

This Week in Literacy

February 25, 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

Aboriginal Languages Month	March
International Adult Learners Week	March 1-7
World Book Day	March 4
International Women's Day	March 8

Community Events and Information

Talking Books Workshops in Inuvik

Go to http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/whatsnew/wrkshp_talk_books_inuvik.pdf to register for the NWT Literacy Council Talking Books Workshops in Inuvik on March 3 and 4. Registration forms can be emailed to jill@nwtliteracy.ca or faxed to 867-873-2176. This week NWT Literacy Council staff is delivering Bookmaking and Talking Books workshops in Ndilo.

The Great Northern Canada Writing Contest

The deadline is April 30, 2010 to submit a piece of prose (fiction or non-fiction) up to 1,000 words about life in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik or Northern Labrador. First Prize is \$500 and publication in above & beyond magazine. Entries must be mailed to Great Northern Canada~Writing Contest, Box 1256, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N9

Awards of Excellence for Municipal Workplace Literacy and Learning Achievements

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) invites towns and cities, municipal unions, workplace learning committees, teachers and partners in workplace learning programs to apply for their Awards of Excellence. For more information, contact Patricia Nutter at (613) 264-0111 or p.nutter@xplornet.com. Send your application to: CAMA Awards of Excellence, PO Box 128, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2 The deadline is March 12, 2010

Post Secondary Scholarship Program

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation offers financial awards to First Nations (status and non-status), Inuit and Métis students through four major programs and an additional specialized program. The deadlines for scholarships and bursaries range from May 1 to June 1, 2010. For more information visit www.naaf.ca.

Aboriginal Women's Funding Programs

The deadline for proposals is March 1, 2010 for the Women's Community Initiatives, Family Violence Initiatives, and Women's Self-Government Participation programs. For more information go to <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/pa-app/index-eng.cfm>.

Aboriginal Languages Initiative Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund focuses on the innovative use of existing technology in the creation of digital content that produces new or improved products specifically for First Nations languages. The application deadline is April 1, 2010. For more information go to <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/pa-app/index-eng.cfm>.

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 <http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/canada/dafc-cdpc/index-eng.cfm>.

Book to document employment experiences of persons with disabilities

ReachAbility, a Halifax non-profit disability organization, is putting together "The First Person Project," a book about the personal experiences with employment of persons with disabilities. They are looking to represent the stories of people across Canada, north and south, urban and rural. Anyone wanting to submit their story can contact Karen Janik toll free at 1 (866) 429-5878 or by email editor@reachability.org.

Canadians have their say on Financial Literacy

Canada's Task Force on Financial Literacy will be in Yellowknife April 6, 2010 as part of an extensive national consultation exploring key issues about how Canadians make financial decisions. "Financial literacy is essential to all Canadians," said Task Force Chair Donald A. Stewart. "It has the power to enhance quality of life for Canadians and their families - at all income levels - and make Canada stronger, more competitive and successful." To find out more or to participate in the online consultation go to <http://www.financialliteracyincanada.com/eng/index.php?PHPSESSID=311933ac88b702f2158f427309c69a8e>.

In the News

Ignatieff wants national strategy on learning

The Daily Gleaner, February 23rd, 2010

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff says a national strategy on learning is needed to boost literacy rates in Atlantic Canada and across the country. Ignatieff warned Monday that low literacy levels can cause both labour shortages and high unemployment. The rest of this story can be found at <http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/search/article/963071>.

Breastfeeding Improves Intellectual Development

Those are the important results that Michael S. Kramer and his colleagues found after seven years of research and another three years of statistical analysis. "What's important about this study is that we figured out a way to separate the effects of breastfeeding from the different types of women, environments and cultural influences," says Kramer. To read more on this go to the Bulletin of Early Childhood Development at: <http://www.skcecd.ca/documents/pdf/Bulletins/Vol8No1Dec2009/ANG/BulletinVol8No1Dec09ANG.pdf>.

Hearing two languages in womb makes bilingual babies

Ottawa Citizen, February 17, 2010

Babies who hear two languages regularly when they are in their mother's womb are more open to being bilingual, according to a group of Canadian and French researchers. This article can be downloaded at

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/life/Hearing+languages+womb+makes+bilingual+babies+study/2574383/story.html>.

Understanding and Addressing Low Literacy

By: Judith Maxwell with Sylvia Cheuy

An estimated nine million working age Canadians - including one in three people aged 26 to 35 and over 40 percent of people aged 36 to 45 - have low literacy skills. To read this article and its recommendations go to: <http://www.peacockpoverty.org/2010/02/16/understanding-and-addressing-low-literacy-by-judith-maxwell-with-sylvia-cheuy/>.

Native university pulled back from brink

Globe and Mail, February 15, 2010

Aboriginal and government leaders are pulling Saskatchewan's one-of-a-kind aboriginal university back from the brink one week after its closing appeared imminent. For the whole story go to <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/native-university-pulled-back-from-brink/article1469227/>.

Workforce development: Ways to make instruction for adult learners more efficient

One of the problems in adult basic skills education is the need to get adults out of basic skills education and into work, vocational or academic coursework as rapidly as possible. There is evidence to suggest that the best way to accomplish this is to intensify the instruction of basic skills. For some ideas about how to do this check out <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2010/sticht-feb2010.htm>.

Does 'thinking outside the box' drive you mad?

Vancouver Sun, February 12, 2010

Grumpy colleagues, slow computers and office jargon are the things that annoy workers most, according to a recent survey.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/Does+thinking+outside+drive/2555260/story.html>

Formal, non-formal and informal learning: The case of literacy, essential skills and language learning in Canada

This research report investigates the links between formal, non-formal and informal learning and the differences between them. It can be found at <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/eaton/eaton.pdf>.

Resources and Websites

International Adult Learners Week

For links to the International Adult Learners Week magazine, poster and logo go to

<http://www.unesco.ca/en/activity/education/AdultLearners.aspx>.

mindyourmind Youth Volunteers Create Sexual Health Promotion Tool *Adventures in Sex City*

A group of mindyourmind youth volunteers, aged 15 to 21, have created a sexual health promotion game that has taken the world by storm! The four Sex Squad Superheroes that set out to defeat the infected Sperminator in Sex City, with their knowledge of safe sex, have sparked the interest of newspapers, blogs, forums, gaming websites and social networking sites like Twitter, all over the world! <http://mindyourmind.ca/mind-tools/play-stuff/sex-city.html>

180 Technology Tips - Simple five-minute computer lessons

<http://www.180techtips.com/>

Action for Family Literacy Ontario

The redesigned website is at <http://www.aflo.on.literacy.ca/>.

Self-help booklets for managing your personal finances

The booklets include *Budgeting Made Easy*, *Coping with Financial Stress* and *Credit in a New Country: A Guide to Credit in Canada* [http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/series?name=Self-](http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/series?name=Self-help+booklets+for+managing+your+personal+finances)

[help+booklets+for+managing+your+personal+finances](http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/series?name=Self-help+booklets+for+managing+your+personal+finances)