

**TD Children's Book Tour**  
**short report by Mariella Bertelli,**  
**Storyteller**

Labrador! That was my destination and that's where I wanted to go for my TD tour. Lucky me, for the North has always appealed to me. I travelled by plane to three main locations, first Wabush and Labrador City, then to Churchill Falls and lastly to Happy Valley/Goose Bay, visiting different communities and storytelling to children from 6 months to 13 years.

On the last stretch I also reached North West River - sugar on the top - where I met a group of committed adults, dedicated to preserving and passing on the stories of "Them Days". They are stories of people who dared to live in adverse and extreme weather conditions. These are people whose spirits are unbeatable, in a place at the edge of the world, where the winters are long and the summers are short: only two seasons, as ironically stated by my first hotel, called "The Two Seasons".

But the children! And the adults! Surprisingly, or maybe because of that, they are super cheerful, ready smiles and open faces, making me feel welcome. As I told different stories, some from Italy where I grew up, a land miles and ways apart, the children were enrapt, attentive and eager to participate. "I could have listened to her all day long," a Grade 3 boy told his teacher. It was so rewarding.

In Churchill Falls, a story surfaced that I hadn't told in a while, about an underground kingdom inside the Alps. That very night, I was taken for a tour of the Hydro plant and I found myself in the landscape of the story I had told, deep in the earth, surrounded by rocks three billion years old.

Coincidence? I would like to think it was due to the magic and power of story and storytelling, a magic that continued all week long. A huge thank you to TD Tour, CCBC and all the people who make it happen.