council Celebrates 20 years

The NWT Literacy Council is 20 years old. This article was published in the March 19, 2010 issue of the Yellowknifer. It shows the close link between the Literacy Council and the Peter Gzowski Invitational Gold Tournaments for Literacy (PGI). For more on the 2010 northern PGI turn to pages 8 and 9.

By Adrian Lysenko
Northern News Services

The NWT Literacy Council is celebrating its 20th anniversary next week with a series of concerts, a feast, and a few rounds of celebrity golf.

The celebration kicks off Monday and Tuesday with a pair of concerts at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre, which includes performances by Jonathan Torrens, a.k.a. J-Roc of Trailer Park

Boys fame, Prairie Oyster singer Russell De Carle, singer Barney Bentall, and Yellowknife musicians Pat Braden and Sophie Leger. The concerts start at 7 p.m.

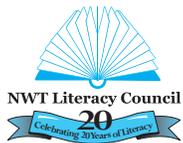
There will also be a community feast in Hay River on Wednesday, followed by the Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament for Literacy (PGI) the following morning. The northern golf tournament is also in its 20th year.

Lynn Fogwill, one of the council's first members, said the formation of the non-profit organization, "was humble yet not."

"There was a small group of us in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River conscious to the fact that International
(continued on next page)



Agnes Carpenter, left, James Arvaluk, Jean Reston, Jan Nasrabadi, Edna Elias and Roberta Roberts are shown here at the founding conference of the NWT Literacy Council in April, 1990.



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NWT Literacy Council Celebrates 20 Years (cont'd)

Literacy Year was coming up (in 1990) and we started to talk about establishing a literacy council because one hadn't existed," she said.

Dorothee Komangapik, an adult educator from Iqaluit, wrote to the late writer and CBC broadcaster Peter Gzowski with an idea regarding his already popular invitational golf tournament.

"Why don't we play golf on the ice?" wrote Komanqapik to Gzowski.

The wheels were in motion and Gzowski phoned then-premier NWT Dennis Patterson to find out how to get the tournament up and running in the North.

"In the fall of 1989 I remember being in my office when my secretary told me that Peter Gzowski was on the phone for me," said Fogwill, who was sceptical that the popular broadcaster was calling her.

Fogwill said the brief conversation that followed led to the formation of the NWT PGI fundraiser.

"(Gzowski) asked, 'who will we give the money to?' said Fogwill, who was at the time the literacy co-ordinator for the NWT.

She informed him that by the time the tournament would be held a literacy council would be formed.

"I told him how it would be a non-profit organization and I think he liked that," she said.

"That's why I say it was humble but not that humble. Very few organizations in their first meeting get a cheque for \$100,000."

The council has since evolved into a community-based organization spread across the territory to provide funding for various literacy programs.

"All the money goes to community literacy projects; people from all communities can apply," said Jill Vaydik, literacy co-ordinator for the council.

"It allows us to fund projects that we wouldn't have been able to (otherwise)."

"The invitational has been the biggest contributor to the council," said Charlotte Babicki, who was on the board representing Yellowknife and Dettah from 1992 to 1996.

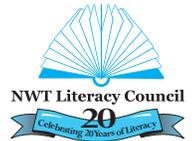
Barb Paquin, who was the executive director of the council from 1993 to 1996, said the council has evolved a lot over the years.

"It changed a lot during my time there and has changed a lot more since," said Paquin.

"It has become a well established organization and well-respected for the good work throughout the Northwest Territories."

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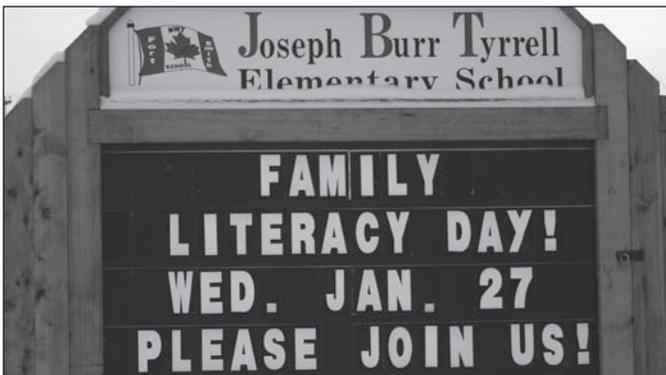
Family Literacy Day Highlights

The theme for National Family Literacy Day 2010 was “singing for literacy.” Many communities across the NWT held special events to celebrate.

In Yellowknife, about 100 parents and kids packed Northern United Place for a Family Literacy Day Fun Fair. Families moved between different stations for crafts, storytelling and the extremely popular play-dough station. They could also visit the *tente en français* to hear stories in French. Later, everyone gathered to read a story called *Farmer Joe and the Music Show*.

In Norman Wells, about 75 people came out to a Family Literacy Day picnic. The event included a picnic lunch, sing-along and several different crafts. The first 15 families to show up each received a CD of children’s songs.

In Hay River, Centennial Library hosted a special night of reading and baking. Families read a recipe together and mixed up the dry ingredients for making cookies. They then got to take their cookie mixtures home to bake.



Ƴehtseo Ayha School in Deline hosted a Family Literacy Day Fair. Students in older grades were paired up with students from younger grades, and got to move from station to station together. The stations included puppet making, making family trees, making scrapbooks and making name collages. Parents were also invited to come join in the fun.



The Aklavik Community Library held a sing-along for Family Literacy Day. About 20 people came to share songs and a snack. Each family that came received a song book to take home.

The NWT Literacy Council distributed hundreds of Family Literacy Day kits with ideas about how to help communities, schools and organizations encourage families to spend time together reading, singing, telling stories, playing and learning.

National Family Literacy Day is celebrated each year on January 27.

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NWT Family Literacy Projects

The NWT Literacy Council funded 31 family literacy projects in 18 communities across the NWT in 2009/2010.

Different groups and individuals organized a wide variety of programs, including family literacy nights, 1-2-3 *Rhyme with Me* programs, *Books in the Home* programs, reading circles and aboriginal language projects.

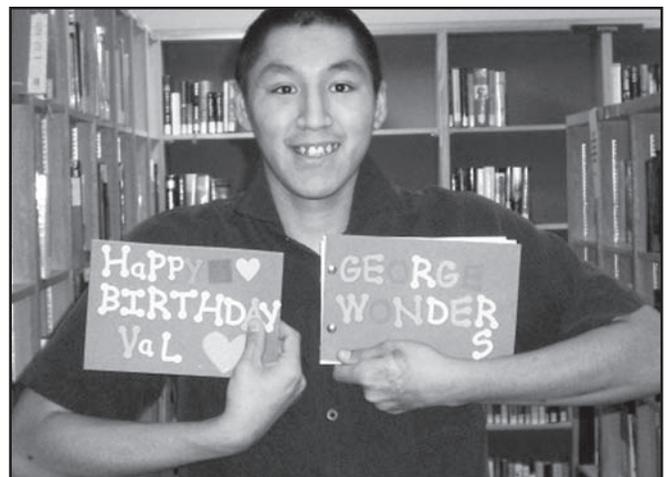
The Tots program in Enterprise hosted a series of games nights and story nights. Organizer Brenda Bouvier said it was a great way for families to get out and away from the TV for an evening, and that they really enjoyed themselves.



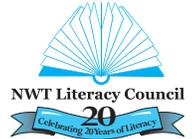
The Aklavik Library hosted a Books in the Home program, along with special family evenings to mark holidays. Their Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day evenings were especially popular.

Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who did a great job of running projects this year. We know that the children and families who attended programs really appreciate your hard work.

We hope that all of you will apply to run projects again next year.



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Apply for Family Literacy Project Funding

Do you have an idea for a family literacy project in your community? The NWT Literacy Council is accepting applications for 2010-2011. Community groups can request up to \$3000 to run a project.

To be eligible for funding, your project must:

- Involve children from ages zero to six and their parents
- Be completed by March 31st, 2011
- Include at least one person who has taken family literacy training

Some examples of possible projects are:

- Rhyming and singing programs
- Family Literacy nights
- Books in the Home programs
- Reading circles
- Creating aboriginal language books or resources

You can download an application form at www.nwt.literacy.ca If you would like to start a project but have not taken family literacy training, you may be able to work with someone else in your community or attend a training workshop this fall.

For more information call Jill at 1-866-599-6758 or email jill@nwtliteracy.ca



NWT Literacy Council Supports Community Family Literacy Programs

The NWT Literacy Council helps communities deliver family literacy programming in whatever way the community finds helpful.

Kathryn Barry Paddock spent some time recently with Vicky Marcellais, the family literacy coordinator for the Fort Providence District Education Authority.

They hosted a fun family literacy night with BINGO, a storysack of “Kumak’s Fish” and a fun craft. More than 20 children and adults came out to the family fun night.

Let the Council know how it can help your family literacy program.

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Thank You PGI Golf Tournament Supporters!



The 2010 NWT PGI Invitational Golf Tournament for Literacy was a great success. Thank you to our amazing sponsors, contributors and volunteers!

National Sponsors and Contributors

Great West Life - London Life - Canada Life
CBC Radio Canada - Globe & Mail - McClelland & Stewart - Harper Collins Canada - House of Anansi Press - Penguin Group (Canada) - Random House of Canada Ltd. - St. Joseph Media - Stuart McLean and the Vinyl Café - The Walrus - ABC Canada

NWT PGI sponsors

First Air - BHP Billiton - Enbridge Pipelines Inc. - Government of the Northwest Territories - NorthwesTel - CBC North - Northern News Services Ltd. - Nuna Logistics - DeBeers Canada

NWT PGI Golf Day Sponsors

Arctic Co-operatives - Canarctic Graphics - Coast Fraser Towers - Diavik Diamond Mine - Kingland Ford Sales - Lutra Associates Ltd. - Nahanni Construction - Quality Furniture - Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-op - Th̄ch̄ Development Corporation

Hay River NWT PGI Golf Day Sponsors

Katlodeeche First Nation - NTCL - Town of Hay River - Ptarmigan Inn - Wind Dancer Contracting

NWT PGI Contributors

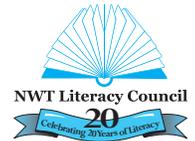
Air Tindi - Arctic Farmer - Arctic Plumbing and Heating - Beck's Kennels - Birchwood Gallery - CKLB/Native Communications Society of the NWT - ConocoPhillips - Diamante Restaurant - Extra Foods - Force One - Gourmet Cup - Home Building Centre - Janet Pacey Design and Illustration - Kavanaugh Brothers - Lake Awry Cap and Crest - Linco's Pottery Nook - Pack Rat Mini Storage - Re-New It Car Wash - Subway - Sutherland's Drugs - Top of the World Travel - True Value Hardware - Weaver and Devore

Hay River NWT PGI Contributors

Riverview Cineplex - Alex Tambour - Hay River PGI Planning Committee - Malcolm Stark - Hay River Beautification Committee - Perron Services - Northland Plumbing - MSS Ltd. - Super A Foods - Superior Sound - Ring's Pharmacy - NorthMart Foods - Arctic Canada Construction - North Country Inn - Wright's Home Hardware - Macdonald & Associates - The Source - Monster Recreation - Top of the World Travel - NWT Literacy Council - Aurora College - Mattie McNeill - Hay River Seniors' Society - Eh Dah Cho Store - Hay River Literacy Society - Wesclean Northern Sales - Jane Groenewegen MLA - Paul Delorey MLA - South Slave Divisional Education Board - Quick Print - Concept Energy Services Ltd. - Igloo Building Supplies - Royal Bank - Rowe's Construction - Hub Publishers - Northland Utilities - Hay River Esso - Midnight Petroleum - Wendy Morgan - Hamish Hamilton - Inuvik Literacy Society

We couldn't have done it without you!

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2010 PGI Raises \$40,000 for NWT Literacy Projects

The 20th Northern Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament (PGI) in March got off to a great start in Yellowknife with two community concerts at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre on March 22 and 23.

The fundraising concerts featured performers Barney Bentall, Russell DeCarle, Mike Stevens, Jonathan Torrens, Connie Kaldor, Richard VanCamp and host, Shelagh Rogers. Local performers Pat Braden, Aaron (Godson) Hernandez and Sophie Leger also took to the stage, as well as Ndilo youth drummers, Brent, Kevin and Frederick Betsina.

Harmonica player Mike Stevens discovered the talented youth drummers during a jam session at K'alemi Dene School. The PGI celebrities visited a number of schools and adult education classes in both Yellowknife and Hay River.

For the celebrities other highlights of the PGI week were dogsledding with Beck's Kennels in Yellowknife and learning how



to play hand games at the Yamózha Kúé Society on the Katlodeeche First Nation Reserve. Literacy awards were presented at the Community Feast at the Chief Lamalice Complex on the reserve.



Paulette Racheal Martel received the PGI Learner Award and Sarah-Jane Landry received the NWT Power Corporation Award. The winner of the Gzowski award for commitment to literacy was Brad Mapes (see story on page 13).

On Thursday, March 25th the hard work of Hay River volunteers was showcased in the unique and challenging holes created for the PGI mini putt golf tournament.

In all, \$40,000 was raised during the northern PGI for NWT community literacy programs. Our visiting celebrities and the NWT Literacy Council thank everyone who participated in perhaps the most pleasurable PGI ever!

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Reaching Out to NWT Families

The “Reaching Out to NWT Families” program is ready to begin!

This program will offer literacy kits to families with children between the ages of birth to six living in small communities in the NWT.

Each kit will contain books, parenting tips, information on baby’s growth and development (including early brain development and early language and literacy information) and a book in an Aboriginal language. Craft materials as well as ideas and recipes for playdough and other fun activities will also be included.

The kits will be distributed through a series of home visits by a local family literacy provider in each community.



During the visits, the family literacy provider will discuss different ways to use the books, and model some of the activities in the kits.

The “Reaching Out to NWT Families” program will start in 10 communities during the winter of 2010, and a further 10 communities will access the program in 2011.

This program is funded by the Government of Canada’s Social Development Partnerships Program and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories through the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund from HRSDC.

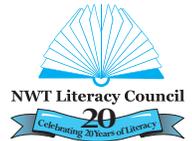
NWT Literacy Week

**NWT Literacy Week is
September 26 to October 2, 2010.**

The NWT Literacy Council will be distributing kits to give you ideas on how to promote literacy and involve your community in literacy-related activities.

In the meantime, take a look at the many resources on the NWT Literacy Council website at www.nwt.literacy.ca

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Community Training Workshops

The NWT Literacy Council offers a variety of training workshops to NWT communities.

2010 began with another successful bookmaking workshop, which was held in Hay River. NWT Literacy Council staff presented six book designs to the 10 participants from Fort Providence and Hay River. The workshop participants made some very nice books, which they told us they will use with families in their communities.



Kathryn Barry Paddock and Jill Vaydik travelled to Fort Simpson and Fort Smith as part of the Deh Cho and South Slave Healthy Children's Initiative. They offered workshops to community members, daycare and Aboriginal Head Start staff.

The workshops offered included the "Little Chefs" program, the "Science

Fun" program as well as the "1-2-3 Rhyme with Me" program, choosing books and planning family fun nights.



Kathryn and Jill offered a talking books and bookmaking workshop to Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructors Program students from Dettah and Ndilo in February.

At the Inuvik *Talking Books* workshop participants created many wonderful books in Aboriginal languages, some with original artwork.



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Literacy Outreach Centre

The Literacy Outreach Centre, located in the Aurora College Yellowknife Campus building, is a partnership between Aurora College and the Yellowknife Association for Community Living.

Instructors Donna Nash and Xiao Yi Yan offer a wide variety of services to adults who want to improve their literacy skills.

The centre provides classroom instruction four mornings a week. The students have a wide range of abilities, and may have intellectual or physical disabilities. The instruction focuses on maintaining and improving literacy, numeracy and life skills.

“It is absolutely fabulous,” says Wayne Balanoff, Director of Adult Services at the Yellowknife Association for Community Living. “It has made a considerable difference for our clients. What they learn



Learning CPR through the Literacy Outreach Centre

at the centre helps them to do everyday activities that most people take for granted, such as going to the bank, going shopping, managing money or advocating on their own behalf.”



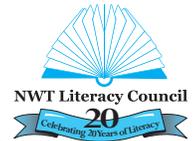
As well as classroom instruction, the centre has a large outreach component. Each week the centre’s instructors help residents of Bailey House who want to improve their literacy skills.

Families with small children come to hear stories, read books, learn songs and rhymes and play together during the weekly family literacy session at the Healthy Family Centre. In addition, they offer a book club for seniors through the Yellowknife Seniors Society.

A final important part of the centre’s work is recruiting, training and matching up volunteer tutors with adult learners. This is an important service for adults who want to improve their literacy skills but may not be able to take part in a traditional adult literacy program.

If you have a literacy project or program you would like profiled in Literacy Matters contact us at communications@nwtliteracy.ca

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Books in Homes Partnership

The NWT Literacy Council is partnering with DeBeers Canada's Books in Homes program. This partnership means that the NWT Literacy Council travels with the "flying bookstore" into communities to offer family literacy workshops and family fun nights. The workshops help community members gain skills in early literacy and family fun night planning.

The partnership includes the communities of Whatì, Wekweèti, Gamèti, Behchokò, Dettah, Ndilo, Łutsel K'e, Fort Resolution and the Snap Lake Mine.

Come Train with Us!

The NWT Literacy Council has several training sessions scheduled for the fall and winter.

Learning Kits

Yellowknife

Nov. 1-5

Family Literacy Training Institute

Yellowknife

Nov. 29-Dec. 4

Program Planning and Proposal Writing

Yellowknife - Dec. 8-9

Norman Wells - Jan. 26-27

Behchokò - Feb. 21-23

Facilitation Skills

Yellowknife

Dec. 10

Talking Books

Fort Providence - Date TBA

Introduction to Family Literacy

Fort Resolution - Date TBA



Brad Mapes Receives 2010 Gzowski Award

Hay River literacy volunteer, Brad Mapes, received the 2010 Gzowski Award during the Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament community feast in March.

He began volunteering at Harry Camsell School when his oldest daughter began school 16 years ago. Longtime Hay River teacher, Marilyn Carroll was "my first literacy boss," says Mr. Mapes.

Every Tuesday morning he helps students with reading and math skills. He says it's a good way to "unwind and relieve stress. I get as much out of it as the kids do."

Watch for these New Resources

1-2-3 Rhyme with Me Program Manual

We have revised our 1-2-3 Rhyme with Me program manual. You can download a copy from our website, or contact us for a hard copy at nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca or toll-free at 1-866-599-6758.

1-2-3 Rhyme with Me Parent Booklet and CD

We have developed a parent booklet with lots of rhymes and songs that parents can use with their children. They will be available in the summer.

Love Grows Brains Parent Handbook

This booklet is now available on our website at www.nwt.literacy.ca. It provides parents (and literacy providers) with information on how they can help grow healthy brains in their children.



Violence and Learning Dr. Jenny Horsman has developed a series of six violence and learning information sheets. The series is intended to help practitioners understand the impact of violence on learning, and also help them deal appropriately with learners who may have experienced violence in their lives. These are available on our website.

Comics Encourage Reading Our comic study has turned into two comic studies and one DVD study. These resources will be available shortly. Check out our website in a month.

Essential Skills Fact Sheets The Council has also prepared a series of five fact sheets about essential skills. They include: Community Essential Skills, Family Essential Skills, Health Essential Skills, Justice Essential Skills and Workplace Essential Skills. The fact sheets give you examples of how the different essential skills are used in these various areas. These are now available on our website.

Our New Board Member

Beverly Garven is the head librarian for the Town of Inuvik and the NWT Literacy Council's regional representative for the Beaufort Delta.

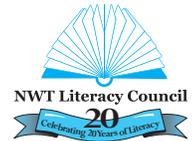
Ms. Garven's passion is reading and she is hoping to contribute to everyone in the NWT being able to practice literacy in all its forms.

"I look forward to being more connected to all the literacy initiatives happening around the NWT," she says.

A 16-year resident of Inuvik, Ms Garven has been active with the Inuvik Literacy Circle for eight years.

Ms. Garven says she has never met a book she doesn't like. "I just like some more than others".

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First Air Delivers

First Air delivers more than books. It has helped the NWT Literacy Council deliver the message of hope about literacy for 20 years.

The airline has also flown celebrities and authors to communities from Hay River to Ulukhaktok to promote literacy and help northerners learn about the literacy supports available for themselves and their families.

"The Literacy Council is lucky to have a sponsor we can count on," says the Council's Executive Director, Helen Balanoff. "First Air has brought up celebrities for Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournaments since 1990 but also a host of authors and performers throughout the NWT for things like Literacy Week and Family Literacy Day."

While the Literacy Council depends on First Air sponsorship, the airline counts on the NWT Literacy Council to make a tangible difference to the communities on First Air's NWT routes.

"We are very proud of the company's relationship with the Literacy Council's work," says Kim Poulter, the airline's manager of corporate sales.

"First Air is committed to improving the lives of northerners and working with the Council we know that we can make a difference. We are proud to play a small role in bringing people together in ways that really improve lives."

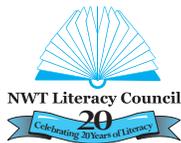
"In Hay River this spring, I was really touched at the awards. When you hear peoples' stories you see how literacy can change lives," says Ms. Poulter.

"At the end of the day, First Air is just so pleased to be part of something that can have such a positive impact on the life of an individual."

First Air serves 29 northern communities and has connecting flights to Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal and Ottawa. It provides scheduled and charter passenger and cargo services.



In 2006 the NWT Literacy Council acknowledged the significant ongoing sponsorship by First Air when it presented Kim Poulter and Mike Olson the Council's *Literacy Leader of the North* award.



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Regional Literacy Funding

Funding is available to community groups for literacy projects or events.

Groups eligible for funding include community not-for-profit organizations (NGOs), schools and libraries. Eligible projects include:

- Community literacy activities sponsored by libraries, NGOs and schools
- Family literacy activities such as Reading Circles, Literacy and Parenting, *Books in the Home*, etc.
- Aboriginal language literacy activities
- School-based literacy activities
- Special activities within adult literacy programs

You can find an application form for funding on our website under “What’s New” or you can call the NWT Literacy Council and we can email or fax one to you.

There is no deadline for this funding. You can apply year-round. Your application should go to your regional Board representative.

This funding is made possible through the money raised by the NWT Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournaments.

Board of Directors

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