

# Literacy This Week



Yukon Literacy  
Coalition

*We are a society of people dedicated to improving the quality of life of all Yukoners. We do this by building the foundational skills required for lifelong learning; acknowledging that we are all adapting to an everchanging world.*

## Newfoundland Sayings

Do you know any Newfoundlanders? If you've ever heard them talking to their friends or family back home, you might have realized that it sometimes sounds like they speak a different language. I'm from Newfoundland myself and sometimes I can't even understand my own grandparents!

Some Newfoundlanders would say they're bilingual – they speak English and "Newfinese". There are hundreds of unusual expressions – let me fill you in on a few:

### 1 "Whattaya at?"

The literal meaning of this is "What are you doing?" but Newfoundlanders commonly use it as a greeting - the same as you would say "Hi!"

### 2 "I dies at you"

"You're funny"

### 3 "Knows yer not cute"

Anything that starts with "Knows you're not" means "You are", so this one actually means "You're cute"

### 4 "Ya got me drove"

"You're annoying me"

### 5 "Stay where you're at 'til I comes where you're to"

"Stay where you are until I get there"

### 6 "Some day on clothes"

This would be a way to talk about how nice the weather is – it would be a good day to hang clothes out on the clothes-line, so it could simply translate to "The weather is beautiful"

### 7 "Who knit ya?"

"Who are your parents?"

### 8 "What odds?"

"It doesn't matter" or "Not a big deal"

*Try out one of these Newfie sayings on a friend and see if they can guess what it means!*

## Yukon Literacy Coalition

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