

This Week in Literacy

July 22, 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
National Family Literacy Day	January 27

Community Events and Information

Get Ready for NWT Literacy Week 2009!

NWT Literacy Week is September 27 – October 3 this year. The Yellowknife planning committee has met twice so far to discuss plans for Yellowknife. We have some exciting new activities and events planned for YK! We encourage communities to get together to start planning for your community. It is never too early! The NWTLC will be sending out NWT Literacy Week packages in August with new *How-to-Kits*, a wall calendar, our training calendar and promotional items to give away.

NWT Literacy Council Training Calendar for 2009-10

Get our new training calendar online at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm> and sign up for our Program Planning and Proposal Writing workshop in October or any of our other workshops by emailing us at nwt@nwtliteracy.ca.

In the News

Third of teens use cell to cheat

By Jill Tucker, Scripps Howard News Service, June 23

Forget crib notes inked on arms under shirtsleeves - that's old-school. Cheating has gone high-tech, with more than a third of American teenagers saying they use cell phones to boost test scores or grades, and at least half admitting using the Internet to cheat, according to a national U.S. survey released last week. But the students don't always think it's wrong. While about 40 per cent say sneaking a peek at notes stored on a cell phone is a serious offence, nearly a quarter of those polled said that's not cheating at all, according to the poll commissioned by San Francisco non-profit Common Sense Media.

The poll, conducted by the Benenson Strategy Group, included interviews with more than 1,000 children ages 13 to 18 and an equal number of parents with children in grades seven through 12. Most of the parents said they were aware cheating is rampant, with 76 per cent saying it happens at their child's school, but they were in denial about their own children - just 3 per cent acknowledged that their child has cheated with a cell phone. To read more go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/third-of-teens-use-cell-to-cheat/article1191623>.

Declaration for the Right to Literacy

Date: 2009-06-17

Right to Literacy Convention delegates from across the country determined and voted on the first United States Declaration for the Right to Literacy. The Right to Literacy Convention was part of the National Community Literacy Conference in Buffalo, New York on June 13, 2009. Delegates concluded that to ensure prosperity for the nation and self determination for the individual, changes at the national, regional and local level must take place.

Literacy leaders, using the model of the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, convened from across the nation. The need was clear; tens of millions of adults and children do not have the skills needed to succeed in life. Literacy is the number one tool to change that plight. The right to literacy must be a national priority.

The resolutions support five pillars of literacy

1. Building the Community
2. Strengthening the Family
3. Ensuring People's Self-Determination
4. Improving the Workforce
5. Transforming the Literacy System

To read more go to http://www.literacypowerline.com/events/view_all/#declaration-for-the-right-to-literacy.

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Upgrading Literacy and Skills is a High Priority for Working Canadians

Kitchener, ON, June 23, 2009

One quarter of working Canadians polled don't strongly believe their literacy skills prepare them for a new job – And 40% of managers aren't sure how to help them. In a news conference held today in Kitchener, Ontario, North American market research firm Ipsos Reid presented new findings concerning literacy in Canada. The report, commissioned by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation, polled over 1,000 working Canadians and over 300 managers and executives working in the private sector. The research provides insightful perceptions on literacy related to the current recession and the workplace.

The Ipsos study uncovered that a majority (72%) of working Canadians believe that the current level of adult literacy – that is reading, writing and mathematics skills among adults for whom English or French is their first language – is a 'problem'. Thinking about their own levels of literacy, 21% of working Canadians do not 'strongly agree' that 'if they were to lose their job today, they possess the necessary literacy skills to secure a new job'. Moreover, the Ipsos research found that managers and executives aren't sure about the ability of their company to deal with low literacy among its workforce. Four in ten (40%) 'disagree' that 'if one of their employees told them they had challenges with reading, writing or math skills, their company could quickly get them the help they need'. To read more go to <http://www.abc-canada.org/en/ipsosreid>.

Students lack basic skills for the workplace

Our schools' permissive attitude is letting down graduates

By Michael Carbert, Freelance, July 3, 2009

Last week a Harris-Decima survey showed that almost half of Canadians do not have confidence in our educational system's ability to prepare young people for the workplace. And well they shouldn't. By almost any standard, our schools are failing the public. I'd like to think I can pass such judgment; for several years I worked as a public school teacher. But you don't have to teach to know something is going wrong in our classrooms. Recent conversations with a pair of friends demonstrate that many people are beginning to wonder exactly what kind of lessons are being learned by students. To read more go to

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Students+lack+basic+skills+workplace/1754565/story.html>.

Literacy breaks down barriers

Katherine Wagner, The Times, Published: Friday, July 17, 2009

I read because my mother read. Growing up we owned few books but together my mom, sister and I regularly visited the library. At home, our selections strewn across the kitchen table, mom carefully recorded the number of books borrowed and the return date on the family calendar. I looked forward to our library outings. I know my mom read to us but decades later I cannot recall details. What is vivid among my childhood memories is her love of books. As I grew bored with Trixie Belden and Nancy Drew, I nervously "borrowed" gothic romances by Phyllis Whitney, Dorothy Eden and Mary Stewart from my mother's reading pile. Scrunched up under the covers at night, I consumed them by flashlight. When my mom discovered my interest, she encouraged me to move out of the children's section and start exploring all the shelves at the library. I still read every day. One reason I love

summer is the extra time and opportunities to read novels. To read more go to <http://www2.canada.com/mapleridgetimes/news/opinion/story.html?id=c17b04c3-6be4-45c5-9fb5-76ffa2eb389c>.

Resources and Websites

Library preschool storytimes: Developing early literacy skills in children

Judy MacLean, Penn State University, Summer 2008

Do public library storytimes prepare children to be ready to learn when they enter school? Is there scientific research to support these intuitive beliefs or are librarians simply providing a frazzled mother a coffee and a much needed break on a Tuesday morning when they entertain her child? Are public libraries really setting the stage for future successes in learning? To read this research report go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/storytimes/cover.htm>.

Adult Learning Celebrated in Seven Videos

Canadian Council on Learning

Seniors Learning

This segment celebrates the power of seniors learning in formal and informal settings. One of the inspirations for this video was provided through the growing presence of seniors colleges in Canada. Language: English, Runs 8:55. To review this video or the other six videos go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeCentres/AdultLearning/OurWork/Video/Video7.htm?Language=EN>.

Canadian Language Benchmarks Essential Skills

http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/cclb/work_instructors/work_instructors.pdf

On the Job Essential Thinking Skills

Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/cclb/thinking/thinking.pdf>

On the Job Essential Skills of Working With Others

Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/cclb/others/others.pdf>

On the Job Essential Skills of Numeracy

Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/cclb/numeracy/numeracy.pdf>

On the Job ESL and Essential Skills for Work – Document Use

Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/cclb/document/document.pdf>

On the Job ESL and Essential Skills for Work – Reading Text
Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/cclb/reading/reading.pdf>

Ready or Not...Perspectives on Literacy and Essential Skills in this Economic Downturn

A Canadian Baseline Study, March 2009

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

Information Literacy: Finding Information

Prepared by Sandra Hennessey, for College Sector Committee, April 2009

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/informationliteracy/informationliteracy.pdf>

Research into Practice

The term research may conjure up images of dry academic journals or reports that are hard to read through and harder to understand. Practitioners should not fear the term research. Using it within a program should be as commonplace as using learning activities and training plans. *Research in practice* simply means using the evidence of research and applying it in some way to your own experience. It includes all the resources, products, tools, training and communication developed and linked to a subject area. Anything from a newsletter article on Essential Skills to a report on Learning Disabilities can be considered research. *Using* the knowledge of the research is *research integration*. To find out more about this go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/3rs/3rs.pdf>.

New website promotes government investment in education

In order to help persuade governments around the world of the need to invest in education as a positive response to the global economic crisis, Education International (EI) has launched a new campaign and website called **Hands up for Education: The smart strategy for economic recovery**. It aims to assist EI's 400 member organizations in their efforts to ensure that funding for public education is enhanced, not cut, as governments struggle to cope with the impact of the crisis. The website features breaking news about the economic crisis and decisions affecting funding for education, as well as analysis and commentary on a new blog called Funding Education: Crisis Watch by veteran teacher-trade unionist Bob Harris. It will also offer campaign materials for educators, and snapshots of the developments in different countries through interactive Google maps. To learn more, visit the following page on the <http://www.ei-ie.org/handsup/en>.