



Creating Futures

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SSDEC Promotes Literacy Through Aboriginal Languages Council Receives \$58,000 to Expand Language Partnerships

Lutsel K'e, NT – In support of the South Slave Divisional Education Council's regional focus of improving student literacy, the Council's Literacy Project is pleased to announce the expansion and translation of the successful Cree Language Children's Book Series to include South Slavey and Chipewyan languages. With the infusion of approximately \$58,000 for the project from the Department of Education's Language Nest Initiative, and the support of the South Slavey and Chipewyan Language Groups, the Council is looking forward to developing and distributing this valuable resource to our students and communities.

According to Michelle Brown, the Council's Literacy Project Coordinator, effective partnerships have made this project possible. "It is wonderful to see so many groups coming together to produce this Language Children's Series. From the encouragement of the language groups to the funding commitment from the Language Nest Initiative, our partners have made this project a reality," notes Brown. She adds, "The Literacy Project is pleased to be promoting the development of resources for students that represent all three aboriginal language groups in the South Slave."

By all accounts, the expansion of the series will prove invaluable for Aboriginal Language Instructors in South Slave schools. As Sabet Biscaye, NWT Chipewyan Language Coordinator attests, "Aboriginal Language Programs are always in need of quality resources for instruction. The Children's Book Series will certainly fill this need." Biscaye also reflects that, "the professional appearance and quality of the books ensures that they will be viewed on the same level as other curriculum resources."

Over the past three years, promoting effective partnerships and successfully fundraising for regional project priorities have been identified successes for the Council. Over this period, regional program coordinators have raised over \$760,000 in third party funding, like that of the Language Nest Initiative. As referenced by Curtis Brown, Superintendent of Education, "The vast majority of these dollars have gone directly to schools in the form of additional staff and resources, or for related school staff development."

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