

This Week in Literacy

September 10, 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

Learn at Work Week	September 21 - 25
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

Learn at Work Week – September 21 - 25

It is well documented that Canadian firms are falling behind in investing in skills development. However, it is also well documented that learning has a positive impact on key business measures such as job performance and productivity. This weeklong celebration includes a number of activities and events designed to promote the importance of workplace learning and performance to key stakeholders and the public-at-large. Goals of the Learn @ Work Week

- To raise awareness of the impact of workplace learning
- To celebrate the best practices of workplace learning
- To celebrate the success of the 'learning organization'

To download a fact sheet about Learn at Work Week go to

<http://www.cstd.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zP2wrjOLXD0%3d&tabid=79>.

Get Ready for NWT Literacy Week 2009 – September 27 – October 3

We encourage communities to get together to start planning for your community. The NWTLC has sent out literacy week packages to all schools, daycares, youth programs, adult learning centres, health programs and NGOs. The packages include the following:

- Read for 15 poster and fax back form
- Literacy Calendar (poster format)

- NWT Literacy Week Colouring Book (you can download from our website www.nwt.literacy.ca if you would like to hand out copies to students and families)
- How to Kits: (feel free to photocopy or download from our website)
 - TV Free from A to Z
 - Puppets
- Prizes to celebrate NWT Literacy Week
- “How did you celebrate NWT Literacy Week 2009?” fax back form
- List of NWT Literacy Council Board of Directors
- Info on who we are
- 2009/10 training calendar

You can also download all these documents from our website at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>.

Program Planning and Proposal Writing Workshop

Hosted by the NWT Literacy Council

When: October 14 & 15

Where: Northern United Place

Cost: FREE

There is limited space. Register by September 20th. Download the registration form and fax it to us at 873-2176. You can download a registration form from our website at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>.

Facilitation Skills Workshop

Hosted by the NWT Literacy Council

When: November 12

Where: Northern United Place

Cost: FREE

There is limited space. Register by October 20th. Download the registration form and fax it to us at 873-2176. You can download a registration form from our website at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>.

NWT Literacy Council Training Calendar for 2009-10

Get our new 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 any of our other workshops by emailing us at nwt@nwtliteracy.ca.

Yellowknife Public Library

TAILS (Therapy Animals Involved in Literacy Success): Ages 8 - 12 yrs

Therapy Animals Involved in Literacy Success is a very well established program organized by the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. Children can improve their literacy skills by spending one-on-one time reading stories aloud to one of the trained therapy dogs. If your child loves dogs and wants some reading practice, this is the opportunity for you. Children between the ages of eight and twelve who would like to book some read-aloud time with a specially trained and very attentive dog

can call us at 920-5642 to register. Registration begins September 21, 2009. **This fun and free program will run for 7 Saturdays from October 3rd until November 14th, 2009.**

Teen Programs and Events

You can become a member of the online Teen Reading Club Go to www.teensrc.ca and register to submit book reviews, chat about books, and join discussions with teens across the country!

Spirit of Community Literacy Conference

The Spirit of Community provincial literacy conference will be held at the Saskatoon Inn November 18 – 19/09. For more information go to www.sk.literacy.ca.

The Literacy Outreach Centre

The Literacy Outreach Centre will reopen on Monday, September 14th and will continue to run from 9 am to noon Monday through Thursday in Room 210 at the college. For more information contact mhawryliw@auroracollege.nt.ca or call 920-3016.

Celebrate the Olympic Torch Relay in your own way!

The Government of Canada has funding for not-for-profit organizations and schools. You can receive a grant of up to \$15,000 to

celebrate the Olympic Torch Relay in your own way! Your proposed project(s) must:

- Commemorate the passage of the Olympic Flame;
- Target youth participation; and
- Demonstrate the energy of Canadian youth, their ingenuity and creativity.

For more information and to download an application package, please visit the Olympic Torch Relay section at <http://www.canada2010.gc.ca> Deadline to submit an application is: September 21, 2009

In the News

Canadian authors to pen easy-to-read books

Monday, September 7, 2009 , CBC New

Several Canadian authors are joining forces with a literacy group to launch a set of easy-to-read fiction books for adults with poor reading skills. Called Quick Reads, the program run by the literacy foundation ABC Canada is patterned after a successful one in the U.K.

"It's a unique project," says Margaret Eaton, head of ABC Canada. The project in Britain engaged the services of bestselling authors such as Maeve Binchy and Ruth Rendell to write simpler stories. As a result, adults with minimal literacy abilities said they wanted to read more after picking up the books. Eaton says the Quick Read Canada books will be available next fall in libraries and literacy centres for free or, in retail stores for about \$10. She says the project comes at a crucial time.... To read more go to <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2009/09/07/quick-read-literacy.html?ref=rss>.

Canada Post Literacy Award Winners Named

Check out

<http://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/aboutus/community/literacy/awards/winners09.jsf?LOCALE=en&ecid=ln09004681>.

Happy birthday Internet, welcome to your mid-life crisis

Tuesday, Sep. 01, 2009, Anick Jesdanun, The Associated Press

At the ripe old age of 40, the Internet is more widely available and faster than ever, but artificial barriers threaten to constrict its growth. Goofy videos weren't on the minds of Len Kleinrock and his team at UCLA when they began tests 40 years ago on what would become the Internet. Neither was social networking, for that matter, nor were most of the other easy-to-use applications that have drawn more than a billion people online. To read more go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/happy-birthday-internet-welcome-to-your-mid-life-crisis/article1270723>.

Demers says 'common sense' will help in Senate

Friday, August 28, 2009, [CBC News](#)

Former NHL coach Jacques Demers, who was functionally illiterate until four years ago, says he isn't worried about fulfilling his new role as a Canadian senator...Demers is well known for publicly speaking out in 2005 about his struggle with illiteracy. The one-time Montreal Canadiens coach said he's worked very hard to improve his reading skills and is confident he'll be able to serve in the upper chamber. To read more go to <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2009/08/28/quebec-senators-demers.html>.

New Indicators in Education Released

September 8, 2009, Canada Ministers of Education Council

The Canadian Education Statistics Council (CESC) released today *Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective, 2009*, a new report that provides indicators on educational attainment, upper-secondary graduation, tertiary graduation, the academic performance of students, labour-market outcomes, the economic benefits of education, expenditures on education, international students, and transitions to the labour market — for Canada, its provinces and territories, and for OECD countries.

To read more go to <http://www.cmec.ca/Press/2009/Pages/2009-09-08.aspx>.

ABC Canada Offers Back to School Homework Tips For Parents

<http://www.abc-canada.org/en/homeworktips>

Half of Canadians struggling with literacy: study

September 8, 2009, by Linda Nguyen, Canwest News Service

Nearly half of Canadian adults don't possess enough literacy skills to understand a public bus schedule, read directions on a pill bottle or keep up with technological advances in the workplace, according to the Canadian Council of Learning. An interactive map released by the organization Tuesday on International Literacy Day shows that 48 per cent of Canadians aged 16 and older only possess a level 2 or lower in literacy. To read more go to

<http://www.canada.com/business/Half+Canadians+struggling+with+literacy+study/1972168/story.html>.

You can also check out the map at http://www.ccl-cca.ca/cclflash/proseliteracy/map_north_e.html.

Resources and Websites

Movement for Canadian Literacy is now on Twitter!

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? Join today to start receiving Cdn_Literacy's tweets.

http://twitter.com/Cdn_literacy

Essential Skills Assessment Tools

Paper-based self-assessments have been developed for the following skills: reading, writing, document use, oral communication, numeracy, computer use, working with others, and continued learning. Tip sheets and practice and learning exercises are now available for the following skills: reading, writing and working with others. Go to

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/general/new_tools.shtml.

New Training Supports for Essential Skills

The [Mentoring and Essential Skills](#) tool demonstrates how mentoring can be an effective way to improve an individual's Essential Skills. This booklet explores how to be a mentor/mentee and includes a mentoring agreement form to help guide the mentoring relationship.

The [Job Enhancement and Essential Skills](#) tool helps employers and practitioners support the development of Essential Skills in the workplace through job enhancement. It explains how to increase employees' opportunities to improve their Essential Skills in the workplace and provides sample job enhancement activities.

The [Essential Skills Interview Assistant](#) helps integrate Essential Skills into the interviewing process. This interactive software program helps employers and practitioners prepare to conduct interviews with job candidates by generating Essential Skills-based assessment questions that can also be used to guide the development of learning plans with employees.

The [Communication Essentials – A Modular Workshop](#) tool is a fully customizable CD package that contains a variety of exercises, activities, handouts and notes to help facilitators deliver a one-day oral communication workshop.

Top Twenty Downloads in PDF Format of Resources from the NALD Collections for the Month of August 2009

<http://www.nald.ca/top20/2009/aug09.htm>

Feature of the month | September 2009

NALD@Work <http://www.naldatwork.ca> is an online repository containing everything you would need to support a workplace education program. Its resources include program models, learning and research materials, news about what is happening in the field, event listings, contact information and helpful websites. The **Feature of the month** page puts the spotlight on either a document, an organization, a program or a website. For the month of September, NALD@Work is highlighting the Youth Skills website at <http://www.youthskills.llsc.on.ca>.

How to Set up and Run Reading Circles

By Frontier College

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/frontier/readingcircle/readingcircle.pdf>

Speech and Milestone Chart, 2009

[Learning Disabilities Association of Canada](http://www.nald.ca/library/research/ldanb/factsheets/speech/cover.htm) and [Learning Disabilities Association of New Brunswick](http://www.nald.ca/library/research/ldanb/factsheets/speech/cover.htm)

<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/ldanb/factsheets/speech/cover.htm>

Beyond Worksheets: A Social and holistic approach to numeracy

June 2007, Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy

This research report provides information on using a social and holistic approach to numeracy in literacy and adult education programs.

To download a copy go to <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/mtml/beyondwork/beyondwork.pdf> or get the practitioner's summary at

<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/mtml/beworksum/beworksum.pdf>.