

This Week in Literacy

February 18, 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.

Literacy Dates

Freedom to Read Week	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 the Yellowknife Public Library 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!

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 Kaldor, Jonathan Torrens, Russell de Carle, of Prairie Oyster, and Barney Bentall. Tickets are available at the NACC box office. Everyone is invited to a PGI community feast Wednesday, March 24 at the Chief Lamalice Complex on the Katlodeeche First Nation Reserve. Donated

items will be raffled at each of these events. Thanks to our generous long time PGI sponsor, First Air!

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.

What Happens at the Poles Affects Us All

Polar Week - March 15 – 19, 2010 - is 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>

NALD Innovative Technology Award

The National Adult Literacy Database established the NALD Innovative Technology Award to bring greater visibility to an exemplary or innovative technology product, project or service that benefits the field of adult literacy and essential skills. The deadline for nominations is March 1. To learn more go to http://www.nald.ca/info/awards/nald/Nomination_Info.pdf

Writing Contests

Here are links to writing contests with deadlines coming up this spring.

- Scholastic Kids are Authors, for students K-8. Deadline March 15, 2010. http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/contest/kaa_about.asp

- The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge, for Aboriginal Canadians 14 to 18, and 19 to 29. Deadline March 31, 2010. <http://www.our-story.ca/index2.html> (English) <http://www.our-story.ca/french/index.html> (français)
- The Great Questions Essay Contest, for Canadian high school students. Deadline May 7, 2010. <http://www.greatquestions.com/e/bulletin.html> (English) http://www.greatquestions.com/f/gcq_regles.html (français).

Adult Basic Education Association of BC Conference

The "Inspiring Skills for Success" Conference is in beautiful Harrison Hot Springs on April 15 and 16, 2010. Information can be found at www.abeabc.ca

Annual Summer Science Program Application Deadline May 7th

The Institute for Aboriginal Health at UBC in partnership with the First Nations House of Learning is offering a one-week cultural, health and science program for Aboriginal students in grades 8-11. Contact the University of British Columbia, Institute for Aboriginal Health at 604.822.1795 or 604.822.6612 or check out www.iah.ubc.ca

National Family Literacy Conference

Speakers are being confirmed for the National Family Literacy Conference in Edmonton July 15 - 17th, 2010. The conference will profile the critical contributions of family literacy across Canada and around the world! For more information go to <http://famlit.ca/ccc/index2.shtml>

In the News

Researcher: written Inuktitut still "symbolic" only in Nunavut

Nunatsiaq News, February 1, 2010

Despite its official legal status, the Inuit language will never become a functional language of work unless more people learn how to read and write it...Read this at http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/8756_researcher_written_inuktitut_still_symbolic_only_in_nunavut

Study offers grim outlook - by 2021, Jack and Jill may be unemployable **Midland Free Press, February 10, 2010**

According to Seneca College President emeritus Rick Miner, a shortage of skills and lack of education could lead to more than 700,000 people in Ontario being unemployable by 2021. "We need to make significant changes," he said. "If we don't, the result will be an economy that can't compete globally and a society that can't provide opportunities for people to find employment." See more at <http://www.midlandfreepress.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2439398>

Early language problems may hinder adult literacy

Reuters, February 8, 2010

Children with a limited vocabulary at the age of 5 may be at increased risk of poor literacy as adults, a study published Monday suggests. To read this article go to <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6174WA20100208>

Inspiring Good Literacy Habits

With all the distractions in our lives it is difficult to get children hooked on reading. Each age group is different and therefore requires a unique approach to inspire excellent literacy habits. To read this article go to: http://www.abc-canada.org/en/inspiring_literacy_habits

Tech-Etiquette Outlaws: Are You One of Them?

CNW, Toronto, February 9, 2010

The use of gadgets such as smartphones and other handheld devices may make employees more productive, but they haven't made the workplace more polite, a new survey suggests. More than four in 10 (42 per cent) chief information officers (CIOs) interviewed have seen increased instances of poor workplace etiquette resulting from more frequent use of mobile electronic devices. Read more at <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/February2010/09/c7913.html>

Hard truths: Canada's social deficit

A presentation by the president of the Canadian Council on Social Development explores the "relentless erosion of the social fabric of our country." The presentation slides can be downloaded at http://action.web.ca/home/crru/rsrscs_crru_full.shtml?x=128242

Education reform starts early: Lessons from New Jersey's preK-3rd reform efforts

A Report from New America Foundation describes how New Jersey improved its early education system following a Supreme Court decision mandating high quality provision of pre-K in high poverty areas. http://action.web.ca/home/crru/rsrscs_crru_full.shtml?x=128240

Resources and Websites

New Gwichin Book

People of the Lakes. Stories of Our Van Tat Gwich'in Elders /Googwandak Nakhwach'ànjò Van Tat Gwich'in by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Shirleen Smith consists of oral accounts that the Elders have been recording for 50 years, representing more than 150 years of their history, all meticulously translated from Gwich'in. To order go to <http://www.press.ualberta.ca/UAP.asp?LID=41&bookID=769>

New OLES Tools Now Available

The Office of Literacy and Essential Skills has released 16 new tools for increased success in the trades. For more information visit

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

Canadian Council on Learning - the Learning Link

There are lots of great articles in the Feb. 11th edition of the Learning Link, including information on the demand for 'green jobs'; the impact of mixed online training of teachers in the workplace; and a Profile in Learning of artist Robert Bateman. See this issue at

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/LearningLink/LearningLink20100210.htm?Language=EN>

Write-On! Magazine Archives

The entire collection of Write On! Newsletters & Magazines is now online. Write On is a collection of articles, stories, poems and/or artwork from literacy learners and practitioners in Manitoba. http://www.mb.literacy.ca/write_on.htm

Aboriginal Funding Tool

Visit the Aboriginal Canada Portal at

<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en/funding.html>

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