

This Week in Literacy

February 11, 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.

In this E-News

- [Literacy Dates](#)
- [Community Events and Information](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [Resources and Websites](#)

Literacy Dates

Heritage Day	February 17
Freedom to Read Day	February 21-27
Aboriginal Languages Month	March
Adult Learners Week	March 1-7
World Book Day	March 4

Community Events and Information

YK Public Library celebrates Freedom to Read Week

The library will have a display from February 21-27 and a public screening of the film, Hollywood Librarian, on February 23 at 7 pm to celebrate Freedom to Read Week. Check out the display and be surprised by the range of materials that have been questioned and suppressed. For more information on this subject and the role that public libraries play to protect our intellectual freedom, go to www.freedomtoread.ca.

[Canada Reads](#) Contest

Do you want to win all five Canada Reads 2010 books as well as a ABC Canada Reads Tote? Then enter our Canada Reads Contest! All you have to do is correctly predict which book will be the last book standing after a week of on air debates. Fill out your entry at the Yellowknife Public Library by March 7. Then listen to CBC Radio One from March 8 to March 12 at 11:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. Five celebrity panelists will defend their favourite work of Canadian fiction, and one by one the books are voted off until one book wins!

International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day is February 21, 2010. This day was proclaimed by UNESCO's General Conference in 1999 to celebrate the world's nearly 6,000 languages and to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education. For more go to <http://www.unesco.org/en/languages-in-education/>.

Postcard Story Competition

The Writers' Union of Canada is hosting its 11th annual Postcard Story Competition. A Postcard Story is a short piece of 250 words or less. The deadline is February 14, 2010 and the grand prize is \$500. This competition is open to writers of all genres. Go to http://www.writersunion.ca/cn_postcard.asp for more information.

NorthWords Events with Steve Galloway

The NorthWords Writers Festival invites you to join Steven Galloway, author of *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, for a literary weekend in Yellowknife! A Public Reading and Meet & Greet will be held Sunday, Feb. 14, 2 – 4 pm at the Yellowknife Public Library Meeting Room. *Practical Techniques of Fiction*, a workshop for serious emerging writers on elements of structure in short and long fiction, will be held Saturday, Feb. 13 and Sunday, Feb. 14 at Aurora College, Room 308. The \$50 cost includes refreshments. Register in advance at the Yellowknife Book Cellar. For more information contact Annelies Pool at 867-445-4800 or go to www.northwordsfestival.ca.

PGI Concert Tickets on Sale

The Peter Gzowski Invitational (PGI) literacy fundraiser will be in Yellowknife and Hay River from March 22-25, 2010. The events include two community concerts in Yellowknife, Monday March 22 and Tuesday, March 23, at 7 pm at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre (NACC). Concert headliners include Connie Caulder, Jonathan Torrens, Russell de Carle, of Prairie Oyster, and Barney Bentall. Tickets are available at www.naccnt.ca or at the NACC box office.

Arctic Voices Fellowships Call for Applications

The Arctic Voices Fellowship program is accepting applications from northerners, aged 25 -35. Arctic Voices Fellows will have the opportunity to research and develop policy ideas that they believe will benefit their communities and the North. Each Fellow will receive \$25,000 spanning two years starting in June 2010, mentoring from Elders, and opportunities to spend time with other Fellows and policy experts across Northern and Southern Canada. Application deadline is March 24, 2010. For more details visit www.arcticvoices.ca.

Canada Day Poster Challenge

Students aged 5 to 18 are invited to take part in the 2010 Canada Day Poster Challenge. Young people can design a poster based on a theme that illustrates their pride in Canada and in being Canadian. This year's theme is "My Canada is..." The national winner's work of art will become the official 2010

Canada Day poster, showcased across the country to promote Celebrate Canada! activities. The deadline for submitting a poster is March 15, 2010. Information can be found at www.posterchallenge.pch.gc.ca. Details will be coming this spring about a video competition on the same theme as the 2010 Canada Day Poster Challenge.

What Happens at the Poles Affects Us All

Polar Week - March 15 – 19, 2010 - will be an opportunity for researchers, educators, early career scientists, and students from across the globe to celebrate the partnerships, outreach, and scientific outcomes IPY has enabled regionally, nationally and internationally. For classroom activities and more visit <http://www.ipy.org/hidden/item/2293-march-polar-week-2010-what-happens-at-the-poles-affects-us-all>.

National Aboriginal Youth, Violence and Changing Times Training Conference

This conference is March 10-12, 2010 in Victoria, BC for youth 15-25 years of age. For more information go to <http://www.firstpeoplescanada.com/YC2010%20Registration%20package.pdf>.

FASD Conference

The Fourth National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder -Facing the Future Together: Where Do We Go From Here? will be April 14-17, 2010 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Information can be found at www.interprofessional.ubc.ca.

In the News

Morning workout at Etobicoke school helps kids focus

Toronto Star, February 3, 2010

After settling in and listening to the morning announcements, the boys in the behavioural class at James S. Bell public school don't hit the books. They hit the gym. This story can be downloaded at <http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/education/schoolsandresources/article/760255--morning-workout-at-etobicoke-school-helps-kids-focus>.

Guys Read, and like it, in middle school literacy program

North County Times, January 31, 2010

At two middle schools in Escondido, boys are taking one lunch break a week to read and discuss books, stories, graphic novels and even song lyrics with

one another and two adult volunteers. "Guys like doing things together," a volunteer said. "If it's a sport, or reading, we tell each other about it...They don't want to be the person in the lunch room or in the library, alone with a book...But it can be done in a team, just like anything else guys engage in."

To see the full article visit http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/escondido/article_384eb4fc-3d6c-50fb-8de5-07e1f3f251ec.htm.

Rate adult literacy research and projects

AlphaPlus is holding its annual adult literacy research 'mini-marathon'. Over six days, starting on February 8, 2010, there will be a blog about the latest trends and innovations in online and distance learning. Each day we will post a description of an adult literacy research report or project that documents what is happening in Scotland, England, the U.S. and beyond. We invite you to explore how this research can help support you in the field. Go to <http://blog.alphaplus.ca/>.

Government guidelines allow UK employees 'Time to train'

NIACE welcomes a new right for employees to request time off work for training, which will generate real benefits for employees, employers and the economy. *Time to train* was announced by the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, on Wednesday January 13, 2010. For more go to <http://www.niace.org.uk/news/government-guidelines-allow-employees-%E2%80%98time-to-train%E2%80%99>.

Resources and Websites

Whole life approach to learning disabilities in adult literacy settings

<http://www.literacybc.ca/LDProject/home.htm>

Guys Read

Guys Read is a web-based literacy program to help boys become self-motivated lifelong readers. It includes a reading list for boys.

<http://guysread.com/>

Divas of the Trades

Stories of 12 women who have found success in the trades, to inspire young women to pursue the opportunities and benefits of a career in the skilled trades.

<http://www.drltb.com/divas-home.6.php>

Through The Lens - Helping Newcomers Speak about Racism and Discrimination in Canada

This resource can help learners become more aware of racism and discrimination in Canada.

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

Be a Literacy Olympian

ABC CANADA is offering a list of literacy tips and activity ideas that classrooms and families can practice over the next month while cheering on Canada at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and Paralympics. These can be found at <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2010/olympics.htm>.