

# This Week in Literacy

November 19, 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

Universal Children's Day	November 20
International Volunteer Day	December 5
Human Rights Day	December 10
National Family Literacy Day	January 27

## Community Events and Information

### Celebrate National Child Day on Friday

November 20th, 2009, marks the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which spells out the basic human rights to which children and youth everywhere are entitled. To learn more about National Child Day and find activities for kids go to <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncd-jne/index-eng.php>.

### NWT Literacy Council Training Calendar for 2009-10

Get our training calendar online at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm> and sign up for our upcoming workshops.

### Yellowknife Film Festival Seeks Submissions

Western Arctic Moving Pictures (WAMP) is looking for film and video submissions for the 3rd Yellowknife Film Festival February 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Genre and length don't matter; all submissions will be considered. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2010. For more information contact Jeremy Emerson at (867) 766-2586.

### Youth Eco Internships

Voluntary groups are invited to apply to have a young person aged 15 to 30 work with them as part of a Youth Eco Internship. Interns will be paid by the YMCA to YWCA Canada. The positions are being allocated on a first-come, first served basis. Contact Theresa toll free at 1-877-826-9922.

## **National Student Banner Contest**

The National Capital commission (NCC), in partnership with Classroom Connections, is asking students in Grades 5 through 8 to create and submit a one-of-a-kind banner design representing an issue or topic of importance to Canadian youth. Deadline for entries is February 19, 2010. For information visit: [http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc\\_web\\_content\\_page.asp?cid=16297-24521-29608-126865&lang=1](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16297-24521-29608-126865&lang=1).

## **Family Literacy Day Toolkit now online**

Download the *Sing for Literacy* Toolkit or the Family Literacy Day Event Guide at [www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca) for all the information you need for your Family Literacy Day and *Sing for Literacy* event. ABC CANADA is encouraging groups across the country to participate by hosting sing-alongs in their communities. There is also another Munsch at Home Contest. To enter, families must write a short story and submit it online by 2 p.m. December 11, 2009. Register your Family Literacy Day event by January 8, 2010 and be eligible to win a FLD prize pack!

## **First Nations Language Keepers Conference**

The conference is December 8-9, 2009 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It celebrates and supports language education for First Nation people. For more information visit [www.sicc.sk.ca](http://www.sicc.sk.ca) or phone (306) 244-1146.

## **In the News**

### **The Whole Life Approach to Learning Disabilities in Adult Literacy**

The impact of learning disabilities on teaching and learning in adult literacy settings is of great concern to adult literacy educators, and is receiving greater attention in research literature. Read more from Literacy BC at [http://www.literacybc.ca/Bulletins/elmo\\_news\\_nov\\_2009.pdf](http://www.literacybc.ca/Bulletins/elmo_news_nov_2009.pdf).

### **10 Tips to Improve Canada's Financial Literacy**

Globe and Mail, November 16, 2009

There is much interest in improving financial literacy today. What are some of the possible key things to consider in trying to achieve this goal in Canada? Here are some suggestions. See the story at <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/investment-ideas/investor-education/10-tips-to-improve-canadas-financial-literacy/article1361343/>.

### **The Video Game Debate: Bad for Behaviour, Good for Learning?**

Canadian Council on Learning, November 18, 2009

In 2001, the [Canadian Education Association](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20091118VideoGames.htm?Language=EN) concluded that "technology has become an accepted fact of life and education." Nearly a decade later, digital technologies continue to evolve rapidly...To read more go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20091118VideoGames.htm?Language=EN>.

## **Understanding PLAR**

Canadian Council on Learning

The authors of this report believe the concept of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) has benefits ranging from promoting a society of learners to alleviating future labour shortages caused by Canada's shrinking population. To learn more go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeCentres/AdultLearning/OurWork/UnderstandPLAR.htm?Language=EN>.

## **Education Ministers Commend Study on Second-Language Learning**

Toronto, November 16, 2009

Education ministers across Canada, through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), collectively commended the Commissioner of Official Languages today for undertaking the study "Two Languages, A World of Opportunities: Second-Language Learning in Canada's Universities." The study, released in Ottawa on October 29, 2009, assesses the range of second-language learning programs and courses in Canada's universities, including opportunities for intensive second-language study. You can read more at <http://www.cmec.ca/Press/2009/Pages/2009-11-16.aspx>.

## **Employers sidestep recruiters to tap social media**

Globe and Mail, November 11, 2009

Toronto-based entrepreneur Razor Suleman needs to hire 17 people over the next month. He could have chosen traditional methods –from newspaper ads to online job boards or head hunters – to fill the IT, sales and marketing positions at his rewards and recognition business. Yet in a soft job market, he and a growing number of employers are favouring an option they say is faster, more efficient and a whole lot cheaper....Read more about this story at <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/employers-sidestep-recruiters-to-tap-social-media/article1359961/>.

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Citizenship Resources**

A new, more comprehensive study guide for Canadian citizenship was launched by the federal government last week. *Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship* can be downloaded at <http://www.cic.gc.ca>. The Movement for Canadian Literacy has offered to coordinate production of an easy to read version. It says that research indicates the document might not be accessible for many new immigrants nor about a quarter of Canadian citizens. An alternative learning resource is the *Being a Canadian Citizen* unit produced by the Quebec Literacy Working Group and available at <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/qlwg/unit4/unit4.pdf>.

## **Literacy Fun and Games**

*Pass the Play, Please: Literacy and Learning Through Fun and Games* has lots of suggestions of fun ways to play with language. It can be downloaded at

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

## **Overdraft is Not a Rock Band**

The City is a learning program developed by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) and the British Columbia Securities Commission (BCSC). It teaches young people financial skills that they can carry with them throughout their lives. It can be found at

<http://www.themoneybelt.gc.ca/theCity-laZone/eng/login-eng.aspx>.

## **TD Canadian Children's Book Week**

This site contains information about the [history of Book Week](#); the [plans](#) for this year's touring program; information about the touring [authors, illustrators and storytellers](#) and information about the [Book Week Kit](#), which can be used to celebrate Canadian books in the classroom, library or at home. <http://www.bookweek.ca/>.

## **Learning Activities using Workplace Documents**

*Through the Worker's Eyes: Developing Learning Activities with Work-Related Documents* is a guide for workshop trainers. It can be found at <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/eyes/eyes.pdf>.