

This Week in Literacy

January 7, 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

National Family Literacy Day	January 27
Heritage Day	February 17
World Day of Social Justice	February 20
Freedom to Read Day	February 21-27

Community Events and Information

Support available for Polar Teachers Workshop

The Canadian International Polar Year Program Office is offering partial support to a number of Canadian teachers chosen to attend the Polar TEACHERS workshop as part of the Oslo Science Conference June 8-12, 2010. The deadline to apply is January 20, 2010. For more information contact Jennifer Bellman at 819-994-1803.

Youth Eco Internships

Voluntary groups are invited to apply to have a young person aged 15 to 30 work with them as part of a Youth Eco Internship. Interns will be paid by the YMCA or YWCA Canada. The positions are being allocated on a first-come, first served basis. Contact Theresa toll free at 1-877-826-9922.

Family Literacy Day Tools

To plan a Family Literacy Day event in your community you can download the *Sing for Literacy* Toolkit or the Family Literacy Day Event Guide at http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family_literacy_day. You can also go to What's New on the NWT Literacy Council site for how-to kits and tip sheets at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/>.

Open Sky Festival Call for Submissions

The OSC Gallery and Open Sky Creative Society in Fort Simpson are accepting submissions from Canadian, Northern and Deh Cho artists and performers for the 2010 gallery and festival until January 15th. For more information go to <http://www.openskyfestival.ca/artistopp.htm>.

Climate Change and Health Adaptation Funding Guide Available

Health Canada's Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program is accepting funding proposals for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The Climate Change and Health Adaptation in Northern First Nation and Inuit Communities program is designed to be carried out by communities in cooperation with Aboriginal associations, academics, governments and agencies. Proposal deadline is January 24th, 2010. The guide can be found at <http://www.afn.ca/misc/Funding-App.pdf>.

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/>.

In the News

Literacy program helps to combat dropout rate

Montreal Gazette, December 15, 2009

"Imagine spending all day doing tasks in a language you're not comfortable with," said Natasha Mentore, coordinator of the Oasis program at Riverdale High School in Pierrefonds. "That's what school is like for kids who can't read or write." To read more on the Oasis program go to:

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/life/Literacy+program+helps+combat+dropout+rate/2340943/story.html>.

NWT Needs Poverty Strategy

Slave River Journal, December 20, 2009

A diverse range of organizations called for the GNWT to create a poverty strategy for the NWT. To read more go to

<http://srj.ca/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=88&twindow=Default&mad=No&sdetail=4423&wpage=1&skkeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=1957&hn=srj&he=.ca>.

Poverty Reduction Key to Canada's Economic Recovery

Canada's economic recovery hinges on federal leadership to pull recession victims out of the poor house and prevent Canadians from plunging into deeper poverty, hunger and homelessness, says Campaign 2000's new report card on child and family poverty. To read this report go to

<http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/national/2009EnglishC2000NationalReportCard.pdf>.

Investing in Aboriginal Education Benefits Everyone

Improving educational outcomes for Aboriginals in Canada is the most effective means to alleviate Aboriginal marginalization and poverty, argue the authors of two technical papers on the issue commissioned by Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN). Investing in Aboriginal education would also have a positive and long-lasting effect on the Canadian economy as a whole, the authors conclude. To read this report visit <http://www.cprn.org/doc.cfm?doc=2087&l=en>.

Aboriginal Education: Strengthening the Foundations

John Richards, Professor in the Public Policy Program at Simon Fraser University and the Roger Phillips Chair in Social Policy at the C.D. Howe Institute, and Megan Scott, graduate student at Simon Fraser University's Public Policy Program provide a detailed analysis of the current state of Aboriginal educational programs and policies across Canada's regions and highlight the successes, failures and lessons learned. To read this report go to <http://www.cprn.org/doc.cfm?doc=2088&l=en>.

GR8 news: We're entering a new era of literacy

Globe and Mail, December 11, 2009

Ever since the send button clicked on that first sloppy e-mail, digital technology has been accused of ruining the quality of writing. Fearing for the future of proper prose in a world overrun by texting.... Read the entire story at <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/gr8-news-were-entering-a-new-era-of-literacy/article1397742/>.

Literacy intervention hits 88% success

CBC news, December 15, 2009

A new program to help Grade 2 and 3 students struggling with reading is paying off, say P.E.I. education officials. The literacy intervention program began last year with 152 students taking part. Of those students, 88 per cent were reading at grade level or above at the end of the school year. See more at <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2009/12/15/pei-literacy-intervention-584.html>.

As books go beyond printed page to multisensory experience, what about reading?

Washington Post, December 28, 2009

The mysterious man looks completely wrong to me. In the text of conspiracy thriller "Embassy," an online novel by Richard Doetsch, the character is described as "a starkly thin fellow with a protruding Adam's apple." My brain goes: *Alan Rickman!* To read this feature article go to <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/27/AR2009122701973.html>.

Resources and Websites

Education Indicators in Canada: Fact Sheets from Statistics Canada

The fact sheets in this series provide an "at-a-glance" overview of some aspects of education in Canada.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=81-599-x&lang=eng>

NALD@Work Feature of the Month

The Workplace Informal Learning Matrix (WILM) is a tool designed to help measure the complexity of informal learning in the workplace. <http://www.naldatwork.ca/information/feature>

Top Twenty Downloads from the NALD for December 2009

The top 20 list includes two of the NWT Literacy Council's how-to kits, as well as Evelyn Tregidgo's novel study for *April Raintree*, at <http://www.nald.ca/top20/2009/dec09.htm>.

Literacy Program Innovations

For examples of how Frontier College reaches learners in non-traditional learning locations go to <http://www.collegefrontiere.ca/english/learn/newfrontiers/december09/innovations.pdf>.

Inuit Mythology

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) has developed a resource for Nunavummiut and people from around the world who want to learn more about the Inuit storytelling tradition. If you have stories to share or if you know someone who does, please contact info@inuitmyths.com or go to <http://www.inuitmyths.com/>.

Games Time: Resources for Teachers

The Canadian school portal for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games can be found at <http://www.vancouver2010.com/education-programs/>.