

This Week in Literacy

May 20, 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.

Literacy Dates

Aboriginal Day

June 21

International Literacy Day

September 8

Community Events and Information

Learning Supports for Persons with Disabilities

The Learning Support for Persons with Disabilities fund helps NWT adults with disabilities achieve their learning goals. Types of supports provided include assistive devices; books, tools and equipment; tutoring services; tuition; and transportation to and from an educational institution. For more information, contact Barbara Miron, GNWT Education, Culture and Employment at (867) 920-3482 or barbara_miron@gov.nt.ca

Festival of Stories - May 28-30

The 6th Northern Arts and Cultural Centre Festival of Stories features tellers from Hawaii, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Jim Green, Vicky Latour and Sharon Shorty are just a few of the scheduled performers. Seating is limited. Tickets are available at the NACC box office or by going to <http://www.naccnt.ca/events/301/>

Call for Nominations: 2010 Council of the Federation Literacy Award

The Northwest Territories Council of the Federation Literacy Award honours a learner who has overcome obstacles and demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT official languages. Nominations require two letters of support and the deadline is May 28, 2010. For a nomination form call 920-8843 or email Margaret_Erasmus@gov.nt.ca

Call for Nominations: 2010 Ministerial Literacy Awards

Do you know an educator or an organization in your community that has excelled in promoting literacy and helping others to improve their literacy levels in any of the

NWT's official languages? Nominations require two letters of support. The deadline is May 28, 2010. Contact (867) 920-8843 or Margaret_Erasmus@gov.nt.ca

The 2010 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards – Deadline extended to May 31, 2010

Nominate a deserving adult learner and/or educator from your community for a prestigious award that recognizes personal achievement. For more information visit http://www.canadapost.ca/cpc_email/Literacy/literacy_2010_1.htm

EVOKE - Human Rights Digital Art Contest

EVOKE is a call to young Canadians aged 13 to 25 to express their perspectives on human rights through art. The contest closes May 25, 2010. Winners from each province and territory will travel to Winnipeg during summer 2010 and have their art exhibited in front of thousands of people at a ceremony for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights! Find more information at <http://evoke.tigweb.org/>

In the News

NWT Educators Named to Hall of Fame

Fifteen NWT educators were honoured this week as the Government of the Northwest Territories held its inaugural Education Hall of Fame induction ceremony. To learn more go to the news release at

http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/prDetails.asp?varPR_ID=1559

Strategy for Supporting NWT Aboriginal Languages announced

The Honourable . Jackson Lafferty announced in the Legislative Assembly this week a new initiative to support NWT Aboriginal languages. To see his statement go to http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/speechDetails.asp?varStatement_ID=989

Powerful Listening: A Practitioner Research Project on Story and Difference in Adult Literacy

Differences are not a "problem" to be "managed" or "solved;" rather we seek to learn more about how the ways we view our differences and experience, affect literacy teaching and learning. This project is part of an ongoing conversation in the literacy field about how we listen and learn across social differences. This report can be downloaded at <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/powerful/powerful.pdf>

Canadian Internet Usage

In 2009, 80% of Canadians aged 16 and older, or 21.7 million people, used the Internet for personal reasons, up from 73% in 2007 when the survey was last conducted. See more at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/100510/dq100510a-eng.htm>

Study: Aboriginal Labour Market Update

Aboriginal people aged 15 and over living off reserve experienced sharper declines in employment rates during the recent labour market downturn than non-Aboriginal people. Read more at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/100513/dq100513b-eng.htm>

Auditor General reports on GNWT Department of Education

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment needs to improve its planning, monitoring, and reporting for some aspects of the Northwest Territories' education system, says Sheila Fraser, the Auditor General of Canada, in an audit report issued to the Legislative Assembly. This report can be found at

<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/documentManagerUpload/10-05-11TD31-16%285%29ENGLISH.pdf>

Reading and Writing: the Golden Ticket

Globe and Mail, May 15, 2010

Take a typical classroom of 25 pupils, anywhere in Canada. At the back, seven boys and girls slouch in their seats, unable to understand most of what they read, or to express their thoughts in writing. The problem of poor literacy skills is a scandal in plain view.

For the rest of this editorial go to

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/editorials/reading-and-writing-the-golden-ticket/article1569818/>

Resources and Websites

Love Grows Brains

A new NWT Literacy Council guide for parents to support their children's healthy brain development

http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/famlit/love_grows_brains/love_grows_brains_booklet.pdf

Together at a Distance

Check out this pan-Arctic online adult literacy distance learning project at

<http://togetheratadistance.ca/index.html>

Citizenship and Immigration Fun and Games

This website has both youth and teachers' sections with games and resources.

http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/games/index.asp?utm_source=directly&utm_medium&utm_campaign=learn

Help children understand the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

WSRE-TV is a non-commercial television station located in Pensacola, Florida. It has created a web page of resources to provide parents and teachers with information they

can use to help children understand the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Crisis.
<http://wsre.org/OilSpill/teachers-students-kids.asp>

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