

COMMUNITY LITERACY AGENTS



L'alphabétisation,
Une leçon pour la vie

Literacy:
Learning for Life.

Communities in Northern Quebec wishing to improve their literacy level are often faced with limited resources, whether economic or due to accessibility. In response to requests from some communities to strengthen their capacity to provide community-based literacy skills, Frontier College, a pan-Canadian literacy organization, has developed the Community Literacy Agents (CLAs) concept, an initiative to support family literacy activities such as reading circles, individual tutoring, family literacy nights, and skills development workshops.

Community Literacy Agents provide literacy skill development activities on an annual basis in First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. The CLA concept also includes a significant community capacity building component to ensure project continuity. This concept is based on Frontier College business models and other models that can be adapted to the culture, traditions and current situation of the community. The key to this community resource is the hiring and training of individuals who act as multiplying agent within their own community.

The participation of parents, elders, municipal council or band council members gives the assurance that the experience gained and developed by the CLA remains within the community once the project is completed.

The training and support offered to CLAs may vary depending on whether full-time mentors/coaches or remote assistance are combined with personalized training sessions.

In general, the role of Frontier College evolves gradually from an active role of trainer and lead facilitator to a resource agency for each participating community.

COMMENTS

"I enjoyed the family workshop to learn more about how to show a child—even a baby—to communicate at a young age. I would like to have more and more opportunities [to participate] in all activities to better integrate reading to my children and make it an important interest from an early age."

– Parent, Matimekush

"It's an interesting program in the community, it's worth continuing. There is a big change in children. They are more interested in books, they name the images and they are always happy to see Gisline when she arrives."

– C.P.E. Uatikuss Management, Matimekush

"They have more interest in reading and their writing is more fluid. Writing a book together was very popular with the students. All I hope for is that these activities will continue for next year, as students greatly appreciate the Community Literacy agent's after-school circle."

– Teacher, École Kanatamat, Matimekush



BENEFITS

- Assessment of literacy needs.
- Direct support for children, teens and adults who have literacy challenges.
- Significant employment and in-depth community literacy training for a locally hired person in the CLA position.
- Acquiring community literacy skills and experience for community members (participation in activities and training workshops).
- Capacity building for the developing community and implementation of sustainable literacy programming.
- Resource Toolkit for CLAs adapted to the context and needs of the community and available to all.

TARGET GROUPS

Children, teens, adults, families.