

This Week in Literacy

February 6, 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

Family Day	February 16, 2009
Aboriginal Languages Month	March 2009
International Children's Book Day	April 2, 2009
World Book Day	April 23, 2009

Community Events and Information

National Strategy for Early Literacy – Submissions

The *National Strategy for Early Literacy* (NSEL) is a Canada-wide initiative to improve the literacy skills of Canadian children and youth. NSEL engages a broad coalition of organizations and individuals to understand and describe what can be done to improve literacy outcomes for young Canadians, and to put these actions into practice.

Public consultations relating to the National Strategy initiative will be held across Canada in March 2009. These consultations will provide an opportunity for presentations that are focused on issues relevant to improving the literacy skills of young Canadians by individuals and organizations. Parties interested in presenting at these consultations or in providing written input to the consultation process are invited to submit an information brief in advance of the consultations. Information briefs should be sent by 15 February 2009 to: nselsubmission@cllrnet.ca To find out more go to <http://nsel.cllrnet.ca/submissions>

Author Visit in Yellowknife

Canada Council for the Arts and the Yellowknife Public Library present celebrated Canadian author Maxine Trottier 7:00 pm Thursday February 12th in the Library Meeting Room. Maxine Trottier is a prolific writer of books for young people. Born in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, she moved to Windsor, Ontario with her family ten years later. In 1974 she became a Canadian citizen. She is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario. Maxine spent 31 years working as an educator in elementary classrooms, guiding children toward literacy. Maxine lives with her husband William and

their two Yorkies, Ceilidh and Moon, at Newman's Cove, Newfoundland. Her studio overlooks the Atlantic Ocean; it is a wonderful place to write.

Maxine will be discussing the writing process as well as reading and discussing some of her recent publications such as *Forget-Me-Not*, her new Dear Canada book *Blood Upon Our Land* and others. This presentation is suitable for children, teens, and adults. Signed books available to be won! Maxine's books will be on sale at the event through the Book Cellar. For more info about Maxine and her writing, visit her website <http://www.maxinetrottier.com/>

Share your parenting tips, stories, and photos!

Have you had a remarkable parenting journey? Have you learned any helpful tips from your grandparents or Elders on how to raise a healthy family? Are you pregnant and loving it? Do you have an amazing birth story to share with the world? Do you include your culture into everyday family activities? If this sounds like you, please share your story with Huntinghawk Communications! They are putting together the first series of healthy pregnancy and parenting books by and for Canada's Aboriginal people:

- *The Pregnancy and Birth Partner: Preparing for Life as a New Parent for Aboriginal People*
- *The New Parent's Companion: Tips for Aboriginal People Trying to Raise Children in a Holistic Way*

These inspirational and educational books build on their curriculum [*Walking the Sacred Path: Health Parents, Empowered Communities*](#). They want our books to represent the voice and wisdom of our diverse communities. They also want the beauty and strength of children, families, and guides to shine through by including your artwork and photos. Two pieces will be selected to use as cover images.. **The deadline is March 1, 2009.** To share a piece of writing, photo, or artwork, email it to info@huntinghawkcommunications.com

In the News

Aboriginal education: past, present and future explored as TVO's *Your Voice* visits Thunder Bay for two-part special beginning Tuesday February 10, 2009
TORONTO, Jan. 29 /CNW/ - Aboriginal youth is one of the fastest growing segments of Canada's population, yet still has one of the highest dropout rates in the country. And according to the 2006 Census up to half of Canada's Aboriginals aged 25 - 64 have less than a high school education. Is this the legacy of the residential school system and the mistrust that it generated? How does education in Ontario today need to change in order to rebuild trust and give Aboriginal students a greater chance at success? This February, *Your Voice*, TVO's discussion series for parents at tvoparents.com, will head to Fort William First Nation Community Centre in Thunder Bay to examine what and how Aboriginal students learn, and the role of education in the protection and preservation of the Aboriginal culture. The two-part special will be streamed online at tvoparents.com Tuesdays February 10 and 17 at 9 pm ET, and broadcast on air Sundays February 15 and 22 at 6 pm on TVO. To read more about this program go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2009/29/c3941.html>

Electronic reading devices gaining favour

By Bonna Johnson, The Tennessean

Deciding what book to read next may not be the only choice you face. You may well have to pick: paper or plastic? Electronic book readers -- often made with plastic -- are an emerging alternative to the bound word for some readers, especially those who like the convenience when traveling. The high-tech gadgets are still a novelty, but they appear to be taking hold. Already, reading newspapers on a smart phone isn't such a big deal anymore, so these book readers appear to be the next logical step in how new technology can change our reading experiences. To read more go to

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_11530808

Canadian Youth Invited to Take Part in 'Financial Fitness Challenge ' Contest

Montreal - Young Canadians are invited to increase their financial literacy through an interactive scholarship contest sponsored by the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA). The Financial Fitness Challenge, which runs from Feb. 2 to Feb. 28, 2009, uses interactive tools and online simulations to raise awareness of important financial concepts such as budgeting, saving and investing. "We feel it's important to educate youth about money matters, especially at an age where they are beginning to earn their own money and save up for their own financial goals," said Jean St-Gelais, Chair of the CSA and President & Chief Executive Officer of the Autorité des marchés financiers (Québec).

The bilingual contest is open to Canadians ages 15 to 21. It features exciting interactive activities such as 'Slapshot Shopping,' a game where players are given \$200 of virtual money to purchase a number of necessities and luxuries. The game uses humour – and the Canadian love affair with hockey – to teach the importance of balancing financial needs versus wants. The contest also features its own Facebook page where youth can exchange ideas and tips about saving and investing. The quiz, available at FinancialFitnessChallenge.ca, features questions and facts about budgeting, saving and investing, in a format directly focused on the experience of students. Thirteen entries – one from each province and territory – will be randomly selected from eligible quiz participants to win a \$750 scholarship.

Resources and Websites

Summary of the Federal Budget

<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2009/plan/bpc3b-eng.asp>

Family Literacy Practices in the home and community: A Review of the Literature on Family Literacy

Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick, 2008

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

Traditions: National Gatherings on Indigenous Knowledge Report

Canadian Heritage

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/org/sectr/cp-ch/aa/trd-eng.pdf>

Learning Indigenous Science from Place

November 2008, By Michell, Dr. Herman, Yvonne Vizina, Camie Augustus and Jason Sawyer

In 2005, a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal educators, teachers, professors, school science researchers, policy makers, curriculum experts, and community members came together in Saskatchewan as the Indigenous Knowledge in the School Science Curriculum Committee to dialogue about the importance of incorporating Indigenous knowledge in school science as a valid means of understanding the natural world and as a means of improving the achievement levels and representation of First Nations and Métis students in scientific careers. In 2007, a research initiative entitled Learning Indigenous Science from Place was developed to investigate First Nation and Métis perspectives of learning Indigenous science in relation to place and how Indigenous science is translated into the science curriculum of Saskatchewan schools. The Committee based the research on the premise that a science curriculum could be framed by the perspectives and worldviews of Indigenous knowledge. An enhanced science curriculum recognizes Indigenous knowledge as a knowledge system that describes and explains nature in culturally powerful ways. To read the report go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Research/FundedResearch/200811LearningIndigenousSciencefromPlace.htm?Language=EN>

Lobster Press

40% off all books this winter. Books for children, youth and young adults. Go to

<http://www.lobsterpress.com/quality-kids-books.html>

Want the Competitive Edge: Literacy in the Workplace

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

Literacy and basic skills are critical to the success of every business yet millions of Canadians do not have the literacy skills necessary to meet the increasing demands of the modern workplace. This booklet, a joint project of the Workforce Development Board and the Literacy Ontario Central South, explains and draws the links between literacy, employability, essential skills, emotional intelligence and plain language, all essential components of effective workplaces. It includes information on the status of the literacy challenge in central and southern Ontario, local resources, free tools, case studies and best practices relevant to diverse and sometimes challenging situations.

Literacy Express Newsletter for November 2008

<http://www.literacy.ca/themes/mcl/lexpress/nov08/1.htm>

Fact Sheet – Reading the future: Trying to meet Canada’s future literacy needs

Canadian Council on Learning

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/NR/rdonlyres/4B4EAB1B-828B-4BF3-B5D8-65B2A8CFB165/0/LiteracyReadingFutureFactSheetE.PDF>

Talk to Your Baby

Lots of different resources and documents on language development and literacy development. Definitely worth checking out! Some examples are:

- Baby's First Words
- Communicating Through Music
- Communicating Dads
- Early Language Advocacy Kit
- Talk to Me
- Talk to Your Baby

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/talktoyourbaby/resourcesttyblist.html>

Updated Indicators in Education

The Canadian Education Statistics Council released 54 updated tables from the report *Education Indicators in Canada: A Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program (PCEIP)*. Released in December 2007, the report is a comprehensive data compendium on the characteristics and functioning of education systems in the provinces and territories. It examines key developments and emerging trends related to the school-age population, the financing of education systems, and the school-to-work transition.

The updated tables include information on children living in low income circumstances, public and private expenditures on education, student achievement, apprenticeship, educators in public elementary and secondary schools, educational attainment for the general population and for people with Aboriginal identity, student pathways and transitions, and earnings relative to educational attainment.

This update also contains new tables looking at the results from the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS). Seven countries participated in this survey gathering information on adults using printed information to function in society. Conducted in 2003, IALSS is the Canadian component of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills study, a joint project among the Government of Canada, the US National Center for Education Statistics, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Institute for Statistics (UIS) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The new tables are available for download at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-582-x/2007001/update-miseajour200816-eng.htm>.