

This Week in Literacy

Friday, February 8, 2008

Community Events and Information

Linx Conference (Linking Northern Expertise)

When: February 27 – 28

Where: Explorer Hotel

The conference will bring together those who work in the field of career development. Educators, counsellors, career development officers, human resource practitioners and other interested participants will learn new ideas, approaches and views to help them enhance their skills and knowledge. For more information contact Stephanie Bauhaus at stephanie_bauhaus@gov.nt.ca.

Nominate a NWT Outstanding Volunteer

Nominations are open for the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards until March 17. There are four categories: youth, elder, individual and group. The awards are announced and given out during National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 3, 2008. For a nomination form and brochure go to What's New at www.volunteernwt.ca or www.mace.gov.nt.ca or contact info@volunteernwt.ca

2008 Wise Women Awards Nominations

The Status of Women Council of the NWT is asking for nominations for the 2008 Wise Women Awards. Contact them at 920-6177 or toll free at 1-888-234-4485 for more information. Nominations are due before noon on February 15, 2008.

International Women's Day, March 8, 2008

The Status of Women Council of the NWT invites you once again to join together in the celebration of International Women's Day. Call the Status of Women Council if you would like more information at 920-6177 or toll free at 1-88-234-4485.

International Adult Learners' Week: March 3 – 9

Celebrated in over 40 countries, IALW showcases adult learners and promotes lifelong learning in all its forms. The celebration of IALW in 2008 will focus on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the right to education and learning. "We believe that the Week is a perfect opportunity to underscore the important connection between adult learning and building sustainable communities that value diversity and human rights." Says the Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for Unesco, David A. Walden.

The Artists' Newsline wants to hear from you!

Northwest Territories (NWT) Artists' Newsline is a newsletter that is created and distributed quarterly by the Arts and Fine Crafts sector of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Artists' Newsline keeps the NWT Arts Community informed on upcoming festivals, events listings, announcements, opportunities, artists profiles and much more. If you want your event publicized, or if you are an NWT artist who is interested in being showcased in our Featured Artist section contact us at: Phone: 1-877-445-ARTS (2787) or (867)873-7203 or E-mail: nwtarts@gov.nt.ca or Visit our website: www.nwtarts.com.

In the News

Children's Health Topics: Literacy

The links between health and well-being and early literacy are becoming increasingly clear. Low literacy skills and lack of education are major contributors to poverty. Children who develop a love for books and reading have a better chance at success in school and in later life. Early exposure to language—whether through books, words, or songs—can help prevent problems and

promote health. *Read, Speak, Sing* is a new Canadian Paediatric Society program that aims to use encounters with paediatricians and other child health professionals to encourage parents to read to babies from birth. Through the program, the CPS has developed a number of tools and resources for paediatricians and other child health care providers, as well as for parents. To review this website go to <http://www.cps.ca/English/healthcentres/literacy.htm>

Literacy's Heroes & Heroines: Reclaiming our forgotten past, by B. Allan Quigley

Our field of literacy has too many myths and not enough history. If we had a more widely known documented history, we would be a better informed, more widely recognized field with a stronger sense of professional pride. If we could recover our past, we could be more influential at the policy level and become better mentored in our practice. Instead, many of our literacy decisions are based on political rhetoric, decontextualized statistical data and many uncontested myths.

In this article, two of today's prevailing myths will be questioned through documented history. First, there is the notion that literacy programs have somehow "sprung up" in recent years. Second, while the various Statistics Canada studies over the last decade have undoubtedly created much-needed international awareness, they have contributed to an emerging myth that success in literacy is empirically measurable. "Counts and amounts" seem to have become more important than learning how two hundred years of literacy education has changed lives, communities and entire nations.

To read the whole article go to <http://www.literacyjournal.ca/literacies/7-2007/htm/quigley.htm>.

Parents in B.C. gain access to online education resources

VANCOUVER – Parents of B.C. students in kindergarten through Grade 12 can now access educational resources online through LearnNow BC, a partnership between the Province and the Virtual School Society, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced January 28, 2007.

“Children whose parents are involved in their learning are often more successful in school,” said Bond. “The new Parent Information Network will make it easier than ever for parents to participate in their child's school community, no matter where they live in B.C.”

To read more go to

<http://www.nald.ca/litweb/province/bc/wNBC/2008/onlinres.htm>.

New Resources and Websites

Volunteer Handbook by the Barrie Literacy Council, October 2007

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

Learning Disabilities: A Guide for Educators who Work with Adult Learners, Nunavut Literacy Council, 2004
The field of learning disabilities creates a challenge for literacy facilitators and adult educators. We suspect that many of the learners that we work with struggle with learning disabilities. We know that they didn't succeed in school and that's why they are in adult literacy and adult basic education programs. We know that teaching and learning methods must be different for these learners.

However, in Nunavut we have few resources and professionals to help learners and facilitators tackle this complicated issue. The Nunavut Literacy Council partnered with respected learning disabilities and literacy consultant from Ontario, Pat Hatt. Pat knows first hand that the field of learning disabilities is complex; there are over 70 different types of learning disabilities! However, Pat has simplified the puzzling and complicated information on learning disabilities for adult literacy learners and educators. She has developed a tool to guide those of us who are not experts on learning disabilities. Her tool streamlines learning disability information into three broad disability clusters, with characteristics and learning strategies for each. Pat Hatt has worked in the field of education for over 30 years, the last fifteen in adult literacy. She has her Ontario Teaching Certificate and a Masters degree in Learning and Language Problems. She volunteered for the Learning Disabilities Association for over 20 years at the local, provincial and federal levels. To download this resource go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/ldguide/cover.htm>

Putting a Price Tag on Learning: The financial and social costs to adult learners in PEI ,

by Angela Larter, Literacy Research Network, September 25, 2006

Adult learners face many challenges upon returning to school. In addition to the actual academic work, they have multiple demands on their time as the majority of adult students are also juggling responsibilities of home and work. One of the premier responsibilities placed on an adult learner are the finances of the family unit. This research project examines three questions that explore the economics of an individual on PEI enrolling in Adult Education at Holland College.

1. What are the financial costs incurred when returning to school as an Adult Education student? What supports are available to learners to offset such costs?

2. What are the non-financial costs experienced when returning to school as an Adult Education student? What supports do learners have in place to lessen the effect of these costs?
3. Do the costs sustained shape learners' long-term goals? What additional resources would improve learners' situations and how would their educational and/or career goals change?

To download this document go to:

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

Northern Workplace Workforce Literacy Partnership

<http://www.nald.ca/nwwlc/>

The NWT Literacy Council and the Nunavut Literacy Council have partnered to organize a Northern Workplace Workforce Literacy Partnership. To learn more about workplace literacy and this partnership go to the above website.