

This Week in Literacy

October 1, 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

NWT Literacy Week	September 27 – October 3
World Teachers' Day	October 5
Human Rights Day	December 10
National Family Literacy Day	January 27

Community Events and Information

NWT Literacy Council declares TV FREE Night

The NWT Literacy Council declares today TV FREE Night. This is a way to encourage families and communities to do other things with children, especially one night during NWT Literacy Week. The Council distributed hundreds of **TV Free from A to Z How-to Kits** to help families and community groups plan events. The first annual TV FREE Family Literacy Night in Yellowknife is today at Northern United Place beginning at 6:30 pm. For information about NWT Literacy Week activities in the territories keep checking What's New on the NWT Literacy Council website at www.nwt.literacy.ca.

The Reading Show

NWT Literacy Week winds down in Yellowknife on Saturday with The Reading Show with Rooney and Punyi Theatre Productions at Northern United Place at 2 pm. Snacks will be provided. Contact the NWT Literacy Council for details at lisa@nwtliteracy.ca.

Read for 15

It's not too late to let the NWT Literacy Council know that you read for 15 minutes on Tuesday, September 29. We have a challenge with Nunavut to see who read the most! Contact the NWT Literacy Council to let us know you read for 15 minutes. Work and school-related reading counts! Email your results to nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca or call 873-9262 or toll free 1-866-599-6758.

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 Program Planning and Proposal Writing workshop in October or our Facilitation Skills Workshop in November or any of our other workshops. You can also find the registration forms on our website.

CBC's Great Canadian Song Quest - Support Your Community!

We are all familiar with songs such as "New York, New York", "I Love Paris" and "Galveston"...but what about songs dedicated to Canadian places? There are definitely places in this country worth immortalizing in song, likely right in your own backyard! That's why CBC Radio 2 is launching the Great Canadian Song Quest - to give Canadians a chance to nominate the locations that matter most to them and commission 13 new songs to be written about those places! Nominate a Canadian location at www.cbc.ca/radio2/songquest. Join the Facebook Fan page (www.cbc.ca/radio2/songquest/shareyourquest). Share with others why your community location should be immortalized in song and try to gain the maximum number of votes and put your community on the map! Visit us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/cbcradio2.

Short Prose Competition Opens

The Writers' Union of Canada is once again hosting a **Short Prose Competition** for Developing Writers. Please help us to spread the word! We want to encourage writers from all over Canada to submit and to have their stories read by Canadian literary stars. You can find submission information online at: http://www.writersunion.ca/cn_shortprose.asp.

Spend a day with Robert Munsch

The Family Literacy Day annual Munsch at Home Contest is a bit different this year– the rules have changed and the prize is bigger! To enter, families must write a short story and submit it online at www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca. One lucky family will win a visit from Robert Munsch to a Family Literacy Day party for friends and family in their home, where Robert Munsch himself will read the winning short story! There will also be a public story-telling event with Robert Munsch at a library, literacy organization or school of the winner's choice. And that's not all! The winning story will be published in a newspaper or magazine, and on the ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation website, where contest rules can be found.

Singing for Literacy is Family Literacy Day Theme

ABC CANADA is encouraging groups across the country to host sing-alongs in their communities. Last year's World Record Attempt saw a record number of Canadians reading in support of FLD. This year, host a sing-along and be part of another nation-wide event for the literacy cause. This year, help reach the goal of 300,000 Canadians participating in Family Literacy Day by registering your FLD event on the FLD website. It's easy to do, and it will help promote your event to people in your town. Register at www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca before January 8, 2010, and qualify to win a FLD prize pack!

Family Literacy Day Promotional Items

Free downloadable promotional items will be available on the Family Literacy Day website. Downloadable promotional items will include a poster, bookmark, tip/activity sheets and activity book. Check out www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca in the coming months for promotional items and other FLD tips, activities and news.

Leadership Development 2009

Canadian Training Resources is holding a leadership development workshop in Yellowknife October 16, 2009. To learn more or register go to www.ctrcanada.com.

International Polar Week

International Polar Week is October 5 – 9, 2009. It will focus on recruiting new individual and institutional partners, will stimulate increased engagement by polar partners, and will highlight classroom activities developed for the new IPY Polar Resource Book.

<http://www.ipy.org/images/uploads/PolarWeeks.pdf>

Community Access Centres Best Practices Contest

The Government of Nunavut is holding an "ICT Best Practices in Remote Aboriginal Communities" contest for the delivery of adult Information and Communications Technologies ("ICT") learning strategies in non-formal (non-classroom) settings. Other Community Access Centres should be able to adopt the learning strategies. Contest prizes include laptop computers and a chance to present your project at a pan-territorial conference. For more information and help to present your best practice contact Austin Rice at 867-975-5633 or arice@gov.nu.ca. Contest deadline is October 30, 2009.

Youth suicide video contest launched

In celebration of World Suicide Prevention Day, the Honouring Life Network is holding a Suicide Prevention Video Contest, open to First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth between the ages of 17 and 30. Youth are encouraged to submit a short video to the HLN YouTube channel that represents their creative expressions, experiences, thoughts, and initiatives regarding suicide prevention. More details are available at www.honouringlife.ca. Deadline for submissions is November 10, 2009.

The TD National Reading Summit – Reading and Democracy

The TD National Reading Summit November 11 to 13, 2009 in Toronto will bring together writers, educators, publishers, librarians, and public officials who care about crafting a blueprint for a reading Canada. Speakers from across the country and around the world will share their research and experience in developing reading promotion programs, and delegates will lay the groundwork for implementing new programs and policies with both provincial and federal participation. Registration fee: \$250. For a full list of speakers, program information, and registration details, visit www.nationalreadingsummit.ca.

Make History at the Vancouver Games

Students 16 to 18 years of age are eligible to enter an essay and/or photo contest for a chance to join Encounters with Canada for a week at the Vancouver Olympic or Paralympic Games in 2010. The deadline is October 16, 2009. For more information go to <http://fyicanada.ca>.

Research on Economic Downturn Effects on Literacy Programs

The Movement for Canadian Literacy is following up on its baseline study in March 2009 which explored the effects of the recent economic downturn on literacy and essential skills programs across Canada. You can contribute to the development of a follow-up report by completing the survey which takes about 20 minutes. Responses are collected anonymously at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=VjlhVvGLtpdY3Sv21xf1yQ_3d_3d. The original report, "Ready or Not... Perspectives on Literacy and Essential Skills in this Economic Downturn" can be downloaded from the "What's New" column at www.literacy.ca or send an email to lindsay@literacy.ca to request a copy.

Webinars for Non-Profits

Webinars (on-line information/learning sessions) for Non-Profits are being held by Imagine Canada's Insurance and Liability Resource Centre. The online cost is \$50 - \$75 each with packages available. For details go to <http://nonprofitrisk.imaginecanada.ca/>.

In the News

NWT Literacy Council congratulates Literacy Award Winners

The NWT Literacy Council Executive Director, Helen Balanoff, was the master of ceremonies at the annual Adult Learners' Luncheon held yesterday as part of NWT Literacy Week. Kathy Borden, a teacher at Mildred Hall School in Yellowknife, received the Ministerial Literacy Award for Educators. NWT Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty presented the Ministerial Award for Organizations to DeBeers Canada in recognition of its Books in Homes program. Annie Whane, an adult learner in Yellowknife, received the 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award at the event. Her award had previously been announced.

Workplace literacy expert talks about the benefits of essential skills upgrading (video)

Norm Nopper, the founder and director of Varanor International, speaks with ABC CANADA about the benefits of workplace training. A workplace literacy expert, Norm holds a Master of Arts in Education and Human Development from George Washington University.... To see the video, go to http://www.naldatwork.ca/information/videos/norm_nopper.

Northern novel wins awards

Rankin Inlet by Mara Feeney is Gaby Press's first publication. It won a Bronze Medal at the 2009 "IPPY" Awards recognizing the best independently-published books of the year. It also has been selected as a Highlighted Title by Independent Publisher Online Magazine. This novel is set in an isolated community on the west coast of Hudson Bay, roughly halfway between the Manitoba border and the Arctic Circle. The main characters are a British nurse-midwife who has been posted to the Rankin Inlet Nursing Station and a traditional Inuit hunter and his family... For more go to <http://www.gabypress.com/>.

School Achievement varies for nine-year-olds

Statistics Canada, September 25, 2009

At the age of 9, children varied widely in their school achievement. Some of these variations were linked to their gender, the income level of their household and the province of residence. There were also marked differences in the "education environment" of the child. These differences were linked most consistently to levels of household income. The education environment includes parental attitudes about education, the parents' involvement in the child's school and homework and their participation in school activities. In addition, this analysis found a complex link between a child's academic performance and the ability to pay attention in school at the age of 9. To read more visit <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/090925/dq090925a-eng.htm>.

Equity Through Education Student Awards accepting applications

Ottawa, September 28, 2009

The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) is now accepting applications for the NEADS Equity through Education Student Awards Program. These awards are being offered to encourage full access to post-secondary education for persons with disabilities enrolled in undergraduate, graduate or professional degree programs at recognized Canadian universities, or in certified diploma programs at Canadian colleges. To learn more visit: <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2009/equity.htm>.

New report emphasizes role workplace training and adult learning play in Canada's prosperity

Ottawa, September 24, 2009

A timely report from the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) offers a detailed look at adult learning and workplace training in Canada, and explores the role that each play in enhancing the social and economic prosperity of the country. For more information go to: <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20090924AdultLearningWorkplaceTraining.htm>.

Resources and Websites

Fundraising Powerkit

Charity Village has added the Fundraising Powerkit to its website. Although published by ADRA Canada for their supporters, it outlines a large variety of fundraising ideas suitable for most organizations. Ideas include events that can be done at the office, in schools, or as third party events. It can be downloaded at <http://www.charityvillage.com/cv/charityvillage/lib11.html#sep2809>.

Skills for Life Teaching Resource

The 30 units of the Quebec Literacy Working Group Skills for Life teaching resource are now available online. Each unit can be downloaded at <http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/recent>.

NWT Literacy Week Colouring Book

The NWT Literacy Council Literacy Week Colouring Book is now available in French and English at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>.

Evaluation or How are we doing so far?

This important NWT Literacy Council resource is for anyone planning a project, writing a proposal or evaluating a program or project. Go to: http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/adultlit/eval_kit/evaluate.pdf.

Little Chef's Program

The Little Chefs program is a literacy based cooking program for children and adults. There are ten Little Chefs units; each unit includes a book and theme linked recipe, as well as crafts, rhymes and activities. The units can be downloaded at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>.