

This Week in Literacy

January 28, 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

Family Literacy Day Fun Fair

Children aged 3-7, and their parents in Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah are invited to the Family Literacy Day Fun Fair on Saturday, January 30 at Northern United Place from 2-3:30 pm. There will be crafts, songs and stories and a tente en francais. This event is sponsored by the NWT Literacy Council, Alpha TNO and the Yellowknife Public Library. Call the Literacy Council at 873-9262 for more information.

Aboriginal Education Research Forum

The sixth annual forum is scheduled for April 13 – 15, 2010 in Winnipeg. The deadline for the call for papers is January 30. For information go to <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aerf/>.

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, 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)

Charities Workshop by Video-conference, February 9, 2010

A free workshop by video-conference is available in Inuvik and Yellowknife on February 9, 2010 from 3 to 5 pm The workshop is focused on small and rural charities to help them prepare for and meet Canada Revenue Agency reporting obligations. To register go to www.thecharitiesfile.ca You can also contact nicholle_french@gov.nt.ca in Yellowknife or in Inuvik call or email C. MacGillivray at 777-8640 or cmacgillivray@town.inuvik.nt.ca.

National Student Banner Contest deadline for entries is February 19, 2010

The National Capital commission (NCC), in partnership with Classroom Connections, is running an amazing cross-Canada contest and public art project. Students in Grades 5 through 8 (Elementary 5 to Secondary 2 in Quebec) are being asked to create and submit a one-of-a-kind banner design to the [“Raise Your Voices!” National Student Banner Contest](#). The design should represent an issue or topic of importance to Canadian youth. See more at http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/bins/ncc_web_content_page.asp?cid=16297-24521-29608-126865&lang=1&bhcp=1.

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.

In the News

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>.

NALD Announces Innovative Technology Award

The Board of Directors of the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) is pleased to announce the creation of the NALD Innovative Technology Award. The nomination process is now open and submissions will be accepted until March 1, 2010. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in developing and implementing a technology initiative that contributes to the advancement of adult literacy and essential skills. Specifically, the product, project or service should promote, support and/or facilitate knowledge exchange within the adult literacy community. For more information on the NALD Innovative Technology Award, visit <http://www.nald.ca/info/awards/nald/nald.htm> or call 1-800-720-NALD (6253).

Literacy is truly a gift

The Daily Gleaner, January 25, 2010

Justin Berry, 24, is a high school graduate who, until a couple of years ago, wasn't able to read a menu to order a meal. Throughout school he struggled with reading and writing but was too afraid to ask for help. For more go to <http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/search/article/931679>.

Resources and Websites

Ideas for Helping Children Learn

In honour of Family Literacy Day 2010, The Bread and Roses Writing Program produced an information sheet entitled *Ideas For Helping Children Learn (even in rough times)*.

<http://www.learningandviolence.net/changing/BreadandRoses.pdf>

Aboriginal Adult Literacy: Nourishing Their Learning Spirits

Aboriginal Adult Literacy: Nourishing Their Learning Spirits is a literature review on Aboriginal literacy from the perspective of Aboriginal literacy worker Ningwakwe George. <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeCentres/AboriginalLearning/OurWork/AboriginalAdultLiteracy.htm?Language=EN>

The Healthy Aboriginal Network updated website

Comic books on suicide awareness, mental health and gang awareness can be ordered at www.thehealthyaboriginal.net.

The HR council for the Voluntary & Non-Profit Sector Newsletter

The January 2010 newsletter can be downloaded at <http://www.hrcouncil.ca/newsletter/january-2010.html>.

Debunking Workplace Literacy Myths

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) has released a useful factsheet called *Myths and facts about Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills*.

www.camacam.ca/en/literacylearning/LiteracyFactSheets.asp