



# e - News

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NWT Literacy Council

March 2006

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## Aboriginal Languages Month

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### Literacy Promotions

#### March is Aboriginal Languages Month

We sent out packages to schools, community organizations and Aboriginal groups to celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month. The packages included an annotated bibliography of books with Aboriginal content for children and youth and a series of tips in promoting and sharing Aboriginal language development at home and in the community. If you did not receive these two resources and would like them please contact us at 1-866-599-6758.

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#### WRITE ON!™ Bursary Program – Deadline: April 1st, 2006

Get your **books** in soon. For a full description of the project and guidelines to applying for the bursary contact the NWT Literacy Council or go to our website at [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca).

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#### 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](http://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](mailto:nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca)

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

The 2006 NWT PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy is just around the corner and we are in the final stages of preparation. The NWT-PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy is the NWT Literacy Council's main fund-raising event. All funds are distributed to NWT communities to support local literacy programs. **You can still donate money to the PGI and join in all the fun!**

Special guests at this year's NWT PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy will be Shelagh Rogers, host of CBC Radio's Sounds Like Canada; singer, songwriter and author Connie Kaldor; Jonathan Torrens, "J-Roc" on The Trailer Park Boys; Mike Stevens, hailed as the world's best harmonica player, and Alison Gzowski, Globe & Mail assistant Books editor, literacy activist and daughter of the late Peter Gzowski.

### **Community Concert for Literacy**

- To celebrate the PGI there will be a community concert of music and storytelling at the Elks Hall on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00 pm. The concert costs \$5 per person. You can get tickets at CBC, the NWT Literacy Council or at the door.

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### **Return of the Vinyl Cafe**

The NWT Literacy Council urges all *Vinyl Cafe* fans to keep an eye on the YK-TIX web site ([www.yktix.com](http://www.yktix.com)) in April for information on purchasing tickets to see Stuart McLean live at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. McLean will bring his award-winning CBC Radio show to the NWT for the very first time on Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17, 2006. McLean will also travel to Inuvik to give a public reading from his books on Thursday, June 22.

Tickets are \$35 apiece and will go on sale through YK-TIX in mid-May. Tickets can be purchased over the Internet, by phone or by visiting Birchwood Gallery in Yellowknife. 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!

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### **Canada Post Literacy Awards**

The Canada Post Literacy Awards are just around the corner with the opening of the 2006 **Call for Nominations on March 27, 2006**. 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/marketingurls/literacyawards/>

## Books Books Books!

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

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## Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

### "COUNTING ON" E-Conference – March 27 – April 21

Group work, real-life math problems, hands-on materials, dealing with math anxiety, starting from what your students know are all great strategies for teaching numeracy to adults. Yet in practice it's a lot messier than it looks! Kate Nonesuch has been reading the research on teaching adult numeracy, and she has some questions:

- What is real and useful here?
- What is so far out of line with my situation that it has no relevance?
- How does my present practice support or contradict these findings?
- How might I change my practice to make it more in line with these findings?
- What problems would I need to solve before I could do so?

Kate has been teaching literacy and numeracy at Malaspina University-College for more than 10 years, and has recently published two articles on teaching at this level: "Working with Student Resistance to Math Tools" in Literacies, Spring 2005 [http://www.literacyjournal.ca/Forumpages/forum4\\_s05readings.htm](http://www.literacyjournal.ca/Forumpages/forum4_s05readings.htm) and "Putting Learners in Charge of Making Decisions" in RaPAL Journal (Research and Practice in Adult Literacy, Lancaster University) Spring 2005.

The conference takes place in asynchronous time and is offered free of charge on The Hub, the BC literacy electronic network. A short pre-conference takes place March 22 - 26. Once you are registered, please check in during that time to iron out any technical difficulties, access some conference readings, and share stories about learning math.

If you are not already a member of The Hub, you can register for the conference at: [http://www.literacy.bc.ca/conference\\_home/](http://www.literacy.bc.ca/conference_home/) NWT residents are welcome to participate. You can access The Hub through First Class or North of 60.

To register: [http://www.literacy.bc.ca/conference\\_home/](http://www.literacy.bc.ca/conference_home/)

Email: [thehub@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:thehub@literacy.bc.ca)

Phone: 604-684-0624

Toll-free in B.C.: 1-800-663-1293

Fax: 604-684-8520

[www.literacy.bc.ca](http://www.literacy.bc.ca)

## **Families First: Northern Parenting and Learning Program**

**Dates:** Thursday & Friday, April 27 & 28

**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.

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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](http://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](mailto:tammy.rsvp@sasktel.net)

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## **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  
[yhard@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:yhard@deltasd.bc.ca)  
<http://www.nald.ca/abe.htm>

## **Bookmaking**

**Dates:** Friday, May 26

**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.

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## **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](http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/gmac2006_r1.shtml)

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### **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](http://www.our-story.ca) or call 1-866-701-1867 for contest guidelines.

## Other Stuff

### CBC wins 'Joycee Award'

Canada's national award that recognizes corporations' and individuals' exceptional contributions in support of the issue of literacy was presented last night to CBC-Radio Canada. "CBC-Radio Canada is a true friend of ABC CANADA, and of the literacy cause across this country," says Christine Featherstone, President and CEO. "From the inspiration and energy of the late CBC veteran broadcaster Peter Gzowski who began the *PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy*, to the legion of employees and on-air personalities who have so generously shared their time and talent, CBC-Radio Canada's contribution has been great." For the full news story visit: [http://www.abc-canada.org/media\\_room/news/joycee\\_2006.shtml](http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/joycee_2006.shtml)

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### Special Days and Weeks

**April 2 - International Children's Book Day** <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=269>

**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 at [http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr\\_r000\\_e.htm](http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr_r000_e.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 [http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr\\_r000\\_e.htm](http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr_r000_e.htm). 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