

# This Week in Literacy

February 4, 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

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

### Child Health and the Environment in Aboriginal Communities

A workshop to share promising practices and existing research on environmental health issues for children in aboriginal communities is being held February 25, 2010 from 8 am to 4:30 pm at the Radisson **Hotel Edmonton South** or over the internet from your home or office computer. . The **workshop** will be of interest to childcare providers, teachers, education administrators, community health reps, health care and environmental health professionals, Chief and Council, and other interested children and/or Aboriginal organizations. Visit [www.research4children.com](http://www.research4children.com) for details.

### 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](http://www.northwordsfestival.ca).

## **Fellowship to Promote Civil Society and Voluntary Action**

The 2010 Alan Thomas Fellowship is aimed at strengthening leadership for civil society and promoting greater understanding of the significance of voluntary action. The Fellowship will be awarded to a leader in the NGO/non-profit sector who would not normally have access to a sabbatical leave. The deadline for applications is March 26, 2010. Visit t [www.carold.ca](http://www.carold.ca) or call (613) 376-3391 for details.

## **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](http://www.arcticvoices.ca).

## **Postcard Story Competition**

The Writers' Union of Canada is hosting its 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.writersunion.ca/cn_postcard.asp) for more information.

## **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](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](http://www.greatquestions.com/f/gcq_regles.html) (français)

## **In the News**

### **CNIB lobbying for 'right to read'**

Regina Leader Post, January 20, 2010

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) is urging Canada's governments to provide immediate and fair public funding for nationwide accessible library services. You can read the story at <http://www.leaderpost.com/health/CNIB+lobbying+right+read/2461900/story.html> and learn more at [www.cnib.ca/righttoread](http://www.cnib.ca/righttoread).

### **TD commits \$14.5 million for Financial Literacy**

CNW, January 26, 2010

TD and Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI) announced today that TD will provide \$14.5 million in funding to SEDI, a charitable organization that helps low income and otherwise economically disadvantaged Canadians gain financial independence. For more go to <http://www.cnw.ca/fr/releases/archive/January2010/26/c3971.html>.

### **Canadian Geographic: Special International Polar Year (IPY) Issue**

The January/February 2010 issue of Canadian Geographic contains a polarpalooza of stories, ranging from an intimate portrayal of life at the Yukon's Kluane Lake Research Station to a profile of a student geographer from Labrador on exchange in Norway. We shine a spotlight on the largest ever Inuit health survey and the mysterious disappearance of mercury from the atmosphere when the Arctic sun rises. It's all part of our crucial quest to understand the North. See more at [www.canadiangeographic.ca](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca).

### **Canadian Council on Learning releases report on e-learning**

According to State of E-Learning in Canada, the application of technologies such as computers and the internet to education and training is recognized as a fundamental tool for fostering a lifelong learning society. In particular, e-learning provides for a flexible learning approach not readily available through other means. However, several issues are constraining the country's ability to take full advantage of e-learning's potential. See more at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20090514E-Learning.htm>.

### **Big City left with no bookstore**

CNN Living, January 22, 2010

On January 16, Barnes & Noble closed the only bookstore in Laredo, Texas. About 50 to 60 small Barnes & Noble -owned bookstores have closed every year over the last 5 to 6 years, the company said. The publishing industry is in the midst of a revolution. To see the full article visit <http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/01/22/laredo.books/>.

### **Time to Democratize Financial Literacy**

The Huffington Post, January 20, 2010

Recent research has shown that less than one-third of young workers (the lowest of any other age cohort, and lower than previous generations) recognize and understand key financial concepts, such as interest rates, inflation and risk diversification. Financial literacy is especially low for young women, minorities and those with little educational attainment. See more on this story at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alexander-hertelfernandez/time-to-democratize-finan\\_b\\_430312.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alexander-hertelfernandez/time-to-democratize-finan_b_430312.html).

### **Health Literacy in Canada: A Healthy Understanding**

By international standards, Canada has a healthy and well-educated population. However, not all Canadians have the skills they need to properly manage their health. To read more go to <http://library.nald.ca/item/8505>. Another study on health literacy concludes that while there is immense potential in the internet for patients and for the management of precious health-care resources, there are also significant pitfalls that should be avoided if such websites are to be effective. This report is at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Research/FundedResearch/20100125Elearningandhealth.htm?Language=EN>.

## Resources and Websites

### **The Vanier Institute of the Family**

This site has some excellent resources for parents.

<http://www.vifamily.ca/library/resources/resources.html>

### **Aboriginal Funding Tool**

See the Aboriginal Canada Portal at <http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en/funding.html>.

### **TD National Reading Summit**

Reports from the two-day summit in November are presented at [www.nationalreadingsummit.ca](http://www.nationalreadingsummit.ca).

### **Workplace Literacy Feature of the Month**

The NALD@Work Feature of the month: <http://www.naldatwork.ca/information/feature>.

### **NWT Literacy Council Resources among Top 20 Downloads**

Six of NALD's top 20 downloads for January 2010 were resources produced recently by the NWT Literacy Council – the four booklets in the Simply Math series and two new How-to kits.

<http://www.nald.ca/top20/2010/jan10.htm>