

## E-News - December 2005

The NWT Literacy Council wishes you a happy holiday  
and wonderful New Year.

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### Literacy Promotions

#### Family Literacy Day

January 27th, 2006 is Family Literacy Day and programs throughout Canada will be celebrating with their own special events aimed at raising awareness of family literacy.

The NWT Literacy Council will send out Family Literacy Day packages in the New Year. These packages have:

- Family literacy tips poster
- Family Literacy Day How to Kit
- Storysacks How to Kit
- Information on our Literacy Photo Contest

The NWT Literacy Council is also hosting a Pajama Jam at the Multi-Plex on Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome! For more information check out our website at [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca)

#### Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament (PGI)

The 2006 NWT PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy will be graced by royalty when it comes to Yellowknife on March 28-30. This year's tournament will be played at a special mini-putt course being created at the Snowking's Winter Festival XI. The actual tournament will be held during the afternoon of March 29, 2006. Other activities, including school visits, will be held throughout the two days. Special guests for the 2006 NWT PGI include Shelagh Rogers of CBC Radio's



Sounds Like Canada, Jonathan Torrens (J-Roc) of the Trailer Park Boys, harmonica player extraordinaire Mike Stevens and Alison Gzowski, daughter of the late Peter Gzowski and assistant Books editor at the Globe and Mail. Keep an eye on our web site ([www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca)) for future announcements about the 2006 NWT PGI.

## Funding Opportunities

### Starbuck's Gift of Words Funding Program

Are you looking for funding to build up a children's book collection or to start up a children's reading circle? Starbucks and ABC Canada have partnered to offer funding of \$1500 for a children's book collection or \$2500 for a children's reading circle to school libraries, public libraries, or not-for-profit literacy organizations. To see program eligibility, guidelines and the application form, visit [http://www.abc-canada.org/media\\_room/news/gow2005\\_r1.shtml](http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/gow2005_r1.shtml)

### Love of Reading Program

The Indigo Love of Reading Fund promotes reading and the love of learning to underprivileged children. Indigo Books & Music Inc. raises money for the Indigo Love of Reading Fund, which supports worthy literacy initiatives across the country. If you would like to request support for your reading and literacy initiative targeting underprivileged children, please submit it in writing to:

Fiona Reddy  
Public Relations & Corporate Giving  
468 King Street West, Suite 500  
Toronto ON M5V 1L8

### Love of Reading School Program

The Indigo Love of Reading School program supports learning opportunities for children and teachers in high-needs elementary and high schools with a strong literacy focus. The program assists schools by:

- Providing annual grants for schools who qualify under the criteria
- Facilitating a Love of Reading Educator Network for teachers of high-needs schools

- Providing discount initiatives to teachers of these high-needs schools through a free iREWARDS membership

To qualify for a grant, your school must be able to demonstrate the following:

- status as a high-needs school
- a main focus on the promotion of reading and literacy

For further criteria and to apply for a grant please see the PDF attachment or contact:

Fiona Reddy  
Public Relations & Corporate Giving  
468 King Street West, Suite 500  
Toronto ON M5V 1L8  
[freddy@indigo.ca](mailto:freddy@indigo.ca)

## Upcoming Courses and Training

### Monthly Literacy Workshops

The NWT Literacy Council is hosting monthly literacy workshops starting in January 2006. One-day workshops cost \$100 and two-day workshops cost \$150. Snacks and resources are included in the cost. For more information and a registration form, go to [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca) or call the NWT Literacy Council at 873-9262 or 1-800-599-6758.

- **Proposal Writing – Wednesday & Thursday, January 25 & 26 - Northern United Place 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
It's that time of year again! This workshop provides information about proposal writing, cover letters, support letters and funding opportunities for literacy projects. Each participant will receive a proposal writing manual.
- **Talking Books – Friday, February 24 - Aurora College Computer Lab – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
Talking books are a great way to engage literacy learners and families in reading. This workshop shows participants how to make talking books on PowerPoint by using narration and animation. Each participant makes a talking book or two!

- **Bookmaking – Friday, March 24 - Northern United Place 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
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.
- **Families First - Thursday & Friday, April 27 & 28 – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
Families First is a northern parenting and learning program. This workshop will prepare participants for working with groups and provide information on the Families First program. Each participant receives the Families First manual.

**National Conference on Family Literacy – Louisville, Kentucky, US - March 19, 2006 to March 21, 2006**

Each spring, the National Centre for Family Literacy hosts the National Conference on Family Literacy. They have over 2,000 professionals from the literacy, research and policy fields attend each year. The National Conference on Family Literacy is a great professional development opportunity. The Conference has more than 100 sessions highlighting cutting-edge strategies and initiatives that promote literacy and language development for children and adults.

**Primary Contact:**

National Center for Family Literacy

325 West Main Street Suite 200

Louisville, Kentucky,

40202-4251

United States

Tel: (502) 584-1133

[conference@famlit.org](mailto:conference@famlit.org)

<http://www.famlit.org>

Event Web Site: <http://www.famlit.org/Conference/index.cfm>

**Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE),  
University of Victoria:** Facilitating Adult Literacy Development And Basic Education In The Information Age

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, January 4, 2006

**Course Dates:** January 26 – April 21, 2006

**Fee:** \$390 plus course materials

### **Course description**

This course provides an overview of the changing conceptualization and expectations of literacy and basic education, their impact on the social and economic advancement of adult learners, and implications for literacy facilitators. Selected models and international case studies illuminate the recent global focus on open and distance learning as instruments for the achievement of Education for All. Assignments provide opportunities for course participants to practice critical analysis and engage in aspects of action research.

### **Delivery**

Print materials (CACE manual and textbook) are enhanced with Web conferencing (requires access to the Internet) for course structure, additional resources, and discussion facilitated by the instructor.

**The Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE)** is a professional development program for instructors, adult educators, facilitators, trainers, and career practitioners, who are interested in improving their knowledge and skills in effective leadership, facilitation, staff development, and training. The entire program is through distance delivery or in combination with workshops. Students must complete four core courses and 4.0 electives (or equivalent credit) to receive a credential. CACE courses may be taken by non-CACE students. For further program information, please visit:  
[www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/csie/cace/](http://www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/csie/cace/)

## **Youth Stuff**

### **Canadian Aboriginal Youth Writing Challenge**

Last year the Dominion Institute and Enbridge Inc. challenged young Aboriginal high school students to contribute a short story (800-1400 words) that explored a great moment in Aboriginal history. The results were phenomenal! Submissions included topics such as residential schools, the signing of the numbered treaties, the extinction of the Beothuk and passing on traditions between generations. With her story *First Contact*, Nicole Nicholas of Victoria, BC, was chosen as the 2005 winner by a panel of judges that included Tantoo Cardinal, Tomson Highway, Dwight Dorey and Jose Kusugak.

The first-prize winner, this year, will receive a \$500 Prize, the opportunity to be profiled in a Canadian Learning Television and Book Television production, to be published in *The Beaver Magazine: Canada's History Magazine* and to travel to Ottawa to read an excerpt from his/her story at a special celebration event. Students with a story in the top ten will receive a \$200 prize. All winning essays will be published online and all participants will receive a letter of recognition for their participation. The deadline for submissions is May 6, 2006. There will be special prizes for classes that participate as a group.

If you are interested in encouraging a student or an entire class to participate in the Canadian Aboriginal Youth Writing Challenge please call 1-866-701-1867 or visit [www.our-story.ca](http://www.our-story.ca)

## **Bloggin' It**

More and more, young people are 'bloggin' it'. A blog is a personal diary. In simple terms, a blog is a web site, where you write stuff on an ongoing basis. New stuff shows up at the top, so your visitors can read what's new. Then they comment on it or link to it or email you. Your blog is whatever you want it to be. There are millions of them, in all shapes and sizes, and there are no real rules. Class writing blogs are becoming a very popular, interactive, learning tool in classrooms. Blogs can be a really neat way of improving literacy skills and computer skills. They are fun, interactive and keep you connected to millions of people around the world. Starting a blog for your literacy program is easy (even for those of us who aren't computer experts). Go to <http://www.blogger.com/start> and sign up for a free blog!

## **New Resources & Information**

### **Simple Steps: A workbook to help you plan a Community Literacy Project**

This workbook includes tips on planning, budgeting, fundraising and more. You can download a copy of the workbook at: <http://www.yukonliteracy.ca/activities/documents/ProjectPlanningWorkbook-Simplesteps.pdf>. The file is big, so you will need to wait a few minutes for it to download.

## **Your Land Your Future: Engaging Youth in Resource Development and Sustainability Issues**

This CD package features:

- Mackenzie gas project description
- Environmental regulatory review summaries
- CBC Berger inquiry archival footage
- CKLB radio archival clips
- History of oil and gas
- Stakeholder profiles
- Activities and assignments
- Northern Studies curriculum links
- Lesson plans and answer keys.

If you would like a copy of the CD package please contact the NWT Literacy Council. We will send all adult educators the resource in the New Year.

### **International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS)**

The Phase 2 results of the IALSS survey have been released by Statistics Canada. These results focus on the relationship between literacy and employment; literacy and health; and literacy and community involvement. A summary of results is available at <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/051130/d051130b.htm>

The NWT Literacy Council is developing an information package on IALS. The information package will help to explain the relationship between literacy and health, employment and community involvement in the NWT. We will send this package to adult educators, literacy practitioners and others interested in literacy in January. We will also post it on our website.

### **Read the latest *Federal Literacy Facts* from the Movement for Canadian Literacy**

Find the latest *Federal Literacy Facts* from the Movement for Canadian Literacy attached to this e-news. Please note that it refers to election-related resources and tools that can help to make literacy an election issue. It also includes articles on the Pan-Canadian Literacy Action Plan, key findings from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey and an update on developments at the National Literacy Secretariat