

This Week in Literacy

April 25, 2009

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

International Literacy Day	September 8
NWT Literacy Week	September 27 – October 3
World Teachers' Day	October 5
Human Rights Day	December 10

Community Events and Information

Call for Nominations: 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award – Nomination Deadline – Friday, May 29, 2009

The Council of the Federation, established in 2003 by the 13 Premiers of Canada, has identified literacy as a key initiative of importance to Canadians. The 2009 Northwest Territories Council of the Federation Literacy Award will honour the achievements of a learner, who has overcome obstacles and demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT official languages. Nominations are open to NWT learners of all ages. The winning nominee will receive a Council of the Federation medallion and a certificate from the Premier of the Northwest Territories. Nominations require two letters of support.

Call for Nominations: 2009 Ministerial Literacy Awards – Deadline – Friday, May 29, 2009

Do you know an educator or an organization in your community that has excelled in promoting literacy and helping others to improve their literacy levels in any of the NWT's official languages? This is your chance to honour the work of that exceptional individual or organization. Nominations will be accepted in two categories:

1. Teachers, tutors or literacy facilitators, who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to literacy.
2. Organizations, literacy committees or programs, which have advocated for literacy and improved literacy levels in their communities.

One nominee from each category will be selected to receive a congratulatory letter, a certificate and a plaque from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Nominations require two letters of support.

Nomination forms are available from Barbara Miron, Coordinator, Literacy and Adult Basic Education; Department of Education, Culture and Employment; Government of the Northwest Territories. Phone: (867) 920-3482 Fax: (867) 873-0237 Email: Barbara.Miron@gov.nt.ca.

Canada Post Community Literacy Awards

Help Canada Post celebrate literacy– make a nomination to the 2009 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards! Entries must be received in Ottawa by Friday, May 22, 2009 midnight (EDT). http://www.canadapost.ca/cpc_email/Literacy/literacy_2009_1.htm.

National Aboriginal Role Model Program

The National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) is once again searching for Canada's best and brightest First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth for nomination to the 2009-2010 National Aboriginal Role Model Program (NARMP). For more information go to: <http://www.naho.ca/rolemodel/english/index.php>.

Northwestel's Northern Futures Scholarship Program

Deadline July 5, 2009

Every year, Northwestel awards ten scholarships worth \$2,500.00 each to select post-secondary full time students enrolled in the following programs: Telecommunications, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Business/Commerce. Four scholarships are available exclusively to aboriginal students - one each in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon and northern British Columbia. The application deadline is: July 15, 2009 @ 4:30PM PST. Contact for further information: scholarships@nwtel.ca.

Centre for Literacy's Summer Institute 2009

This year's topic for Summer Institute 2009 is Workplace Literacy & Essential Skills - What Works? and Why? This three day event will take place from June 25-27, 2009 in Montreal and will bring together policy-makers, providers and researchers from across Canada and abroad to consider issues of Workplace Literacy & Essential Skills. For more info go to <http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/whatsnew/sli2009/index.htm>.

The 17th National Conference on Learning Disabilities

"Minds of Gold" September 24 – 26, 2009 Whitehorse, Yukon

The 17th National Conference on Learning Disabilities, [hosted by LDAY](#), has engaged some 30 speakers from across Canada, the United States, England and Australia to meet here in Whitehorse in September 2009. Visit <http://lday.leafsolutions.ca> for full conference details and to register.

Theatre On The Lake has distributed the following call for submissions:

Whether you're a writer, director, actor, or comedy troupe, we're looking for proposals for one-act plays (40 minutes or less) for the festival in late July. Once again we will be building a stage on Frame Lake, by the stairs at the museum. Last year we had three plays and over 350 people in attendance for

the three lunch-hour and two evening shows. This year we want to open it up to anyone interested in putting on a one-act play. If you are interested email theatreonthelake@gmail.com.

In the News

Reading 'can help reduce stress'

Reading is the best way to relax and even six minutes can be enough to reduce the stress levels by more than two thirds, according to new research. And it works better and faster than other methods to calm frazzled nerves such as listening to music, going for a walk or settling down with a cup of tea, research found. Psychologists believe this is because the human mind has to concentrate on reading and the distraction of being taken into a literary world eases the tensions in muscles and the heart. To read more go to <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/5070874/Reading-can-help-reduce-stress.html>.

Message from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, on the occasion of National Volunteer Week

April 17, 2009

In the midst of the current economic turmoil, or even when life just gets you down, the work, support or simple smile of a volunteer can bring a ray of sunshine to warm the heart and rekindle hope. That is why I am so pleased to celebrate National Volunteer Week and particularly to pay tribute to the thousands of Canadian volunteers who reject indifference and apathy, who choose instead to do all they can, often behind the scenes, to improve the lives of their fellow citizens. To read more go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/George/core/core.pdf>.

Canadian Council on Learning Update

CCL's original five-year agreement with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has been extended an additional year, to March 31, 2010, without additional funding. In order to continue its core activities of research, and monitoring and reporting on the state of learning in Canada, CCL is streamlining its operations. CCL remains in active discussions with HRSDC regarding a future funding agreement beyond March 2010.

On April 6, 2009, CCL announced the following measures:

- CCL's five knowledge centres—Aboriginal Learning, Adult Learning, Early Childhood Learning, Health and Learning and Work and Learning—will no longer be funded as of July 6, 2009.
- CCL reduced its staff by 20%.
- CCL cut a number of programs but will continue to produce core products such as the Composite Learning Index, the State of Learning in Canada report, the widely read *Lessons in Learning* series, and a variety of reports and papers on issues related to lifelong learning.

To find out more go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/PresidentCEO/20090415CCLrestructures.htm?Language=EN>.

Internet age has only just begun, founders say

Agence France-Presse April 23, 2009

While the Internet has dramatically changed lives around the world, its full impact will only be realized when far more people and information go online, its founders said Wednesday. "The web as I envisaged it, we have not seen it yet. The future is still so much bigger than the past," said Tim Berners-Lee, one of the inventors of the World Wide Web, at a seminar on its future. Just 23 per cent of the globe's population currently uses the Internet, according to the United Nation's International Telecommunications Union, with use much higher in developed nations. By contrast, just five per cent of Africans surf the web, it said in a report issued last month. But that level is expected to rise, especially in developing nations, as mobile Internet access takes off, making it no longer necessary to use a computer to surf the web, said Internet co-founder Vinton Cerf. To read more go to <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/Technology/Internet+only+just+begun+founders/1525325/story.html>.

Resources and Websites

CMEC launches Literacy Forum Legacy

A new, innovative resource aimed at improving literacy levels in Canada was released by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). The legacy of knowledge and materials gathered from last year's Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum provides on-line learning and teaching resources that will benefit educators, learners, literacy providers, and people across Canada, now and in the future. Three resource modules on literacy were developed using the 130 hours of audiovisual materials from the forum and more than 1,000 questions and comments raised by participants. The topics of the modules are Literacy in Canada, Community-Based Literacy Planning, and Literacy: Looking at the Page 2 Immigrant Experience. Over 70 new presentations from experts, practitioners, and policy makers are also available online, covering literacy topics from early learning to adult education to workplace literacy.

Go to this website at: <http://www.forum2008.cmec.ca/en/index.html>.

Are student employment and academic success linked?

A new publication from the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation shows that employment among full-time university and college students has increased to historically high levels and is harming the academic success of some students. The authors begin by describing recent trends in student employment and examining the reasons students themselves give for being employed. They then offer a brief review of recent studies on the impact of employment on academic success. The authors believe that working while in school has a negative effect on post-secondary grades. Finally, they analyze the link between work and a different measure of academic success – persistence from the first to the second year of a postsecondary program – using the Youth in Transition Survey. To view this report go to:

http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca/images/Publications/090415_Student_Employment_RN9.pdf.

Living and Learning for a Viable Future The Power of Adult Learning

Submissions to Adult Learners Week Contest March 2 – 9, 2009, produced by Literacy Nova Scotia.

To download a copy go to http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/lms/alw09/alw09_ebooklet.pdf.

Core Presuppositions of Balanced Reading Theory: Personal Reflections

By George Demetrian

“As a program manager and curriculum developer who has spent the bulk of his 25 year career at the ground level of adult literacy education practice I have been highly invested in the issue of how adult literacy students take on the challenging process of learning how to read and how teachers, particularly volunteer tutors, have sought to assist them. Before entering the field of adult education in 1983 my only experience in teaching reading was with a 17 year old male who was suspended from high school. Having no background in reading pedagogy I drew on my intuition and common sense in working with narrative-based texts, while keeping lists of words he had trouble pronouncing or understanding which we then worked on after completing the assigned narrative text of the day. My student was far from a non-reader, but was also a good distance from achieving reading proficiency.” To read more go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/George/core/core.pdf>.