

This Week in Literacy

April 15, 2010

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

National Volunteer Week
Global Action Week
Earth Day

April 18-24
April 19-25
April 22

Community Events and Information

Call for Nominations: 2010 Council of the Federation Literacy Award

The Northwest Territories Council of the Federation Literacy Award honours the achievements of a learner who has overcome obstacles and demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT official languages. Nominations are open to NWT learners of all ages. Nominations require two letters of support and the deadline is May 28, 2010. For a nomination form call 920-8843 or email Margaret_Erasmus@gov.nt.ca

Call for Nominations: 2010 Ministerial Literacy Awards

Do you know an educator or an organization in your community that has excelled in promoting literacy and helping others to improve their literacy levels in any of the NWT's official languages? Nominations will be accepted in two categories:

- Teachers, tutors or literacy facilitators who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to literacy.
- Organizations, literacy committees or programs which have advocated for literacy and improved literacy levels in their communities.

Nominations require two letters of support. The deadline is May 28, 2010. Contact (867) 920-8843 or Margaret_Erasmus@gov.nt.ca

2010 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards

The deadline is May 21 to nominate a deserving adult learner and/or educator from your community for an award that recognizes personal achievement. For more information visit

http://www.canadapost.ca/cpc_email/Literacy/literacy_2010_1.htm

Understanding Media Literacy: Inside Plato's Cave

This new Athabasca University course consists of 13 online units designed to aid grades 7 – 12 teachers in helping their students to develop an informed and critical understanding of the nature, impact and techniques of the mass media. The units are highly-interactive and will assist teachers in developing skills to adapt these lessons to their students' needs and their teaching situations.

http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2010/plato_press_release_rev_Apr6_2010.pdf

Certificate Program in Aboriginal Language Revitalization

For information or to register for courses offered this spring and summer by the En'owkin Centre and the University of Victoria go to <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/aspnet/Program/Detail/?code=BHATI>

Summer Institute 2010: Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills

The 2010 Summer Institute will bring together policy-makers, literacy and essential skills providers, and researchers to examine what is currently being counted to evaluate the results of Workplace Essential Skills programs and whether enlarging the frame of reference could lead to better outcomes for workers, employers and the country as a whole.

<http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/inst/sli2010/index10.htm>

The NorthWords Writers Festival announces guest authors

The 2010 NorthWords Writers Festival is June 3-6, 2010 in Yellowknife. This year's guest authors are: Annabel Lyon, Cathleen With, Sharon Butala, Ivan E. Coyote, Steve Sanderson, Bob Barton, James Pokiak, Richard Van Camp, Annelies Pool, Deborah Webster, Jamie Bastedo, Mindy Willett, Bren Kolson and Cathy Jewison. For more information about these authors, please visit

www.northwordsfestival.ca

In the News

GNWT working on revitalizing Aboriginal languages

CJCD, April 7, 2010

The Aboriginal Languages Symposium was just last week but the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is confident they've started to take strides to revitalize Aboriginal languages across the territory. To read the full story go to

<http://www.mix100.ca/newsDetails.php?newsID=833&pageID=116&parentID=108>

State of Learning in Canada: A Year in Review

The 2009–2010 *State of Learning in Canada: A Year in Review* report provides the most up-to-date information available on Canada's learning landscape, and in the process helps contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of how Canadians are faring as lifelong learners. To download this report go to

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/StateofLearning?Language=EN>

Literacy gets a new job emphasis

Globe and Mail, March 11, 2010

As Canada shifts to a knowledge-based economy, workers' reading and writing skills are sometimes not up to par. For this story visit <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/managing/weekend-workout/literacy-gets-a-new-job-emphasis/article1491506/>

Myths About Teens Busted in new guide for parents

The Teen Years Explained: A Guide to Healthy Adolescent Development dispels many common myths about adolescence with the latest scientific findings on the physical, emotional, cognitive, sexual and spiritual development of teens. Authors Clea McNeely and Jayne Blanchard, from the Center for Adolescent Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, provide useful tips and strategies for real-life situations and experiences from bullying, to nutrition and sexuality. For more on this story go to www.physorg.com/news189862527.html

Aboriginal Women Do Better by Degrees

Globe and Mail, April 8, 2010

The argument for pursuing higher education couldn't be clearer: Aboriginal women with a university degree earn more, on average, than their non-aboriginal counterparts, according to a new study. For more on this story go to <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/aboriginal-women-do-better-by-degrees/article1527083/> The report, comparing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal incomes in Canada produced by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, can be downloaded at <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/>

Comic Book Literacy Premiers April 18

A documentary film about comics in the classroom and beyond showcases comic books as a way to inspire a passion for reading in both children and adults. Comics have traditionally had a bad reputation from the perspective of the general public and it is the goal of this film to shatter the negative stereotype of comics as "junk food for the brain" and to show them in a new light. For more information visit <http://www.comicbookliteracy.com/>

Resources and Websites

Top Twenty Downloads of Resources from NALD for March

<http://www.nald.ca/top20/2010/mar10.htm>

Indigenous Peoples Funding and Resource Guide

Produced by the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples and First Peoples Worldwide.

<http://www.internationalfunders.org/files/IPFundersGuideDownload.pdf>

Healthy Aboriginal Network - updated website

<http://www.thehealthyaboriginal.net/>

New Assessment Tool for Beginning Readers

Diagnostic Adult Literacy Assessment for Beginning Readers (DALA) by Pat Campbell can be ordered at <http://www.grassrootsbooks.net/ca/assessment/diagnostic-adult-literacy-assessment-for-beginning-readers-dala.html>