

# This Week in Literacy

November 26, 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 Volunteer Day

December 5

Human Rights Day

December 10

National Family Literacy Day

January 27

## Community Events and Information

### Aboriginal Language Revitalization Certificate Program

The Certificate Program in Aboriginal Language Revitalization at the University of Victoria has put out its schedule of courses for the spring and fall, beginning in March 2010. To learn about the courses and the certificate requirements go to

<http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/aspnet/Program/Detail/?code=BHATI>

### 7th Biannual LINX Conference

To register or get information about the Strengthening Northern Practices to Build Stronger

Communities conference, December 2- 3, 2009 in Yellowknife go to <http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/>

### 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.

## **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 *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 North Wants In"**

Ottawa, November 25, 2009

National Inuit Leader Mary Simon today called for greater awareness of the challenges facing Inuit, as her organization, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), kicked off their "2010: Year of the Inuit" initiative with the release of polling data on Canadian Arctic awareness. The ITK news release at <http://www.itk.ca/> has a link to the detailed poll results, including its 20 questions.

### **Motion to Eliminate Poverty Passed in Ottawa**

Canada Without Poverty, November 24, 2009

The House of Commons passed the following motion: That, with November 24th, 2009 marking the 20th anniversary of the 1989 unanimous resolution of this House to eliminate poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000, and not having achieved that goal, be it resolved that the Government of Canada, taking into consideration the Committee's work in this regard, and respecting provincial and territorial jurisdiction, develop an immediate plan to eliminate poverty in Canada for all. To learn more about child and family poverty and see the Campaign 2000 report card released this week go to <http://www.campaign2000.ca/>

### **Leaders call for equity, rights and action on First Nations education**

Canada Newswire, Quebec, November 19, 2009

At a press conference held in the school gym in the Mi'gmaq community of Listuguj in the Gaspesie region, Shawn Atleo, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), gave his support to the call for greater attention to address inequities in First Nations education and the rights of First Nations students. For the full story go to

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/November2009/19/c3116.html>

### **Children research links between poverty and literacy**

An examination of education and poverty from children's own perspective, focuses on reading and writing proficiency as a potential route out of poverty. These research studies provide rich descriptions of children's own literacy experiences, generating data that is not easily accessible to adults. The absence of power relations in the data collection by having child researchers means that the responses are untainted by efforts to 'please the adult'. The report and research summary are available at <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/children-researching-links-between-poverty-and-literacy>

### **The Great Canadian Homework Debate**

Canada's media has been full of stories about homework. A Globe and Mail article last week begins: "As parents become more vocal about homework, educators say a new approach is emerging. Say hello to longer deadlines and assignments tailored to each student." For the full story go to [www.theglobeandmail.com/life/family-and-relationships/more-teachers-flexing-around-homework/article1370262/](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/family-and-relationships/more-teachers-flexing-around-homework/article1370262/). CBC radio's Cross Country Check-up dedicated its Sunday afternoon phone in show to the topic. You can listen to the podcast or read host Rex Murphy's introduction at <http://www.cbc.ca/checkup/>

### **Different Generations, Same Objectives: Boomers, Gen-X and Gen-Y Want the Same Things at Work**

Differences among the generations in the workplace are more about perception than reality. Baby Boomers, Generation X and Generation Y view other generations more harshly than they view their own. But they are more alike than they realize, according to a Conference Board of Canada recently released study. To look at the report summary or download the document go to <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.aspx?did=3285>

### **Literacy Key to Life After Prison**

Bangor Daily News, November 20, 2009

A month ago I had the chance to listen to a man read a passage from a book he had written. The man was a convicted felon, and the book had begun in his jail cell. Read more at <http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/130133.html>

### **Quality post-secondary education in Canada: How can we know?**

Ottawa, November 24, 2009 Ottawa

Although the majority of Canadians think our country's post-secondary education (PSE) sector is doing a good or excellent job delivering quality education many are not sure what is meant by quality in PSE, says a new article by the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL). The news release can be downloaded at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/UpToPar/release.html>

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Guidelines for Working with Inuit Elders**

This online resource from Nunavut Arctic College is available at

<http://www.arcticcollege.ca/publications/books/elder%20guide%20english.pdf>

### **Google for Educators**

The Google for Educators site offers classroom tools, activities, posters and an online discussion group. <http://www.google.com/educators/index.html>

### **Smithsonian Education site**

The Smithsonian Education website's newest addition is Prehistoric Climate Change and Why it Matters Today. It can be found along with other education resources and lesson plans at <http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/index.html>

### **Family Literacy Tips and Activities**

These can be found on the ABC Canada website at [http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family\\_literacy/tipsandactivities](http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family_literacy/tipsandactivities)

### **Myths and Facts about Workplace Literacy**

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators has a quick fact sheet that can be downloaded at <http://www.nald.ca/libra>

### **Economics Demystified**

This website complements the book, Economics for Everyone, by labour economist, Jim Stanford. It includes a glossary of economic terms, lesson plans that can be adapted for a variety of audiences, and other resources. <http://www.economicsforeveryone.com/>