

Choise, S. (2013, July 19). Native communities embrace summer literacy camps. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/changing-native-futures-one-summer-camp-at-a-time/article13331334/>.

The article I have chosen to look at appeared in the Globe and Mail on July 19, 2013 and is titled *Native communities embrace summer literacy camps*. This article addresses the issue of lack of literacy among the native populations, specifically those in the north. The question-at-issue that this article addresses is, “For what reasons should money and time be invested to increase literacy in the northern native population?” The article also poses related questions such as; Why was the initiative started? What other issues can literacy prevent? Who are the stakeholders of this initiative?

To address the question at issue of, for what reasons should time and money be invested to increase literacy in the northern native population, the article provides many examples. There is promise of natural resource development with the Ring of Fire project (considered to be one of the largest potential mineral reserves in Ontario). There is a great need for educated labour due to the Ring of Fire project. Substance abuse is a reality that many northern communities deal with, teaching the people to read and write will give them the skills required to address health and addiction issues.

There are many stakeholders involved, for different reasons, but ultimately to benefit the children and families of the north. The Lieutenant-Governor’s Summer Aboriginal Literacy Camps were initiated eight years ago by then Lieutenant-Governor James Bartleman. The program is over seen by Sherry Campbell, president and CEO of Frontier College, with the national head office in Toronto. Industry is invited to invest in the program, because as

Campbell states, “economic development depends on investing in early literacy in First Nations communities.”

The parents of students have an interest and perhaps are the target, because their view of schools needs to be redefined due to the experience of residential schools. Students in northern communities are among the most at risk in Canada, they need to understand that others care about them and their welfare.