

## E-News November 1st 2007

Sometimes our e-news is quite long. Next month we thought we would try a weekly e-news so we can give you timely information about literacy in a reader friendly format. So expect our e-news every Friday from now on! Let us know what you think. Email us at [nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca](mailto:nwtliteracy@nwtliteracy.ca)!

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### Announcements & Media Releases

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

#### **NWT, Nunavut and Yukon Read for 15 Challenge!**

On October 1, 2007 – You read for 15 minutes and then registered with the NWT Literacy Council. The NWT was competing against Nunavut and the Yukon to see who had the most readers. The results are in:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place goes to the NWT with 32% (13, 831 people) of the population
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place goes to the Yukon with 22.8% (7, 358 people) of the population
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place goes to Nunavut with 21% (6, 217 people) of the population

**Congratulations NWT – You did it!**

#### **Family Literacy**

Please take a few minutes to visit the ABC CANADA's website <http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/familyliteracydirectory.shtml> to complete the short online form to be added to a family literacy directory of programs in Canada. Feel free to share the link with your colleagues in the family literacy field. The directory will be on-line on the ABC CANADA website soon.

## **Health Literacy in Canada: Initial results from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS)**

With health-literacy skills that are considered to be at level 2 and below, 60% of adult Canadians lack the capacity to obtain, understand and act upon health information and services and to make appropriate health decisions on their own.

For more details go to: [www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/Other+Reports/HealthLiteracy.htm](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/Other+Reports/HealthLiteracy.htm)

## **Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage (BCAH) Funding**

The Department of Canadian Heritage [[www.pch.gc.ca](http://www.pch.gc.ca)] has announced the creation of a new funding program. The new BCAH program will provide support for:

- local arts and heritage festivals that feature the presentation of local artists or local heritage
- major historical anniversaries of local importance

All applicants will be asked to demonstrate local support for their projects. Specifically, they must provide written confirmation of support (financial or in-kind) from their municipal government or equivalent authority and must include the value of that support in the project budget. Applications are now available for local arts and heritage festivals and community historical anniversaries occurring in winter 2008. A copy of the Guide and Application Form for both components can be found on our website. Information on how to access these two components is available at:

[www.pch.gc.ca/progs/dcap-bcah/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/dcap-bcah/index_e.cfm)

## **International Polar Year (IPY) Funding**

International Polar Year (IPY) 2007 - 2008 is the largest ever international program of coordinated, interdisciplinary science and research focussed on the Arctic and Antarctic. IPY involves as many as 60 countries, including Canada, and tens of thousands of scientists and research personnel from around the world. IPY is a unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of benefits for Northern, Aboriginal communities and all Canadians.

The Government of Canada Program for International Polar Year has issued a **Call for Proposals** for Training, Communications and Outreach projects in conjunction with International Polar Year. Innovative and creative proposals are being sought to help raise awareness about the Canadian Arctic, promote IPY and polar science and research, and provide training and skills development for Northerners, amongst other objectives. There is an emphasis on engaging children and youth and partnerships and collaboration. This Call for Proposals is intended to support activities and initiatives across the country, particularly in the North.

Details regarding the Call for Proposals is posted at this website: [www.ipy.gc.ca](http://www.ipy.gc.ca). The Call closes on January 15, 2008.

### **International Polar Year, proposal writing workshops**

The International Polar Year NWT Coordinator and the Arctic Health Research Network, NT are pleased to offer proposal writing workshops in the NWT to assist northern organizations with the development of proposals for the IPY Training, Communications and Outreach call for proposals.

The purpose of these workshops will be to assist with development of proposal ideas, proposal writing, budget spreadsheets and partnerships. The goal is for participants to leave the workshop with a completed draft proposal.

Initial workshops dates have been set for **Thursday, November 8 in Yellowknife** (location to be announced) and **Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm in Inuvik** at the main campus of Aurora College.

**If you are interested in assistance on proposal development and would like to register for the workshop please contact:**

#### **Alana Mero**

IPY NWT Coordinator

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Some assistance may be available for travel and hotel for a limited number of participants. Coffee, lunch and dinner will be provided at the workshop. All other expenses will be the responsibility of the participant or their supporting organization.

### **Literacy Interview on the Radio: Conscious Discussions**

Lizanne Eastwood, the Family Literacy Coordinator for the Grand Forks and West Boundary Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, will be the featured guest on the Conscious Discussions Talk Radio show on December 11, 2007.

[www.blogtalkradio.com/consciousdiscussions](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/consciousdiscussions)

### **Peter Gzowski Award**

[CBC-TV's Alex Shprintsen receives 2007 Peter Gzowski Literacy Award of Merit](#)

## **Literacy Matters: A call for action**

As a long-standing advocate of literacy, TD Bank Financial Group has prepared a report to raise awareness of the state of literacy in Canada. The subject is too broad and too complex to be addressed completely in one general paper, but the intent is to shine a spotlight on it and provoke discussion on ways we can improve outcomes. For a copy of the report go to:

[http://www.td.com/community/literacy\\_matters.pdf](http://www.td.com/community/literacy_matters.pdf).

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## **Literacy Promotions**

**Here are some important literacy dates to remember.**

- January 27, 2008 Family Literacy Day
- March, 2008 Aboriginal Languages Month
- April 2, 2008 International Children's Book Day
- April 23, 2008 World Book Day
- Spring 2008 NWT PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

### **10th annual Family Literacy Day gives families the chance to party with Robert Munsch and visit Great Wolf Lodge**

Toronto, ON - September 13, 2007 - For the third year in a row, one lucky Canadian family will win a visit from beloved Canadian children's author Robert Munsch at their home on January 19, 2008. His visit will kick off the week leading up to Family Literacy Day®, January 27. The family will also win a weekend visit to Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls.

ABC CANADA will accept contest entries from families anywhere in Canada who are planning Family Literacy Day (FLD) parties. To enter, families submit an application form that they can download from ABC CANADA's website [www.abc-canada.org](http://www.abc-canada.org). Each contestant writes a short description about how they plan to celebrate FLD and mails it to ABC CANADA. Families are also asked to name a public library or literacy organization of their choice that will also receive a special visit from Mr. Munsch. Deadline is December 14, 2007.

### **Tips to have tons of fun celebrating the 10th Annual Family Literacy Day**

[http://www.abc-canada.org/media\\_room/news/tips-fld07.shtml](http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/tips-fld07.shtml)

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## **Upcoming Events, Conferences and Courses**

**Norman Wells, Family Literacy Training Institute, January 2008**

**Yellowknife, Family Literacy Training Institute, February 2008**

The NWT Literacy Council will be hosting these training institutes. Participants will learn about family

literacy and learn the skills needed to deliver several family literacy programs.

**Vancouver, The Early Years Conference 2008 - Valuing all Children,  
January 31 - February 2, 2008**

This conference will be of interest to all those who work with young children and/or families. This conference will provide opportunities to learn about new research and evolving practice relating to: child care, developmental disabilities, parenting, child development, diversity, policy, children at risk, inclusion, professional challenges, children in care, infant and child mental health, transitions. For more information: [www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Events/Upcoming/Vancouver200831-01Valuingallchildren.htm?Language=EN](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Events/Upcoming/Vancouver200831-01Valuingallchildren.htm?Language=EN)

**Banff International Conferences on Behavioural Science - Effective Early Learning Practices:  
Research, Policy and Practice,  
March 16-19, 2008**

This event is co-sponsored by the Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre, the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, and the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network. This three-day conference will gather key international researchers who will review effective early learning programs on language and literacy, numeracy and social learning. The morning sessions will review specific areas of these programs (the golden standards of effective programs, the effects of these programs, implementation issues and gaps in research), the afternoon workshops will allow participants to go further into specific programs, and the evening plenary sessions will introduce participants to a discussion on the implications of related data and recommendations for Canadian policy program planning. For more information: [www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Events/Upcoming/BanffConference.htm?Language=EN](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Events/Upcoming/BanffConference.htm?Language=EN)

**Adolescence and Adults with FASD Vancouver April 10-12, 2008**

[http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Brochures/AdvNot\\_Adults\\_FASD.pdf](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Brochures/AdvNot_Adults_FASD.pdf)

**Brain Development and Learning: Making Sense of the Science Vancouver July 2008**

[http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/BDL\\_subpages/bdl.html](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/BDL_subpages/bdl.html)

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## Useful Resources and Websites

### Tips for Parents

The end of the school day doesn't mean your child stops learning. Here are some fun, easy ways to help your child keep learning outside of school. Go to <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/tips/> to get tips for children from kindergarten to grade 6.

### iPortal Indigenous Studies Portal Research Tool

<http://iportal.usask.ca/>

## **Academic Studies English: Support Materials and Exercises for Grammar - Part I: Parts of Speech**

PDF: [www.nald.ca/library/learning/academic/english/grammar/speech/module5.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/academic/english/grammar/speech/module5.pdf)

## **Adult ESL Learners Facilitator Training Manual by Myrina Rutten-James**

PDF: [www.nald.ca/library/learning/ttk/ftm/TTKFTM.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/ttk/ftm/TTKFTM.pdf)

## **High Nutrition/Low Budget Cookbook by the Nova Scotia Community College/ALP 4 Class of 2006**

PDF: [www.nald.ca/library/learning/cookbook/cookbook.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/cookbook/cookbook.pdf)

## **Academic Studies English: Support Materials and Exercises for Writing Letters**

PDF: [www.nald.ca/library/learning/academic/english/writing/letters/module9.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/academic/english/writing/letters/module9.pdf)

## **Maththatmatters**

<http://policyalternatives.ca/Reports/2007/07/MathThatMatters/index.cfm>

In *Maththatmatters*, David Stocker has crafted 50 thoughtful and accessible lesson plans that explore the links between mathematics and social justice. This is an innovative and indispensable tool for those passionate about mathematics, social justice, civic engagement, and interactive and involved classrooms.

## **Working with Adults and Adolescents?**

<http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/Podcasts.182.0.html>

Download and listen to these podcasts on your computer or MP3 player:

- Think Aloud - A Reading Comprehension Technique
- Guided Repeated Oral Reading
- Authentic Materials in ABE and ESL Programs

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## **Youth/Learner Stuff**

### **Write for Rights 2007**

December 10th is Human Rights Day. Thousands of people will gather in Canada and all around the world to participate in Amnesty International's largest and most exciting letter-writing event - Write for Rights. Get your learners involved! For more details go to: [www.amnesty.ca/writeathon](http://www.amnesty.ca/writeathon)

## 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](http://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.

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**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.**

