

This Week in Literacy

October 15, 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.

Literacy Dates

Learning Disabilities Awareness Month	October
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

NWT Wins Read for 15 Challenge

The NWT won the 2009 Read for 15 Challenge with Nunavut, by less than a 1% margin. In both territories more people participated in this Literacy Week event than last year. In the NWT, 28.7% of the population read for 15 minutes on September 29. That's 12,461 people! Thank you to all NWT readers!

Thanks for Sharing Your NWT Literacy Week Activities!

Thank you to everyone who sent us information and pictures about their Literacy Week activities! Here is just a sample of the fun and creative ways people celebrated literacy. At Chief Albert Wright School in Tulita students kept a rocking chair rocking all day with someone reading in it. Students and teachers at NJ McPherson School in Yellowknife had a 'Dress as Your Favourite Storybook Character Day'. Developmental Studies and Teacher Education Program students at the Thebacha Campus of Aurora College in Fort Smith went on a traditional story-telling excursion to the Mountain Portage Rapids with elder Francois Paulette. You can view the Literacy Week handgames held at the Whati Community Learning Centre at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZcTuD6i5_Q

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.

Canada Council Aboriginal Programs

Individuals or organizations interested in Canada Council Aboriginal Programs should contact Canada Council directly. The deadline to apply for funding is November 15. The programs include the Elder/Youth Legacy Program and Collaborative Exchange Grants Programs For more information call toll free 1-800-263-5588 ext. 4178 or 4222 or go to www.canadacouncil.ca

Adult Educator Survey

The Canadian Council on Learning is conducting a feasibility study to assess the viability of conducting a survey of providers of adult training. It is doing the work on behalf of the Office for Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES) at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). OLES is interested in creating a profile of providers of training for adults in any of the following areas: reading, writing, how to use information contained in tables, forms, graphs, and diagrams (document use) or basic math skills. The resulting national and provincial/territorial profiles will provide more thorough understanding of this sector, its size, operational procedures and capacity, and would also enable HRSDC to provide support and target funding to the sector more effectively and efficiently. If you have questions contact rachel.wernick@hrsdc-rhdsc.gc.ca

Yellowknife Evening Upgrading Program

Aurora College in Yellowknife will be hosting an upgrading program in math and English one evening a week. Time and location will be announced. If you are interested you can contact Karen Horn at 920-8802 or email her at khorn@auroracollege.nt.ca

Help Write the Story of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Contribute your experiences and your perspectives to Canada's newest national museum at a roundtable discussion in Yellowknife on October 29th from 7-9 p.m., as part of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights content and story-gathering tour across Canada. The museum is due to open in Winnipeg in 2012. If you are unable to attend in person, but have some ideas or stories to share, please visit <http://www.humanrightsmuseum.ca/share-your-story> or call toll-free 1-877-295-6639.

National Student Banner Contest

The National Capital Commission (NCC), in partnership with Classroom Connections, is running a cross-Canada contest and public art project. Students in Grades 5 through 8 are being asked to create and submit a one-of-a-kind banner design representing an issue or topic of importance to Canadian youth. For information visit:

http://www.canadacapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16297-24521-29608-126865&lang=1

Short Prose Competition Opens

The Writers' Union of Canada is once again hosting a Short Prose Competition for Developing Writers. Writers from all over Canada are encouraged to submit and have their stories read by Canadian literary stars. You can find submission information online at: http://www.writersunion.ca/cn_shortprose.asp

Family Literacy Day Theme

This year's theme for Family Literacy Day is "Singing for Literacy." 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 at <http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca>. Deadline is 2 p.m. December 11, 2009. Check out this site in the coming months for promotional items and other FLD tips, activities and news.

Youth Suicide Video Contest

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.

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 or phone (306) 244-1146.

The TD National Reading Summit – Reading and Democracy

The TD National Reading Summit November 11 to 13, 2009 in Toronto will bring together speakers from across the country and around the world to share their research and experience in developing reading promotion programs. 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

In the News

National Strategy for Early Literacy Released

October 14, 2009

Low literacy skills cost Canada billions of dollars annually. Raising the literacy proficiency of Canadians would increase tax revenues by \$11 billion/year and save \$5 billion/year in unemployment and social assistance payments. These are among the findings in the National Strategy for Early Literacy, the first pan-Canadian initiative that offers an action plan on what needs to be done to improve literacy skills of young Canadians. The report was prepared by the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network. Full and summary versions of the report are available in both English and French at <http://nsewiki.cllrnet.ca>

Government of Canada Language Portal Launched

Gatineau, Quebec, October 8, 2009

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced the launch of the Language Portal of Canada (www.ourlanguages.gc.ca). The Portal provides Canadians with free, one-stop access to a wide range of language tools, including TERMIUM Plus®—the Government of Canada's terminology and linguistic data bank. Users can also consult various writing tools, articles on language problems and numerous other online Canadian resources. This initiative is a component of the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008–2013*.

If you're a new Canadian, 'you go to university'

Globe and Mail, October 12, 2009

Variety of social factors cause first- and second-generation Canadians to attend university far in excess of non-immigrant children...First- and second-generation Canadians are arriving on Canadian university campuses at a rate that far exceeds that

of non-immigrant children. It's a trend that offers some important clues to the importance of social factors in decisions about education. For the full story visit <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/if-youre-a-new-canadian-you-go-to-university/article1321201/>

New Zealand Adult Literacy in Decline

Massey University, October 6, 2009

Urgent change is needed to address declining adult literacy levels in New Zealand, says College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman. Recent survey results show little improvement, if any, in adult literacy, Professor Chapman says. To read more go to <http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news-nz/20090610-19937.html>

Brain Gains – the connection between physical activity and school success

CBC news

Well folks, nothing like research to prove what mom's been saying all along: Yes! Exercise can help people learn. See more at http://www.cbc.ca/national/blog/special_feature/brain_gains/

Resources and Websites

Newest Issue of Training Matters

Training Matters (formerly Canadian CEO) is ABC CANADA's official publication on workplace literacy. The cover story of the latest issue highlights the economic impact of literacy and features Craig Alexander, VP and Deputy Chief Economist for TD Bank Financial Group. Find the latest issue at <http://www.abc-canada.org/trainingmatters>

First Mi'kmaw Board Book for Babies

In celebration of Mi'kmaq History Month, the Nova Scotia Read to Me! Program has launched the Mi'kmaw version of Sheree Fitch's popular baby book *Kisses Kisses Baby O!*, translated by Mi'kmaw linguist Bernie Francis, and the Mi'kmaw edition of the Read to Me! bag. The Mi'kmaw bag contains *Weska'qelmut Apje'juanu* (*Kisses, Kisses Baby O!*) and other books and reading resources for Mi'kmaw families. *Weska'qelmut Apje'juanu* is the very first Mi'kmaw board book for babies.

Available on Loan from the NWT Literacy Council Resource Centre

Just Reach Out: Back to High School Transition Guide by Dr. Fyre Graveline (Ningwakwe Learning Press). This is for students continuing on to high school or returning to high school.

Stray Dog Moccasins by Marilyn Dumont – a story about a young Metis man surviving on the streets of Edmonton while pursuing his dream of becoming a film maker. (Ningwakwe Learning Press)

Fire and Water: Original Teachings and Today's Duties by Nancy Cooper. This is an Ojibwe creation story about how men and women were supposed to take care of fire and water. (Ningwakwe Learning Press)

Connecting Literacy, Learning and Work by Christine Pinsent-Johnson. Literacy is an integral part of everyday activity, inseparable from the way it is used in the community, family and at work. A new approach to adult literacy programming. (Ottawa Carleton District School Board)

To borrow these books, email nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca or call toll free 1-866-599-6758 or 873-9262.

Lesson Plans for ESL Instructors

The Centre for Canadian Benchmarks now has a total of ten Language for Work: CLB and Essential Skills Lesson Plans for ESL Instructors available for download at <http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/recent>

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