

This Week in Literacy

April 3, 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.

In this E-News

- [Literacy Dates](#)
- [Community Events and Information](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [Resources and Websites](#)

Literacy Dates

World Book Day	April 23, 2009
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

Children and Families: Social Development Partnerships Program

Deadline: May 8, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.

The Children and Families component of the Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP) invites not-for-profit organizations to apply for funding through Calls for Proposals. Each Call for Proposals has specific eligibility criteria, funding priorities and funding levels. The SDPP is currently inviting proposals for contribution funding that support Canadian families, children/youth and other vulnerable populations. For more information go to:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/sdpp/call/social_wellbeing/2009/child_family.shtml

Canada Post Community Literacy Awards

Nominations for the Canada Post Community Literacy Awards are now open. These awards highlight the achievements of Canadians making a special effort or important contribution to improving Canada's literacy landscape. The Awards recognize adult learners and educators in either Individual Achievement or Educator categories. Nominations must be received in Ottawa by May 31, 2009. The names of the finalists will be announced in late July and the winners will be notified in August. Winners will be recognized at ceremonies in their communities and awarded a prize of \$300 (Individual) or \$500 (Educator). For more information, visit:

<http://www.canadapost.ca/aboutus/community/literacy/awards/?ecid=murl07001102>

Global Action Week 2009: The BIG READ

Every year, the Canadian Global Campaign for Education (CGCE / www.campaignforeducationcanada.org) works with our partners around the world to organize **Global Action Week**, an international campaign to tell politicians and journalists that we need to provide quality education to the 75 million children and 774 million adults who do not have this basic human right. This year, Global Action Week will take place from **April 20-26, 2009**. The theme is **Literacy**. This year the theme is the importance of providing opportunities for everyone to receive quality education and the benefits that literacy brings via our **BIG READ** campaign.

How You Can Take Part in the BIG READ

1. **Register** online for Global Action Week 2009 via www.campaignforeducationcanada.org/gaw/en/
2. Once you register, you will be directed to a webpage where you can download:
 - a. the *BIG READ School Pack* that explains how the campaign works;
 - b. *curriculum materials* and *PowerPoint presentations* on Education for All by CGCE and the Canadian Teachers' Federation,
 - c. the *BIG READ Stories* for different reading levels
 - d. Other *materials* (i.e. Posters, Stickers, Flyers).
3. **Choose** the lessons and stories to use with your class or group. You may want to invite a local author or your Member of Parliament to take part.
4. **Do** the BIG READ activities with your class on April 22 or at any point during Global Action Week (April 20-26, 2009)
5. **Complete** the **Validation Form**, and the **Petition** (found in the School Pack) to the Canadian Government for more action.
6. **Send** both the **Validation Form** and **Petition** to CGCE via email, fax or post. Include any other materials that document what you did: photos, videos, drawings, stories, etc.

You can also learn more about what other countries are doing at www.campaignforeducation.org/bigread/ They also invite you to connect with Other Education for All Campaigners via:

- **Facebook** (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6232974961>) and
- **Taking IT Global** (<http://orgs.tigweb.org/36487>).
- **YouTube** (<http://www.youtube.com/user/CGCEGAW>)

If you have any questions about CGCE, Global Action Week or the BIG READ, please contact them at info@cgce.ca or 613 232 3569 x 248.

Visual Artist Registry

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to showcasing and sharing the extraordinary talent of NWT artists and performers at the forthcoming 2010 Olympics and Paralympics in Vancouver, February 12-28 and March 12-21, 2010. In keeping with this commitment, they have created a VISUAL ARTIST REGISTRY and a PERFORMING ARTS REGISTRY that will allow the GNWT to give all resident artists and performers in the NWT the opportunity to apply and be a part of this amazing opportunity. Visit www.nwtarts.com for more information.

In the News

ABC Canada Applauds Government of Ontario Commitment to Literacy and Basic Skills

Provincial budget unveils \$90 million in new funding to help Ontarians with low reading, writing and math skills; increased focus on literacy in workplace

(Toronto, ON, March 26, 2009) – ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation is pleased to release an official statement following the provincial budget announcement made by the Government of Ontario. Featured amongst today's news concerning the budget is that literacy and basic skills programs will receive a major funding boost. ABC CANADA congratulates Minister of Finance and Minister of Revenue Dwight Duncan and John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities for their leadership in recognizing the value of workplace literacy. ABC CANADA looks forward to working with them on planning for literacy and basic skills training to ensure the support continues after the two-year framework.

"This is a landmark day for the literacy and basic skills cause in Ontario. The first time in over a decade that community literacy organizations have seen an increase and that workplace literacy has been funded in Ontario," said Margaret Eaton, President, ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation. "ABC CANADA is committed to raising the importance of workers upgrading their reading, writing and math skills. We applaud the Government of Ontario and our literacy partners for delivering this major step forward. Today's news will provide the people of Ontario with a greater opportunity to train and upgrade their skills and education as they meet the demands of the new knowledge economy" said Eaton.

Ontario Literacy Coalition Welcomes Government of Ontario New Investment in Adult Literacy Training

The Ontario Literacy Coalition welcomes the Government of Ontario's additional two year investment of \$90 million in literacy and basic skills training. The investment was announced in today's provincial budget delivered by Finance Minister Dwight Duncan. "This substantial investment is a recognition of the pivotal role literacy and basic skills play in rebuilding our economy", said Lesley Brown, Executive Director. "The OLC looks forward to working with Minister Milloy to determine the best means to roll out this investment." Today's budget will expand literacy and basic skills efforts to prepare Ontarians for higher skills training. It also re-introduces an emphasis on workplace literacy – those skills necessary to succeed at work. Access to learning through distance education and connecting to the community are other positive elements of today's announcement.

Concern repeatedly raised during cross-country literacy hearings

By Janet Steffenhagen, Vancouver Sun, March 24, 2009

Canadian universities are not adequately preparing teachers to teach reading. That is one of the concerns raised repeatedly during cross-country hearings organized by the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network as it gathers suggestions for a national strategy to improve literacy, director Don Jamieson said Monday in an interview. "It's a common theme," said Jamieson, who was in Vancouver for the last public consultation of the National Strategy for Early Literacy. "It can't be

swept under the rug ... it's something that needs to be addressed." The issue was raised again Monday by Elizabeth Bredberg, research director for the Kelowna-based Society for the Advancement of Excellence in Education and one of a dozen presenters at the all-day meeting. "We all should recognize the catastrophic effects on learners and on society of our failure to teach reading," she stated in her presentation to an audience of about two dozen people. To read more go to

<http://www.vancouversun.com/News/Universities+failing+prepare+teachers+teach+reading+research+panel+told/1421709/story.html>

Training: It's time to get workforce ready, says native leader

By Shawn Berry, berry.shawn@dailyleaner.com

Native people need more access to literacy and training programs if they're to play a part in driving Canada's economy, says the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations. "We're being denied an opportunity that ought to be taken for granted," Phil Fontaine said Saturday as he addressed leaders of New Brunswick's business and native communities. He was speaking at a First Nations and Business Liaison Group of New Brunswick forum examining how First Nations and the business sector can best work together to contribute to economic development in the province. With Canada's aging population, First Nations are a workforce worth tapping into, Fontaine said. Native communities are growing at a rate that's 3.5 times higher than the national average and 50 per cent of Canada's aboriginal population is under 25. To read more go to

<http://dailyleaner.canadaeast.com/search/article/611694>

Resources and Websites

The Aboriginal Children's Circle of Early Learning (ACCEL)

The National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) revamped the website: Aboriginal Children's Circle of Early Learning (ACCEL). For more information go to: <http://www.naho.ca/english/>

Models of Best Practices for Integrating Family Literacy

In May of 2008, the Ontario Literacy Coalition convened the first cross-ministerial meeting on family literacy under the Developing Models of Best Practices for Integrated Family Literacy Programming initiative. This initiative explored an integrated approach to family literacy and identified models of good practice that could be shared throughout Ontario. For more information go to:

<http://www.on.literacy.ca/whatwedo/initiatives/family/current>

The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC) launches

www.youth2youth.ca

This new website for students with learning disabilities is accessible and offers support such as BrowseAloud, an invaluable reading software. This website provides students who have LDs with helpful tools to help them succeed in school and work.

The Development and State of the Art of Adult Learning and Education (ALE)

Report for Canada, Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, 2008

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