

# This Week in Literacy

April 22, 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

Earth Day	April 22
World Book and Copyright Day	April 23
National Volunteer Week	April 18-24
Global Action Week	April 19-25

## Community Events and Information

### Students can apply to attend the 2010 World Student Environmental Summit

The deadline is April 26 for students interested in sustainability, social change and engaging with other world student leaders. The summit is in September in Germany. The University of Victoria and Tübingen University will sponsor meals, accommodations and a return flight for the 2 chosen delegates. For more information on the Summit, visit [www.2010wses.org](http://www.2010wses.org)

### Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage

If your community hosts a recurring festival, or plans to celebrate an important local anniversary, event organizers may be eligible for funding under the Government of Canada's Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Program. This program supports activities that engage volunteers and present local artists, artisans and local historical heritage, and that are intended for and open to the general public. The next deadline for applications is April 30. For more information on eligibility, applications and deadlines go to <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/dcap-bcah/index-eng.cfm> or call 1-800-661-0585.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Margaret_Erasmus@gov.nt.ca)**

### **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. For more visit

[http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2010/plato\\_press\\_release\\_rev\\_Apr6\\_2010.pdf](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. For more information go to

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

## **In the News**

### **Canadians need much better financial education: task force**

Times&Transcript, April 22, 2010

Canadians of all ages are faced with big decisions about how to spend and save their money and it is up to all of us to learn as much about it as we can, says the head of a task force holding public hearings across the country on financial literacy. For more on this story go to

<http://timestranscript.canadaeast.com/search/article/1025773>

### **Copyright bill to be tabled this spring: heritage minister**

The Vancouver Sun, April 18, 2010

The federal government will soon unveil its latest version of legislation to modernize Canada's copyright laws through a series of reforms that will affect everything from what Canadians can play

on their iPods to how artists pay their bills. You can download this story at <http://www.vancouversun.com/business/fp/Copyright+bill+tabled+this+spring+heritage+minister/2922248/story.html>

### **MB. to recognize aboriginal languages**

Manitoba is set to become the first province in Canada to officially recognize its aboriginal languages in law. See this story at <http://www.winnipegssun.com/news/manitoba/2010/04/20/13655431.html>

### **Author sees novel surviving in e-book era**

Globe and Mail, April 21, 2010

Award-winning Irish writer Colm Toibin firmly believes the novel will remain fundamentally unchanged by the Internet or other high-tech innovations, a realm in which he admits he is nearly illiterate. To read the rest of the story visit

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/personal-tech/author-sees-novel-surviving-in-e-book-era/article1541731/>

### **Never Too Late to Get Started on Reading**

New York Times, April 19, 2010

Jahara Drammeh first thought about coming to America while watching the 1988 Eddie Murphy film "Coming to America." He liked what he saw. To read this article go to

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/20/nyregion/20nyc.html>

## **Resources and Websites**

### **The Memory Project**

The Memory Project provides every living Second World War veteran with the opportunity to share their memories through oral interviews and digitized artefacts and memorabilia.

<http://www.thememoryproject.com/home.aspx?x?Lang=en-CA>

### **Launch of New Website: Inuit Cultural Online Resource**

The Inuit Cultural Online Resource has been designed with the primary goal of teaching Canadian school age children about Inuit culture. The site also includes resources for teachers such as downloadable colouring sheets, and various other activity sheets.

<http://www.icor.ottawainuitchildrens.com/>

### **Volunteers: All Around You**

A video produced by Volunteer Canada for National Volunteer Week

<http://volunteer.ca/en/home>

### **Other ways to test academic progress**

This text will give the reader some understanding of the complexities of standardized testing and performance assessment in education – particularly for aboriginal students. For more information or to order go to <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/assessing-students-ways-knowing>

## **April 23 is World Book and Copyright Day**

To read the background on why UNESCO encourages celebration of this day go to

<http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php->

[URL\\_ID=5125&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5125&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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