

# This Week in Literacy

## October 29, 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

#### NorthWords Writers Festival Writers Workshop and AGM

The NorthWords Writers Festival is hosting two events this weekend. Richard Van Camp will give 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](http://www.northwordsfestival.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.

#### 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.

#### National Family Literacy Conference Planned

For the first time in over a decade, a National Family Literacy Conference is set to take place in Edmonton July 15 – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The conference will profile the critical contributions of family literacy across Canada and around the world! Presentation abstract submissions are due November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For more information call (780) 427-5704 or email [deborah.landry@gov.ab.ca](mailto:deborah.landry@gov.ab.ca)

## **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](http://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](mailto:rachel.wernick@hrsdc-rhdsc.gc.ca)

## **Adult Literacy Resources Survey**

Community Literacy of Ontario is compiling an annotated bibliography of the best resources for adult literacy practitioners. They are asking practitioners to help by completing a survey about their favorite resources for teaching Communications, Numeracy, Finding Information, Working with Other and Self-Direction. To take part go to

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wID6\\_2bGp47152ZOPTZ\\_2bV8tA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wID6_2bGp47152ZOPTZ_2bV8tA_3d_3d)

## **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.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)

## **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](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 Family Literacy Day 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](http://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](http://www.nationalreadingsummit.ca)

## **In the News**

### **High-School Dropouts - A Black Mark on Canada's Secondary School System**

Toronto, Oct 22, Canadian Newswire

Canadian high-school dropout rates are too high, in many cases, and are costly to society, with the problem being particularly acute among Aboriginals and francophone Quebecers, according to a C.D. Howe Institute study released today. To read more go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/October2009/22/c9475.htm>

### **Survey Shows Interpersonal Skills Can Trump Industry Knowledge in Job Search**

Toronto, Oct. 21, Canadian Newswire

Having a winning personality has always helped in making friends or getting a date, but a recent survey confirms it also opens doors in the job search. When presented with accounting or finance candidates who possess similar qualifications, 34 per cent of chief financial officers (CFOs) interviewed said applicants' people skills would tip the balance over such attributes as industry experience and software proficiency. To read more go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/October2009/21/c8791.html>

## Resources and Websites

### **Halloween How-to Kit**

The NWT Literacy Council's How-to Kit for Holidays contains many fun family literacy activities for Halloween. Download it at

<http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/famlit/howtokit/holiday/cover.htm>

### **Getting to Know the Library in ASL**

This video resource from the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy helps viewers get to know the library in American Sign Language. To view the video go to

<http://www.occl.ca/video/video3.htm>

### **Literacy And Essential Skills Factsheets**

The CAMA Literacy and Essential Skills in Municipal Workplaces Project has developed a six part series of fact sheets on workplace literacy and essential skills. The topics include myths about workplace literacy and essential skills, why workplaces are involved in literacy and essential skills and best practices. To download them go to

<http://www.camacam.ca/en/literacylearning/LiteracyFactSheets.asp>

### **Language for Work: Canadian Language Benchmarks and Essential Skills Lesson Plans for ESL Instructors**

This series of twenty lesson plans for ESL instructors helps learners to learn skills and understand documents they will need in the workplace and in daily life. Lesson topics include accident reports, reading memos and reading your paycheque. To view the lesson plans go to

<http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/series?name=Language+for+Work%3A+CLB+and+Essential+Skills+Lesson+Plans+for+ESL+Instructors>

### **In Our Own Words: Vancouver Island University/Literacy Nanaimo Newsletter**

A newsletter for adult learners by students in the adult literacy tutor program. To download it go to

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/lcvi/ownwords08/ownwords08.pdf>