

# This Week in Literacy

March 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

Aboriginal Languages Month	March 2009
International Adult Learners Week	March 3 – 8
International Children's Book Day	April 2, 2009
World Book Day	April 23, 2009
International Literacy Day	September 8
NWT Literacy Week	September 27 – October 3

## Community Events and Information

### **Celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month – March 2009**

The NWT Literacy Council encourages communities to celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month in March. Last week we sent out a poster that has all the Aboriginal languages on it, bookmarks in all the Aboriginal languages and an information kit. You can also download the information kit on the website.

### **Celebrate International Adult Learners Week – March 3 – 9, 2009**

We hope that everyone had a great week. Attached is a letter from Unesco talking about the importance of celebrating learners' achievements. Also, last week we sent out information on Adult Learners Week to adult educators and instructors.

### **Call for Proposals for projects that remove barriers for people with disabilities**

**Deadline: April 6th, 2009**

The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announced a multi-year Call for Proposals (2009–2012) focusing on projects that will improve services or accessibility for people with disabilities to fully participate in society. The overall budget for this call is \$9 million in funding over 3 years. Proposals will be accepted from February 23, 2009 to April 6, 2009. For more information go to:

[http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community\\_partnerships/sdpp/call/disability\\_component/page00.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/sdpp/call/disability_component/page00.shtml)

## **Calls for Proposals by the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills – Deadline – March 13**

1. **Community-based Adult Literacy and Essential Skills Projects** must address the literacy and essential skills of adults and applications must clearly demonstrate how community-based approaches will address one or more of the following objectives:
  - a. **Employability:** Improve the literacy and essential skills of adults to obtain jobs and/or to improve their employment prospects.
  - b. **Community Participation:** Improve the literacy and essential skills of adults so they are better able to participate in their communities.
  - c. **Family:** Improve the literacy and essential skills of adults so they are better able to contribute to their families.
2. **Improving Literacy and Essential Skills of Aboriginal People.** Projects must address the literacy and essential skills of Aboriginal adults and clearly lead to one or more of the following results:
  - a. Helping Aboriginal adults to build the literacy and essential skills, in English and/or in French, they need to get a job, and/or adapt and succeed in the labour market.
  - b. Helping Aboriginal adults to build the literacy and essential skills, in English and/or in French, they need to contribute to their families and communities.

You can get copies of the CFP application kit and guide for both calls at [http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/oles/olesindex\\_en.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/oles/olesindex_en.shtml)

### **Yellowknife Public Library**

The Yellowknife Public Library has a host of programs for the month of March. To find out what's going on go to [www.yellowknife.ca](http://www.yellowknife.ca) and check out the library programs. Lot of things for students to do over the March break! Check out other libraries in the NWT for activities for the March break.

### **In the News**

#### **Literacy rates a greater threat than recession**

The numbers say it all. The real threat to Canada's future economic viability may not be the current recession, but rather the country's growing literacy rates. Consider this: A 2007 TD Bank report, titled, Literacy Matters, observed, in part: "...although Canada is viewed as a largely literate country, there are too many people without the basic skills to fully participate in the economy and civil society." A study, titled Reading the Future, released last June by the Canadian Council on Learning warned that adult literacy skills is declining. To read this article go to:

<http://www.midlandfreepress.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1454451>

#### **Demand for GED classes increase with job losses**

By Tom Coyne – Feb 23, 2009

Donna Sharp made a good living even without a high school diploma, earning about \$19 an hour putting stripes on recreational vehicles in a northern Indiana county known as the RV capital of the world. Then Monaco Coach Corp. announced in July that it was closing the Wakarusa plant where Sharp worked, as well as plants in Elkhart and Nappanee in September. Other RV companies were doing the same, contributing to an estimated 8,000 job cuts that have caused Elkhart County's unemployment rate to triple in a year to 15.3 percent. In that bleak market, Sharp, 44, found that her lack of a diploma limited her prospects. So she scrapped her job search to sign up for classes to earn General

Education Development credentials, joining a nationwide crush that is creating lengthy backlogs for people desperate to acquire tools to help them find work. To read more go to <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gQdkz49b0wLG1OmTTuvb3AiJ05UwD96H6C3O0>

### **Canada's Ministers of Education Meet to Discuss Priority Issues**

Saskatoon, February 23, 2009

Canada's ministers of education were in Saskatoon today for the 95th meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). Ministers discussed progress on a number of their priorities including Aboriginal education, postsecondary education, and literacy, all three of which are key components of ministers' April 2008 joint declaration, *Learn Canada 2020*. To read more go to <http://www.cmec.ca/releases/press.en.stm?id=86>

### **Adult Learners Week in Canada: A Road to Change, The Power of Learning**

International Adult Learners' Week (IALW) 2009 in Canada will be held from March 2nd through March 8th.

The Week celebrates adult learners across the country and the joy of learning throughout life. For a list of IALW 2009 activities in Canada and to post your event, please go to the NALD – [www.nald.ca](http://www.nald.ca)

Across this country and around the world, adult learning and literacy festivals and events share a common purpose – they are advocacy tools for raising the profile of adult learners and lifelong learning; they mobilize individuals to take advantage of the multitude of learning opportunities open to them; and they serve as a reminder that adult learning can be a powerful instrument for change. [International Adult Learners' Week \(IALW\)](#) was officially launched by UNESCO on September 8, 2000, but several countries were organizing adult learning festivals long before that date. The pioneers of Adult Learners' Week understood that the most effective way to underscore the importance of lifelong learning was to give adult learners themselves the chance to express their views, describe their challenges and document their success stories. To read more go to <http://www.unesco.ca/en/activity/education/AdultLearners.aspx>

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Freedom to Read**

On Freedom to Read you will find a list of books that have been challenged or banned in Canada over the years. You can view the list at:

[http://www.freedomtoread.ca/censorship\\_in\\_canada/challenged\\_books.asp](http://www.freedomtoread.ca/censorship_in_canada/challenged_books.asp)

### **Mapping the Field of Family Literacy in Canada**

**MCL Environmental Scan, Lindsay Kennedy, 2008**

This paper provides snapshots of family literacy "activity" in each province and territory with the intent of providing a view of family literacy through a wide angle lens. In other words, to look widely, not deeply, at family literacy. Each snapshot was created from a series of interviews with provincial and territorial literacy coalition staff, key informants working in the field of family literacy, staff from some provincial and territorial governments and/or website and document reviews. The interviews identified two over-arching themes: How family literacy is funded and who provides family literacy

programming. To download a copy of this paper go to  
<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/mapping/cover.htm>

### **Our Side of the Mountain 2008**

Collected Writings of Adult Learners Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County 2008  
<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/mountain/2008/cover.htm>

### **Roses I've Read**

#### **Rabbittown Learner's Program**

This book is a collection of stories written by adult learners. Their stories will be used as reading material for learners in other Literacy Programs. We hope every- one who reads this book enjoys it. To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/roses/cover.htm>