

e-News ☒ October 2007

Don't forget to vote today!

Monday, October 1st is Election Day across the NWT to elect our Members of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT. The NWT Literacy Council urges all eligible voters to take advantage of this opportunity to help set the course our territorial government will chart over the next four years!

And don't forget to Read for 15 today!

Monday, October 1st is also the annual *Read for 15 Challenge* between the NWT, Nunavut and the Yukon.

The NWT Literacy Council has high hopes that 2007 is the year the NWT finally wins the Read for 15 Challenge and shows the Yukon and Nunavut that NWT readers are second to none!

NWT Premier Joseph Handley is also encouraging NWT residents to participate in the Read for 15 Challenge on Monday, October 1st – and with good reason! Premier Handley has agreed to participate in a Premiers' challenge Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik – and he doesn't want to lose. (We're still waiting word as to whether or not Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie is in. The Yukon's Read for 15 Challenge will be held Oct. 10th during their Literacy Week.)

The "losing" Premiers will have to wear a literacy T-shirt from the "winning" Premier's territory for a day – and that's probably one official duty that Premier Handley would prefer to avoid as his term of office draws to a close.

In 2006, the NWT and Nunavut tied for 1st place in the Read for 15 Challenge with participation rates of 31 per cent while Yukon finished second with 25 per cent. Nunavut had claimed 1st place the previous two years, says Cate Sills, Executive Director of the NWT Literacy Council.

The Read for 15 Challenge is scheduled for Monday, October 1st and readers will have until Friday, October 12th to report their participation to their respective literacy council. The winner, the territory with the highest percentage of its population reading for 15 minutes, will be announced on Friday, October 19th.

Although the NWT-Nunavut-Yukon challenge adds some fun and good-natured rivalry to the event, Sills says the real focus of "Read for 15" is to encourage people to read and to promote literacy in all official languages across the NWT.

Although the NWT tied for 1st place in the 2006 Read for 15 Challenge, Sills says it's more important that participation in the NWT was up by more than 25 per cent for a second consecutive year. "All three territories have been successful in encouraging more people each year to discover the benefits and the pleasures of reading – and that means we're all winners," says Sills.

"We live in a complex society that demands higher and higher literacy skills in order for

people to participate in the labour force, to access and understand information, to support their children's learning and to participate in community decision making," says Sills.

"Literacy is everybody's business in the NWT because 42 per cent of our people have less than what the experts say are the necessary literacy levels to fully participate in a knowledge-based economy," says Sills. "We use the Read for 15 Challenge and NWT Literacy Week to raise people's awareness about literacy and encourage everyone to take a moment and think about the impact of literacy on their lives."

NWT residents are encouraged to read a book, magazine, Internet article, work-related document, etc., for 15 minutes on Monday, October 1st and then contact the NWT Literacy Council by Friday, October 12 to register their participation in the challenge.

Readers can phone the NWT Literacy Council at 873-9262 or toll-free at 1-866-599-6758. They can also register by e-mailing nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca with a message that includes their name and community. Yellowknife residents can drop by the NWT Literacy Council or Yellowknife Book Cellar and fill out a participation form.

Groups such as schools, government departments and businesses can fill out a participation form and fax it to the NWT Literacy Council at 867-873-2176. The "Read for 15" participation form is posted on the NWT Literacy Council's web site at www.nwt.literacy.ca. The form is contained in a PDF file entitled "Read for 15 Poster" that's posted in the "What's New" section of the Council's web site.

Information about the "Read for 15" challenge has been distributed to every community in the NWT. The NWT Literacy Council has mailed out 439 NWT Literacy Week information kits and 300 NWT Literacy Week participation packages.

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Announcements & Media Releases

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

APTN & NSI Seek Aboriginal Writers For Storytellers Training Program

Aboriginal writers are wanted for a new training program to learn writing for television drama. The program, developed by the National Screen Institute – Canada (NSI) in association with Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), trains select candidates in individual and group settings to write scripts for a half-hour daytime serial that may go into production for broadcast on APTN.

www.aptn.ca/content/view/694/39/

Education Ministers announce major pan-Canadian forum on literacy

VICTORIA, Sept. 25 /CNW/ - Ministers of education celebrated the 40th anniversary of their intergovernmental organization at their semi-annual meeting, in Victoria, British Columbia. To mark this important milestone, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), the national voice for education in Canada, announced an innovative forum on literacy to be held

in spring 2008.

www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/September2007/25/c5112.html

Information strategy necessary to measure success in early childhood learning, says Canadian Council on Learning (CCL)

Ottawa, August 29, 2007 — While the state of early childhood development in Canada seems sound, a national organization is calling for a comprehensive strategy to gather more and better data on how our youngest Canadians learn.

Go to: www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20070828ReleaseEarlyChildhood.htm

10th annual Family Literacy Day gives families the chance to party with Robert Munsch and visit Great Wolf Lodge

Toronto, ON - September 13, 2007 – For the third year in a row, one lucky Canadian family will win a visit from beloved Canadian children’s author Robert Munsch at their home on January 19, 2008. His visit will kick off the week leading up to Family Literacy Day®, January 27. A national program developed by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation to celebrate parents and children reading and learning together, Family Literacy Day is observed by families, libraries and literacy organizations across the country.

2008 marks Family Literacy Day’s 10th year, and in celebration of that milestone the chosen family will also win a weekend visit, any time during 2008, to Great Wolf Lodge, the family resort located in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Starting September 14, 2007, ABC CANADA will accept contest entries from families anywhere in Canada who are planning Family Literacy Day (FLD) parties. To enter, families submit an application form that they can download from ABC CANADA’s website www.abc-canada.org. Each contestant writes a short description about how they plan to celebrate FLD and mails it to ABC CANADA. Entries are judged on creativity and originality. Families are also asked to name a public library or literacy organization of their choice that will also receive a special visit from Mr. Munsch.

To be considered, applications must be received by ABC CANADA by 5:00 p.m. EST on December 14, 2007.

“I’m very excited about being part of this 10th anniversary of Family Literacy Day,” says Robert Munsch. “This event has grown terrifically and I can’t wait to again visit one of the thousands of families that celebrate reading and learning together.”

To find Family Literacy Day tips, activities and Munsch at Home contest details and rules visit www.abc-canada.org/fld.

Health Literacy in Canada: Initial results from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS)

With health-literacy skills that are considered to be at level 2 and below, 60% of adult Canadians lack the capacity to obtain, understand and act upon health information and services and to make appropriate health decisions on their own.

For more details go to: www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/Other+Reports/HealthLiteracy.htm

Write for Rights 2007

December 10th is Human Rights Day. Thousand of people will gather in Canada and all around the world to participate in Amnesty International's largest and most exciting letter-writing event – Write for Rights.

For more details go to: www.amnesty.ca/writeathon

Nominations for the CUPE National literacy award

Do you know a CUPE member or group of members who champion workplace literacy and clear language? Get your nomination in by August 24, 2007.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) National Literacy Working Group is looking for a literacy champion. This is a member or group of members who have promoted workplace literacy or clear language. Literacy champions do different things.

A literacy champion might: encourage other CUPE members to learn; model lifelong learning by following their own learning goals; raise awareness on literacy or clear language within the union and workplace, or help build the union through literacy or clear language

There are many ways to be a literacy champion. The member(s) may have participated in a literacy program or helped start one in their local. Or they may have promoted worker education in some other way.

For more information on the CUPE Literacy Program, go to www.cupe.ca/literacy.

Literacy Promotions

Here are some important literacy dates to remember.

Sept. 28 - Oct. 5, 2007	NWT Literacy Week
January 27, 2008	Family Literacy Day
March, 2008	Aboriginal Languages Month
April 2, 2008	International Children's Book Day
April 23, 2008	World Book Day
Spring 2008	2008 NWT PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

Upcoming Events, Conferences and Courses

Calgary, The Impact of Violence on Learning, October 23-24, 2007

Literacy Alberta, in partnership with the University of Calgary and Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society, will host a lecture and workshop with Dr. Jenny Horsman on October 23 and 24, 2007 at the Rosza Centre, University of Calgary.

This professional development and training event will raise awareness, increase understanding about the impact of violence on learning and support the development of tools for best practice.

Full registration information is available this month. For more information contact Berniece Gowan at bgowan@literacyalberta.ca.

For more information about Dr. Horsman's research, go to: www.learningandviolence.net and www.jennyhorsman.com.

Toronto, 2007 TESL Ontario Conference, November 22-24, 2007

Preparations are now underway for TESL Ontario's 2007 Conference *Making Connections*. Registration will begin on October 12, 2007.

www.teslontario.org/new/conference/conf_about.htm

St. John's NLFD, Promoting Excellence: An Institute for Literacy Practitioners, November 13-16, 2007

On November 13-16, 2007, Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador will be hosting Promoting Excellence: An Institute for Literacy Practitioners in St. John's.

The focus of this three day gathering is to provide a much needed opportunity for: skills development; the learning and sharing of ideas and best practices building capacity for future collaboration, and raising public awareness about literacy and literacy programs in the province.

The presentations and sessions for the Institute have not yet been finalized because we are seeking input from our practitioners: the literacy instructors, tutors, and adult learners of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. We will forward further information to you when it becomes available in late September. However, if you wish to be removed from this distribution list, please reply to this e-mail with the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

Further information about our organization and the Institute may be obtained by visiting their website at www.literacynl.com.

Vancouver, The Early Years Conference 2008 - Valuing all Children, January 31 - February 2, 2008

This conference will be of interest to all those who work with young children and/or families.

All children have the right to opportunities for realizing their full potential. Some children by nature of individual, family, or community circumstances are more vulnerable and will need extra support in achieving this. In order for these supports to be most effective, we must integrate our knowledge of the principles of child and family development with research and innovative practice. Special attention will be given to children in care and children with disabilities.

This conference will provide opportunities to learn about new research and evolving practice relating to: child care, developmental disabilities, parenting, child development, diversity, policy, children at risk, inclusion, professional challenges, children in care, infant and child mental health, transitions.

For more information: www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Events/Upcoming/Vancouver200831-01Valuingallchildren.htm?Language=EN

Banff International Conferences on Behavioural Science - Effective Early Learning Practices: Research, Policy and Practice, March 16-19, 2008

This event is co-sponsored by the Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre, the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, and the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network.

The Banff International Conference brings together outstanding behavioural scientists, professional and policy experts in a forum where they can present and discuss data related to emergent issues in research and application.

This three-day conference will gather key international researchers who will review effective early learning programs on language and literacy, numeracy and social learning. The morning sessions will review specific areas of these programs (the golden standards of effective programs, the effects of these programs, implementation issues and gaps in research), the afternoon workshops will allow participants to go further into specific programs, and the evening plenary sessions will introduce participants to a discussion on the implications of related data and recommendations for Canadian policy program planning.

For more information: www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Events/Upcoming/BanffConference.htm?Language=EN

New Resources

Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) Resource Centre

This Resource Centre provides links to evidence-based resources that are of interest to anyone associated with lifelong learning.

Wherever possible, the collection provides links to items in their entirety. Where the full text is not available, a content description is provided, along with a way to source the item.

The Resource Centre includes items—such as reports, journals, videos and podcasts—selected by CCL staff and the networks of expertise in its knowledge centres. Items can also be suggested by users. These are evaluated against the collection development guidelines for inclusion in the collection. The Resource Centre's collection will grow incrementally.

The primary languages of the collection are French and English. Wherever possible, items published separately in each language are included and cross-linked. Products relevant to the mandate of CCL's knowledge centres in other languages will be included in the Resource Centre, providing an abstract is available in English or French.

The Resource Centre is a joint partnership of CCL, its five knowledge centres and the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD).

For more information go to: www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeExchange/ResourceCentre

High Nutrition/Low Budget Cookbook

Prepared by Nova Scotia Community College, Pictou Campus, ALP 4 class of 2006!4 class of 2006

<http://library.nald.ca/learning/item/6463>

English as a Second Language educational resources from LangCanada

Search through LangCanada's thousands of educational resources that help teachers, students, and adult learners in teaching and learning English as a second official language.

www.langcanada.ca/public/esl-als/index_e.php

Opening Doors: Thoughts and Experiences of Community Literacy Workers in Alberta

www.nald.ca/library/research/opendoor/cover.htm

Integrating Equity, Addressing Barriers: Innovative Learning Practices by Unions

Integrating Equity, Addressing Barriers provides an insight into some of the exciting education happening in Canada's labour movement. From workplace-based locals to large national programs, unions and their members are turning the vision of lifelong learning into reality. And it's lifelong learning with big goals: to help individual workers achieve work, union and personal goals, as well as to involve workers in collective efforts to improve conditions for all workers, for social and economic justice in our country and globally.

<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/ccl/ieab/cover.htm>

The First Step

Prepared by Richard Carrière for the Literacy Network Northeast, 2004.

www.nald.ca/library/research/1stpas-e/cover.htm

Eat Right and Save Money: A plain language guide to healthy eating

By Lillis Lawrence, Project Coordinator, Plain Language Nutrition

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/eatright/cover.htm>

Employment law & labour standards, Tutor Manual, You and the Law

Prepared by the Yamaska Literacy Council, 2006. The purpose of this manual is to provide a tool that literacy tutors can use to help students better understand some basic legal concepts.

www.nald.ca/library/learning/yamaska/tutlabour/cover.htm

This manual should be used conjointly with the Health Law Student Manual. It includes a discussion section listing questions you might want to raise with your student. There is also a Resource and Links section to direct you to sites that offer more detailed information at a higher reading level, and referral services.

www.nald.ca/library/learning/yamaska/tuthealth/cover.htm

Health Law, Tutor Manual, You and the Law

Yamaska Literacy Council

The purpose of this manual is to provide a tool that literacy tutors can use to help students better understand some basic legal concepts.

www.nald.ca/library/learning/yamaska/tuthealth/cover.htm

This manual should be used conjointly with the Health Law Student Manual. It includes a discussion section listing questions you might want to raise with your student. There is also a Resource and Links section to direct you to sites that offer more detailed information at a

higher reading level, and referral services.

www.nald.ca/library/learning/yamaska/stuhealth/cover.htm

Eight BC Workforce Literacy Initiatives

With funding from the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) of Human Resources Development Canada, Literacy BC has completed the implementation of Eight BC Workforce Literacy Initiatives - a series of projects intended to:

- Help employers, unions, and educators recognize their direct stake in and responsibility around workforce literacy;
- Increase the demand for and usefulness of the information and consultation services that are available to employers, workers, and educators; and
- Develop strong, collaborative partnerships around workforce literacy issues and programs.

While originally intended to be staggered in implementation between November 1, 1998 and October 31, 1999 - the eight initiatives were not completed until the end of February, 2000.

www.nald.ca/library/research/eight/cover.htm

Youth Stuff

When the Spirits Dance

by Larry Loyie and Constance Brissenden

"I truly loved your presentation and so much enjoyed reading the new book. It is a moving, honest and gracious evocation of your childhood, Larry -- one that includes many outstanding historic details, and portrays the dramatic difference between the courage of your father having to leave his family and go so far to fight, and the cowardice of the runaways escaping duty to their country and terrorizing the simple people of the north. I came away so encouraged that you've both been able to create such wonderful books." – E.M. Kelly, retired community and children's books librarian

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.

When the Spirits Dance from Theytus Books, Canada's leading aboriginal publisher, is the second book in the Lawrence Series. The series includes *As Long as the Rivers Flow* (Groundwood Books), winner of the Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction, and the Honour Book of the 2006 First Nation Communities Read program.

Also by the author, *The Gathering Tree*, the gentle story of a family learning HIV awareness together (Theytus Books). "The Gathering Tree uses a storyline based on Canadian Aboriginal culture to educate children about HIV/AIDS prevention." – The Daily Voice, XVI International AIDS Conference.

Author LARRY LOYIE was born in Slave Lake, Alberta. He spent his early years living a traditional Cree life and treasures the lessons he learned from the elders. He went to residential school from the age of 10 to 14, then began his working life. Larry returned to

school later in life to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a writer. He received the 2001 Canada Post Literacy Award for Individual Achievement (British Columbia). In 2003, Larry was the first First Nations writer to win the Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction for his first children's book *As Long as the Rivers Flow*.

Co-author CONSTANCE BRISSENDEN BA, MA is a freelance writer and editor. She is the author of 14 books of travel and history. In 1993, Constance and Larry formed Living Traditions Writers Group (www.firstnationswriter.com) to encourage First Nations people to write about their traditions and stories.

Larry Loyie and Constance Brissenden are touring Yellowknife, Inuvik and Aklavik as part of NWT Literacy Week 2007.

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.

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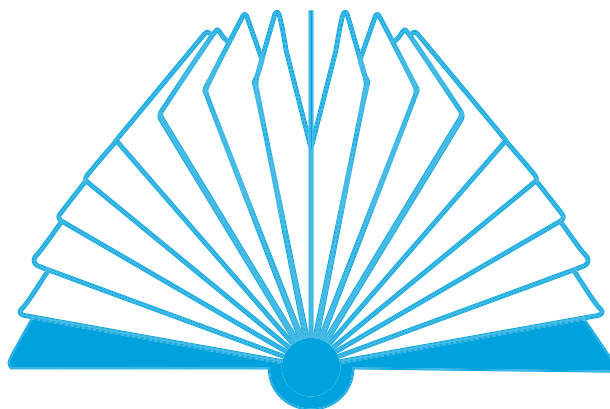
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The NWT Literacy Council is a non-profit, non-government agency dedicated to supporting the development of literacy in all official languages of the NWT.



NWT LITERACY COUNCIL