

Accord for the Yukon Literacy Strategy

This accord dated, _____, 2016.

INTRODUCTION

The Yukon Literacy Strategy results from the joint work of representatives from different orders of government, including Yukon government, participating First Nation governments, Council of Yukon First Nations, non-government organizations, business and literacy stakeholders. This Accord represents the collective efforts of a significant number of individuals and organizations to develop a shared vision for literacy in Yukon.

Literacy has a powerful effect on a wide variety of education, social, health, and economic outcomes. Strong literacy and essential skills contribute to a higher quality of life for Yukon individuals and their families and help to create healthy and flourishing Yukon communities. Research shows higher levels of literacy skills ensure greater successes in education and training, more positive health outcomes, greater access to labour market opportunities, higher job retention and promotion rates, higher incomes and greater civic involvement.

This Accord sets out a vision and a goal and objectives to guide action. The purpose of the Accord is to set out, in a non-binding manner, the agreement of the participants to proceed in the direction set out in the Yukon Literacy Strategy.

This Accord also highlights the need for a cooperative and dynamic implementation process.

A VISION OF THE FUTURE

"Yukon's vision is an enduring culture of literacy, including Yukon First Nation languages and cultures."

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Strategy is:

"Yukoners embrace life-long learning and have the literacy skills they need to succeed on their own terms at school, at work, within their families and clans, and as members of diverse communities."

In order to meet this goal, participants will work on the following objectives:

1. *Awareness*: Increase understanding of literacy and its importance to all Yukoners.
2. *Opportunity and Achievement*: Provide a variety of equitable, accessible and innovative programs to support people in achieving a desirable standard of literacy.
3. *Quality*: Ensure programs meet quality and cultural standards.
4. *Partnerships*: Build and maintain coordination and partnerships among literacy stakeholders.
5. *Language Fluency and Cultural Competency*: Provide a variety of accessible and innovative programs to support and strengthen First Nation language fluency development and cultural literacy that are grounded in traditional law and land-based learning opportunities that teach respect for self, others, land and water.

A COOPERATIVE AND DYNAMIC PROCESS

An important aspect of this Accord is to ensure that there is on-going broad based consultation, evaluation and accountability in the implementation of the strategy. The dynamic nature of literacy, with new opportunities and new issues emerging on a continual basis, requires that there be the ability to review and adjust the activities, outcomes and targets as required. This can be achieved by:

- Establishing a broadly representative advisory committee mandated to support the coordination of implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the Strategy. This committee would also be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan and any amendments to a Literacy Action Plan in order to be responsive to changes in literacy needs over time.
- Establishing a comprehensive communications process, including developing and implementing a literacy marketing plan, via media and public forums, to promote literacy and public awareness of issues relating to the implementing, monitoring, and evaluating of the Strategy and Action Plan.
- Encouraging an on-going discussion and the development of solutions to issues and concerns related to literacy.

APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS

The signatory participants approve the attached strategy on a consensus basis:

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