

This Week in Literacy

June 18, 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

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.

World Literacy of Canada Write/Read to Read

Write/Right to Read is a national bilingual writing and drawing contest that aims to improve literacy skills and create global citizens. Using an opening paragraph written by children's author Kenneth Oppel, students in grades 4 to 6 are invited to complete a 300 word story and accompanying drawing incorporating this year's theme of tolerance and acceptance. The grand prizewinner of the Write/Right to Read contest will receive a contribution of \$1000 to a Registered Education Savings Plan, a complete collection of signed Kenneth Oppel books and a \$100 gift certificate to Amazon.ca. Visit www.worldlit.ca for more information.

6th Annual Diversity and Wellbeing Conference: From Monologue to Dialogue: Promoting Health Literacy with Diverse Populations

November 19 – 20, 2009

Join Alberta Health Service's Department of Healthy Diverse Populations as participants or presenters for their 6th Annual Diversity and Well-being Conference. Held at Mount Royal College, this conference brings leading North American health literacy experts to Calgary for a series of

interactive panel discussions and workshops. For more information contact diversity.services@albertahealthservices.ca.

Essential Skills in Instruction Conference

SkillPlan is hosting a national practitioners' conference on Essential Skills, October 28th and 29th, 2009 in Ottawa. The *Essential Skills in Instruction* conference is a unique opportunity for practitioners to learn from researchers and experienced practitioners. To find out more go to www.skillplan.ca. Early Bird Registration ends July 24th.

Book Launch!

The Ugly Truck and Dog Contest and Other Tales of Northern Life: A collection of short stories about Yellowknife

by Cathy Jewison

Thursday, June 25, 2009 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Northern Frontier Visitors Centre, 4807-49th Street, Yellowknife, NWT

In the News

Portion of sales of 'If I had 1,000,000 flavours,' Barenaked Ladies and Ben and Jerry's new ice cream, goes to ABC CANADA

Big scoop: Barenaked Ladies join Ben & Jerry's to serve up its first-ever Canadian flavour

Toronto, ON (May 12, 2009) – Ben & Jerry's, famous for its ingenious ice creams, irreverent personalities and social conscience, is joining forces with one of our country's most beloved bands, Barenaked Ladies, to serve up its first-ever Canadian flavour – If I had 1,000,000 flavours. Through its partnership with Ben & Jerry's, Barenaked Ladies will donate its entire share of the proceeds from the sale of If I had 1,000,000 flavours to support ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation, who raise awareness for the literacy cause including the importance of family literacy. To read more go to <http://www.abc-canada.org/en/node/318>.

Online push in California schools

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has unveiled a plan to save money by phasing out school textbooks in favour of internet aids. Gov Schwarzenegger wants to cut hundreds of millions of dollars in state spending each year. He says converting to online study will also help keep pupils more up-to-date. California is facing a state budget gap of \$24.3bn and Gov Schwarzenegger on Monday scrapped funding for contracts entered into after 1 March. To read more go to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8090450.stm>.

Education promotes well-being – but over 25s excluded

Monday, June 1, 2009 - 23:55

Despite the fact that improved well-being is increasingly recognised as a significant result of taking part in adult learning, for too many adults seeking help to get back on the learning ladder after the age of 25, the choice is largely restricted to narrow skills-for-work programmes. Whilst skills-for-work programmes meet the aspirations and increase the well-being of some people, a range of learning opportunities should be available to meet the needs of different people. This is a key message from a new study - *Well-being, happiness and Lifelong Learning*

<http://www.niace.org.uk/lifelonglearninginquiry/docs/IFLL-wellbeing.pdf> - commissioned by the Independent Inquiry into the Future of Lifelong Learning (IfLL), sponsored by NIACE. The Government may have put issues of well-being high on the policy agenda but too little has been done to make it happen, the report suggests. To read more go to <http://www.niace.org.uk/education-promotes-well-being%E2%80%93but-too-many-over-25-excluded>.

Promising practices in primary mathematics instruction

June 10, 2009

Despite Canada's strong performance on international assessments of mathematical skill among 15-year-olds, many Canadian students have weak math skills and struggle in their math classes. It has been suggested that classroom strategies fostering exploration and discovery, and guiding students to construct their own learning and knowledge can be effective in ensuring that all students acquire strong mathematical skills. However, a recent review of evidence conducted by CCL suggests that such an approach has modest effects on student achievement. To read more go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20090609Mathematics.htm?Language=EN>.

Aboriginals bring unique qualities to non-profit sector

By Melanie Collison, *The Edmonton Journal*, June 17, 2009

Attracting aboriginal people to volunteer in mainstream non-profit organizations is touted as yielding many benefits for the volunteers. Volunteers can receive training and develop new skills that may lead them into the workforce. It's a step toward integration, not assimilation which would strip aboriginal people of their distinctive cultures. The opportunities that open up--and new-found ability to take advantage of them --might counter the heavily documented social ills of inadequate education, unemployment, grinding poverty and substandard housing. But in fact the benefits flow both ways because aboriginal volunteers bring a cultural richness to the organizations they join. It is one year since National Chief Phil Fontaine, leader of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) spoke in the House of Commons in response to the federal government's statement of apology for the Indian residential schools. The AFN represents only a portion of the aboriginal population politically, but it has symbolic clout with the mainstream population. Fontaine said, "We are and always have been an indispensable part of the Canadian identity. Our peoples, our history, and our present being are the essence of Canada." To read more go to

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/Entertainment/Aboriginals+bring+unique+qualities+profit+sector/1704582/story.html>.

Resources and Websites

Social Media Tools 101

<http://www.interactiveinsightsgroup.com/blog1/socialmediabeginnersguide/social-media-tools-101>

There are a wide range of social media tools businesses and organizations can use to get more interactive — to communicate and exchange information with customers and partners. Businesses and community organizations are increasingly using these tools because they offer more cost-effective ways to achieve their goals. This website gives links to basic information explaining these

tools: blogs, microblogging 101, RSS 101, photo sharing, podcasts, social news and bookmarking 101, social networking 101, video sharing 101 and wikis 101.

17 New Tools in the Essential Skills Toolkit

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada has developed new tools to help employers, learners and practitioners address Literacy and Essential Skills challenges at work and in everyday life. Feedback in regards to the Toolkit up-dates is encouraged through a brief survey via the Literacy and Essential Skills [website](#).

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/general/tools_apps.shtml

First Nations films

First Nations films are now available to the public on important subjects from Spirituality to Land Claims to Traditional Music to Politics. These award-winning professional broadcast TV programs are some of the best in North America! Very suitable for groups, libraries, classroom or individuals and they are suitable for all ages from 12 to 112. Please visit their website www.firstnationsfilms.com and view on-line, playable segments from these emotionally moving and exciting programs. To Order contact richard@firstnationsfilms.com or call 604-990-9337.

2008 Pan Canadian Literacy Forum – Regina (April 13 – 15, 2008)

Videos, annotations and other materials from the literacy forum in Regina are posted on the CMEC site at: <http://www.forum2008.cmec.ca/en/index.html> If you click on the link that says "presentations", you will find topic-specific material from the local forums. For instance, the link for "literacy for Aboriginal Persons": <http://www.forum2008.cmec.ca/en/presentations-aboriginal-literacy.html> shows many of the sessions from the local forum in Regina.

The Dilemmas of Accountability : Exploring the Issues of Accountability in Adult Literacy Through Three Case Studies

Ralf St. Clair, University of Glasgow, ABC CANADA, March 2009

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

Education Indicators in Canada: Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program, June 2009

The Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program (PCEIP) provides a statistical portrait of the elementary, secondary and postsecondary education systems through the following products:

- **Tables and charts** - These tables and charts update or add to those published in previous issues of *Education Indicators in Canada: Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program*. New versions will be added several times a year.
- **Fact sheets** – The *Education Indicators in Canada: Fact Sheets* series provides an "at-a-glance" overview of particular aspects of education in Canada and summarizes key data trends in selected tables.
- **Handbook** – *Education Indicators in Canada: Handbook for the Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program 2007* provides brief, general descriptions of the data sources

and methodology behind the indicators as published in the 2007 report. It remains relevant for most of the tables updated since 2007.

The Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program (PCEIP) is an ongoing initiative of the **Canadian Education Statistics Council**, a partnership between **Statistics Canada** and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. PCEIP products are prepared by the two organizations in collaboration with the provincial and territorial departments and ministries responsible for education and training. They are aimed at policy makers, practitioners and the general public. To download this information go to <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-582-x/81-582-x2009001-eng.htm>.

The Healthy Aboriginal Network

Here is the latest update on their health and social literacy comic book.

Anxiety / child & youth mental health

In *Just a Story*, Wendy doesn't have any friends her age and feels overwhelmed by her busy school. Her little brother is more social but he's quick to lose his temper and get into fights. Something is clearly bothering them both. Find out how they're open to getting help and breaking down the stigma of mental health.

Staying in School

In *Level Up*, Terry is contemplating dropping out of school. But before he does, he's asked to spend some time with his cousin Dave, a successful game developer. Rather than lecture Terry, Dave makes the importance of school relatable – he compares education to moving up a level in a video game.

Diabetes prevention and Suicide prevention – double issue

An Invited Threat is about a family's realization that the food they eat is not good for them. It's about making healthy decisions now, rather than waiting until it's too late.

Darkness Calls is the story of a teenager who is bullied at school, misunderstood by his teacher and feels socially isolated from his family. He finds one day very overwhelming and considers taking his own life.

Please send an email sean@thehealthyaboriginal.net if you're interested in previewing a low res PDF of any of our comic books. And feel free to pass this email on to anyone who might be interested. Pricing for the single issues can be found at www.thehealthyaboriginal.net.