



In this E-News

- [Literacy Promotions](#)
- [Upcoming Conferences & Workshops](#)
- [Youth Stuff](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Resources and Websites](#)
- [Upcoming Special Days and Weeks](#)

Literacy Promotions

Reminder - The Many Faces of Literacy Photo Contest – Deadline: May 1st, 2006

Get your pictures in soon. The deadline is quickly approaching. We are accepting digital, slide and print photographs. For contest rules and regulations go to www.nwt.literacy.ca and click on The Many Faces of Literacy or call the NWT Literacy Council at 1-866-599-6758. Photos can be submitted by e-mail or by mail to:

Many Faces of Literacy

NWT Literacy Council

P.O. Box 761

Yellowknife NT X1A 2N6

E-mail: nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca

Vinyl Cafe

When: June 16 & 17

Where: Northern Arts Cultural Centre (NACC)

Tickets: Go on sale May 15 at Birchwood Gallery or on-line at www.yktix.com

McLean will bring his award-winning CBC Radio show to the NWT for the very first time. McLean will also travel to Inuvik to give a public reading from his books on Thursday, June 22. McLean will donate all proceeds from the shows to the NWT Literacy Council. The shows will be recorded and broadcast nationally on CBC Radio One and Two at later dates. The NWT Literacy Council would like to thank First Air for providing round-trip flights for Stuart McLean and his producer, Jess Milton, to Yellowknife and Inuvik!

Canada Post Literacy Awards

This is your opportunity to nominate a deserving individual, organization or business from your community for a prestigious award that recognizes personal achievement and grassroots literacy initiatives.

For more information go to:

http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/corporate/about/community/literacy/literacy_awards/default_2006-e.asp.

Deadline for nominations is May 26th, 2006.

Books Books Books!

In our last newsletter we advertised free books for NWT communities. Since then we have shipped books to Inuvik, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson and Tsiigehtchic. If you would like some free books – give us a call at 1-866-599-6758.

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

Program Planning & Design

Dates: Saturday April 22 & Saturday April 29

Where: Northern United Place – Second Floor

Time: 8:45 am – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$100

Lunch: Provided

This two-day course is being publicly offered by the Canadian Evaluation Society's NWT Chapter for the first time. The "Program Planning Guidelines" on which this course is based were developed to assist program planners and evaluators to avoid design pitfalls and improve their ability to implement and evaluate programs. The "Program Planning Guidelines" are completely new and draw on the experiences of an international pool of program managers, evaluators and evaluation theorists.

For more information contact:

- Jennifer Carey, J Carey Consulting (920-2432)
 - Brian McCutcheon, Outcrop Group (766-6705)
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Pathways to the Future – Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering

May 9, 10 & 11 – Wanuskewin Heritage Park – Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon

The Gathering will be a rich, exciting event with ceremonies, learning workshops, meals, feasts and cultural activities. Metis and First Nation cultural activities will be showcased. Elders, youth, adult learners, literacy practitioners, community members, political leaders and interested Aboriginal literacy advocates are encouraged to attend the Gathering. For more information about the Gathering go to www.aboriginal.sk.literacy.ca.

You can also contact the Gathering Coordinator by telephone, fax or email:

Tammy Forrester
249 2nd Ave. S Saskatoon
306-384-6044
306-384-4585 (fax)
tammy.rsvp@sasktel.net

Adult Basic Education Association of British Columbia Conference

May 10, 2006 to May 13 - Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada

The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. Conference "A Celebration of Learning" will be held at the Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops.

For more information contact:

Yvonne Chard
Adult Basic Education Association of BC
5476 45th Ave.
Delta, British Columbia, V4K 1L4
Tel: 604-594-6100
Fax: 604-599-1786
yvonne.chard@deltasd.bc.ca
<http://www.nald.ca/abe.htm>

Families First: Northern Parenting and Learning Program

Dates: Thursday & Friday, May 25 & 26

Where: Northern United Place

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$150

Resource: Families First manual



Families First is a northern parenting and learning program that supports parents with young children. It was modeled after the program Nobody's Perfect Parenting program. Participants will learn how they can use this program to set up a parenting group. Participants also learn how to work with groups and have a chance to practice their new facilitation skills.

Bookmaking

Dates: June 9

Where: Northern United Place

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$100

Resource: 6 home-made books

Learn how to make neat home-made books. You will learn how to make cloth books, bound books, paper books, foam books and much more. Get ideas on how to use books with your students, families and children. Participants make 6 books they can take home. Participants also learn about an exciting program called Books in the Home.

Youth Stuff

Writing Competition – Deadline: May 8

Canadian students in grades five and six have the chance to see their short stories published, thanks to the launch of the GMAC Great Canadian Writing Contest, a national, annual, bilingual contest made possible by Founding Sponsor General Motors Acceptance Corporation of Canada, Limited (GMAC) and managed by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation.

To enter the contest - beginning March 13 and running until May 8, 2006 - students submit an original story, in English or French, of no more than 150 words, based on the contest theme of *travel*, along with an illustrated 'book cover' that they have made. A judging panel will assess the entries and the winning stories will be announced the week of May 22. For more information visit: http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/gmac2006_r1.shtml.

The Aboriginal Writing Challenge – Deadline: May 6

If you are between the ages of 14 – 18 or 19 – 29, you can showcase your creativity and explore your heritage. You can:

- Win cash prizes
- See your story published
- Appear on Canadian Learning Television
- Win a trip to Ottawa

Visit www.our-story.ca or call 1-866-701-1867 for contest guidelines.

Funding

Literacy Funding in the NWT

Government departments are starting to advertise literacy funding programs. Check your local newspaper for ads. Give the NWT Literacy Council a call if you need help with a literacy proposal.

Youth /Community Funding thru the Honda Foundation

<http://www.hondacanadafoundation.ca/grant.htm>

Funding applications are considered quarterly, with the next deadline being May 1.

The Honda Canada Foundation's mission is to enhance the social well being of Canadian communities through responsible investment in organizations that share our vision and values and focus on youth in our communities. The Foundation is proud to be involved with charitable purposes that reflect the basic tenets, beliefs and philosophies of the Honda companies. These charities are:

- Imaginative / creative
- Youthful
- Forward thinking
- Scientific
- Humanistic
- Innovative

Resources and Websites

New Biography Series

Grass Roots Press has just released the first title in an easy-to-read series on activists. The first title is on Jane Goodall. To learn more about this book, go to <http://www.literacyservices.com/EASYREAD.HTM>. The other biographies in this series are on Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Louis Riel, The Famous Five, Mother Teresa, Cesar Chavez, and David Suzuki. These titles will be released in the fall.

Orca Book Publishers

Orca is a Canadian publisher for children and young adult books. They have 29 teen books for reluctant readers. These books are from a grade 2 – 4 reading level but have a reading interest level of grade 7 and up. For more information about this publishing company and the books they publish go to www.orcabook.com/.

Literacy for Independent Living www.cailc.ca/lil/

A bilingual one-stop shopping resource on literacy and disability. The website has:

- A searchable database of literacy programs serving adults with disabilities
- Information about the Literacy for Independent Living Project
- Tips on how to make literacy programs more accessible to people with disabilities
- Links to many disability and literacy specific websites
- Some key documents about literacy and disabilities

Skillswise www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise

Skillswise is a British website with great teaching and learning resources to help adults improve their English and math skills. This comprehensive site includes games, worksheets, quizzes, workplace key skills, an internet guide for beginners and much more. Both instructors and learners will find this easy-to-use site a valuable online resources.

Literacy Basics

Literacy Basics is a free self-directed online training website designed for Ontario literacy practitioners but will be of interest to literacy workers across the country. This innovative training website was researched, written and designed by Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO). **Literacy Basics** removes many of the barriers to training faced by literacy practitioners. So far, Literacy Basics has the following training modules:

- Initial and ongoing assessment
 - Instructional strategies
 - Exit and follow-up
 - Volunteer management
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National Indigenous Literacy Association www.nila.ca

The National Indigenous Literacy Association (NILA) serves as the eyes, ears and voice of Aboriginal literacy in Canada, and reflects the spirit and values of Aboriginal peoples and nations in all of its work.

Upcoming Special Days and Weeks

April 27 – World Health Day

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2006/en/index.html>

April 23 – 29 – National Volunteer Week

<http://www.volunteer.ca/volcan/eng/content/nvw/welcome.php>

May 16 – Canada Census Day

On Tuesday, May 16 more than 32.5 million people will "count themselves in" as part of the 2006 Census. It is important that all census questionnaires are answered carefully and accurately since governments at all levels use census data to develop and monitor economic and social programs, including those that promote literacy. Census Help Line operators are available to assist individuals who may have difficulty completing the questionnaire on their own. The Census Help Line can be reached at 1-877-594-2006 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. starting May 1st.

Some adult literacy students may turn to their teachers for assistance. Adult literacy instructors may find the 2006 Census **Adult Basic Education/Literacy Kit** to be a useful classroom resource. The kit is available free-of-charge by Statistics Canada (2006) <http://www.nald.ca/CLR/ABE/census06/enriclrn/cover.htm>.

The 2006 Census Adult Basic Education/Literacy Kit has been developed for instructors working with adult learners, particularly in adult basic education and English as a second language. Containing material for both instructors and learners, the 2006 census Adult Basic Education/Literacy Kit is a good tool for introducing students to the census. To download an electronic copy of the kit, visit www.census2006.ca. Print copies of the kit can be ordered online; by mail:

Adult Basic Education/Literacy Kit
Census Communications
Statistics Canada, Ground Floor C-7
Jean Talon Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0T6
fax: (613) 951-0930.