



e - News

NWT Literacy Council

June 2007

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Authors Larry Loyie and Constance Brissenden will be our special guests for *NWT Literacy Week 2007*. Read more about their visit in this month's e-News

Who are your Literacy Champions?

The NWT Literacy Council wants to know who are your literacy champions. Perhaps it's an Elder who has laboured to keep your language alive? Maybe it's a local hockey player who encourages youngsters to stay in school? Or perhaps it's the political leader who supports family literacy programs in your community? We're planning to create a series of Literacy Champions posters over the coming year, so please send us your nominees by fax, e-mail or Canada Post. (Our contact information can be found at the end of this e-News.) There's no official form, just send us a letter explaining why your nominee deserves to be recognized as a Literacy Champion of the Northwest Territories.

NWT Literacy Week 2007

The organizing committee for NWT Literacy Week 2007 is already hard at work and has chosen the dates of Friday, September 28 to Friday, October 5, 2007.

A tentative schedule of events includes an International Literacy Day Brunch, Literacy Lunch with the Bunch at the Baker Centre, writing workshops by visiting authors Larry Loyie and Constance Brissenden, a book signing with Larry and Constance at the Yellowknife Book Cellar, the Read for 15 Challenge between the NWT, Yukon and Nunavut, a Literacy Games Afternoon at the Native Women's Training Centre, an Adult Learner's Lunch and presentation of Ministerial Literacy Awards - and more to be announced.

Larry Loyie and Constance Brissenden will also be travelling to Inuvik. You can learn more about these authors by visiting their web site at: www.firstnationswriter.com. Our thanks to *First Air* for their support in flying Larry and Constance to the North and home again! Also thanks to *Capital Suites* in Yellowknife and Inuvik for taking good care of our guests during their stay.

Other events are sure to be added to the list - and we'll keep you up to date through our *e-News, Literacy Matters* newsletter and our web site. And, of course, we will be shipping literally hundreds of NWT Literacy Week packages to every community in the Northwest Territories!

NWT Literacy Week is being organized by the NWT Literacy Council, Yellowknife Book Cellar, Yellowknife Public Library, CBC North, Native Women's Association Training Centre, Yellowknife Seniors Society, Aurora College, GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Yellowknife Association for Community Living, Yellowknife Education District No. 1, and Yellowknife Catholic Schools.

Announcements & Media Releases

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

ABC CANADA wants your feedback on Family Literacy Day 2008

ABC CANADA is organizing a special planning meeting of Family Literacy Day (FLD) stakeholders to take place in Toronto on June 25. They will discuss how ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation can expand and improve this national public-awareness program as it heads into its 10th anniversary.

ABC CANADA hopes to address some key issues with those in attendance, such as:

- How can ABC CANADA make FLD more effective in meeting our goals to increase participation in literacy activities? Is ABC CANADA targeting the right people?

- How can ABC CANADA ensure that adult learners are served by Family Literacy Day?
- How can ABC CANADA make their materials and messages more targeted and helpful?
- How can ABC CANADA properly celebrate and acknowledge our 10th anniversary?

ABC CANADA wishes every person who is involved in Family Literacy Day could attend this meeting, but since they can't ABC CANADA would like to get your input and feedback on FLD via a survey. Please take a few minutes to complete the online survey by Friday, June 1.

For the survey, please go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=421423881031

Learning and violence in adult literacy

Kate Nonesuch, an instructor at Malaspina University-College, is 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.

She is 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.

Kate asks you to please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=145613168996

All responses will be anonymous. The survey will be open until July 1, 2007. Please forward this message to your contacts in ABE/Literacy, Community Literacy and Family Literacy in Canada, and please excuse the cross posting.

Kate Nonesuch, Victoria BC, (250) 381-1824

ABC CANADA embarks on key strategy planning

ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation is engaged in numerous discussions with the literacy community as part of a strategic planning process that will set the course for its initiatives for many years to come. A key focus that will be reflected in its new vision, mission and operating plan (scheduled for approval by its Board of Directors this fall) will be an expanded attention paid to adult literacy. This focus was very much part of its original mandate when, in 1990, the national charity was founded by a group of business, labour and education leaders concerned about the prevalence of low literacy among adult

Canadians.

In its first 17 years, ABC CANADA has developed and grown a number of programs in support of literacy: among them, the Look Under LEARN campaign featuring public-service announcements in Yellow Pages(tm) directories across the country, informing potential learners about where they can seek help in reading, writing and math in their area; Family Literacy Day (January 27), an annual event that celebrates parents and children reading and learning together on a regular basis, and that has seen remarkable growth in participation by teachers, librarians, literacy practitioners and families from coast to coast; and workplace literacy initiatives, including Canadian CEO, a publication that showcases corporate and labour leadership in developing and implementing literacy and essential skills upgrading for employees. The organization's new plan will build on what it has accomplished, with particular emphasis on the development of literacy and numeracy skills in adult Canadians.

As part of its planning process, ABC CANADA has sought, and will continue to seek, the perspectives of various literacy practitioners, researchers and academics. Committees and advisory groups have been formed and the resulting consultation has been fundamental in ABC CANADA's deliberations. Those discussions will have an impact on all of its programs and its various communications vehicles. Details of the plan will be announced, when available, via e-mails and on the web site, www.abc-canada.org

A letter from ABC CANADA President Margaret Eaton

Dear literacy colleagues:

As we go deeper into our strategic planning process, it has become clear that the central question is: What should ABC CANADA be? And then, based on the answer to that question, what should we do?

Through our process of consultation, we have set out to answer those questions. We have created a draft mission which positions ABC CANADA as a champion of adult literacy with our key scope of activities being national communications and influencing public policy. From our research with the field, we found that there is a real need, and a desire for, ABC CANADA to play a strong role in these two activities. Of course, we can't do either communications or advocacy without input from, and collaboration with, our colleagues in the field.

We'll be presenting our draft mission and vision, as well as organizational goals, to our board in June. Meanwhile, we are working on our new workplace literacy strategy with Brigid Hayes, developing new approaches to Family Literacy Day, and creating new adult literacy programs. We expect to bring a strategic package to the board in September and,

when we have approval, we'll send you all the details.

I look forward to reporting back to you on our progress.

Margaret Eaton, President

***Literacy at Work* to re-launch as e-newsletter**

Literacy at Work, ABC CANADA's quarterly review of literacy issues, has ceased publication in its printed form and will re-launch later this year in an electronic format. The change is part of ABC CANADA's review of its programs and communications vehicles, with the view to develop more targeted communications to various audiences.

Thanks to a very strong response earlier this year to an online questionnaire regarding *Literacy at Work*, ABC CANADA was able to incorporate much of that thinking into its plans for this new e-newsletter.

New print and TV PSAs in support of Look Under LEARN

In partnership with Canadian Yellow Pages publishers, LEARN and APPRENDRE public service announcements (PSAs) - which feature information about local adult literacy programs - continue to be included in directories across Canada. During this past year, we have implemented a newly refreshed ad design developed in consultation with LEARN/APPRENDRE partners across the country. With help from the literacy community, we were able to reduce the amount of text by 50 per cent. As new Yellow Pages directories are printed, the new ad will appear.

To view the new PSAs, go to:

www.abc-canada.org/public_awareness/campaigns_learn.asp

In addition, a new television PSA highlighting the Look Under LEARN program launched the last week of May. Developed by Toronto ad agency ACLC, the new 30-second spot, in English and French versions, imaginatively depicts the desire for people with low literacy to "go forward" and says that when they are ready to "take the next step," help through the LEARN ads is available to them. ABC CANADA thanks literacy organizations for their input in the development of this message; special kudos to Toronto-based St. Christopher House and the Centre for Community Learning and Development (formerly East End Literacy) for providing us the opportunity to meet with tutors and students.

To view the new TV PSAs, go to:

www.abc-canada.org/public_awareness/stuck_campaign.asp

***Gift of Words*(tm) book program has touched more than 280,000 children**

ABC CANADA is pleased to announce that 7,400 books have been distributed through the *Gift of Words*(tm) presented by Starbucks funding program this year to not-for-profit literacy organizations as well as school and public libraries across the country.

In the 2006-2007 program, \$100,000 was provided for these organizations to purchase needed titles for their book collections and either launch or expand upon their reading circle programs. These new initiatives are now well under way. In the two years this program has run, more than 16,000 books have been distributed, touching more than 280,000 children.

Details regarding the next funding cycle this fall will be posted on ABC CANADA's web site when they are available. To view the complete listing of all 55 funding recipients for the 2006-2007 funding cycle, please visit: www.abc-canada.org/gow

New report links economic success, investment in training

A report by the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) suggests that business leaders might be best off investing in their employees-rather than in machines, computers, or software.

www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20070423workplacetraining.htm?La

Communities built on literacy: Harcourt

Former British Columbia premier and Vancouver mayor Mike Harcourt told a Saskatoon audience that literacy plays a key role in developing sustainable communities, and as a result is vital to Canada's economic well-being.

www.canada.com/saskatoonstarphoenix/news/local/story.html?id=cde355fe-33d1-4f27-b258-96be46d048e7&k=33826

Literacy Promotions

Here are some important literacy dates to remember.

- September 8, 2007 International Literacy Day
- Sept. 28 - Oct. 5, 2007 NWT Literacy Week
- January 27, 2008 Family Literacy Day
- March, 2008 Aboriginal Languages Month

- Spring 2008 2008 NWT PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy
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BookWorm Program

Did you know that you can support the NWT Literacy Council through the Yellowknife Book Cellar's *BookWorm Program*?

Patrons of the Yellowknife Book Cellar receive a stamp for every \$20 purchase. A full card of 10 stamps is worth a \$15 discount. You can donate your *BookWorm* stamps to the NWT Literacy Council by simply informing YK Book Cellar staff that you would like to donate your stamp to the Literacy Council. You can also collect stamps on your own card and give it to the Book Cellar when it's full and ask that the \$15 credit be donated to the Literacy Council.

The NWT Literacy Council uses the discount from the stamps to help purchase books for NWT communities that do not have libraries.

So, next time you're purchasing a new book by your favourite author, please consider sharing your love of books and reading with other Northerners!

Upcoming Events, Conferences and Courses

Online/Burnaby, BC: Looking with new eyes: Leadership in Literacy - 2007 Developing Champions for Literacy

Online conference: June 25 - July 20 / Face-to-face workshops: July 23 - 27, 2007

The 2007 Literacy BC Summer Institute, for adult literacy learners, tutors and practitioners, will examine the meaning of leadership in the contexts of literacy practice, lifelong learning, human and social capital, and learning communities/regions. It will join aspiring leaders to the national networks of experts working through Canadian Council on Learning Knowledge Centres. It will introduce participants to concepts and research perspectives that inform literacy leadership for today and the future. Learners, tutors and practitioners will have an opportunity to work and learn together and connect research with their practice.

For more information go to www2.literacy.bc.ca, write info@literacy.bc.ca or call 604-684-0624 or toll free 1-888-732-3234.

Penticton Summer Institute, July 9 to 27, 2007

This three-week program in the warm and welcoming environment of the En'owkin Centre in Penticton BC, offers two core courses towards the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization (CALR). Through the following courses, you will experience group activities, personal reflections, lectures, workshops, and conversations with resource people as you explore key principles in linguistics and language revitalization.

Language Revitalization Principles and Practices (LING 180, 3.0 Units): An introduction to the cultural, social, political, and psychological issues surrounding language loss, along with principles and best practices in the care and revitalization of Aboriginal languages in Canada and around the world. Factors influencing language maintenance, loss and revival are also explored. Instructor: Iehnhotonkwaw/Bonnie Jane Maracle is from the Wolf Clan of the Kanien'keha:ka and was born, raised, and currently lives on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, which is one of eight communities comprising the Mohawk Nation.

Introductory Linguistics for Language Revitalization (LING 181, 1.5 Units): A foundation for understanding language revitalization. Topics include sound systems and how they relate to orthographies, word structures and dictionaries, sentence structures and understanding texts, meaning and vocabulary, language acquisition, and historical change. Develop your awareness of languages targeted for revitalization, linguistic topics and resources. Instructor: Maxine Baptiste, B.A., M.A. (linguistics), Head of Language Programs at the En'owkin Centre (on leave) and Ph.D. candidate in language, culture, and heritage at the University of Arizona.

For more information go to: www.uvcs.uvic.ca/calr or contact the Aboriginal Language Revitalization Program, Division of Continuing Studies University of Victoria, by phone at 250-721-6119 or by e-mail: calr@uvcs.uvic.ca.

Yellowknife: NorthWords Writers Festival, August 2 to 5, 2007

Guest writers will be: Richard Van Camp (Victoria), Wayne Johnston (Newfoundland), Drew Hayden Taylor (Ontario), Shane Koyczan (Penticton), Michael Johansen (Labrador).

The festival will include mentoring sessions by guest writers, readings, a book signing, open mics, a comedy night, family barbecue, and a closing gala on the evening of Saturday, August 4 at Northern United Place.

In addition, workshops will be held by the visiting authors, as well as local writers: Richard Van Camp (graphic novel), Wayne Johnston (fiction), Shane Koyczan (spoken word), Drew Hayden Taylor (scriptwriting), Michael Johnsen (historical fiction), Mindy Willett (living history), Annelies Pool (magazine writing) and Gayla Meredith (kids' workshop).

For more information and updates, please check the festival website at:

Victoria Summer Institute, August 7 to 24, 2007

This three-week intensive Summer Institute on the beautiful University of Victoria campus in Victoria, BC combines workshops, guest speakers, and hands-on practice to present the second set of two core courses required in the CALR Program.

Language Learning and Teaching in Situations of Language Loss (LING 182, 1.5 Units):

An analysis of principles of language learning and acquisition in situations of language loss, and an examination of approaches to language teaching in Aboriginal community settings. Course topics include forms of language acquisition, teaching and learning strategies, integrating community needs and goals and their roles in teaching and learning. Instructor: Dr. Bernice Touchie, raised in a First Nation community, is an instructor and principal for the Ucluelet First Nation. She has been involved with the coordination of language revitalization

programs in British Columbia for the Ditidaht and Ucluelet First Nations, Ha-Ho-Payak Society in Port Alberni, and managed multi-tribal language revitalization for Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council. She has researched indigenous languages and social development and has published on the Nitinaht and Ditidaht language and on language learning for First Nations students.

Field Methods for Language Preservation and Revitalization (LING 183, 3.0 Units): A look at planning strategies and approaches, protocols, ways of gathering information, and analyzing and managing language preservation and revitalization. You will focus on community involvement, ethics and ownership issues, and the use of technology in documenting language. Techniques for study with elders, interview and recording methods, information and database management and sharing information are also explored. Instructor: Dr. Strang Burton has been employed with the Sto:lo Nation language program for over ten years. He worked with Sto:lo elders and other staff to help produce two textbooks on the Halq'emeylem language, one digital dictionary, and two CDs.

For more information go to www.uvcs.uvic.ca/calr or contact the Aboriginal Language Revitalization Program, Division of Continuing Studies University of Victoria, by phone at 250-721-6119 or by e-mail: calr@uvcs.uvic.ca.

Edmonton: The Centre for Family Literacy Family Literacy Institute, August 27-31, 2007

The Family Literacy Training Institute provides training to more than 90 practitioners each year from a variety of sectors. Various family literacy program models are presented

including: Books for Babies, Storysacks, B.O.O.K.S. and Rhymes that Bind. It also provides an Introduction to Family Literacy workshop and Train-the-Trainer sessions.

For more information: www.famlit.ca/training/flti.html

University of Victoria's Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education

University of Victoria's Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) is an award-winning professional development program for those interested in adult learning, program coordination, instruction/training, facilitation, instructional design/technologies, and leadership. Students must complete eight courses (four core, and 4.0 electives). The entire program may be taken by distance education (or in the classroom) but most students take courses from both delivery formats. Distance education delivery includes web-conferencing (requires Internet access), in addition to print materials. CACE is accepted for credit in other diplomas and undergraduate degrees, as well as towards professional credentialling. Individual courses may be taken without enrolling in the CACE program.

For more information contact: Diane Anderson, Senior Program Coordinator Continuing Studies in Education University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3010, STN CSC Victoria, BC V8W 3N4, Canada. Phone: (250) 721-7860; Fax: (250) 721-6603 E-mail: cace@uvcs.uvic.ca Or go to: www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/cace

New Resources

Introducing the *literacy.ca* EXPRESS

This year the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) is taking its newsletter online! Like many organizations, MCL has decided to no longer publish a paper-based newsletter. Over the next year they'll deliver The Express to your e-mail box on a regular basis. They'll also post it on their web site. MCL also hopes you'll circulate *The Express* far and wide to literacy programs and literacy friends.

In this first issue, they're going to bring you up-to-date on MCL projects and initiatives. They'll continue to do this in future issues, and invite your feedback on and suggestions for topics.

literacy.ca EXPRESS is available at MCL's web site: www.literacy.ca.

Two new literacy information sheets from SLN

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network (SLN) has added two new literacy information sheets to its resources: *Literacy and Employment*, and *Literacy and Health*.

The literacy information sheets are available on the SLN web site at: www.sk.literacy.ca.

Workplace Informal Learning Matrix (WILM)

The Workplace Informal Learning Matrix (WILM) is a powerful tool to help you measure the complexity of informal learning in your workplace.

The WILM consists of a series of specific scales used to capture the opportunity and levels of the Essential Skills required for a range of job classifications in the workplace. These non-technical skills include communication, problem solving, working with others, decision making, leadership, workplace culture, diversity and continuous learning.

The WILM process is non-invasive and easy to administer. It provides both employers and employees with a range of information about the level of informal learning needed in job profiles and job classifications.

For more information (in both English and French) go to: www.wilm.ca.

Adult Literacy Education (ALE) Wiki

The ALE Wiki is a community of practice with links to research for practitioners, researchers, learners and others. Although some people add to the discussion here, unlike an electronic list where dialogue may be frequent and lively, for the most part discussion archived here has taken place on electronic lists elsewhere.

Some of the topics are well-developed; some are not. You are welcome to add content to any topic. To create a new topic, email ALE Wiki organizer, David J. Rosen, at djrosen1@comcast.net. To learn who the volunteer contributors are for this community effort, select WhosHere.

Go to: http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Main_Page

New web site for the Work and Lifelong Learning Research Network

A project of the Centre for the Study of Education and Work (www.learningwork.ca/csew), the Work and Lifelong Learning Research Network (WALL) is composed of researchers from seven universities and more than 10 co-investigators from community groups and professional institutions across Canada. Benefiting from the contributions of international

advisors, the WALL research network endeavours to identify gaps in workplace training and education in Canada and bring visibility to current learning and work issues and trends.

The cumulative research generated by the WALL research network will provide a better understanding of current learning practices, processes and environments, and contribute to the production of valuable resources for instructor training, workplace innovation and government initiatives.

For more information, visit: www.wallnetwork.ca.

Trails to Literacy Around the Province: Positive Pathways To A Brighter Future

In 2000 - 2001 the North Frontenac Literacy Program (NFLP) piloted a new and very successful approach to literacy and basic skills (LBS) training: *Trails to Literacy*. The intent of this project was to develop a literacy marketing strategy in conjunction with participatory, hands-on, outcome-based learning.

Trails to Literacy is a client/community driven program. It partners community interest groups and volunteers with program staff and learners, doing activities that are based upon individual interest streams and goals. They include: clerical, administrative, environmental, public relations/marketing, fundraising, bookkeeping, historical, carpentry, computers, outdoor maintenance, etc.

The participants involved in the planning, research, writing, production and construction not only gain new literacy and basic skills but, perhaps even more significantly, they develop self-confidence and enthusiasm for learning. In our pilot project this contributed to a 43 per cent employment rate at exit.

Trails to Literacy is transferable almost anywhere. It is a pathway to skills attainment, a way to market literacy while still doing what we do best - facilitate learning. A trail can be: a cultural or multi-cultural study; a historic walk; a waterfront beautification project; a path of native healing; the creation of community gardens; the ecological rehabilitation of a body of water or significant land area; a path of sound, touch and scent for the blind; starting a clothing depot; or interpreting an outdoor conservation area. The possibilities are endless. It is participatory learning linked to individual communities.

www.nald.ca/library/learning/trailsto/cover.htm

Goodminds.com: Aboriginal Resources

As a Native owned and operated book distributor, Goodminds.com is committed to reviewing and accepting those Aboriginal resources that are respectful of First Nations/Metis/Inuit peoples, and that are accurate, bias free and educationally sound. GoodMinds.com offers you the world's largest selection of Native educational resources that include more than 3,000 Native books, videos, CD- ROMs, music CDs, audiocassettes and kits.

www.goodminds.com

The Imagination Library in Canada!

Invest in Kids is please to announce the exciting launch of The Imagination Library in Canada. In partnership with Dolly Parton's Dollywood Foundation, Invest in Kids is making this wonderful program available to all communities across Canada.

By reading regularly to your newborn and throughout those critical first five years of development, you are giving your child a significant advantage toward a successful education, and ultimately an improved quality of life. And as important, the relationship you experience with your child will be enriched by having shared these reading moments together, right from the beginning.

Imagine every child born in Canada signed up to receive a free book a month from birth until their fifth birthday.

Imagine communities supporting each other to make that happen.

Imagine how this might create literacy and love of learning in those children once they arrive at school.

Imagine how this might enrich the relationship between parent and newborn, as reading becomes a shared and wondrous way to connect with your child.

For additional information about The Imagination Library, phone 1-866-658-1254, or visit [http://investinkids.ca/ContentPage.aspx?name=Parents Imagination Library&alias=imaginationlibrary](http://investinkids.ca/ContentPage.aspx?name=Parents%20Imagination%20Library&alias=imaginationlibrary)

English Express

English Express newspaper is for adults who are improving their English reading skills. The latest issue is now online. www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/englishexpress

National Resource Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs

The National Resource Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs is the first directory of its kind in Canada. Its purpose is to gather critical information about the operations of Aboriginal literacy programs throughout Canada - from east to west to north. You can use the directory to share information and learn from the experiences of adult literacy practitioners from Aboriginal communities across the country.

The directory can be found at: www.nald.ca/aborlang/index.htm.

CAILC Project: Data Collection System for Independent Living Centres

The Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) is a national, bilingual, non-profit organization, and is governed by a board of directors which is comprised of a majority of people with disabilities from the various provinces and also members at large.

CAILC's national information collection system was developed as part of the Independent Living (IL) Project. Overall, the IL Impact Database was designed to build a credible, sustainable pan-Canadian framework for information gathering, analysis, story-telling, and measurement of public participation related to Independent Living.

This database will also assist in the delivery of valued resource materials to the movement and provide an historical account of their impact in Canada.

www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2007/cailcpr.htm

The Learning Edge

The current interactive and interesting issue of The Learning Edge is available at: www.thewclc.ca/edge

National Adult Literacy Database

The following page provides access 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>

Youth Stuff

Attention Young Aboriginal Writers: Time Is Running Out To Submit Your Essay And Win Cash Prizes!

Deadline for the 2007 Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge is June 29, 2007.

If you are between the ages of 14-18 or 19-29, you can showcase your creativity and explore your heritage. The Writing Challenge is open to classes and individuals. Prizes for both age categories for the 2007 Writing Challenge include:

- 1st Place - \$2000.00, Trip to Ottawa, publication in *The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine*
- 2nd Place - \$1000.00 and publication on www.our-story.ca
- 3rd Place - \$500.00 and publication on www.our-story.ca
- 4th Place to 10th place - \$100.00 and publication on www.our-story.ca

The first four classes to submit 20 stories will receive a digital camera.

Our Story is a national storytelling initiative to educate Canadians about the defining moments in history that have shaped this country and its Aboriginal people.

Visit www.our-story.ca or call 1-866-701-1867 for more information on how to submit a story.

Free as the Wind

by Jamie Bastedo (Author), Susan Tooke (Illustrator)

Young people can make a difference. The horses of Sable Island are a romantic and enduring symbol of the will to survive in an unforgiving environment. Hundreds of these wild horses live on the windy beaches and dunes of this remote island known as the graveyard of the Atlantic off the shores of Nova Scotia.

Free as the Wind is Jamie Bastedo's re-creation of one of the most fascinating episodes in the history of these wild creatures: the moment in the early 1960s when it was decided the horses would be removed from the island and auctioned off, many of them slaughtered for dog food. School children across the country wrote Canada's then Prime Minister, John Diefenbaker, pleading with him to restore the horses to the island, to save them from certain death. This fictional account of that pivotal moment in Canada's history follows young Lucas Beauregard, son of the retiring superintendent of Sable Island, as he befriends and then plots to save Gem, one of the horses of Sable Island.

The horses of Sable Island are a national treasure, not only because their history dates back as early as the settlement of Canada, but also because their continued survival showed the world that children can make a difference. Susan Tooke's sparkling paintings capture the spare but magnificent terrain of Sable Island in a way that will captivate readers of all ages.

Free as the Wind and all of Jamie Bastedo's other books are available at the Yellowknife Book Cellar.

Hardcover: 32 pages, Publisher: Red Deer Press; 1 edition (Feb 13 2007), ISBN-10: 0889953503, ISBN-13: 978-0889953505

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 activities from your community and/or organization in our next *e-News*, so please send us reports along with photos (both digital and prints are okay).

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: 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.