

This Week in Literacy

March 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

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

Learners challenge for International Adult Learners Week

Take the learning challenge for International Adult Learners' Week in Canada at http://www.frontiercollege.ca/english/news_releases/learningchallenge.htm and for more information about International Adult Learners' Week go to <http://www.unesco.ca/en/activity/education/AdultLearners.aspx>.

Songwriting workshop tonight

Come spend an interactive evening with Dana Sipos and other Northerners, exploring the art of the written song, and learn some techniques and practices to help get your creative pen flowing. Bring a journal and an instrument (including but not limited to fingertips and tongue). Presented by NorthWords Writers Festival, tonight, March 4, 2010, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Yellowknife Public Library Meeting Room. To register, contact the Yellowknife Book Cellar, or Annelies Pool at 445-6800.

PGI Supporters welcomed

The NWT Literacy Council welcomes the support of a number of generous businesses for the 2010 NWT PGI (Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament for Literacy) fundraiser in Yellowknife and Hay River from March 22-25, 2010. Thank you to First Air our 20-year sponsor of the PGIs and the NWT Literacy Council! Some of our other generous PGI supporters are BHP Billiton, Yellowknife

Direct Charge Coop, Northern News Services Limited, GNWT Education, Culture and Employment, the NWT Premiers Office, and True Value Hardware.

Tickets are available at the NACC Box Office for the Community Concerts for Literacy in Yellowknife, Monday March 22 and Tuesday, March 23, at 7 pm. Doors open for the raffle at 6 pm. Everyone is invited to a PGI community feast and raffle on Wednesday, March 24 at the Chief Lamallice Complex on the Katlodeeche First Nation Reserve. PGI special guests include Connie Kaldor, Jonathan Torrens, Russell deCarle, Joseph Boyden, Richard Van Camp, Pat Braden, Sophie Leger, Shelagh Rogers and Barney Bentall.

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 on CBC Radio One. Fill out your entry form at the Yellowknife Public Library by March 7.

Writing Contest deadlines this month

The Scholastic Kids are Authors contest is for students K-8. The deadline is March 15, 2010.

http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/contest/kaa_about.asp The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge, for Aboriginal Canadians ages 14 to 18, and 19 to 29 has a March 31, 2010 deadline.

<http://www.our-story.ca/index2.html> (English) <http://www.our-story.ca/french/index.html> (français)

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.

Arctic Scholarships featured on website

One purpose of the 2010 Year of the Inuit website is to recruit Inuit youth between 14-18 years old to apply for over a dozen Arctic Scholarships. The application process can be found at

<http://www.inuit2010.ca/soi/index.html>. There is no cost to students, but the experience is priceless.

The Arctic expedition takes place August 4-20, 2010.

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 www.posterchallenge.pch.gc.ca.

In the News

The Need for Digital Literacy in Adult Literacy Education

Adults and out-of-school youth who are enrolled in basic literacy, basic skills, English, adult secondary education or college preparation programs, along with other Americans, need to be able to use technology to wisely purchase, use, maintain and upgrade:

- Cell phones (or possibly smart phones/portable computers)
- Home computers
- Home printers/copy machines/fax machines
- Digital cameras including digital video cameras
- Internet access

You can read this article at <http://www.nifl.gov/pipermail/technology/2010/002679.html>.

Agreement on aboriginal dropout rates reached at 'lightning speed'

Edmonton Journal, February 26, 2010

Federal, provincial and First Nations leaders are promising to work together to tackle Alberta's dismal dropout rates for aboriginal youth as part of a new agreement to help native students succeed in school. The agreement, which was first discussed in meetings last June, was developed with "lightning speed" generally uncharacteristic of such multi-jurisdictional deals, Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl said this week at a ceremony on Tsuu T'ina First Nation.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Agreement+aboriginal+dropout+rates+reached+lightning+speed/2615476/story.html>

From worst to first: A call for better child care

A friend of mine is a hard working politician who knocks on people's doors, even when he's not out on the hustings, just to ask his constituents how life is going. The complaint Peter Tabuns, MPP for Toronto-Danforth, hears frequently is the dearth of quality child care. For the rest of this story check out http://action.web.ca/home/crru/rsrscs_crru_full.shtml?x=128331.

Youth Mentoring Children and Youth - a CED Approach: Four innovative models from across Canada

The Youth Mentorship initiative was a national project created to enhance current programs and services for children and families. The approach sought to strengthen engagement of youth through voluntary involvement and mentorship with younger members of their communities. This initiative was developed in partnership with four primary partners from diverse communities across the country that were each supported in developing and documenting their Community Economic Development (CED) approaches to youth mentorship. To read this report go to: http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/files/ccednet/pdfs/Youth_Mentoring-4_Models_Report.pdf.

Resources and Websites

United for Human Rights

For a 10 minute video, youth section, educational material and resources and action suggestions go to <http://www.humanrights.com/#/home>.

Busy Teacher's Café

<http://www.busyteacherscafe.com/strategies/literacy.html>

Suggestions for effective training sessions

http://www.readsociety.bc.ca/programs/wrktipsh/suggestions_effectv_train_sessions.pdf

Lyric Search Engine

<http://lyrics.astraweb.com/>

Top Twenty Downloads of Resources from the NALD Collection

The top 20 downloads for the Month of February 2010 can be found at <http://www.nald.ca/top20/2010/feb10.htm>.