

# This Week in Literacy

November 14, 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.

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## Literacy Dates

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

## Community Events and Information

### NWT Literacy Council AGM

The NWT Literacy Council is having their AGM on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at noon at their office at 5122 48<sup>th</sup> Street. Members are welcome to attend. Lunch will be served!

### Family Tutoring, Yellowknife, Dec. 3 & 4, 2008

Family Tutoring is a program that supports parents to help their school-age children with reading and writing. The training provides participants with an overview of the program, ideas for starting a program in their community and facilitation tips. This is a great program for schools and communities. To register call the NWT Literacy Council (867-873-9262).

### Canadian Children's Book Week

Celebrate Children's Book Week 2008 from November 15 – 22 in your community. Since 2000, in cooperation with ministries of education, school boards and library organizations across Canada – the CCBC (Canadian Children's Book Centre) has given every Grade One student a free Canadian children's book. The book is to be taken home by each child to keep and to read with their parents. This far-reaching and innovative annual book giveaway program, which provides over 500,000 books to Grade One children across Canada, is fully funded by the TD Bank Financial Group. This November, Grade One children nation-wide will take home *Too Many Books! (Des livres pour Nicolas!)* – a book that will surely inspire children to become life-long readers. For more information on this go to <http://www.bookweek.ca>.

Canadian author Carolyn Pogue will be visiting Yellowknife this week. She has written a wide variety of stories, books and articles for children, youth and adults. She will be at the library for the following events:

- ✓ **Write for a Change Workshop** – Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 pm  
Teens and adults are invited to a free writing workshop in the library meeting room. Writers may work in any genre they choose. Please bring a notebook and something to write with. Registration required.
- ✓ **Dragons** – Saturday, November 22 from 11 am – 11:45 am  
Children ages 3 – 10 and their parents are invited to join Carolyn at the library meeting rooms for an interactive dragon story and presentation on the theme 'peace.' Registration required.

## **Canadian Culture Online**

**Deadline: November 26, 2008**

Canadian Culture Online (CCO) is launching a new call for proposals under the Gateway Fund for the 2009-10 fiscal year. The primary objectives of the Gateway Fund are: to increase the amount of quality Canadian cultural content for the Internet, build audiences for that content by making it easy to find on the Internet, and engage Canadians to use the content and share their perspectives on Canadian events, people and values. This call for proposals seeks to support projects by ethno cultural communities and Aboriginal peoples. Projects will result in cultural content for the Internet by and about these communities. Priority will be given to applicants whose projects have not previously received financial support from the Gateway Fund. For more information go to:

[http://www.pch.gc.ca/pcce-ccop/progs/gateway\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/pcce-ccop/progs/gateway_e.cfm)

## **Call for Knowledge Exchange Projects**

**Deadline: November 28th, 2008**

The Adult Learning Knowledge Centre is pleased to announce its 7th national Call for Knowledge Exchange Projects, aimed at groups, organizations, and institutes across Canada involved in adult learning activities. The maximum funding for each project is \$5,000. Please note: The funds are provided upon completion of the project only. The 7th Call for Knowledge Exchange Projects is offered in collaboration with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. The October 2008 Call is intended to foster projects in six areas: literacy, seniors learning, arts and culture, prior learning assessment and recognition, late-entry learning and International Adult Learners Week. For more information contact: Kathleen Flanagan, Coordinator of Adult Learning Knowledge Centre, Phone: 506 451 6865, Email: [kflanagan@ccl-cca.ca](mailto:kflanagan@ccl-cca.ca)

## **In the News**

### **ABC CANADA and Oxford Learning Set World Stage to Make Reading History**

Toronto, ON - 5 November, 2008

*All Canadians have chance to participate in Guinness world record as part of Family Literacy Day festivities!*

ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and Oxford Learning today announced a new partnership to present the Family Literacy Day® World Record Attempt, a national, bilingual initiative encouraging adults and children to engage in 30 minutes of reading together on January 23 or 24, 2009. The initiative, part of Family Literacy Day (FLD) 2009 celebrations, encourages Canadians to read along and help break the Guinness World Record™ for “*Most Children Reading with an Adult, Multiple Venues.*” The current record of 78,791 was set across the U.S. in 2006.

“Every year, thousands of Canadians participate in Family Literacy Day activities across the country. The World Record initiative is another great way to rally Canadian communities and help raise awareness for the benefits of adults and children reading and learning together,” said Margaret Eaton, President, ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation. “A few minutes of family reading a day helps a parent and a child in very big way. It prepares children for challenges ahead, encourages a lifetime of reading enjoyment, and sharpens an adult’s literacy skills. ABC CANADA is delighted to have the support of Oxford Learning, and FLD founding sponsor Honda Canada, in these exciting initiatives.” To read the whole article go to <http://abc-canada.org/en/abcoxfordsetstage>

## **Canada ranks second on global education report card**

**Bradley Bouzane, Canwest News Service**

Published: Friday, October 31, 2008, Ottawa

After a sluggish performance in an international health report card earlier this week, Canada bounced back Friday with the second-highest grade for education and skills training. Among the 17 countries ranked by the Conference Board of Canada, Canada lagged behind only Finland in the area of education and skills, coming through with an overall B average. But Canada was not alone near the head of the class, tying for the grade with seven other nations -- Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, Belgium and the Netherlands. "Canada's B grade reflects our ability to provide Canadians with a good primary and secondary school education and the skills they need to enter the workforce and achieve success," said the think-tank's Michael Bloom. To read more go to <http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=924065>

## **Revival of National Workplace Literacy Program in U.S. could improve economic competitiveness of workforce**

By Tom Sticht

Millions of adults with the lowest literacy skills are found in workplaces. The National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) of 2003 indicated that 29 per cent of adults who scored below basic on the prose scale on the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) of 1993 were employed full-time. In 2003 the percentage of adults with below basic prose literacy scores who were employed full-time rose to 35 per cent, a statistically significant increase in full-time employed adults with literacy skills at the lowest level. This means that some 10.8 million adults with the lowest level of literacy skills can be found working full-time in workplaces in the United States.

An additional 10 per cent of adults, over 3 million, in the lowest level of literacy in 2003 were working part-time. This was a two percentage point increase from 1993. The fact that the percentage of low literacy adults in the workplaces of the United States increased in the decade from 1993 to 2003, resulting in over 13 million adults with below basic levels of literacy, suggests a need to revive

the federal government's National Workplace Literacy Program (NWLP) of the late 1980s through the mid-1990s. The NWLP provided grants for developing and delivering adult literacy, numeracy and English-language education programs directly in or in close proximity to the places where low literacy adults work.

Research from before the NWLP, during the NWLP, and up to the present has indicated that workplace literacy programs generally produce outcomes that are especially important during hard economic times. First, employers are more likely to implement workplace programs that focus directly on improving some aspect(s) of the functions that the employer must perform, such as recruiting from a larger pool of available workers, making job training more effective, increasing productivity, decreasing waste, sick leaves and providing opportunities to promote good workers to higher levels of responsibility. To read more go to

<http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2008/sticht-nov-a.htm>

## **Children's Book Awards**

November 7, 2008

The Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) announced the winners of the four major children's book awards it administers at a gala event at in Toronto. Christopher Paul Curtis took home two of the four awards for his internationally acclaimed novel, *Elijah of Buxton*. Hugh Brewster and author/illustrator team Frieda Wishinsky and Marie-Louise Gay were also awarded prizes. Another big winner for the evening was Scholastic Canada whose books were honoured with three of the four awards. These books exemplify some of the best work by Canadian authors and illustrators. For a complete shortlist for each award, please visit: <http://www.bookcentre.ca/>

## **Canada's largest business association calls for action to address critical labour shortage**

November 7, 2008

Today, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce released *Building a Twenty-First Century Workforce: A Business Strategy to Overcome Canada's Skills Crisis*. This report's recommendations call on the federal and provincial/territorial governments, as well as business, to act quickly to combat this real threat to Canadian prosperity, especially in light of the current global economic turmoil. To read this article go to: <http://www.chamber.ca/cmslib/general/ReleaseSkillsPaper071108.pdf>

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

In 1996, Dolly Parton launched an exciting new effort to benefit the children of her home county in east Tennessee. Dolly wanted to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families. She wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, she could insure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's financial situation. Now this program is available in Canada!

## How it works?

A community must make the program accessible to all preschool children in their area. The community pays for the books and mailing, promotes the program, registers the children, and enters the information into the database. From there The Dollywood Foundation of Canada takes over and manages the system to deliver the books to the home. You can find out more about this program by going to this website: <http://canada.dollysimaginationlibrary.com/howworks.php>

## Alphaplus Feedback Contest and More...

Alphaplus is in the process of re-evaluating their services and want to include you. To help them, fill out a 15-minute survey and let them see AlphaPlus through your eyes.

They are making it a contest where you have a chance to win exciting prizes. Every tenth person to fill out the survey will win one of ten memory sticks/USB flash drives.

[http://on.alphaplus.ca/news/issues/enewsNov/enews\\_Nov\\_2008.html](http://on.alphaplus.ca/news/issues/enewsNov/enews_Nov_2008.html)

## Adult Learning from Theory to Practice

*Adult Learning: From Theory to Practice* is an online course intended for tutors in the Canadian adult literacy community. The course may be used by individuals in a stand alone, self-paced format, and/or by groups in various formats, both online and offline. The course focuses on a teaching-learning continuum, one end of which is directed learning and at the other, facilitated learning. The main point raised and discussed throughout the course is that adult learning is highly individualistic and fluid. As such, it requires that tutors be very flexible and utilize a range of teaching approaches and methods in order to enhance learning. To download a copy go to

[http://www.nald.ca/adultlearningcourse/pdf/al\\_cours.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/adultlearningcourse/pdf/al_cours.pdf)

## ESL and Literacy: Finding Common Ground, Serving Learners' Needs

A Survey of the Literature by The Centre for Literacy

This survey of the literature was originally produced for The Centre for Literacy's 2008 Summer Institute, *ESL and Literacy: Finding Common Ground, Serving Learners' Needs* that took place in Montreal June 26-28, 2008. It has been revised for publication. The survey is not exhaustive, but brings together the main themes of research conducted on the topic of "ESL literacy" in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom in the past decade. To download go to

[http://www.nald.ca/library/research/esl\\_lit/cover.htm](http://www.nald.ca/library/research/esl_lit/cover.htm)

## Get Set Learn: A Case Study of a Family Literacy Program in Waterloo Region Project READ Literacy Network Waterloo-Wellington, written by Lorri Sauve, January 2005

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

## Focus on Basics

*Focus on Basics* is the quarterly publication of the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy. It presents best practices, current research on adult learning and literacy, and how research is used by adult basic education teachers, counselors, program administrators, and policy makers.

*Focus on Basics* is dedicated to connecting research with practice, to connecting teachers with research and researchers with the reality of the classroom, and by doing so, making adult basic education research more relevant to the field. World Education published three additional issues of *Focus on*

*Basics*, on Health & Literacy Partnerships, Numeracy, and Learning Disabilities. To view Focus on Basics go to: <http://www.ncsall.net/index.php?id=31>

### **Get Set Learn Parent Book**

#### **Project Reading Literacy Network, written by Lorri Sauvé, 2008**

Check out this new family literacy resource for parents. It has three key messages:

1. Reading with your child daily (read daily)
2. Playing with your children in ways that are literacy and math-rich will enhance their learning (engage in literacy play)
3. Let your child see you using reading, writing, and math skills in every day life (be a role model)

This resource provides detailed information about reading and doing other family literacy activities with your children. It also provides worksheets for parents to use with their children at home. It is very easy to read and provides parents with lots of great information. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/gsl/workbook/cover.htm>

### **Everything You Need to Run a Family Literacy Program**

#### **Project Read Literacy Network, written by Lorri Sauvé, 2008**

This manual has been designed so that you do not have to be a trained family literacy facilitator to run *Get Set Learn*. This resource has nine sections: an introduction, organizational information, evaluation, creating kits, lesson plans, glossary, references, parent book and child number book. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/gsl/workbook/cover.htm>

### **Lessons in Learning**

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) has published over 40 *Lessons in Learning* since 2005 in various learning domains. Their goal is to make research on key learning issues accessible and relevant to all readers – whether policy makers, educators, researchers, parents or learners. *Lessons in Learning* are available free of charge and address topics that can make a tangible difference in the lives of Canadians. <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning?Language=EN>. Lessons in Learning articles are published twice monthly in CCL's electronic newsletter the *Learning Link*. To subscribe to the Learning Link, go to: <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Subscribe/llsubw.htm>