

# This Week in Literacy

October 8, 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

Human Rights Day	December 10
National Family Literacy Day	January 27

## Community Events and Information

### Please tell us about your NWT Literacy Week activities!

What did you do to celebrate NWT Literacy Week? The NWT Literacy Council wants to compile all the community, school and other activities that took place to mark NWT Literacy Week Sept. 27-Oct. 3. Please send us stories, photos and information about your event. We would like to know what you did, how many people attended and how well it went. You can email us at [communications@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:communications@nwtliteracy.ca) or [nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca) or call 873-9262 or toll free 1-866-599-6758.

### Final call for Read for 15 submissions

There's still time to let us know if you read for 15 minutes on Tuesday, September 29. Help the NWT regain its title from Nunavut by having the most readers on that day. Submit your results by email to [nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca) or by fax to 873-2176.

### 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](mailto:khorn@auroracollege.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.

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

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](http://www.cbc.ca/radio2/songquest). Join the Facebook Fan page ([www.cbc.ca/radio2/songquest/shareyourquest](http://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](http://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](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](http://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](http://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](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca) in the coming months for promotional items and other FLD tips, activities and news.

## **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](mailto:arice@gov.nu.ca). Contest deadline is October 30, 2009.

### **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](http://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](http://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](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](http://www.literacy.ca) or send an email to [lindsay@literacy.ca](mailto:lindsay@literacy.ca) to request a copy.

## **In the News**

### **Report argues for "human infrastructure" investment**

September 24, 2009, Ottawa

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. Its report, *Securing Prosperity through Canada's Human Infrastructure: The State of Adult Learning and Workplace Training in Canada* (available at [www.ccl-cca.ca/adultworkplace2009](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/adultworkplace2009)) examines how investments in "human infrastructure" — or skilled

workers— can offer more powerful and lasting benefits than investments in physical roads, buildings and equipment.

### **NWT Team to offer FASD diagnosis, support**

CBC news, October 5, 2009

A team of doctors and social workers in the Northwest Territories will soon be able to diagnose and support children who have fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, or FASD. For more go to:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/10/05/nwt-fasd.html>.

### **Prime Minister Stephen Harper Honours Outstanding Teachers**

Ottawa, October 5, 2009

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the recipients of the 2009 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The Awards were presented at a ceremony in Ottawa on the occasion of World Teachers' Day. Eileen Erasmus, a teacher at K'alemi Dene School in Ndilo, is among the recipients.

### **Frontier College Applauds New TD Bank Literacy Report**

Canadian Newswire, Toronto, October 1, 2009

Frontier College applauds TD Bank Financial Group for its recommendations to improve the literacy skills of newcomers in its latest report, *Helping Newcomers Unlock Their Potential*. "Literacy is the key to success and we congratulate TD Bank Financial Group for its leadership in promoting literacy for the well being of both newcomers and Canada as a whole," says Sherry Campbell, President of Frontier College. To learn more go to: <http://www.cnw.ca/en/releases/archive/October2009/01/c2942.html>.

### **Britons are missing out on supermarket savings because of poor maths skills**

October 5, 2009

Britons struggle to work out basic shopping discounts, according to new stats from the Get On campaign. When asked, nearly nine out of ten (87%) adults could not do the maths behind typical high street special offers. For more...

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/news/latestnews/Skills+Mean+Savings+Press+Release.htm>.

### **Vancouver Sun literacy series wins Peter Gzowski Award of Merit**

Toronto, October 7, 2009

ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation is pleased to announce the 2009 Peter Gzowski Literacy Award of Merit (PGLAM) winners; reporters Suzanne Ahearne, Darah Hansen, Catherine Rolfsen and Denise Ryan, who contributed to the five-part Vancouver Sun series, 'The Face of Literacy.' For more on the award: [http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2009/face\\_of\\_literacy.htm](http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2009/face_of_literacy.htm).

### **Reading comprehension is not a skill that can be taught directly, professor says**

The Washington Post, October 7, 2009

A draft of the (U.S.) voluntary national standards for reading was just released, and at first glance the 18 standards sound quite sensible: students should be able to determine what a text says, make inferences from it, discern the most important ideas, and so forth. Read more at

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/answer-sheet/daniel-willingham/willingham-reading-is-not-a-sk.html>.

## **Governor General delivers message for National Library Month**

Read the message from Governor General Michaëlle Jean at <http://www.cla.ca/clm09/index.htm>.

## **Resources and Websites**

### **Ningwakwe Learning Press Resources**

Ningwakwe Learning Press publishes culturally appropriate resources for the Aboriginal literacy field in North America. This Ontario-based company has several new releases. Its catalogue can be found at <http://ningwakwe.on.ca/catalogue.htm>.

### **Lesson Plans for ESL Instructors**

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

### **Podcasts of practitioners using technology**

The AlphaPlus Tech Podcasts talk to adult literacy practitioners about how and why they are using technology and what they think about it. For podcast descriptions and to download them, go to <http://blog.alphaplus.ca/alphaplus-tech-podcasts/>.