

# This Week in Literacy

May 7, 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

### Talking Books Workshop – May 28

We have space for 4 more people in our Talking Books workshop on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Yellowknife at Aurora College – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor from 1 – 4:30 pm. If you are interested please email [lisa@nwliteracy.ca](mailto:lisa@nwliteracy.ca) by May 12<sup>th</sup>. There are only 4 spaces left!

### Call for Nominations: 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award – Nomination Deadline – Friday, May 29, 2009

The Council of the Federation, established in 2003 by the 13 Premiers of Canada, has identified literacy as a key initiative of importance to Canadians. The 2009 Northwest Territories Council of the Federation Literacy Award will honour the achievements of a learner who has overcome obstacles and demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT official languages. Nominations are open to NWT learners of all ages. The winning nominee will receive a Council of the Federation medallion and a certificate from the Premier of the Northwest Territories. Nominations require two letters of support.

### Call for Nominations: 2009 Ministerial Literacy Awards – Deadline – Friday, May 29, 2009

Do you know an educator or an organization in your community that has excelled in promoting literacy and helping others to improve their literacy levels in any of the NWT's official languages? This is your chance to honour the work of that exceptional individual or organization. Nominations will be accepted in two categories:

1. Teachers, tutors or literacy facilitators, who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to literacy.
2. Organizations, literacy committees or programs, which have advocated for literacy and improved literacy levels in their communities.

One nominee from each category will be selected to receive a congratulatory letter, a certificate and a plaque from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Nominations require two letters of support.

Nomination forms are available from Barbara Miron, Coordinator, Literacy and Adult Basic Education; Department of Education, Culture and Employment; Government of the Northwest Territories. Phone: (867) 920-3482 Fax: (867) 873-0237 Email: [Barbara.Miron@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Barbara.Miron@gov.nt.ca)

### **Land-based Indigenous Education**

The Department of Educational Foundations, University of Saskatchewan, now offers a Master of Education through a Land-Based Indigenous model beginning this summer. This degree is offered through four intensive land-based institutes plus several on-line related courses. The first institute will run from July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup> on Opaskwayak Cree territory in Northern Manitoba. Courses will be taught by Aboriginal scholars who work from within an Indigenous paradigm. A few spots remain open. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree and experience working in Aboriginal education. Applications must be received by **May 29, 2009 at 4pm**. For applications, deadlines, fees, and more information, please contact [dianne.miller@usask.ca](mailto:dianne.miller@usask.ca)

### **Integrating technology into practice**

AlphaPlus Centre helps advance adult basic education through the smart use of computers and Web-based technology. We research and evaluate new digital tools and help educators integrate them into their practice. We provide workshops, customized online learning systems, and technical support that respond to the needs of the adult basic education sector. AlphaPlus Centre specializes in the use of such innovative Web-tools as Moodle, Drupal, WordPress, Delicious, Twitter, Skype, and podcasting. These new, easily available and affordable tools can provide educators with:

- a secure online learning environment
- space to share information and build knowledge communities, and
- improved ways of finding and managing online learning activities.

To find out more about AlphaPlus go to <http://www.alphaplus.ca>

## **In the News**

### **Ottawa closes book on literacy centres**

Published Friday May 1st, 2009 , by Shawn Berry, [berry.shawn@dailygleaner.com](mailto:berry.shawn@dailygleaner.com)

Adult education groups in the region are losing an important tool in their efforts to improve literacy in the Maritimes. Federal government cuts funding: Kathleen Flanagan, co-ordinator of the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre, is worried about literacy services to adult learners when the centre

closes in early July. The Fredericton-based Adult Learning Knowledge Centre is set to close its doors in July after federal funding for the initiative - and four other knowledge centres run elsewhere in the country by the Canadian Council on Learning - wasn't renewed. Charles Ramsey, the former executive director of the Fredericton-based National Adult Literacy Database, said the loss will be a devastating blow. "It was a support system for the people who deliver the training," To read more go to <http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/front/article/653350>

### **Homework effective when properly assigned: research shows**

Ottawa, May 4, 2009 — A study released today by the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) confirms that homework is linked to higher student achievement—but only if it is judiciously assigned and engaging to the student. The substantial evidence review brings up to date the landmark 2006 study by Harris Cooper, which systematically reviewed homework research published between 1987 and 2003. CCL's systematic review examines results of 18 studies, published from 2003 to 2007, that looked into the effectiveness of homework in primary, intermediate and secondary schools across Europe and the United States. There were no equivalent Canadian studies published in this five-year period. To read more go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20090504Homework.htm?Language=EN>

### **Interview of the Month**

#### **HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy for Development**

Princess Laurentien has been committed to the cause of literacy for more than 20 years. On March 24 she became UNESCO's Special Envoy on Literacy for Development worldwide. She spoke to *EduInfo* about how she plans to use her position and what her hopes are for the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education to be held in Brazil in May where she will make the keynote speech. To read her interview go to [http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=58946&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=58946&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Twitter**

Do you know what *Twitter* is? *Twitter* is a social networking site that allows you to connect with others. To learn more about twittering – check out this great plain language video from *commoncraft*. <http://www.commoncraft.com/twitter>

### **AlphaPlus Blog: Learning Outside the Lines**

Great adult literacy blog <http://blog.alphaplus.ca>

### **Module on Essential Skills**

Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) ([www.nald.ca/clo](http://www.nald.ca/clo)) is delighted to present this online, self-directed training module on the Essential Skills. This module is designed to provide literacy agencies and others with training and resources to increase knowledge and awareness of the Essential Skills in Ontario's Literacy and Basic Skills agencies. The Essential Skills are closely linked with the work of literacy agencies as they are the foundational skills needed for work, learning, and life. To view the module go to <http://www.nald.ca/literacybasics/essentl/intro/01.htm>

### **Bare Essentials: An Introduction to Essential Skills**

Do you want to know what essential skills are? Do you want to know how essential skills profiles work? This document can help you with the basics! To download go to

[http://www.nald.ca/litweb/province/on/clo/resource/bare/bare\\_essentials.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/litweb/province/on/clo/resource/bare/bare_essentials.pdf)

### **Literacy on Youtube**

Check out these videos on literacy on the popular Youtube site: <http://youtube.com/LiteracyNS>

### **Family Math Groups: An Exploration of Content and Style**

By Kate Nonesuch, 2009

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

### ***Health Human Resources and Education in Canada Fact Sheets***

*May 2009*

To understand the degree to which the supply of workers in health occupations is meeting (and will meet) the health needs of Canadians, Health Canada asked Statistics Canada to study the relationship between education and training and the supply of professionals into health occupations. This series of fact sheets highlights, in summary form, key information relating to the education and training of workers in health and related occupations in Canada.

Fact sheet No. 1: [Do Canadian Health Graduates Find Jobs in their Field of Study?](#)

Fact sheet No. 2: [Where Do Canadian Health University Graduates Move after Graduation?](#)

Fact sheet No. 3: [Retention rate of Canadian health graduates in health occupations](#)

Fact sheet No. 4: [From Aspirations to Career Choices: Youth Pathways to Health Occupations](#)

### **Top Twenty Downloads in PDF Format of Resources from the NALD Collections for the Month of April 2009**

<http://www.nald.ca/top20/2009/apr09.htm>

### **Elections Study Kit**

Movement for Canadian Literacy

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/elect08/studykit08/studykit08.pdf>