

This Week in Literacy

May 30, 2008

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.

Community Events and Information

Literacy Dates for Next Year

International Literacy Day	September 8, 2008
NWT Literacy Week	September 29 – October 3, 2008
National Family Literacy Day	January 27, 2009
Aboriginal Languages Month	March 2009
International Children's Book Day	April 2, 2009
World Book Day	April 23, 2009

It is never too early to start planning. We encourage you to start planning for NWT Literacy Week now. We will be organizing a NWT Literacy Week committee for Yellowknife in the next couple of weeks. Some of our plans include bringing up an author and distributing resources for NWT Literacy Week to all NWT communities by the end of August.

Spring book sale at Yellowknife Public Library

The Yellowknife Public Library invites you to its spring sale of gently used library materials. This sale will feature exceptional reading and viewing materials together with many surprising treasures. This sale is being organized by the Friends of Yellowknife Public Library and all proceeds will benefit the library. The sale will take place in the library meeting room from Thursday, June 5th through Saturday, June 7th.

- Early Bird Special: Thursday, June 5th 6:00-9:00 pm. The admission fee of \$5.00 provides access to first picks of sale items.
- Friday, June 6th from 12:00-5:00 pm and Saturday, June 7th from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. No admission fee.

For more information, please contact the library @ 920-5642.

Staff and volunteer relationships discussion on June 3

Join the conversation about creating and maintaining positive relationships between staff and volunteers, including board members, at a Volunteer NWT Brown Bag Lunch

Tuesday, June 3 at the Yellowknife Public Library meeting room. Join Dave Hurley, who has worked in the voluntary sector for 30 years, to discuss roles, boundaries and best practices. For more information, contact Aggie at 873-4588 or info@volunteernwt.ca.

Status of Women Canada call for proposals

July 2 is the deadline for proposals to the Women's Community Fund of the Women's Program of Status of Women Canada. Status of Women Canada supports projects that address women's economic security and prosperity, women's leadership development, women's safety, and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. Funding is available to eligible not-for-profit and for-profit organizations to carry out projects at the local, regional and national levels. For information, go to www.swc-cfc.gc.ca.

Blogging about crazy wisdom in adult literacy

Share your literacy wisdom. Write an essay, compose a poem, post a picture, upload a video ... or all of the above. And become a literacies crazy wisdom blogger! Help celebrate what can happen when literacy workers find the time and space to reflect, research and network about practice. Everyday, in literacy programs all over the country (world), literacy workers are asking questions, trying out new activities and processes, reflecting on their experiments, coming to conclusions and then questioning those conclusions to start the cycle over again. What do you do when you come to something in your literacy work that is puzzling or problematic? How do you work to solve the puzzle? How does the process of research, experimentation and reflection enhance your practice? How are we using our research skills on the fly?

Join the blog! We will start the parade on May 16th, the International Day for Sharing Stories, and continue on through the summer of 2008. You can join two ways:

- **Easy Peasey:** Send an email to literaciespublisher (at) gmail (dot) com and you will be signed up. If you are new to blogging, over-the-phone tech support is available.
- **Easier-Peasier:** Send an email to literaciespublisher (at) gmail (dot) com. Include the content of your post, the title and the tags you want to use to index it and how you would like to sign it and it will be posted for you.

In the News

Early Literacy Programs are Working

A new United Kingdom report shows that children who receive 'Reading Recovery' support through the Every Child a Reader program are getting higher than average results for their age. In this report published by the Institute of Education researchers found that the children who participated in the Every Child a Reader program are roughly one year ahead of children in the schools where the program is not available. To read the report go to www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0086

Adult learning in Canada: Characteristics of learners

Research has shown that in a knowledge-based economy and society, economic opportunities and active participation in the broader society are increasingly linked to an individual's ability to command and control his or her own life. It is this context that makes the distribution of adult learning across the population of such importance. Canada has had a long interest in better understanding the distribution of adult literacy and learning across population sub-groups. Canada participated in the first round of data collection in the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) in 1994. This was the first internationally comparative survey of adult skills to be undertaken. Canada was also a lead country in the international Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALL) in 2003 (the Canadian component is called the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS)). In fact, Canada was the only country to sample a very large number of people – 23,000 in all. Such a large sample was made possible by the financial support received from several federal government departments and provincial and territorial governments.

The data collected by these surveys provide a wealth of information on the characteristics of adult learners across participating countries and through time. These data have also generated a number of research studies. One of those, recently published by Statistics Canada, provides detailed information on the characteristics of adult learners in Canada. This article highlights the findings of that research.¹ To read the article go to <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/81-004-XIE/2008001/article/10560-en.htm>

Resources and Websites

Access to Learning Canada

ATLC is a new website that offers an online inventory of resources that students with disabilities, parents and guidance counsellors can use when thinking about school disabilities services. www.accesstolearning.ca

Exemplary Literacy Materials Online

ELMO is a free, interactive, online database of adult and family literacy resources and reviews. It was developed to meet the ongoing need adult literacy providers and

learners have for appropriate and high quality instructional and learning resources.
The website launched in May 2008. www.elmoreviews.ca/index.php

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