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NUNAVUT BILINGUAL EDUCATION SOCIETY

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23 ANNUAL REPORT





Nunavut Bilingual Education Society
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2023 ANNUAL REPORT NUNAVUT BILINGUAL EDUCATION SOCIETY

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Thank You to Our Supporters



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The Nunavut Bilingual Education Society (NBES) works to preserve and promote Inuit language, culture, and strengthen literacy throughout Nunavut and across Canada by providing accessible, culturally-appropriate learning resources and support.

About NBES

The Nunavut Bilingual Education Society (NBES) is a community-based, non-profit society established in 2003. **NBES** was created by a group of Nunavut educators, cultural promoters, and storytellers concerned with the preservation, protection, and promotion of Inuit oral history and storytelling, cultural knowledge, and language.

It is the society's belief that the cooperation of engaged, talented, and concerned Nunavummiut will result in Northern educational resources that support Inuit education in Nunavut and the successful transmission of oral history, cultural identity, and language to future generations.

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President | Executive Director: Jaypeetee Arnakak

Vice President: Nadia Sammurtok

Secretary/Treasurer: Neil Christopher

Members: Monica Ittusardjuat

Goals

- To ensure that Inuktitut resources, training, and support are available in Nunavut for education in schools and homes;
- To use education as a tool to preserve and promote the Inuit language and culture;
- To support the development of and distribute educational resources promoting the Inuktitut language as well as Inuit culture, history, geography, and worldviews;
- To equip young Nunavummiut with the skills needed to prepare and engage in bilingual education and to foster a connection between homes, schools, and the broader community;
- To support the development and training of Nunavummiut creative and educational professionals (writers, visual artists, educators, content creators, etc.) and encourage their contribution to the development of educational resources and instruction in Nunavut;
- To engage and ensure local communities are equal partners in the development of **NBES'** educational programming, ensuring the future of Inuit learning and language preservation is self-determined.

NBES AIMS TO MEET THESE GOALS BY:

1. Producing and distributing educational content and resources in Inuktitut, including books, films, games, and digital applications;
2. Conducting capacity-building training and workshops for Inuit with a focus on Inuktitut language and literacy development;
3. Designing and implementing community events to promote and teach about Inuit culture, educate about Inuit culture, and support Inuit writers, educators, publishers, artists, and content creators;
4. Partnering with Inuit-led companies, professionals, institutions, vendors, and local government to engage in and inform our programmatic initiatives.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 MARKS THE NUNAVUT BILINGUAL EDUCATION SOCIETY'S 20TH YEAR OF operation! We continue to discover and experiment with new initiatives to better strengthen our mission: to promote and strengthen Inuktitut literacy throughout Nunavut and across Canada by creating and distributing freely accessible resources.

This wouldn't be possible without the support from volunteers, staff, generous donors, program partners, Nunavummiut educators, and community members who collaborate with **NBES** and work to realize our programs and projects. With their help, **NBES** has been able to adapt to new ways of learning and develop new pathways to strengthen Inuktitut literacy across the territory. Thank you!

This year, **NBES** focused on expanding our screen-based initiatives. We ran Aulajut: Nunavut International Film Festival for the 4th time. We were pleased to welcome local directors, actors, and members of the community to the Astro Theatre for a week filled with rich films from across the Arctic, highlighting the themes of identity, climate change and culture. We held the 7th Annual Nunavut Children's Film Festival, an **NBES** initiative dedicated to promoting Inuktitut literacy through film. We also developed 3 new interactive Inuinnaqtun videos featuring Mia and the Monsters. These videos invite children to engage with Mia and her Monster friends, encouraging them to move, count and discover shapes.

NBES has been focused on supporting Inuktitut language learning at home for the past several years. We are thrilled to have completed ᐃᑕᑦᑎᑦᑖᑎᑦᑖᑦ ᑕᑦᑎᑖᑎᑦᑖᑦ ᑕᑦᑎᑖᑎᑦᑖᑦ (Early Years Literacy: A Manual for Educators and Families). This manual is a valuable resource for families and guardians seeking to support their children's literacy development at home. Families can use the manual to gain insight into the importance of early literacy and discover practical tips for creating language-rich environments.

As always, we were able to continue to provide and distribute Inuktitut language books and grow the collection of ebooks available on our website! We have new books with authors Etua Snowball, Susan Aglukark, and Ceporah Mearns. We also created new Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun activity books for children and youth across Nunavut to enjoy.

We have much more to share and reflect upon from our 20th year as an organization, our 2023 Annual Report shares our project achievements, outcomes, and future goals. The **NBES** Board, project staff, and partners will continue to work together to promote and support Inuit language and culture in Nunavut.



Jaypeetee Arnakak

Executive Director, Nunavut Bilingual Education Society



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● Books



ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ *The Wolf Pup*

Written by Etua Snowball

Inspired by a true story! Etua Snowball shares his childhood experience with the unlikelyst of friend—an Arctic wolf pup that he meets at a remote camp where the boy spends his summers. As the child and the pup become more comfortable with one another, they go hunting, walking, exploring, and catching butterflies together across the tundra. With the end of summer approaching, the young boy knows he must soon return home. Will he gain enough trust from the pup to be able to pet it before he leaves?

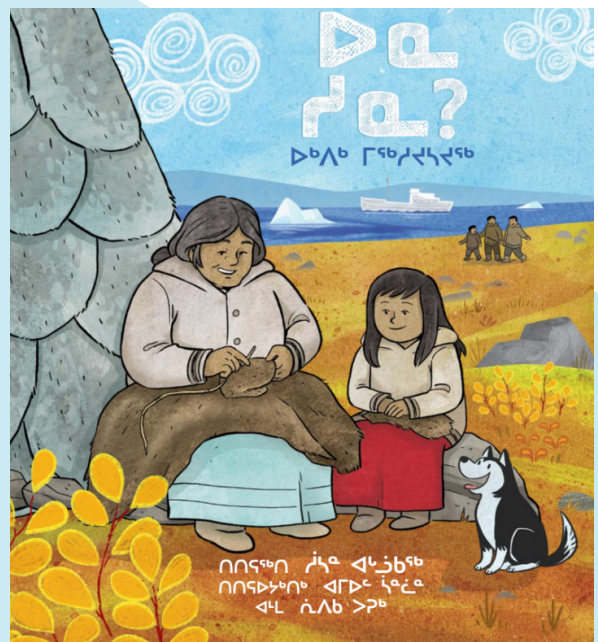
This book project was made possible with funding from the Government of Nunavut.

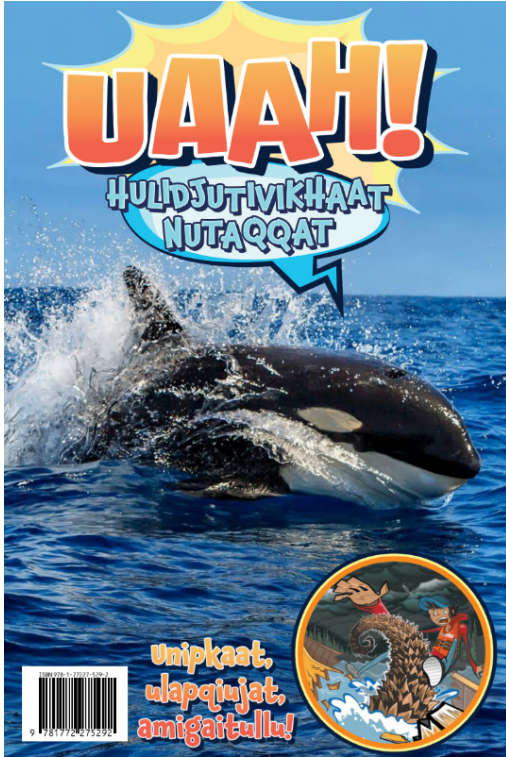
ᐅᑦ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ *Una Huna? Ukpik Learns to Sew*

Written by Susan Aglukark

Ukpik’s mother is eager to teach Ukpik how to prepare caribou skin, dry it, and use it to sew a pair of simple, useful mitts. But Ukpik can’t stop thinking about the beautiful new beads her mother traded the Captain for on his last visit. They are so bright and beautiful! Anaana knows it is more important for Ukpik to learn the skills she will need to make her own clothing in the cold Arctic climate, so she insists that Ukpik sit with her and learn the basics, while having a bit of fun, too. Though Anaana won’t let Ukpik sew with the new beads just yet, she does have a surprise for Ukpik that will let her enjoy the new-found treasures while also learning the skills she will need to provide for herself and her family.

This book project was made possible with funding from the Government of Nunavut.





**Uaah! Hulidjutivikhaat Uaah!
An Activity Book For Kids**

This Inuinnaqtun activity book features stories and activities!

This book project was made possible with funding from the Government of Nunavut.

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Inuktitut Activity Book**

This Inuktitut activity book features over 30 different Inuktitut activities and colouring pages!

This project was made possible by funding from the Government of Nunavut



CELEBRATING CULTURE THROUGH SCREEN

● Aulajut: Nunavut International Film Festival

NBES hosted the 4th Annual Nunavut International Film Festival. The week-long festival was held the last week of February at the Astro Theatre in Iqaluit, Nunavut and virtually on Eventive! Aulajut celebrated Canadian and Greenlandic films, screening over 30 films, selected from submissions of short films, documentaries, animations, feature-length films, children’s films, and music videos from filmmakers across Nunavut and beyond. The majority of films featured Inuktitut dialogue and the lineup was specifically curated for Nunavutmiut audiences. The Festival hosted multiple directors, who were generous to participate in audience Q&A sessions following the screenings of their films. Our Iqaluit audience continues to grow, this year we saw an increase in attendee’s — this was especially notable at our children’s festival screening.



**THE AUDIENCE CHOICE WINNERS OF
THE 2024 AULAJUT: NUNAVUT INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL WERE**

Best Short Film

Avataq

Directed by Nicholas Blachford

Audience Choice: Exploring Identity

NIGIQTUQ

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Directed by Lindsay McIntyre

Audience Choice: Best Film Capturing the Human Spirit

Ikaartuit

Directed by Annie-Claude Roberge

Best Feature Film

Tautuktavuk

Directed by Carol Kunnuk & Lucy Tulugarjuk

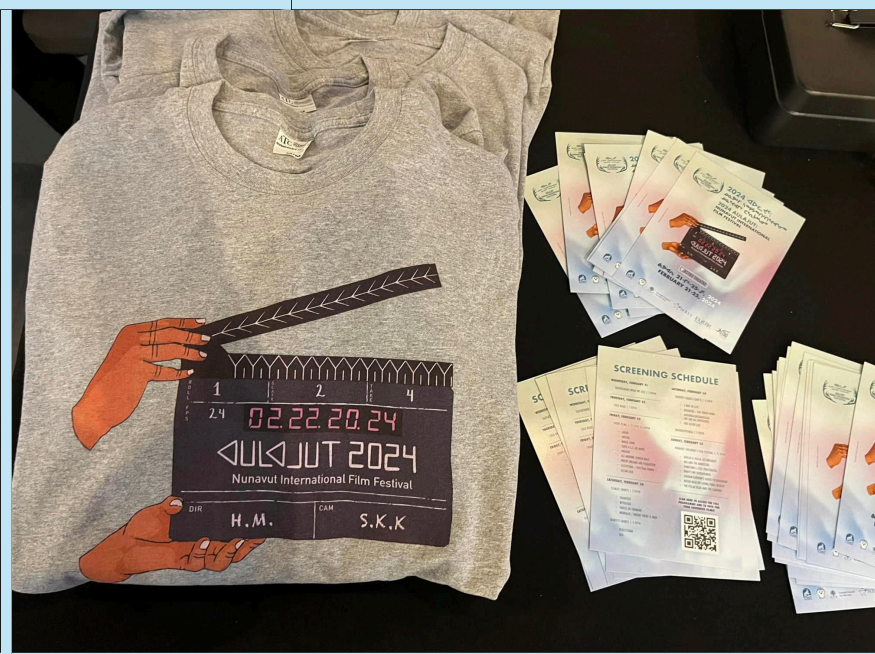
Winner of the Nunavut Children's Film Festival

Jordan Gordon's Guide to Kuujjuaq

Directed by Jordan Gordon

CELEBRATING CULTURE THROUGH SCREEN





CELEBRATING CULTURE THROUGH SCREEN

● 7th Annual Nunavut Children’s Film Festival

Each year, **NBES** runs the Nunavut Children’s Film Festival, an Inuktitut literacy initiative that provides children across the territory with an opportunity to view films showcasing Inuit stories and culture. **NBES** created Festival Kits which include DVDs, related activity sheets, and participation prizes that are distributed to participating schools and classrooms. The initiative works to inspire this young audience with entertaining and educational resources that instill cultural and linguistic pride. The 2023 festival was screened online through February to June and in person at the Astro Theatre on February 25th.



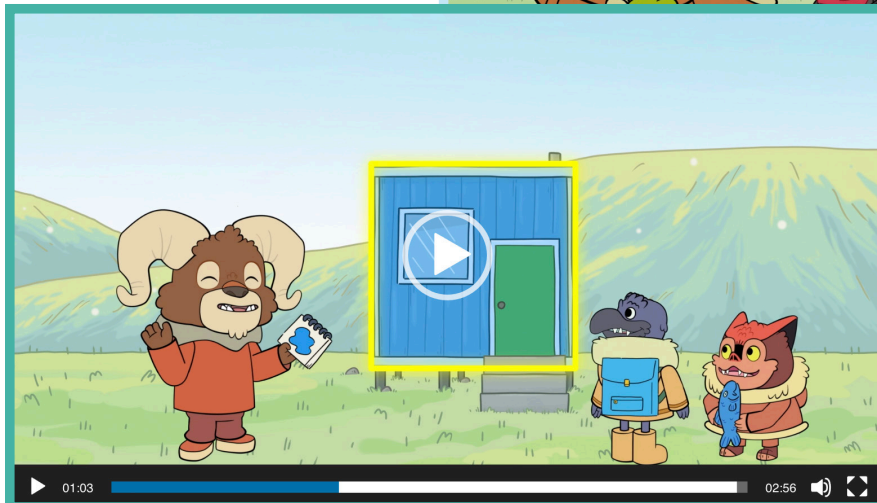
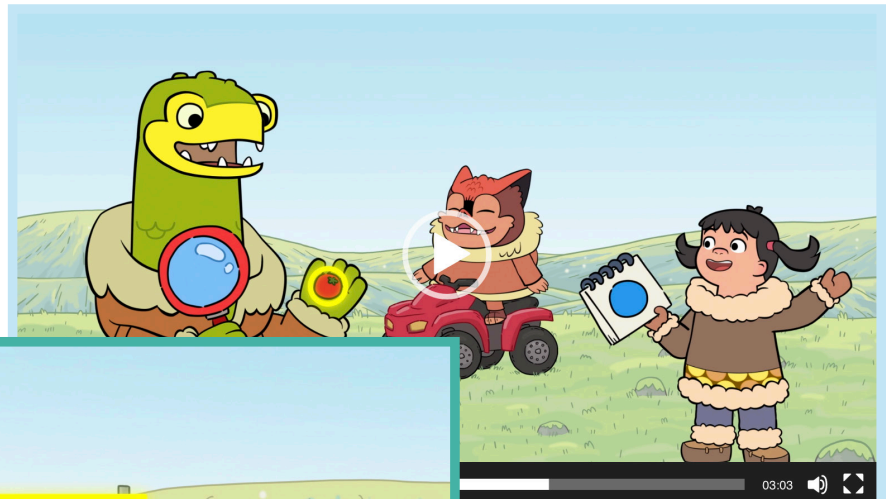
After tallying up the submitted voting sheets, the winner of the festival is: *Jordon Gordon's Guide to Kujjuaaq.*

This project was made possible with funding from the Government of Nunavut, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

● Follow Along with Mia and the Monsters

NBES grew its Inuinnaqtun video resources with a suite of interactive videos featuring Mia and the Monsters! Each video focuses on a different topic: shapes, colours and sounds! Mia and her friends invite children to follow along in a variety of activities throughout each interactive video. Each video is approximately 3 minutes long.

- Mia Uiqqalaallu: Qiniqhiajut Iliktirutinik | Mia and the Monsters: Search for Shapes
- Mia Uiqqalaallu: Qiniqhiajut Ivitaalingnik | Mia and the Monsters: Search for Colours
- Mia Uiqqalaallu: Qiniqhiajut Nipinik | Mia and the Monsters: Making Sounds



This project was made possible with funding from the Government of Nunavut.

● Home Literacy Initiative

With support from the Government of Nunavut, as well as Inhabit Books, **NBES** put together and distributed 100 Home Literacy Kits to households across Nunavut! Kit's were available in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun, and contained 5 to 6 books at various reading levels, a CD of Inuktitut songs, a DVD of Anana's Tent, crayons, pencils, activity booklets, and a tip sheet for parents and caregivers to help their little learners. Literacy Kit went quickly once we opened the sign up form on our website. We hope to continue this project, and grow the kits to include more resources for parents and caregivers.

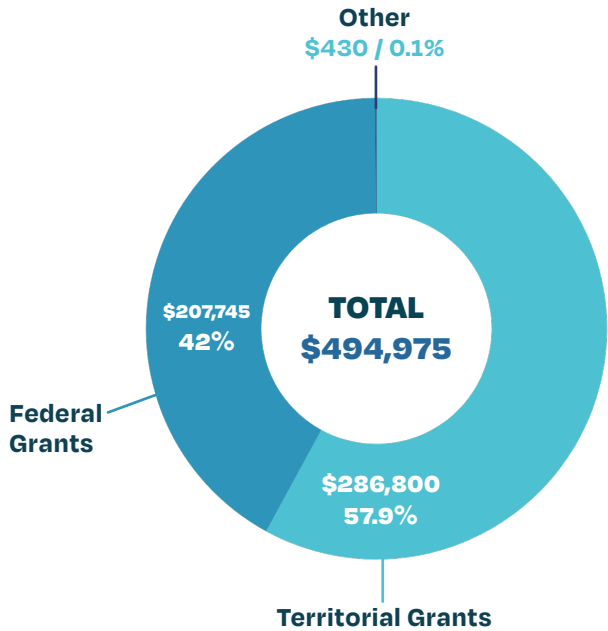


This project was made possible with funding from the Government of Nunavut.

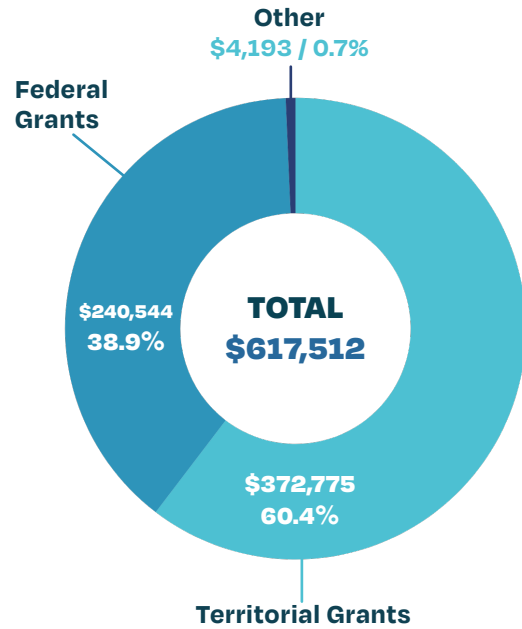


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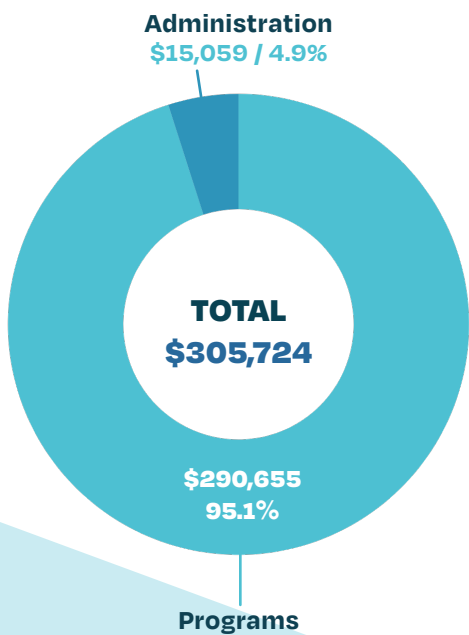
2022 REVENUE



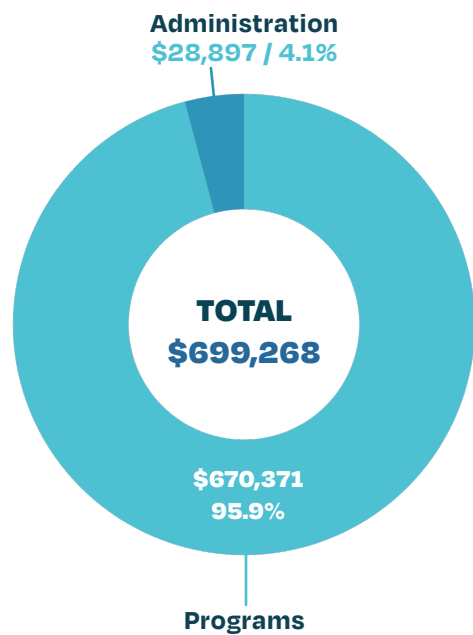
2023 REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



EXPENDITURES



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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

We have a lot of great projects planned that highlight how **NBES** has continued to grow and adapt over the years. With funding through the Annauma Community Foundation, we have plans to adapt our Early Years Literacy: A Manual for Educators and Families into a workshop of parents and caregivers. We plan to grow our Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun book collection, working with authors Masiana Kelly, Brian Koonoo, and Ceporah Mearns. We hope to explore new literacy strategies such as Structured Literacy, and research how we can create more evidence-based resources for language instruction to ensure proper Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun grammar is learnt from the start!



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