Nelson Education is pleased to announce two unique new literacy resources: *Circle of Life*, a series of 33 levelled Little Books for Grades K–2, and *Nelson Literacy 1 Storytelling*, a literacy resource for Grade 1.

Our goal is to create exciting and inspiring literacy resources for students and educators. *Circle of Life* and *Nelson Literacy 1 Storytelling* are authentic, culturally-relevant literacy resources that were developed to support the Aboriginal worldview, and will strengthen knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit history and culture in your classroom.
Circle of Life: Learning from an Elder

Include authentic First Nations stories and culture in your classroom with this new series of engaging levelled Little Books for K–2 students!

About the Indigenous Education Coalition (IEC)

The IEC is a non-profit education organization in Southern Ontario comprised of 12 communities that include Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Lenape Nations as well as two Friendship Centres. The IEC is committed to providing culturally-relevant educational opportunities and support to communities and First Nations schools. To support this commitment, and share First Nations stories in classrooms across Canada, the IEC and Nelson Education have partnered to publish the Circle of Life series.
Learning from an Elder

- 33 levelled books for Grades K–2, GR levels A–M
- Authentic and traditional Aboriginal content—stories and illustrations by the Indigenous Education Coalition
- Traditional First Nations themes, lessons, values, cultural celebrations, traditions, music, dance, and art
- Teacher eSupport on DVD, including interactive eBooks with embedded audio and read-along text highlighting (words can be isolated and read aloud), illustrations bank, Blackline Masters, word lists, and PD videos.
Celebrate the tradition of storytelling from Canada’s diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) cultures with authentic stories, illustrations, art, and photos from FNMI authors and artists.

✓ Cross-curricular content
✓ Oral language and vocabulary development
✓ Strong foundation for early literacy
✓ Springboard for inquiry
✓ Based on the proven and effective Gradual Release of Responsibility model
✓ Everything print is also digital!
✓ Supports the Aboriginal worldview
The Nelson Literacy 1 Storytelling Kit includes:

- 4 Canadian Read-Aloud Picture Books
- 12 Photo cards (5 1/2” x 8 1/2”)
- 1 Audio CD and 1 DVD of Digital Resources including:
  - An Interactive eBook
  - SMART Notebook™ lessons
  - An image bank
- 2 Song/Map Posters (20” x 32”)
- 1 Easy-to-store Kit Bag
- 5 Shared Reading Posters with multiple selections (32” x 20”)
- 1 Theme Poster (32” x 20”)
- 2 Graphic Organizer Posters (32” x 20”)
- 1 Teacher’s Resource
- 1 easy-to-store kit bag
- 1 audio CD and 1 DVD of digital resources including:
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**Nancy Deleary** is an Ojibway artist from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation in Muncey, Ontario. She is a member of the Loon Clan of the Chippewas. Nancy is a graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM. Her works are based on Ojibway culture and history. She is an artist of painting, clay, sculpture, and murals.

**Ferguson Plain** is a teacher in Wallaceburg, Ontario, and an Ojibway artist and writer from the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Sarnia, Ontario. In 1993, two of his books, *Little White Cabin* and *Amikoonse* were selected as “Our Choice” by the Canadian Children’s Book Centre. In 1993, Ferguson was awarded the Commemorative Medal for his significant contribution to Canada.

**Leslee White-Eye** is an Education Officer with the Aboriginal Education Office of the Ministry of Education. Leslee began her education career as a classroom teacher for eight years at Wiiji Nimbawiyaang Elementary, and then worked as the Service Coordinator at the Indigenous Education Coalition (IEC). She is a proud member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation where she was a trustee for their board of education and a band councillor with the education portfolio for the nation. She is Anishinaabe from the Ojibway nation and working to be 1st degree Mide.
**Don Freed** is a Canadian singer and songwriter, best known for his works about life on the Western Canadian prairies. His most recent CD release is 2005’s “The Valley of Green and Blue,” which celebrates his Métis heritage.

**Elder Margaret LaBillois** is a storyteller and Mi’kmaq leader. In 1970, she was elected the Chief of Eel River Bar, becoming the first female Chief in New Brunswick. In recognition of her leadership qualities and significant contribution to sustaining Mi’gmaq traditional skills and practices, Margaret was awarded the Order of Canada in 1998, and in 2005 the province of New Brunswick awarded her the Order of New Brunswick.

**Tanya Leary** is Sealteaux from Roseau River First Nation, Manitoba. She taught Grades K–5 in a two-room school house on Georgina Island First Nation for eight years, and is currently working as a Literacy Improvement Project Teacher for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. She is a published author, curriculum writer, artist, and has received two Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching. She is passionate about passing on both traditional arts and environmental knowledge to her students.

**Lana Whiskeyjack** is a writer and artist based in St. Paul, Alberta. Lana is of Cree descent, and currently an art instructor at Blue Quills First Nations College.

**Other contributors include:**
The Northwest Territories Literacy Council
The students of Kiskahikan School, Selkirk Elementary School, and Waabgon Gamig First Nation School
Nathalie Bertin originally hails from Toronto, Ontario. After working as a graphic designer for several years, Nathalie began showing her art publicly in 2009. Bertin’s work is often described as luminescent, energetic, bold, and colourful. She is also fond of strong shapes and textures. She recently began incorporating elements of her French and Algonquin heritage into her work, including beadwork, furs, and other fiber objects, in an exploration of concepts based on the Canadian fur trade and her role within it as a modern sustenance hunter.

Dan Daulby is a Canadian Native American artist from Richmond, British Columbia, whose work is influenced by his Celtic and Native American ancestry.

Maria Hupfield is an artist based in Brooklyn, New York, whose work has been exhibited at the Art Gallery of Alberta and with the Crossing Collective as part of a performance exchange between Bbeyond Artist Collective, Belfast Ireland and SAW Gallery, Ottawa. She is of Anishinaabe heritage, and a member of Wasauksing First Nation, in Ontario.

Adrian Nadjiwon is an artist from the Chippewas of Nawash Reserve on the Bruce Peninsula. He is the illustrator of the books Living in Harmony and The Gift of the Stars.

Alan Syliboy is a Mi’kmaq artist from Truro, Nova Scotia, whose work incorporates contemporary themes with traditional petroglyph symbols.

Ningeokuluk Teevee is a Canadian Inuit writer and artist. Her first children’s book, Alego, was nominated in 2009 for the Governor General’s Award for children’s literature illustration.

Gryn White is a young Haida carver who descends from a family rich in Haida Artists. He first started professionally carving in 2002. Gryn works with a variety of media, he is especially well known for his argillite carvings.
Janice Ciavaglia, originally from Ottawa, Ontario, has dedicated her teaching career to working in First Nations education. As the Literacy Consultant for the Mi’kmaw Kina’matnewey First Nation School Success Team, she mostly works supporting teaching and promoting best practices in literacy.

Tanya Leary is Sealteaux from Roseau River First Nation, Manitoba. She taught Grades K–5 in a two-room school house on Georgina Island First Nation for eight years, and is currently working as a Literacy Improvement Project Teacher for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. She is a published author, curriculum writer, artist, and has received two Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Calvin Racette is from Regina, Saskatchewan, and has been an educator for 30 years. He has written several publications on Métis history. Recently, he co-wrote four children’s books that speak about First Nations worldview and the Circle of Life. He intends to continue to work in the development of Aboriginal content for children’s literature.

Glenda Thiel has been an educator for 21 years, both in the classroom and at the government level. This project has been a first for her; she is passionate about Storytelling because once students can identify themselves in a book, they will be readers for life. Glenda lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Other Advisors include:
Wilfred Burton, Retired English Language Arts Coordinator, Regina Board of Education, SK
Lorna Irons, Pedagogical Consultant, Kativik School Board, Quebec
Kathleen Manderville, Principal, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Ontario
Irene Webb, Teacher, Jens Haven Memorial School, Newfoundland & Labrador
The Circle of Life logo is inspired by the Medicine Wheel, and incorporates the circle shape and the colours red, yellow, black, and white.

Spiritually significant in First Nations cultures, the Medicine Wheel represents the four cardinal directions and the interconnectivity of everything in nature. It has many different meanings and uses on various levels, including a circle of awareness and knowledge of self and life.
The fox was chosen as the mascot for *Nelson Literacy 1 Storytelling* because it is often featured in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit stories. In some stories, the fox is portrayed as a trickster character, while in others he is an animal spirit associated with intelligence and wisdom, who occasionally helps people or animals to solve a problem.

The *Storytelling* fox was created by artist Nathalie Bertin. Bertin’s work is often described as luminescent, energetic, bold, and colourful. She recently began incorporating elements of her French and Algonquin heritage into her work.

In June 2010, Bertin was selected as an artist ambassador for the G20 Summit in Toronto, a volunteer position that garnered global media attention for Canadian artists from Muskoka. Her work can be found in collections of the Government of Manitoba, Government of Alberta, Métis Nation of Ontario, corporate organizations and private collectors across Canada, the US, Europe, and Africa. She currently works from her home studio in Newmarket, Ontario, and home-away-from-home in Muskoka, Ontario.
Used together, the *Circle of Life* and *Nelson Literacy 1 Storytelling* resources support the Gradual Release of Responsibility model to foster student achievement.

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Nelson Education thanks the many advisors involved with *Circle of Life* and *Nelson Literacy 1 Storytelling* for their outstanding contributions to these new Aboriginal worldview resources.

**Wilfred Burton** Retired English Language Arts Coordinator, Regina Board of Education, SK

**Janice Ciavaglia** Literacy Consultant, Mi’Kmaw Kina’matnewey, NS

**Judy Dunn** Aboriginal Resource Teacher, School District 73, BC

**Kathy Fraumeni** Retired Principal, London District Catholic School Board, ON

**Ruth French** Education Consultant, Agency Chiefs Tribal Council, Spiritwood, SK

**Lynnita JoJo Guillet** Aboriginal Education Resource Teacher, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, ON

**Lorna Irons** Pedagogical Consultant, Kativik School Board, QC

**Tanya Leary** Literacy Improvement Project Teacher, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, ON

**Lynn Landry** Consultant—Literacy Assessment and Reporting, Halifax Regional School Board, NS

**Terry Mack** Strong Nations, Nanaimo, BC

**Kathleen Manderville** Principal, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, ON

**Maureen Murphy** Vice Principal, Toronto Catholic District School Board, ON

**Sharla Pelletier** Speech Language Pathologist, Rainbow District School Board, ON

**Tanya Senk** Coordinator—Aboriginal Education, Toronto District School Board, ON

**Linda Perrin** Retired Learning Specialist, School District 8, NB

**Calvin Racette** Aboriginal Education Coordinator, Regina Public Schools, SK

**Glenda Thiel** Education Officer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, AB

**Irene Webb** Teacher, Jens Haven Memorial Primary School, Nain, NL
Authentic, culturally-relevant literacy resources developed to support the Aboriginal worldview.

For more information on these new resources, please contact your Nelson Education sales representative or visit www.nelson.com/aboriginal