

This Week in Literacy

September 5th, 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.

**Celebrate International Literacy Day on Monday,
September 8th!**

Literacy Dates

NWT Literacy Week	September 28 – October 4, 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

Community Events and Information

New Staff Member

The NWT Literacy Council would like to welcome Kathryn Barry Paddock to our team. Kathryn recently moved to Yellowknife from Nova Scotia. She has extensive experience working in family support and resource programs. Kathryn will be taking on the role of Community Literacy Coordinator and specifically working in family literacy. We are happy that she has joined our team and Kathryn is excited to be experiencing life in the North and working in the literacy field.

International Literacy Day - "Literacy is the best remedy"

International Literacy Day (ILD) 2008 is placing a special focus on the important relationship between literacy and health. UNESCO and its partners are underlining the significance of literacy for healthy societies, with a strong emphasis on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and major diseases like tuberculosis and malaria. These are some of the world's most important public health concerns. To read more about worldwide celebrations for International Literacy Day go to

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=57374&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

NWT Literacy Week

NWT Literacy Week is only one month away! Get together with others in your community and plan a literacy week event. You can find ideas on our website at www.nwt.literacy.ca. We also sent out NWT Literacy Week packages to all schools, daycares, family support programs, adult education programs, etc. These packages have the following:

- Read for 15 poster, info sheet and fax back form.
- Literacy Calendar (poster format)
- How to Kits: (feel free to photocopy and use in your community)
 1. Family Math
 2. Family Cooking
- Prizes to celebrate NWT Literacy Week
- “How did you celebrate NWT Literacy Week 2008?” fax back form
- 2008/09 training calendar

Spotlight on Learning Conference: Literacy Takes Centre Stage

When: October 6 – 8, 2008

Where: Toronto

The Ontario Literacy Coalition is hosting this conference. There are professional development opportunities for literacy practitioners and administrators nation-wide within the following areas:

- Labour Market Literacy
- Family Literacy
- English As An Additional Language Literacy
- Professionalism
- Marketing Programs and Organizations
- The Role of Technology in the Future of Literacy
- Research and Policy

Check out the program and registration guide available at

<http://www.on.literacy.ca/training/spotlight.htm>

Sharing the Flame: Recognizing Excellence in Learning

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) is seeking nominations for its second annual recognition program, Sharing the Flame: Recognizing Excellence in Learning.

Sharing the Flame highlights some of Canada’s most promising practices in learning—giving these initiatives the visibility they deserve, and helping others to learn from their success. CCL will recognize initiatives in the following learning themes:

- Aboriginal learning
- Adult learning
- Early childhood learning
- Health-related learning
- Work and learning

Nomination deadline is October 15, 2008. For more information, please contact sharingtheflame@ccl-cca.ca

In the News

Message for International Literacy Day

August 19, 2008, Tom Sticht, International Consultant in Adult Education

Each year the world celebrates UNESCO's International Literacy Day on September 8th. The theme of International Literacy Day this year is Literacy and Health.

Starting in 1979 and up through 2003, as a member of the International Jury that selects the winners of UNESCO's literacy prizes, I had the opportunity to work with and learn from colleagues who were among the leading adult educators in the world. One of these leaders was Malcolm Adiseshiah (1976) of India who was a former Deputy Director General of UNESCO. Adiseshiah was an economist and he brought to the Jury his perspective on what he called the "functionalities" of literacy. By this he meant that literacy does not exist for its own sake, but for the functions it serves in people's lives. He always looked at candidatures for prizes with a view to finding "multiplier effects" that literacy made in the economic, social, civic, health, and personal lives of the newly literate. To read more go to <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2008/sticht-aug25.htm>

Presenting the Canada Post Community Literacy Award winners

September 2, 2008, Ottawa

Canada Post today announced the winners of its 2008 Community Literacy Awards. With winners from every region of the country, these awards, given for individual achievement and educational leadership, recognize the value of literacy and the importance of community support. "Once again our judges struggled to pick our winners from the many compelling submissions," said Robert Waite, Senior vice-president of Corporate Social Responsibility at Canada Post. "But as we worked through each submission it became clear that without a literacy partner, success would never have been possible. It's the results from these connections that we celebrate with the Canada Post Community Literacy Awards." For a full list of winners, visit canadapost.ca/literacyawards.

Resources and Websites

Seniors' Healthy Living Cookbook

Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County, 2008

The Healthy Living Workshop for Seniors program, which took place from March 19 to June 4, 2008, was a tremendous success. Each Wednesday, a fabulous group of seniors met at the Southend Community Centre in Sydney to read, write, talk and participate in learning about healthy lifestyle issues that affected them. During those twelve weeks, notable topics included: the importance of being physically and mentally active during senior years, healthy eating, food labelling, falls prevention, visiting your health care provider, understanding prescription and non-prescription labels, exercising safely, and depression.

One project undertaken during the course was the making of this recipe book. Most recipes were chosen with a conscious focus on healthy eating, but some are down right delicious comfort food. To download a copy go to

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

Family Literacy Ontario : A Guide to Best Practices

Ontario Literacy Coalition, 2005

This guide is for anyone who is involved or interested in family literacy. Family literacy practitioners and managers, and community partners may use this guide to improve upon their family literacy programs. To download a copy of this guide go to

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

Writing Matters: Getting Your Message Across

Janet Pringle, 2006

This book is about clear communication and getting your message across. It sounds simple, but it can be difficult to do. This book gives you tips and ideas for writing clearly. To download a copy go to

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

CLAD Thesaurus : Clear Language and Design (CLAD)

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

Celebrating the Right to Learn!: Adult Learners Celebrate Their Right to Learn and Freedom of Expression

Produced by Literacy Nova Scotia, 2008

This resource has learners' essay submissions to the Adult Learners' Week Writing Contest last March. To download a copy go to

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

TOWES Baseline Testing: Project Findings

Bow Valley College, June 2008

This report provides the College Sector Committee with the demographic data and TOWES test results for participants of the TOWES Baseline Testing portion of the Learner Skill Attainment Framework Initiative in Ontario. Participants from colleges across Ontario were approximately half way through the adult upgrading program ACE (Academic and Career Entrance) and completed TOWES assessments in either a paper or online format. TOWES was approached by the College Sector Committee to provide an analysis of participant demographics in comparison to TOWES scores. To download go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/csc/analysis/cover.htm>

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