

This Week in Literacy

November 28, 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

Program Planning and Proposal Writing Workshop – Inuvik

Do you want to learn how to write an effective proposal? Do you want to plan for your community? Would you like to learn about different funding pots for literacy and family literacy? The NWT Literacy Council is hosting a Program Planning and Proposal Writing Workshop in Inuvik – January 27th and 28th, 2009. To register for this workshop go to our website and download a registration form or email lisa@nwtliteracy.ca or call us at 1-866-599-6758. The workshop is free, however participants must pay their own travel and accommodation.

When: January 27 and 28, 2009

Time: 9 am – 4 pm

Where: TBA

Cost: FREE

Amnesty International holding 'Write for Rights' challenge on December 10

Amnesty International invites you to take part in its exciting global write-a-thon "Write for Rights" on Human Rights Day, December 10, 2008. Hundreds of literacy, ESL and other writing classes from across Canada and in 40 other countries participate in Write for Rights. It's free, it's easy, it inspires students and it's a great way to demonstrate the power of writing, say organizers. This December 10 is unique in that it's the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a moment when the world needs many more people speaking up for human rights. Register for Write for Rights or find out more at www.amnesty.ca/writeathon/ or call toll-free 1-800-AMNESTY.

Participants write short letters whose purpose is to stop human rights violations or to offer support to human rights leaders who are at risk of harm in other countries. Join now at www.amnesty.ca/writeathon.

In the News

National Indigenous Literacy Association chosen to benefit from Canada Reads 2009 challenge

Canada Reads, CBC Radio's annual showcase of great Canadian fiction, has picked the National Indigenous Literacy Association (NILA) as a partner this year. On Canada Reads, five celebrity panelists make the case for why their favourite Canadian book of fiction should be chosen as *the* book for Canadians to read. The program will air March 2-6, 2009, on CBC Radio One. Canada Reads and participating publishers support literacy by donating books to libraries. The publisher of the winning book also makes a financial donation to a national literacy organization. This year's recipient is NILA. To read more go to <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2008/nila-nr-nov08.htm>.

Resources and Websites

Guide to Workforce Literacy: Skills at Work Series

The *Guide to Workforce Literacy* is a practical guide for literacy programs. It should be useful to coordinators, instructors, assessors, and other program staff who work with learners with employment goals. This guide provides background information on workforce- focused literacy, ideas on program planning, and examples of what some workforce literacy agencies in Ontario have done to support learners towards their employment goals. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/skillswork/workforce/workforce.pdf>.

Take Action for Literacy: A Learners Toolkit

This toolkit provides information on literacy, literacy in Nunavut and how learners can take an active role in promoting literacy in their community and with government. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/takeaction/takeaction.pdf>.

Literacy in the workplace: a series of five fact sheets

Canadian Unit of Public Employees, written by Anna Larsen , 2008

1. Introduction: literacy is a right
2. Proven advantages: for workers, employers, governments
3. Labour's vision for government support
4. Best practices
5. Measuring success

To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/cupe/factsheets/cover.htm>.

Hand in Hand: Family literacy in a minority context

By Diana Masny, Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa, March 2008

This 10-chapter report includes an analysis of what exists in Ontario as well as elsewhere in Canada and around the world in the field of family literacy and in other related areas, such as early childhood and parental education. It also contains:

- an analytical presentation of the research data and conclusions of the Coalition francophone's research,
- a comparative analysis of conclusions drawn from various research projects so that interventions in Ontario can be compared with programs elsewhere,
- an overview of various models of family literacy programs in anglophone and francophone settings,
- the specific characteristics of interventions within the francophone population in Ontario and family literacy programs oriented toward minority groups elsewhere in the world,
- an analytical list of best practices and lessons that can be drawn from the research to improve family literacy interventions, and
- a list of recommendations for quality family literacy programs.

To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/CFAFBO/hand/cover.htm>.

Literacy through E-learning: The Second Language Learning Café at the Bank of Canada

The Second Language Learning Café was created at the Bank of Canada to:

- support employees' second language training;
- provide work-related and job-specific language materials through e-learning; and
- assist Bank employees who wish to refresh their second language skills between training sessions or as a complement to their learning program.

To read the report on this project go to

<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/CBoC/BankCanada/BankCanada.pdf>.

Learning Indigenous Science from Place Research Study Examining Indigenous-Based Science Perspectives in Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Community Contexts

In 2007, a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal scholars, teachers, administrators, and institutional representatives embarked on the creation of a project entitled *Learning Indigenous Science from Place*. The overall goal of the project was to investigate the inclusion of First Nations and Métis perspectives in the Saskatchewan school science curriculum as a way to improve the achievement levels of Aboriginal students. The Canadian Council of Learning provided major funding support with in-kind support from project team members. The research commenced under the joint leadership of First Nations University of Canada and the Aboriginal Education Research Centre, University of Saskatchewan. The following pages represent a final report of this research project. To read the document go to http://aerc.usask.ca/projects/indigenous_science.html.

Gorilla Parenting from the Jungle Room

Gorilla Parenting from The Jungle Room premiered in March 2008 on TVO, a *Sinking Ship Entertainment* production in partnership with Liz Haines and JJ Johnson from TVOntario. The Canadian Council on Learning provided funding for this live-action documentary series. Each of the 10-minute segments reveals a world that moms and dads rarely get to see—kids playing in a parentless environment, or the "Jungle Room." From conflict to creativity, negotiating to nurturing, the kids at play allow us to see how they naturally go about interacting with their world. Parents then sit with an expert to discuss what they have seen and debate practical ways they might address the issue—18 in total, ranging from food to ethics and from humour to grieving. The discussions are intercut with footage from the "Jungle Room" to illustrate, debunk or further the discussion. To view these video clip go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/MultimediaCentre/AudioVideoArchive/GorillaParenting.htm>.