

# This Week in Literacy

December 17, 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

National Family Literacy Day	January 27
Heritage Day	February 17
World Day of Social Justice	February 20
Freedom to Read Day	February 21-27

## Community Events and Information

### Support the Work of the NWT Literacy Council

The Literacy Council uses donations to support community-based literacy programs and to buy children's books for community literacy programs. To support the NWT Literacy Council's work this holiday season – or at any time during the year – you can donate right from our webpage [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca). Just go to the **Canada Helps** button, and donate. You will immediately receive a charitable donation tax receipt.

### International Polar Year Youth Writing contest

Youth between the ages of 12 and 18 are invited to submit a one-page piece of writing, in any format (prose, poetry, etc), on a subject related to life in the North. Entries will be accepted in any language that is currently spoken in the North. The First Prize winner in each category will receive an Ipod Touch 32 GB. The Second Prize is an Ipod Nano 16GB. The deadline for entries is December 31st, 2009. Youth can submit entries by email to [ipy.timecapsule@gmail.com](mailto:ipy.timecapsule@gmail.com), or by mail to P.O.Box 11050, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 3X7, Attn. Bree Denning. For information contact: Bryany Denning at 867-873-9337 or [1bbd@queensu.ca](mailto:1bbd@queensu.ca)

### Support available for Polar Teachers Workshop

The Canadian International Polar Year Program Office is offering partial support to a number of Canadian teachers to attend the PolarTEACHERS workshop as part of the Oslo Science Conference June 8-12, 2010. Six Northern teachers will be eligible to receive up to \$2500, in addition to the travel

stipend being offered by the workshop organizers. The deadline to apply is January 20, 2010. For more information contact Jennifer Bellman at 819-994-1803.

### **Youth Eco Internships**

Voluntary groups are invited to apply to have a young person aged 15 to 30 work with them as part of a Youth Eco Internship. Interns will be paid by the YMCA or YWCA Canada. The positions are being allocated on a first-come, first served basis. Contact Theresa toll free at 1-877-826-9922.

### **Family Literacy Day Toolkit now online**

Download the *Sing for Literacy* Toolkit or the Family Literacy Day Event Guide at [www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca) for all the information you need for your Family Literacy Day *Sing for Literacy* event. ABC CANADA is encouraging groups across the country to participate by hosting sing-alongs in their communities. Register your Family Literacy Day event by January 8, 2010 and be eligible to win a FLD prize pack!

### **Open Sky Festival Call for Submissions**

The OSC Gallery and Open Sky Creative Society in Fort Simpson are accepting submissions from Canadian, Northern and DehCho artists and performers for the 2010 gallery programming and festival until January 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information go to <http://www.openskyfestival.ca/artistopp.htm>

### **Alaskan Periodical Seeks Poetry Submissions**

*Ice Floe*, an Alaska-published periodical dedicated to poetry, is seeking poetry submissions for a volume to be published in 2010. Submissions of no more than five poems can be sent to [icefloe@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:icefloe@uaa.alaska.edu) or by mail to University of Alaska Press c/o Ice Floe, PO Box 756240, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6240 by January 1, 2010.

### **Climate Change and Health Adaptation Funding Guide Available**

Health Canada's Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program is accepting funding proposals for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The Climate Change and Health Adaptation in Northern First Nation and Inuit Communities program is designed to be carried out by communities in cooperation with Aboriginal associations, academics, governments and agencies. Proposal deadline is January 24th, 2010. The guide can be found at <http://www.afn.ca/misc/Funding-App.pdf>

## **In the News**

### **Yellowknife blogger seeks your vote**

You can check out John Mutford's The Book Mine Set blog at <http://www.bookmineset.blogspot.com>. If you like what you see you have until December 19 to cast your vote for it to win a Canadian Blog Award under the Cultural and Literature Blogs category at <http://www.demochoice.org/dcballot.php?poll=cba09r2cul>. To cast a vote for the best NWT Blog Award go to <http://bestnwtblogs.blogspot.com/2009/12/voting-now-open.html>

Cleaners more valuable than bankers  
ABC news, December 16, 2009

**A study by the New Economics Foundation in Britain has found that childcare workers and cleaners contribute more to society than bankers and advertising executives. You can read more about this story at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/16/2772911.htm?section=world>**

Project Announcement: Web-based Tools to Support Effective Learning and Teaching for Survivors of Violence

*Web-based Tools to Support Effective Learning and Teaching for Survivors of Violence* is a two-year national project that will increase the capacity of the literacy and essential skills field to address the impact of violence on learning. The NWT Literacy Council is one of the project partners. For more information and updates please contact [jenny@learningandviolence.net](mailto:jenny@learningandviolence.net) and visit the website at [www.learningandviolence.net](http://www.learningandviolence.net)

### **15 by 15 A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC**

The stock of human capital in British Columbia is key to its long-term economic success. This means early child development is a critical issue for business leaders, because the years before age six set in motion factors that will determine the quality of the future labour force. Today, only 71% of BC children arrive at kindergarten meeting all of the developmental benchmarks they need to thrive both now and into the future. A summary and full report can be found at <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/>

Assembly of First Nations National Chief welcomes Minister's commitment on education funding review

Canada Newswire, December 14, 2009

Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl has committed to working with First Nations leaders to address the root causes of funding inadequacies that are crippling First Nation schools and failing to provide a safe and supportive environment for First Nation children and learners. The Minister made the commitment to work with first nations last week at a Special Chief's Assembly. For the full story go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/December2009/14/c2836.html>

### **Scarborough Family wins Munsch at Home Contest**

ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation is pleased to announce that the Jordan family of Scarborough, Ontario has won the 'Munsch at Home Contest' for their original story *Myles the Rockstar* as selected by best-selling author and Family Literacy Day Honorary Chair, Robert Munsch. For more go to <http://www.abc-canada.org/en/munschcontestwinner>

## **Resources and Websites**

### **How Do You Talk About Aboriginal Issues in the Classroom?**

Students frequently report troubling and sometimes traumatic discussions of Aboriginal issues in their classes. These situations often affect their ability to function in their coursework, and even their ability to return to class. <http://www.whatilearnedinclasstoday.com/>

### **Childcare Resource and Research Unit newsletter**

Do you want to keep up to date on policy developments in early childhood care and education, new research and resources for policy, newly released publications, and upcoming events of interest to the

child care community? You can sign up to receive email notices of updates and new postings by subscribing to the CRRU email announcements list at <http://www.childcarecanada.org/res/enews/index.html>