

This Week in Literacy

October 22, 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

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| 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

NorthWords Writers Festival Fall Program

The NorthWords Writers Festival has three events coming up in Yellowknife. On October 29 you can celebrate northern writing at An Evening with Northern Authors at 7 pm at the Explorer Hotel. Richard Van Camp will be giving a workshop on Writing and Getting Published on November 1 at Aurora College, Room 307 from 10 am to 2 pm. The Festival's Annual General Meeting is in the same location beginning at 2 pm. For more information go to www.northwordsfestival.ca.

A poetic and musical café evening

There will be poetry that sweeps across from the Eastern Arctic and into central Northwest Territories on the strings of harp and fiddle October 27 at 7:30 pm at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Tickets are available through the centre or contact joyceintheartic@yahoo.ca for more information.

Canadian Library Month Activities

The Yellowknife Public Library is celebrating Canadian Library Month with a poster contest for children ages 6-12. Entry forms can be picked up at the library. The contest closes October 31. The library's Fall Book Sale begins October 23 at noon and goes until October 25 at 4 pm. For more information call 873-5642 or go to www.yellowknife.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. Please note that the Facilitation Skills workshop in Yellowknife has been postponed.

National Family Literacy Conference Planned

For the first time in well over a decade, a National Family Literacy Conference is being planned and will happen in Edmonton July 15 – 17th, 2010. The conference will profile the critical contributions of family literacy across Canada and around the world! Presentation abstract submissions are due November 30th, 2009. For more information call (780) 427-5704 or email deborah.landry@gov.ab.ca.

Yellowknife Film Festival seeks submissions

The Western Arctic Moving Pictures (WAMP) is looking for film and video submissions for the 3rd Yellowknife Film Festival February 5th to 14th. 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.

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 adult literacy providers. 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. If you have questions contact rachel.wernick@hrsdc-rhdsc.gc.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. Deadline for entries is February 19, 2010. 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.

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

Adult Learning Network launches website

The new Adult Learning Network/Réseau apprentissage chez les adultes has launched a bilingual website at www.aln-raa.ca. The network pursues the vision of the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre, formerly of the Canadian Council on Learning, which closed its door on July 6, 2009. Its goal is to maintain and sustain a network of key stakeholders including governments, educational institutions, community organizations, researchers, practitioners and learners and a place to exchange knowledge and strategies and to further research in the field of adult learning.

Video library launched to address mining sector's skills shortage

The mining sector faces a serious skills shortage in the next decade according the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR). Career seekers can watch Canadian miners in action in the new Explore for More video library. View the videos at www.acareerinmining.ca/en/onlineresources or on You Tube at www.youtube.com/exploreformore.

Resources and Websites

Lifelong Learning for Literacy Practitioners

Community Literacy of Ontario's Lifelong Learning for Literacy Practitioners website offers valuable information, resources and links to support literacy practitioners in their ongoing training and learning needs. If you are new to the literacy field or if you are an experienced practitioner, the LLLP website has tools, resources and training links to enhance your skills at

<http://www.nald.ca/lifelonglearning/>.

Smart Language: Readers, Readability, and the Grading of Text

Smart Language (2007) gives a brief introduction to the adult literacy surveys and the research on readability and the readability formulas. It also gives some rules-of-thumb for assessing the average reading level of your audience. Writing for that reading level will expand your readership and keep your audience reading. That's what smart language is all about. This document can be downloaded at <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/smartlang/smartlang.pdf>.

Plain language summaries - Statistics Canada reports

Plain Language Summaries provide the means of identifying the usefulness and relevancy of online full-text Statistics Canada research documents quickly and efficiently. There are 20 literacy-related summaries at <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/summaries/summaries.htm>.

Your Favourite Halloween Treat

In this elementary math activity, students conduct a survey to determine the class' favourite type of Halloween candy. Candy wrappers are used to create a bar graph by type of candy. Data are described in mathematical terms and questions are posed about the data collected. This learning resource can be found at http://www.statcan.gc.ca/kits-trousses/edu04_0112-eng.htm.

Other Halloween Ideas

There are more ideas for Halloween activities at the Teaching Resource centre at <http://www.trcabc.com/resources/free-halloween-lantern-or-pin-art-craft-template/>.