



e - News

NWT Literacy Council

January 2007

Welcome to 2007 - and welcome Maria Elisabeth!



The staff and board members of the NWT Literacy Council are very pleased to announce that Community Literacy Coordinator Lisa Campbell and her husband Mike Triggs are the proud, new parents of Maria Elisabeth. Maria was born at 1:36 a.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 and weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces at birth.

Mom, dad and baby are healthy and doing well!

We also extend our best wishes to each of you for health, happiness and prosperity in the new year.

Brad Heath

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Update on Funding

The NWT Literacy Council received emergency funding from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in December. This funding was necessary to help us stay afloat in the face of the ongoing funding delays from the federal government.

The federal government has agreed to review all funding proposals received before the literacy cuts were announced. We are hopeful that our projects will in the end be supported.

There is no political debate about the cuts to literacy at the moment because the Senate is adjourned until Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., and the House of Commons stands adjourned until Monday, January 29, 2007.

There may be reason to hope for movement in the new year. On January 4, 2007 Prime Minister Harper named Monte Solberg as the new minister for Human Resources and Social Development. Former HRSDC minister, Diane Finley, is now the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Imagine Canada (which helps Canadians and their governments understand how the work of charities, nonprofit organizations and community-minded businesses is important to our country and its future) reports in its "Ottawa Reports" newsletter that Minister Solberg, "is known among his colleagues to have a genuine interest in our sector and the issues we champion. He is considered to be one of the government's strongest communicators and is expected to be much more high-profile in this role." Find out more about the new minister at <http://www.montesolberg.ca/EN/3081/>.

In closing, the NWT Literacy Council would once again like to say "Thanks!" to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for giving us emergency funding to help us through until March.

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Media Releases

(Note: links to media releases may be time-limited)

Port Moody, BC family wins visit from Robert Munsch in national contest for ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day®

http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/munschwinners07.shtml

Canadian Post-secondary Education A Positive Record - An Uncertain Future

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/PostSecondaryEducation/index.htm>

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: Early reading ability and later literacy skills

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/061205/d061205a.htm>

Employment Opportunity - NALD seeks CEO

<http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2007/nald-ed.htm>

Doing the skill development two-step: Employees lose skills as students gain them, CCL research shows

http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20061221Release_Skillstwostep.htm

2007 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards Nominations

YELLOWKNIFE (12 January, 2007) - Nominations are open for the 2007 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards, announced the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), the Honourable Michael McLeod.

The awards, sponsored this year by MACA in partnership with Volunteer NWT, recognize the outstanding contribution volunteers make in their communities across the Northwest Territories.

Awards are presented in the categories of Youth Volunteer, Elder Volunteer, Outstanding Group as well as Outstanding Volunteer. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2007.

"I hope to see a large number of community nominations this year," said Minister McLeod. "There are many deserving volunteers across the north and these awards are an opportunity for the community to thank these dedicated individuals."

Brochures containing nomination forms are available in all community offices or from any MACA office. The brochure and nomination form is also available on the MACA web site, www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

Winners in each category will be honoured in a special ceremony during National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2007.

For more information, contact:

Brandice Pereira
Communications and Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs

Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 920-3092

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Literacy Promotions

Here are some important literacy dates to remember.

January 27, 2007 - **National Family Literacy Day**

March 2, 2007 - **World Book Day**

March, 2007 - **Aboriginal Languages Month**

April 2, 2007 - **International Children's Book Day**

National Family Literacy Day – January 27th

National Family Literacy Day is only days away! The NWT Literacy Council has mailed information packages that include two new How-to-Kits: Making Family Books and Children and Play. We are also sending out family literacy tip sheets to every household in the NWT. So look for yours any day now in your post office box.

If by chance you don't receive one of the Family Literacy Day tip sheets, you can download a copy from our web site at www.nwt.literacy.ca. It's the first item in the What's News section. We also have an 8.5" x 11" poster that we've distributed widely by e-mail. If you'd like a copy, please contact us by phone, fax or e-mail, and we'll gladly send you a copy by e-mail that you can print and post in your workplace, school or community.

In past years, the NWT Literacy Council has organized events such as a Pyjama Jam and puppet shows in Yellowknife along with visits to local schools by local and visiting authors. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to organize any such event this year. Let's hope our funding is restored and we're back on track for 2008!

To find out what's happening across Canada on Family Literacy Day, check out the following web site:
<http://www.nald.ca/info/events/annual/fld/fld.htm>.

Of course, you should also check out ABC Literacy Foundation's web site at: <http://www.abc-canada.org>.

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Upcoming Conferences and Courses

Canadian Council on Learning to release Annual Report on the State of Learning in Canada, Friday, Jan. 26, 2007.

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) will release its annual Report on the State of Learning in Canada on Friday, January 27 to coincide with national Family Literacy Day the following day. The report comprises chapters on Early Childhood Learning, Learning in School, Adult Learning and Aboriginal Learning. Literacy provides both a unifying thematic thread to the report as a whole, and serves as the focus of a 60-page Special Feature Report on Literacy.

Although the report has not yet been made public, we have been told that it draws three main conclusions:

- Canada has been lucky to have natural resources but now needs to focus on human resources;
- Literacy is a basic building block and Canada needs to invest and take action; and
- CCL recommends that Canada should take action to:
 - Integrate a culture of learning and literacy into society;
 - Establish a dialogue among major players;
 - Create indicators, long-term goals, and programs to foster them.

The report will be available on CCL's web site on Friday, Jan. 26. The web site address is: <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/ccl>.

The NWT Literacy Council supports the CCL's conclusions but, given our ongoing struggle to get funding for the literacy programs that were cut in September 2006, are not optimistic that the federal government will react positively to the report.

Yellowknife: Territorial Women's Conference: February 9, 10 & 11, 2007

The Joining the Circle 2007 Northern Women's Leadership Conference is bringing together women from NWT communities to make recommendations on present and future economic, political and social developments in the territory.

- When: February 9, 10 & 11, 2007
- Where: Yellowknife
- Place: Explorer Hotel

The conference themes are Leadership, Social Equality and Economic Equality. Funding is limited for out-of-town participants. Check out www.statusofwomen.nt.ca or call 1-888-234-4485 or 920-6177.

Toronto: Moving Research about Violence and Learning into Practice: A Research in Practice Workshop, February 2, 2007

The Festival of Literacies will be hosting this workshop on **February 2, 2007**. Pre-registration is needed by January 19, 2007.

Some limited subsidies are available for people who must travel to Toronto to attend the event on a first-come first-allocated basis. To register and to apply for a subsidy, contact Jenny Horsman at jenny@jennyhorsman.com.

For more information about this event, go to www.literaciesOISE.ca.

Victoria: 2nd International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, March 7-10, 2007

Conference on research, policy and practice around the world will feature many world-renowned speakers. Hosted by UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education. For more information contact ipconf@interchange.ubc.ca or go to www.interprofessional.ubc.ca.

Montreal: Libraries and Literacy: Making It Work Summer Institute, June 27-29 2007

The Centre for Literacy of Quebec, in collaboration with the Canadian Library Association and AlphaPlus Centre, will explore this topic from June 27 to 29, 2007. Save by registering before May 1, 2007. For more information, go to <http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/>.

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New Resources

Family Literacy Week Guides from the Centre for Expertise in Family Literacy

Literacy Activities, events, resources and contacts for Family Literacy Day/Week.
<http://www.familyliteracyexpertise.org/Resources/flg/flg.htm>

English Express – January 2007

English Express newspaper is for adults who are improving their English reading skills. The latest issue is

now online.

<http://www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/englishexpress>

Building Professional Pride in Literacy: A Dialogical Guide to Professional Development for Practitioners of Adult Literacy and Basic Education

Written by B. Allan Quigley, a professor of adult education at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. Find out more about this book through Grass Roots Press at:

<http://secure.cartsvr.net/catalogs/catalog.asp?prodid=4913088 &showprevnext=1>

The book is also available through www.amazon.ca and other online book stores.

Changing the Way We Teach Math: A Manual for Teaching Basic Math to Adults

Teaching basic math to adults – a new manual available free from National Literacy Database (NALD).

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/mathman/mathman.pdf>

More Complicated Than It Seems: A Review of Literature about Teaching Math to Adults

<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/morecomp/morecomp.pdf>

National Adult Literacy Database

From this page, access is provided to resources such as online books and resources that may be used at home or in the classroom.

<http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/recent?page=1>

Free activities, colouring pages, and projects

Children's book author/illustrator Jan Brett offers 3,923 pages of free activities, colouring pages and project.

<http://www.janbrett.com/index.html>

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Funding Opportunity

NWT Arts Council Funding

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in partnership with the NWT Arts Council is accepting applications for NWT Arts Council Funding until January 31, 2007. Money is available for artists

and members of registered territorial organizations producing a specific artistic work, project or event in a recognized discipline. For more information contact 920-6370 or boris_atamanenko@gov.nt.ca.

Research request from Kate Nonesuch, Vancouver Island, BC

I am involved in a national research project, funded by the National Office of Literacy and Learning, Human Resources and Social Development Canada. One aim of this project is to study the process of moving findings from the research literature on violence and learning into ABE/Literacy practice and program policy.

I am conducting a survey to find out what people in the ABE/Literacy field think about the relationship between learning and learners' past or current experience of violence.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Click on the link below:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=145613168996>

All responses will be anonymous. And I hope you will find the questions interesting. Please forward this message to your contacts in ABE/Literacy and Family Literacy. Thanks for your help.

Note: I'm conducting this survey as an independent contractor, not as part of my work at Malaspina University-College.

Kate Nonesuch - (250) 748-1814

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Youth Stuff

When the Spirits Dance

By Larry Loyie with Constance Brissenden

Children's non-fiction book published by Theytus Books Ltd. Of Penticton BC, Canada's leading Aboriginal publisher. This is the second book in the Lawrence series.

When Lawrence's father goes overseas with the Canadian Army during the Second World War, the young Cree boy struggles to grow up while wrestling with the meaning of war. With Papa gone, Mama raises the children alone. Traditional foods like wild meat and fish are scarce and many other foods are rationed. Angry about the changes and confused about the future, Lawrence misses his father and his teachings about their natural way of life. When army runaways threaten the family, Lawrence's courage and knowledge of traditional skills are called upon to keep them safe. With guidance from his grandfather and encouragement

from his grandmother, Lawrence faces his challenges, becoming wiser and stronger, and earning the respect of his elders.

Publisher's web site: www.theytusbooks.ca

Author's web site: www.firstnationswriter.com

National Aboriginal Achievement Awards - March 14 - 17, 2007

Youth aged 14 - 19 years old have a chance to see the 2007 national Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Edmonton. For more information on how you can apply go to:

<http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/sport/youth/index.html> or you can contact:

Youth Programs

Sport, Recreation and Youth

Municipal and Community Affairs

#400, 5201-50th Avenue

Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9

Phone: 873-7245

The deadline for applications is January 30th, 2007 .

What's happening in your community?

We'd be happy to include information in our e-news about what's happening in your community or interesting resources that you have come across. Send your ideas to bheath@nwtliteracy.ca .

We would also like to include photos and stories about your Family Literacy Day activities in our next E-News, so please send us reports along with photos (both digital and prints are okay).

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NWT Literacy Council Membership?

Have you renewed your membership with the NWT Literacy Council? If not, why not take a moment and do so right away - that way you can stroke it off your New Year's resolution list! Donations are also gratefully accepted.

A membership application form is posted on our web site at: <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/aboutus/about.htm>. It's halfway down the right hand column under "About Us." Memberships are \$10 for an individual, \$20 for

families, and \$25 for organizations and businesses.

You can print a copy of the form from our web site and mail in your cheque or money order. Or you can drop by our office at 5122 - 48th Street in Yellowknife.

Brad Heath

Promotions & Fundraising Coordinator

NWT Literacy Council

Box 761

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6

Toll Free: 1-866-599-6758

Phone: (867) 873-9262

Fax : (867) 873-2176

E-mail: bheath@nwtliteracy.ca

Web Site: www.nwt.literacy.ca

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