



e - News

NWT Literacy Council

March 2007

NWT Literacy Council Receives One Year Transitional Funding from Federal Government!

The NWT Literacy Council recently received approval from the Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program (HRSDC) for one year of transitional coalition funding.

This funding will support the NWTLC in a number of activities: promoting integrated approaches to advance workplace and Aboriginal literacy through the creation of partnerships and action plans; strengthening local literacy networks through the delivery of information, training and support services; and in identifying ways to address the NWT's literacy challenges – in particular the disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal literacy skills – in order to ensure successful policy and program development.

While we had hoped for a reinstatement of this important funding program by the federal government, the one-year transitional funding will provide us with an opportunity to negotiate new funding arrangements with our other funding partners and identify new sources of funding.

We would like to thank the GNWT for their support - in particular, for the provision of emergency funding to see us through this difficult period. We would also like to thank everyone who took the time to voice their concerns over the federal cuts to literacy through the post card and e-mail campaigns.

Cate Sills

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Welcome New Literacy Council Board Members

Elections for regional representatives to the NWT Literacy Council Board of Directors were held recently. Congratulations to:

- George Collins South Slave Region (Re-elected)
- Emma Amundson Deh Cho Region
- Amanda Mallon Yellowknife, Ndilo and Detah
- Debra English Beaufort-Delta

Our other board members are: Kathryn Carriere, President; Bette Lyons, Vice President; Jeri Miltenberger, Secretary; Suzanne Robinson, Interim Treasurer; Marlene Tutcho, Sahtu, and Rita Mueller, North Slave.

March is Aboriginal Languages Month

March is Aboriginal Languages Month and the NWT Literacy Council is celebrating by giving away some goodies – but only if you can answer 10 skill-testing questions!

We'll draw the names of 25 people who have correctly answered the following questions by the end of Aboriginal Languages Month. Winners will receive either a set of our I Love My Language cards or a copy of our popular Building Aboriginal Literacy booklet. (Prizes will be awarded randomly.)

Please submit your answers by mail, e-mail (nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca) or fax by April 30, 2007 – and be sure to include your name, mailing address and a phone number or e-mail address. Answers will not be accepted by phone!

Hint, the answers to these questions can be found in the Aboriginal Languages section of our web site – but you have to read closely.

1. How many official languages, including French and English, are there in the Northwest Territories?
2. Which Aboriginal language is spoken in the community of Ulukhaktok?
3. Where is Cree spoken in the NWT?
4. Which Aboriginal language is spoken in the community of Lutselke?
5. The Aboriginal languages of the NWT fall into three different language families. What are they?
6. Where do the majority of Inuktitut speakers live in the NWT?

7. In which three languages can you listen to The Idaa Trail?
8. Name three Aboriginal languages you would hear while paddling down the Mackenzie River.
9. Which family of Aboriginal languages in the NWT is part of the larger Athapaskan family of languages?
10. Which Aboriginal language used to be known as "Dogrib"?

The answers and our list of winners and honourable mentions will be published in our next newsletter.

The NWT Literacy Council would like to remind everyone that we have a variety of materials in our Resource Library that have been designed to help keep the Aboriginal languages of the NWT alive. This includes our Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books, and Building Aboriginal Language Skills Through Family Literacy. Contact us for more information or visit our newly revised Resource Library Catalogue at <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/catalogue>.

Aboriginal Languages Month is the perfect time to reflect on the words of Elder Mary Lou Fox: "Without the language, we are warm bodies without a spirit."

Announcements & Media Releases

(Note: links to media releases may be time-limited)

Mixed Brew for the 'Coffee Shop' Budget: Caledon Institute of Social Policy

In bringing down the 2007 Budget, the Finance Minister wanted all to know that he had listened to Canadians. He had talked to ordinary people on the streets. He sat down with folks in coffee shops across the country. He crafted the federal Budget on the basis of these conversations.

<http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/622ENG.pdf>

Alternative Federal Budget 2007

The CCPA has released its Alternative Federal Budget 2007: Strength in Numbers. The budget document and supporting materials are available on the CCPA web site www.policyalternatives.ca in both English and French.

Also released were the results of an Environics poll commissioned by the Centre, showing that any government that takes concrete action to reduce Canada's growing income gap would enjoy support from the majority of Canadians. The report, What Can Governments

Do To Reduce Canada's Growing Income Gap? is available on the CCPA web site:
www.policyalternatives.ca.

Low literacy skills bring risk of poor health

Allowing people to grow up poor with low literacy skills puts them at risk of poor health later, epidemiologist says.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/NovaScotia/564027.html>

Report Profiles Successful Aboriginal Schools

March 8, 2007 – A new study identifies promising approaches for reducing the achievement gap between Aboriginal learners and their peers.

Sharing Our Success: More Case Studies in Aboriginal Schooling is based on a study of ten exemplary schools conducted in 2006. The 350-page report covers a broad range of issues affecting the progress of Aboriginal students and highlights the strategies used by these schools to produce results. The report underlines systemic issues to be addressed, and presents 21 recommendations for policymakers.

"There is an urgent need for research on how to improve educational outcomes for the growing Aboriginal student population on and off-reserve", notes Helen Raham, Research Director for the Society for the Advancement of Excellence in Education (SAEE) which commissioned the study. "These case studies identify important factors associated with their success."

A mix of band-operated and provincial or territorial schools in central, northern and eastern Canada were selected for inclusion in the study:

- Akwesasne Mohawk Schools, ON/QC Mount Carmel Elementary, ON
- Chief Jimmy Bruneau School, NWT Wapanohk Community School, MB
- Nuiyak School, NU Écoles Whiskeychan & Winnibekuu, QC
- Eskasoni School, NS S'et A'newey School, NL
- Kitigan Zibi School, QC N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre Alt. School, ON

Principal author of the report is University of Winnipeg Professor of Anthropology, Dr. George Fulford, in collaboration with a team of four regional researchers. Funding for the research was provided by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Governments of Ontario, Quebec and Nunavut, the Federal Interlocutors' Office, and an anonymous Canadian Foundation.

The research follows a similar study of ten successful schools located in western Canada

(Bell, 2004) and compares the current findings with those of the previous study.

For further information: www.saeec.ca

Canada's Biggest Economic Challenge: Improving Workplace Learning

A decade ago the biggest economic challenge facing Canada was creating enough jobs for our workers. Within the next decade, our biggest challenge will be ensuring that we have enough workers and that they have the skills and knowledge they need. Without a strong commitment to and investment in workplace learning, there is no certainty that Canada will be up to this challenge.

www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20070315_improving_workplace_learning.htm

Enter the GMAC Great Canadian Writing Contest

Canadian students in grades five and six have the chance to see their short stories published, thanks to the launch of this year's 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 February 19 and running until April 16, 2007 – students submit an original story, in English or French, of no more than 200 words, based on the contest theme of family, 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 14.

www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/gmac2007.shtml

Working Towards Post Secondary Excellence

Statement to the Legislative Assembly of the NWT, Tuesday, March 13, 2007, by Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment:

Support for, and improvement of, post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories is an important part of the foundation for some of the GNWT's key priorities. For example, our priority that Northerners have the skills to take advantage of economic opportunities requires more education for residents. Our priority that the GNWT help people to help themselves clearly relies on improving levels of education.

'Building on Our Success', the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's

strategic plan, sets out our objectives, priorities and actions in the area of adult and postsecondary education from 2005 to 2015.

One important activity of Education, Culture and Employment is to regularly monitor major accomplishments and trends so we can improve program effectiveness. Later today, I will table 'Towards Excellence '05 – A Report on Postsecondary Education in the NWT'. This publication provides a profile of postsecondary education from 2001 to 2005. By reporting publicly on results in postsecondary education, this document provides key indicators of where our system is working, and where it may need to be improved.

Highlights outlined in 'Towards Excellence' include increases in the number of Aboriginal students attending postsecondary institutions. Aboriginal students are also increasing their educational attainment overall. Population surveys of NWT residents show Aboriginal representation has increased in middle management, health, education, social sciences, sales and service, and in skilled trades. As well, enrolments at Aurora College have increased in recent years, indicating that Northerners are choosing to further their education and training.

While the results found in this publication show promising developments and improvement in postsecondary education levels, the Northern labour market is booming, and we still have not caught up to the overall educational attainment levels of Canada.

For Northerners to succeed, they need a strong system of postsecondary education and training to ready them for the work that is becoming available. Monitoring and reporting on the indicators set out in 'Towards Excellence' are part of what we need to do to see continued improvement of our College and apprenticeship programmes.

Mr. Speaker, the North has a very promising future. Our government has made significant investments in our education system. We all look forward to seeing a return on those investments in the form of increased education and skills, leading to more employment and improvement in the quality of life of our residents.

Call for Submissions: Awards of Excellence for Municipal Workplace Literacy and Learning

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) announces its annual call for nominations for the CAMA Awards of Excellence for Municipal Workplace Literacy and Learning. Towns and cities, municipal unions, workplace learning committees, teachers and partners in workplace learning programs are all invited to apply for the awards. The awards will be presented during CAMA's Annual Conference in Calgary, Alberta on May 29, 2007.

The submission deadline for the CAMA awards is March 30, 2007. For more information

about award categories and how to apply, visit the CAMA website at: www.camacam.ca/programs_literacy.asp or call Patricia Nutter, the CAMA Municipal Partnerships Project Manager, at tel. (613) 264-0111.

Submissions may be sent to Patricia Nutter by email: pnutter@lincsat.com, by fax: (613) 264-8902, or by mail to the CAMA office in Fredericton (address on the CAMA website).

The 2007 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards – call for nominations!

The annual Canada Post Community Literacy Awards are just around the corner – nominations open March 26, 2007. This is your opportunity to nominate a deserving adult learner and/or educator from your community for a prestigious award that recognizes personal achievement.

For more information, visit the Canada Post website at: www.canadapost.ca/personal/corporate/about/community/literacy/literacy_awards/default_2007-e.asp

Literacy Promotions

Here are some important literacy dates to remember.

- March, 2007 – Aboriginal Languages Month
- April 2, 2007 – International Children's Book Day
- September 8, 2007 – International Literacy Day
- October 1-7, 2007 – NWT Literacy Week

January 27, 2008 – Family Literacy Day

Upcoming Conferences and Courses

Toronto: International Reading Association's 52nd Annual Convention

The International Reading Association's 52nd Annual Convention, "Literacy Without Boundaries", will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre May 13 - 17, 2007. Approximately 15,000 - 17,000 educators from all over the world will convene in Toronto selecting from hundreds of sessions and presentations, meeting their favourite authors, learning about the newest instructional programs from exhibitors and networking with colleagues. There will be a strong Canadian representation at the convention for Canadian

educators.

All Canadians may take advantage of the Special Prepaid Registration rate before April 9.
www.reading.org/downloads/meetings/52nd_special_registrations.pdf

New distance education course on adult education being offered by the University of Victoria

Location: On-line though the University of Victoria, British Columbia

The University of Victoria is still accepting registrations for a new distance education course titled "International Dimensions of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning." This course is currently offered as an elective in the Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) and was developed in collaboration with Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), located in New Delhi, India.

Dates: Starts March 29th and ends Friday, June 15th, 2007.

Course Code: EDCA610 2007K D01

Fee: \$410Cdn, plus course materials. There is an additional fee of \$40Cdn/course for those who reside outside Canada.

Information/Registration: The original registration deadline of March 2nd, 2007 has been extended. Contact Hayley Hewson, the Program Secretary if you are interested in registering for this course.

Contacts: tel. (250) 721-8944; fax: (250) 721-6603; email: cace@uvcs.uvic.ca or visit the CACE website at: <http://www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/cace>

(Download pdf documents of both distance and workshop schedules, register online.)

Halifax: Adult Learning Knowledge Centre 2007 National Symposium

The Adult Learning Knowledge Centre National Symposium 2007 will be in Halifax, June 10-12, 2007. The symposium theme is *The Right to Learn*. <http://events.nald.ca/event/4607>

Edmonton: Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI)

The University of Alberta is pleased to present the eighth annual Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) 2007. This program provides a unique opportunity to earn university credit while learning about selected Canadian

Indigenous languages and cultures. Participants include undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning an Indigenous language or gaining expertise in the areas of linguistics, language and literacy, curriculum development, second language teaching and research.

In addressing issues of Indigenous language loss in Canada, CILLDI has been expanding to include a wide range of courses based on needs expressed in Indigenous communities.

www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/elementaryed/CILLDI.cfm

Montreal: Libraries and Literacy: Making It Work Summer Institute

June 27-29 2007. The Centre for Literacy of Quebec, in collaboration with the Canadian Library Association and AlphaPlus Centre, will explore this topic from June 27 to 29, 2007. Save by registering before May 1, 2007. For more information, go to www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca.

Florida: 16th Annual National Conference on Family Literacy: *Achieving the American Dream Through Literacy*

Don't miss the premier professional development conference for educators and community leaders working to advance the well-being of families through literacy. This year's Conference promises to be an inspiring event, packed with nearly 100 sessions focused on early literacy, English as a Second Language instruction, adult education, reading, parent involvement, community building, program management and more.

Slated to speak at the Conference are actor James Earl Jones; Robert Goodwin, President & CEO of Points of Light Foundation; former First Lady of Iowa Christie Vilsack; Dr. Eugene García, Chairman of the National Task Force on Early Education for Hispanics; National Early Literacy Panelist Timothy Shanahan; and literary prodigy Adora Svitak. General sessions also will feature student speakers who share their stories of success through literacy.

The Conference will be held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Florida, March 4-6, 2007. Pre-Conference Training Sessions begin Saturday, March 3. The complete Conference program will be available online in late January. For more information, go to:

[www.famlit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMOIsE/b.1574477/k.110C/
National_Conference_on_Family_Literacy_2007.htm](http://www.famlit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMOIsE/b.1574477/k.110C/National_Conference_on_Family_Literacy_2007.htm)

University of Victoria's Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education

University of Victoria's certificate in adult and continuing education (CACE) is an award-winning professional development program for those interested in adult learning, program coordination, instruction/training, facilitation, instructional design/technologies, and leadership. Students must complete eight courses (four core, and 4.0 electives). The entire program may be taken by distance education (or in the classroom) but most students take courses from both delivery formats. Distance education delivery includes Webconferencing (i.e. requires Internet access), in addition to print materials. CACE is accepted for credit in other diplomas and undergraduate degrees, as well as towards professional credentialling. Individual courses may be taken without enrolling in the CACE program.

For more information contact:

Diane Anderson, Senior Program Coordinator Continuing Studies in Education University of Victoria PO Box 3010 STN CSC Victoria, BC V8W 3N4 Canada Phone: (250) 721-7860; Fax: (250) 721-6603 Email: mcace@uvcs.uvic.ca Or go to: www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/cace.

New Resources

Literacy Matters – Spring 2007

The Spring 2007 issue of *Literacy Matters*, the NWT Literacy Council's newsletter, is now posted on our web site at www.nwt.literacy.ca and copies will soon be mailed to our members.

National Resource Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs

The National Resource Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs is the first directory of its kind in Canada. Its purpose is to gather critical information about the operations of Aboriginal literacy programs throughout Canada – from east to west to north. You can use the directory to share information and learn from the experiences of adult literacy practitioners from Aboriginal communities across the country.

The directory can be found at: www.nald.ca/aborlang/index.htm

Family literacy resource: Video-on-demand web cast now on-line

Check out the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat's latest video-on-demand web cast for educators. Titled *All Children Can Achieve: A Focus on Equity of Outcome*, the video features literacy experts from the Toronto District School Board, Ruth Sischy, Early Years Manager,

and Cheryl Paige, Principal, Joyce Avenue Public School.

To access the video-on-demand, visit: www.curriculum.org/secretariat/march8.html

Skills for Change Employment Resource Centre (SfC ERC) launches new website

SfC ERC has just launched its new website on March 2, 2007. The new and improved site – www.erc.skillsforchange.org – gives you access to the latest job search sites as well as information about the Centre and how SfC ERC can help you or your clients to get to work faster. All SfC ERC services are FREE and registration is required to use the facilities.

Visit SfC ERC on-line at: www.erc.skillsforchange.org for more details and to download the Centre's new workshop calendar!

New adult literacy resources

New adult literacy resources are available through the NWT Literacy Council. They include:

- ALBE English 110 resource manual
- ALBE English 120 resource manual
- ALBE English 130 resource manual
- ALBE English 110 Photo stories learning activities
- ALBE English 110 / 120 Learning Activities
- ALBE English 120 Novel Study "Two Old Women"
- ALBE English 130 Non Fiction Study "Raising Ourselves" Northern Writes Study Guide - Stories and Learning Activities based on entries from the NWT Writing Contest
- Writing for Results Resource Manual - Learning Activities to support functional writing skills

To get a copy of the resources, contact the NWT Literacy Council mnwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca or Barbara Miron, Literacy Coordinator, Department of Education, Culture and Employment Barbara_Miron@gov.nt.ca , (867) 920-3482.

NWT Literacy Council "Growing & Talking" chart

Contact the NWT Literacy Council at nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca or by calling 873-9262 or toll free at 1-866-599-6758 for your free chart. Keep track of your child's growth up to 110cm, and average reading skills by age. Contact the NWT Literacy Council at mnwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca.

English Express

English Express newspaper is for adults who are improving their English reading skills. The latest issue is now online.

www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/englishexpress

CAILC Project : Data Collection System for Independent Living Centres

CAILC is a national, bilingual, non-profit organization, and is governed by a Board of Directors which is comprised of a majority of people with disabilities from the various provinces and also members at large.

CAILC's national information collection system was developed as part of the Independent Living (IL) Project. Overall, the IL Impact Database was designed to build a credible, sustainable pan-Canadian framework for information gathering, analysis, story-telling, and measurement of public participation related to Independent Living.

This database will also assist in the delivery of valued resource materials to the movement and provide an historical account of their impact in Canada.

www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2007/cailcpr.htm

The Learning Edge

The current interactive issue of The Learning Edge is available at: www.thewclc.ca/edge.

National Adult Literacy Database

<http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/recent?page=1>

From this page, access is provided to resources such as online books and resources that may be used at home or in the classroom.

What's happening in your community

We'd be happy to include information in our e-news about what's happening in your community or interesting resources that you have come across. Send your ideas to bheath@nwtliteracy.ca .

We would also like to include photos and stories about activities from your community and/or organization in our next E-News, so please send us reports along with photos (both digital and prints are okay).

NWT Literacy Council Membership?

Have you renewed your membership with the NWT Literacy Council? If not, why not take a moment and do so right away - that way you can stroke it off your New Year's resolution list! Donations are also gratefully accepted.

A membership application form is posted on our web site at: www.nwt.literacy.ca/aboutus/about.htm. It's halfway down the right hand column under "About Us". Memberships are \$10 for an individual, \$20 for families, and \$25 for organizations and businesses.

You can print a copy of the form from our web site and mail in your cheque or money order. Or you can drop by our office at 5122 - 48th Street in Yellowknife.