

This Week in Literacy

September 17, 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

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> or go to

<http://www.cstd.ca/ProfessionalDevelopment/WorkshopsSeminars/tabid/96/Default.aspx> for a list of events across the country.

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

We encourage communities to get together to plan events for your community. The NWTLC sent literacy week packages to all schools, daycares, youth programs, adult learning centres, health

programs and NGOs. You can download this package from our website at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew.htm>.

Read for 15

Don't forget to Read for 15 on Tuesday, September 29th, 2009. We have a challenge with Nunavut to see who reads the most!

Interview with History Performances in Hay River and Yellowknife

Come and learn about Nellie McClung and Louis Riel through Rooney and Punyi Theatre performances. The Yellowknife event is Wednesday, September 30 at the Yellowknife Public Library at 7 pm. The Hay River performance is at the Hay River Library Thursday, October 1 at 7 pm.

TV FREE Family Literacy Night

All families are welcome to an evening of reading, singing and crafts Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 pm at Northern United Place in Yellowknife. For information about NWT Literacy Week events in the territories keep checking What's New on the NWT Literacy Council website at www.literacy.nt.ca.

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 our Facilitation Skills Workshop in November or any of our other workshops. You can also find the registration forms on our website.

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.

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. Learning has occurred in such situations as:

- Traditional place naming projects
- Filming of cultural events on the land
- Interactive web site development
- Aboriginal language projects
- Many, many more

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. Contest deadline is October 30, 2009.

Youth suicide video contest launched

In celebration of World Suicide Prevention Day, the Honouring Life Network (HLN), a project of the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO), announced an exciting new contest. The initiative, called the HLN Suicide Prevention Video Contest, is 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.

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. Some of the confirmed speakers to date are: Ana Maria Machado (Brazil), Ingrid Bon (Netherlands), Richard C. Anderson (US) and Tom King (Canada) Registration fee: \$250. (Canadian). Registration information should be available soon at <http://www.publishers.ca>.

Community Development Program, Building Rural and Northern Partnerships Deadline: September 30th, 2009 for Workshops

Building Rural and Northern Partnerships is a program which offers funding to assist rural and northern regions to get information, and access/develop the expertise, tools and processes they need to: respond to rural/northern challenges and opportunities; and become more competitive by collaborating regionally, building on their local assets and developing unused potential. For more information please go to: <http://www.rural.gc.ca/RURAL/display-afficher.do?id=1230068932797<=eng>.

Make history at the Vancouver Games this winter!

Students 16 to 18 years of age are eligible to enter one or both contests for a chance to join Encounters with Canada for a week at the Vancouver Olympic or Paralympic Games in 2010. The deadline for both the essay and video contests 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. The purpose of the follow up survey is to determine what changes, if any, programs have experienced since March and to broaden its data collection to include input from more people. You can contribute to the development of the report by completing the survey which takes about 20 minutes. Responses are collected anonymously at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=VjIhVvGLtpdY3Sv21xf1yQ_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 or send an email to lindsay@literacy.ca to request a copy.

Canada Student Grants Program

As of August 1, 2009, the new Canada Student Grants Program is investing \$350 million in post-secondary education. Under this program, students may now qualify for one or more grants which do not have to be paid back as loans do. To learn more, visit <http://www.Canlearn.ca>.

In the News

TVO asks: How does ADHD affect kids' lives when they're grown?

September 8, 2009, Newswire

Do kids with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) ever outgrow the condition? We often associate ADHD with children, and while overt symptoms may dissipate as they age, the challenges that ADHD presents evolve as kids make the transition into adulthood. What obstacles do young adults with ADHD face? How does ADHD impact their lives at school, home and work? On Wednesday September 30, TVO explores ADHD and adulthood in an interactive TV-Web event starting with the world premiere of the documentary, *A Mind like Mine*, at 10 pm, followed immediately by a live webcast discussion with experts at tvo.org. To learn more go to <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/September2009/08/c2964.html>.

Strange Stories of Adult Literacy in Canada

September 15, 2009, by Tom Sticht, International Consultant in Adult Education

September 8, 2009 was celebrated around the world as International Literacy Day (ILD). This annual celebration is sponsored by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO) and focuses attention on the plight of some 700 or so million adult illiterates around the world, primarily in developing nations. In the industrialized nations, attention to adult literacy problems focuses not on illiterates, but on those adults with low literacy. In the nations that have participated in international adult literacy surveys, adult literacy is measured on a five point scale, with 1 being the lowest, and 5 the highest level of literacy. According to Statistics Canada and the Organization for Economic Development and Co-Operation (OECD), adults scoring in levels 1 and 2 of the adult literacy survey are at risk for not being able to cope adequately in contemporary knowledge-based societies. The strange stories of adult literacy in Canada showed up this International Literacy Day in two articles, one entitled "[Half of all adults in Canada have low literacy levels. Why is that?](#)" published by CBC, and a second entitled "[Canada Celebrates International Literacy Day](#)" posted on the Internet from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada...The strange part of these stories is that, if there are some 10 million adults with literacy needs, then the federal funding comes to some 3.6 dollars for each adult in need. To read more visit <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2009/tsticht.htm>.

My third grader still can't read. What do I do?

September 15, 2009 by Margaret Wentz, Globe and Mail

Malkin Dare has seen it time and time again. A 9- or 10-year-old comes to her for tutoring. He's miserable and defeated. And then, as early as the second lesson, the light begins to dawn. "I can *do* this." The kid is learning to read. "It makes a huge difference to them in everything," says Ms. Dare. "Someone asked the mother of one boy I tutored why he was suddenly playing hockey so much better. It was because he'd learned to read." Want to know who won't graduate from high school? It's the kids who're still struggling with reading in Grade 3. To read more go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/my-third-grader-still-cant-read-what-do-i-do/article1287576/>.

A guiding framework for literacy

The United Nations Literacy Decade International Strategic Framework for Action is now available to support and guide literacy efforts at local, national, regional and global levels in the second half of the Decade and beyond.

http://www.unesco.org/en/education/dynamic-content-single-view/news/a_guiding_framework_for_literacy/back/9195/

Resources and Websites

Porcupines and China Dolls reprinted

Just reprinted...*Porcupines and China Dolls*, written by northern author, Robert Alexie. Publisher: Theytus Books. ISBN: 978-1-894778-72-5. Check at your local book store, or order from the Yellowknife Book Cellar (1-800-944-6029).

Barefoot Books discount for family literacy programs

Fire the Imagination is the Canadian distributor of Barefoot Books, many of whose titles are highly suited to early literacy purposes. Family literacy program providers receive a 40% discount on the Canadian suggested retail price on all products, including Barefoot Books, puppets, puzzles and CDs. To view Fire the Imagination's products, see www.firetheimagination.ca. To place an order, or to receive a catalogue or more information, contact Fire the Imagination at 1-888-780-0864 (tel.); 1-519-780-5469 (fax) or firetheimagination@sympatico.ca. Family entertainment to educate and inspire!

Words and Pictures Book

By Nunavut Literacy Council

<http://library.nald.ca/learning/item/8334>

Adult Learner Persistence

The [New England Learner Persistence \(NELP\)](#) Project has just launched a practical and useful new site: [Adult Learner Persistence](#) where you can find tools, models, strategies, and research about ways to help adult students stay on their learning paths. The materials on the site are based on on-the-ground action research conducted in programs throughout New England – and are focused around 6 key [Drivers of Persistence](#): Sense of belonging and community, Clarity of purpose, Agency, Competence, Relevance, Stability.

How to buy and use a computer

A plain language resource for adult basic education students.

<http://www.sabes.org/technology/buycomputer/>

Integrating technology into the classroom

In our Information Age, technology plays a role in nearly every aspect of life. To assist adult education programs in preparing students to become full participants in this 21st century environment, the LACs instructional technology initiatives offer resources for integrating technology into the classroom. These resources build on foundation theories of adult literacy instruction, active learning strategies, and principles of adult learning. <http://www.lacnyc.org/resources/IT/#blogpod>