

This Week in Literacy

March 13, 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

Aboriginal Languages Month	March 2009
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
World Teachers' Day	October 5
Human Rights Day	December 10

Community Events and Information

Post Your Literacy Event or Activity Here!

Are you planning a literacy event or activity for your community? You are welcome to send us the information and we will include it in our weekly enews. What a great way to get the word out!

National Aboriginal Adult Literacy Practitioner Institute and Conference

The National Indigenous Literacy Association in partnership with the University of Winnipeg is hosting a **National Aboriginal Adult Literacy Practitioner Institute and Conference** in Winnipeg April 13 to 17, 2009. The keynote speaker for this event will be Ningwakwe (Rainbow Woman), a.k.a. Priscilla George, of the Saugeen First Nations. The Institute will take place April 13 - 16. A formal dinner will be held the evening of April 16, and the following day booths will be set up where Aboriginal authors, artists and poets will share their work. This five-day conference is accredited by the University of Winnipeg, and participants can earn credits toward a certificate or diploma program. For more information please contact Rhonda McCorriston at (204)927-1920. The registration form can be downloaded from the following site:

http://www.nila.ca/institute_and_conference. Please note, there are only 35 spaces available in this professional development event. For more information contact:

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Literacy and Learning 2009: Inspiring Leadership

Literacy Alberta and Community Learning Network are hosting a symposium entitled **Literacy and Learning 2009: Inspiring Leadership** October 21 to 24, 2009, at the Red Deer Lodge Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta. Symposium organizers are currently seeking proposals for professional development sessions. The deadline for submissions is February 27, 2009. The form to submit a proposal is available on-line at http://www.literacyalberta.ca/PDF/LA_callforpapers_0809.pdf. For further information about this event, please contact Margaret Eastwood, the symposium coordinator, at the address below.

Margaret Eastwood
Symposium Coordinator
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In the News

Schools have failed on the financial literacy front

Tome Hamza and Paul Bates , Globe and Mail Update, February 23, 2009

The recent federal budget included the establishment of an independent task force to make recommendations on financial literacy, among other issues. Our organization, the Investor Education Fund, applauds this development and looks forward to working with such a committee. In the past nine years, we have learned that the key problem this task force will face is that our education system is not providing the essential skills necessary for Canadians to understand money management. As a result, Canadian households have been buried under a mountain of household debt and have forgotten the importance of saving and asset building, lessons that boomers should have learned at their parents' knees. We are not talking about learning the specifics of investment products or understanding what a short is. It's much simpler than that. There are a few concepts central to good money management – which we seem to have lost in schools and households – that are the foundation of financial prosperity. To read more go to http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090220.wagenda_hamza0223/BNStory/socialScienceandHealth.

16th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards announces its 2009 list of outstanding achievers

November 24, 2008 - Toronto

Fourteen exceptional achievers, coming from diverse backgrounds, both culturally and geographically have been named recipients of the 2009 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, the highest honour the community bestows upon its own achievers. They include a Gemini Award winning couple who produce animation and documentaries, a hereditary chief who is a champion of the Mi'Kmaq culture, a former premier, a rocketing 'Top 40 Under 40' CEO who is bringing millions in dividends to the communities he serves, a doctor of Veterinary Medicine, a member of the 2008 Olympic swim team and eight other outstanding recipients. To read more go to http://www.naaf.ca/html/2008-11-24_e.html.

Early drawing gives children an advantage in gaining literacy

By Bob Steele, Special to The Sun, March 3, 2009

Some 20 years ago a group of parents, teachers and academics got together to foster mental development and literacy in preschool children and beyond. They called themselves the Drawing Network. Language in the broadest sense would be the key and spontaneous drawing the special emphasis. Children begin to draw about the same time they first use spoken words, typically in the second year of life. Nature apparently meant this to be used as a language medium. A fairly consistent unfolding takes place, but only when parents and teachers nurture it in a daily routine. Drawing begins with random scribbling, becomes crude representations and, by age four and with daily practice, emerges as a medium of expression so rich and detailed, so useful in expressing a subtle and complex content, that the definition of language is richly satisfied. To read more go to <http://www.vancouversun.com/Early+drawing+gives+children+advantage+gaining+literacy/1347336/story.html>.

Milestone for Literacy Movement

Toronto Star Mar 04, 2009

It was a celebration of survival. Success would be too grandiose a claim. Canada's literacy movement is 150 years old. It has withstood economic storms, hostile governments and overbearing educators. It has managed without money, facilities or paid staff. It has taken root in unlikely places and thrived in hard times.

"We have a long, rich, proud history," said Allan Quigley, one of the country's leading champions of adult education. "But guess what? We're still in church basements."

To read this article go to: <http://www.thestar.com/comment/article/595968>.

Resources and Websites

Canadian Council on Learning launches free online literacy assessments Practitioners and individual learners can test literacy skills, get immediate results

Ottawa, March 6, 2009 — The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) today launched a series of free, online literacy assessments to help literacy practitioners evaluate the numeracy, prose and document literacy skills of Canadian adults. At www.ccl-cca.ca/literacyassessment2009, literacy practitioners can access prepared assessments or develop their own tests using an item data bank, and administer them to clients in an online or print format. To read more go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/Newsroom/LiteracyAssessment>.

Top Twenty Downloads from NALD

<http://www.nald.ca/top20/2009/feb09.htm>

literacy horizons: a guide for literacy coordinators

by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network, 2008

This resource is about the development of the Saskatchewan Literacy Network and the work they do. Go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/sln/horizons/cover.htm> to download a copy.

Bridging the Employment Gap - Ready for Work Workforce Curricula for Learners with Low Literacy Skills

Simcoe /Muskoka Literacy Network , 2008

Download a copy from <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/gap/ready/cover.htm>.

Inspiring Middle School Literacy

Boston's public television station WGBH has launched a new adolescent literacy Web page targeting struggling readers in grades 5 to 12. Inspiring Middle School Literacy: Reading and Writing in Science and History is part of Teachers' Domain, WGBH's free service for educators, and features 15 standards-based activities designed to enhance students' literacy skills. Check the site out at: <http://www.teachersdomain.org/special/adlit/>.

The Power of Learning: International Adult Learners' Week 2009

Check out this magazine of celebrating adult learning.

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