



Call for Expressions of Interest from Children's Book Illustrators

Introduction

The Babies, Books and Bonding Action Team of the Northern Healthy Communities Partnership is seeking an illustrator to contribute illustrations to the development and publication of a children's board book intended for children approximately 18 months of age. Featuring the story of a northern Saskatchewan family as they gather and prepare food for a family meal, the story is tailored to a northern Saskatchewan context, promotes healthy eating and resilience-building family rituals and caters to younger children than most Aboriginal language books currently available. The book will be published in three versions: Cree and English, Dene and English, and Michif and English.

An estimated 10 illustrations will be needed for the 16-page book, including the front and back cover. Illustrations commissioned for the book will be used in all three versions. Once published, this unique book will be distributed through the Babies, Books and Bonding Program to children and their families at well-child clinic visits on and off reserve throughout northern Saskatchewan. The program stresses the importance of reading to children, and provides encouragement to sing and tell stories in English and Aboriginal languages, regardless of parental reading level.

Submission Requirements

Artists and illustrators interested in this commission should submit an expression of interest that includes:

- A resume or summary of relevant projects and experience, in particular previous experience with commissioned work
- Examples of previous relevant work
- Financial and copyright expectations
- Timeline for completing the necessary number of illustrations

As the commission is for a children's book, the selection process will emphasize seeking illustrations that are appropriate for the age of the audience, similar to other population publications for young children. Interested artists are encouraged to showcase experience and work aimed at young audiences.

Preference will be given to artists and illustrators who have an understanding of the northern Saskatchewan context and culture. Illustrators are encouraged to self-identify if they are Aboriginal and/or northern Saskatchewan residents in their submission.





About the Northern Healthy Communities Partnership and Babies, Books and Bonding

The Northern Healthy Communities Partnership (NHCP) works collaboratively with a population health promotion approach to enhance the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities in northern Saskatchewan. Our partners include First Nations and provincial health organizations, as well as education, recreation and community organizations from across northern Saskatchewan. The work of NHCP is primarily executed through five Action Teams: the Active Communities Team, the Babies, Books and Bonding team, the Building Vibrant Youth team, the Healthy Eating Team, and the Northern Tobacco Strategy team. These teams are generally composed of front line staff from our partner organizations who contribute time and energy to NHCP projects as a portion of their work duties. The Core Group of NHCP is made up of leaders and managers from our partner organizations and provides direction, governance and support to the Action Teams.

The Babies, Books and Bonding (BBB) Action Team of the Northern Healthy Communities Partnership provides direction and program development for the Babies, Books and Bonding program. The Babies, Books and Bonding program provides age appropriate board books to children and families both on and off reserve in northern Saskatchewan, through nurses who provide childhood immunizations at well-child clinics. The nurses distribute over 3000 board books to northern Saskatchewan families each year, providing an overview to the families of the importance and benefits of reading to infants and children at five points of contact: prenatal/newborn, six months, 12 months, 18 months, two years and four years. During these well-child visits, parents and families are encouraged, regardless of their reading level, to tell stories to their child and to make up stories based on the pictures in the books. The goal of the program is to encourage early years' literacy and parent-child bonding. This project is one in a series of expansions by the Babies, Books and Bonding Action Team and is an important step to promoting literacy in all northern languages.

Call for Expressions of Interest Release Date: August 25, 2016

Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2016

Estimated Start Date: October 2016

Questions and Expressions of Interest should be directed to:

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Northern Healthy Communities Partnership