



BACKGROUNDER: 2021 NWT Ministerial Literacy Awards

Bios – 2021 Literacy Award Recipients

Northern Mosaic Network - Recipient of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award for the Northwest Territories

The Northern Mosaic Network is a fixture of support for 2SLGBTQIPA+ youth across the NWT. Their multi-faceted literacy work supports participants' literacy development.

Northern Mosaic Network promotes many forms of literacy through their programming including academic learning through their homework club, cultural literacy through various sewing, beading and craft programming, health literacy through their advocacy work with the GNWT and workshops for youth, and family literacy through the Little Rainbows program. They also maintain an extensive library including books for all ages and other resources.

A large impact of the Northern Mosaic Network's literacy work is their promotion of inclusive and supportive language. Through their social media and traditional media outreach, they have helped NWT residents to broaden their knowledge of 2SLGBTQIPA+ history, current issues, and proper language.

Y (Lily) Hong - Recipient of the Youth Learner Award

Y (Lily) Hong spoke very limited English when she arrived in Canada in 2016. In 2020, Lily not only graduated from Sir John Franklin Secondary School, but won both the English 20 and English 30 awards. She is continuing her education in university and is working towards a Bachelor in Business Administration. Lily is taking additional classes in presentations and public speaking to continue improving her literacy skills.

Lily was also an avid community volunteer with various organizations in high school. Notably, she supported other international students to help them learn English so they too could succeed in Canada.

Oyunbileg Bernabe - Recipient of the Adult Learner Award

Oyunbileg is an active participant in literacy programs in Yellowknife. She volunteers in local schools by reading in libraries, helping with chess club and working with the community garden.

One of the programs that Oyunbileg participates in is the multicultural Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY). This program addresses the many issues that immigrants face when they arrive in their new country. Some of the areas that Oyunbileg supports include language and cultural barriers, low levels of literacy, and professional accreditation issues.



Carolynne Whenham - Recipient of the Outstanding NWT Educator Award

Carolynne has spent 17 years as a Northern educator. During her time, she has always been an advocate for literacy. In her community she volunteers with families who want to instill their children with the love of reading.

In addition to her work as an educator, Carolynne is leading the Tłıchq literacy initiative and oral language strategy. She serves as a mentor and coach to her fellow educators.

Yellowknife Book Cellar – Recipient of Outstanding Support for Literacy Development NWT Business Award

Judith Drinnan, owner of the Yellowknife Book Cellar has spent 40 years promoting literacy in the NWT. As a pillar in the community, Judith supports northern authors, hosts various book signing events, showcases NWT authors and hosts celebrations to promote literacy in her community. You may also know Judith as a founding member of the Northwords Writer's Festival.

Judith has also organized International Literacy Day, where she encouraged fellowship, networking and partnerships. Judith can always be counted on to rally volunteers for various literacy events and organizations.

Mentor Apprenticeship Program Participants – Recipients of Second Language Learner Award

Eight Mentor Apprenticeship Program (MAP) participants are being recognized for their achievements in this new program. Participants include:

- Alicia Camille - Tłıchq
- Amy Amos - Gwich'in
- Bertha Drygeese - Dëne Sųłiné
- Dwayne Drescher - Inuvialuktun
- Joy Vital - Dene Kede
- Kerry-Ann Franki - Tłıchq
- Valerie Lamalice - Dene Zhatıé
- Patricia Manuel - Dene Kede

MAP is a reflection of what the North is striving towards in relation to Indigenous Language revitalization. This program pairs an Indigenous language speaker with a learner. The Mentor and Apprentice must agree to spend a lot of time together, usually about 7-10 hours per week during the program. During their time together (immersion language sessions), apprentices and mentors "live life in the language" by doing everyday activities using only their Indigenous language, with no English.

As each Apprentice becomes more fluent, they can teach others the language, creating ripple effects in their community and supporting Indigenous Language Revitalization across the NWT.



Michael Mifflin- Recipient of Second Language Learner Award

Michael Mifflin is learning to speak Tłıchq at Collège Nordique Francophone. In addition to his classes, Michael is constantly seeking other ways to continue learning this official language. Michael continues his learning outside of class by talking to elders, engaging others in conversations, reviewing other resources and using the skills that he has learned.

Aurora College – Recipient of Supporting Literacy through Technology Award

Aurora College reacted quickly at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting as many programs as possible to online learning to avoid disruption to students' education. Aurora College's instructors developed new skills over the pandemic to continue delivering programming to students. Through the use of technology, Aurora College ensured a seamless continuation of programming.

Aurora College developed partnerships to allow students to access and learn the tools required to continue their education. Not only did they continue offering programming, but they were able to continue offering support to students through technology while ensuring the safety of NWT residents.