



Welcome to the Spring 2006 Literacy BC e-bulletin!

View this e-bulletin in pdf at www.literacy.bc.ca

We are pleased to bring you our local, provincial and national news -- and lots of interesting web links.

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The National Scene

1. New government, new priorities: what does it mean for literacy?

As a result of the recent federal election, the Ministry responsible for literacy in Canada has been renamed Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). The new Department reintegrates the former Human Resources and Skills Development Canada with Social Development Canada. The new Cabinet Minister responsible for Literacy is Diane Finley.

You can find more information about the new Minister at www.dianefinley.ca

For an update on election-related issues and other literacy developments at the national level, see Federal Literacy Facts from the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL)

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/documents/FLFFeb06.pdf>

and the Literacy.ca Winter 2006 issue and Learners in Action

<http://www.literacy.ca/public/litca/winter06/cover.htm>

Changes at the NLS

Lynne Lalonde is the new Acting Director of the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS). The former Director of the NLS, Donna Kirby, is now Acting Director General, Adult Learning and Literacy Directorate. (HRSDC)

2. The 2006 Census - A National Call to Action

Attention all literacy practitioners: Statistics Canada needs your help!

Tuesday, May 16, 2006, is national Census Day. Approximately 31 million people in Canada in 12.7 million households will take part.

Statistics Canada has developed a Teacher's Kit as a resource for use in elementary, intermediate, secondary and adult classes across the country. To assist adult literacy students who may turn to their teachers for guidance, practitioners can also order free of charge, a special 2006 Census Adult Basic Education/Literacy Kit designed as a useful classroom resource.

The 2006 Census Adult Basic Education/Literacy Kit is designed for instructors working with adult learners, particularly in ABE and ESL.

The kit consists of an Instructor Guide and 15 learner handbooks, and additional learner handbooks can be ordered separately at 15 handbooks per package.

Full details about all the components of the Teacher's Kit are on the Statistics Canada website: http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr06/ccr06_000_e.htm

To order the ABE/Literacy Kit in either electronic or paper format, use the Teacher's Kit order form http://www22.statcan.ca/asp/ccr06_000_e.asp

You can also download an electronic copy of the Kit in pdf:

http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr06/ccr06_004_e.htm

Census Help Line will Assist Students

Starting in May, Census Help Line operators will be available to assist individuals who may have difficulty completing the questionnaire on their own. The free, multilingual service will provide assistance to anyone who needs help in filling in the census questionnaire and will answer questions about the census. The Census Help Line will be staffed by operators fluent in many languages in addition to French and English.

The Census Help Line starts May 1st.

The number is 1 877 594-2006 and the line will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

3. “What’s New” in Literacy

For the latest announcements from Human Resources and Social Development Canada, check “What’s New” <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/lld/nls/About/new.shtml>

This month, “What’s New” highlights the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/CBC radio, winner of the 11th annual Joyce Award named for longtime literacy advocate and champion, Senator Joyce Fairbairn.

http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/joycee_2006.shtml

National Literacy Awards

Mark your CalendarsSpring means it’s time to make your nominations for two annual national literacy awards.

4. The 2006 Canada Post Literacy Awards

http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/corporate/about/community/literacy/literacy_awards/default-e.asp?sblid=literacy

Will open for nominations on March 27, 2006.

The Canada Post awards are dedicated to recognizing grassroots literacy initiatives. The awards celebrate the achievements of learners and the contributions of educators, community programs, and businesses to the cause of literacy.

The awards website will have full program details after March 27, including how to nominate a deserving individual, organization or business from your community. The four award categories are: Individual Achievement, Educator, Community Leadership and Business Leadership.

Nominations booklets are scheduled to be mailed out after March 27, 2006 – contact Literacy BC and we will be glad to send one to you.

Canada Post Awards nominations close on May 26, 2006.

5. This will be the second year for nominations for the Council of the Federation (COF) Literacy Award. <http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/literacyaward/literacy.html>

13 COF awards, recognizing outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy, are presented annually, one for each province and territory. The COF Award covers

the entire spectrum of the field, including family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy, and is awarded to educators, volunteers, learners, and community organizations (including non-governmental organizations).

The winner of the first annual COF award in BC last year was the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL). Shown in a photograph on the CBAL website <http://www.cbal.org/> with BC Premier Gordon Campbell are Leona Gadsby and Jennifer Cliff-Marks, who accepted the 2005 award on behalf of CBAL.

Watch for the announcement of this year's COF nominations deadline soon.

On the Provincial Front Provincial News...Notices re: Literacy Funding

6. Community Adult Literacy Program Grants for 2006/07

The Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) has changed the name of the former Adult Literacy Cost Shared Program (ALCSP) to the Community Adult Literacy Program of BC.

The Call for Proposals for renewal of funding for projects currently funded by AVED under the Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Program is posted on the Ministry website at:
<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/literacy/welcome.htm>

This year's deadline for grant applications is April 28, 2006.

The direct link to the complete 2006-07 Application package and Guidelines is:
<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/literacy/form-toc.htm>

Notice about National Funding

The National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) will issue a separate Call for Proposals for BC literacy projects later this Spring.

Because of the delay in the call this year, a shorter turnaround time is expected. That is, proposals will need to be submitted within four to five weeks of the call. The types of projects the NLS has funded in the past remain in place. If you are planning a proposal and would like assistance, call the Literacy BC office.

A copy of the NLS national literacy grant funding application package will be posted at
<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/lld/nls/Funding/indexfund.shtml>
as soon as it available.

The contact for NLS projects in BC is:
Courtney Mulvihill
B.C. Project Officer
courtney.mulvihill@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca
Phone: (613) 946-0821

7. Literacy Now – Frequently Asked Questions

Literacy Now is a community-based planning process designed to address local literacy needs.

The initial focus of Literacy Now is to develop and implement a community development strategy designed to support literacy initiatives, alliances, programs and collaborative planning within communities.

<http://www.2010legaciesnow.com/Content/LiteracyNow/LiteracyNow%20Home.asp?langid=1>

For information on the relationship between Literacy BC and Literacy Now, see the “FAQ” --Frequently Asked Questions – document <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/documents/FAQs-LiteracyBCandLiteracyNow.doc>

8. News from around the province....

At Project Literacy Victoria (PLV) www.plv.ca long time Executive Director Susan Kurushima retired in February, after 18 years with the organization.

PLV staff, board members, friends, volunteers and members of the community honoured Susan at a special event “to celebrate the working life and times of Susan Kurushima.”

In the winter issue of *Forwards*, Project Literacy Victoria’s newsletter http://www.plv.ca/documents/PLV_Forwards_January2006_000.pdf

Susan wrote, “It has been a privilege to work at PLV for the past 18 years. So many people have touched my life in all kinds of different ways, and have allowed me the privilege of being trusted to walk a part of their journey with them. I carry many memories with me into retirement.”

The new Executive Director is Ruth Derrick. Ruth has a strong background in literacy, politics and communications, and has held senior responsibilities at the federal and provincial level. She was Senior Adviser for Literacy at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) for four years. She has worked as a literacy tutor at Project Literacy Victoria since November 2004.

Literacy BC extends our heartfelt thank you and “happy retirement” to Susan, and a warm welcome to Ruth.

Also in Victoria, at the Victoria READ Society, Executive Director Julie Holder is leaving the position after nearly four years.

The Victoria READ Society is a non-profit organization, dedicated to helping students of all ages learn basic academic skills through small classes, individualized help and a supportive, caring environment.

READ has posted the ED position under “Employment Opportunities” at www.readsociety.bc.ca and provides a more detailed job description at <http://www.readsociety.bc.ca/employ/jd-exdir.htm>

As of March 21st, until a new person is recruited, Cindy Vaartnou is Acting Executive Director at READ.

Contact: Email: info@readsociety.bc.ca

Changes at Laubach Literacy of British Columbia (LLBC)

For many years, learners and volunteers in BC have been served by Laubach Literacy of Canada (LLC), through its provincial arm, Laubach Literacy of British Columbia (LLBC).

LLBC has now been officially dissolved as an organization. Based in Kamloops, LLBC and smaller provincial LLC councils around the province provided volunteer tutor training to local communities. The decision to dissolve the provincial body was announced by LLBC President Kim Jensen in January in a letter to members and supporters. The decision follows an organizational assessment and reorganization conducted during 2005.

Although BC no longer has a provincial LLC body, the national organization remains operational. <http://www.laubach.ca/>

The Kamloops Laubach Literacy Council (KLLC) remains in existence, operating under the name *Learning Works*. www.literacykamloops.com
Learning Works’ long term plans include partnering with several other community organizations to implement the Kamloops Early Language and Literacy Initiative (KELLI) project; training volunteer tutors; and establishing Literacy and Parenting Skills (LAPS) programs.

Learning Works

Kamloops Laubach Literacy Council
614 Tranquille Road
Kamloops, BC V2B 3H6
Phone: (250) 554-1040
www.literacykamloops.com

If you want to publicize changes at your community literacy group, or have news of interest to the literacy community, let us know and we will publish it in future bulletins.

9. News from Literacy BC

Upcoming Awards and Deadlines:

The Paul Gallagher Fund

Deadline for applications: April 29, 2006

Details and application form at:

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/PaulGallagherCommunityAccessFund.htm>

The Access Fund is named in memory of former Literacy BC President, Paul Gallagher. The Fund provides community-based learning centres with financial resources to assist adult students with emergency needs. Bus fare, daycare, clothing, gas money or other costs that would make a difference between attending and not attending a literacy/ABE program are covered by the fund.

Priority is given to community based learning centres that demonstrate the greatest need for assistance related to adult literacy/ABE student access issues.

The PACE Bursary Fund

Deadline for applications: September 30, 2006

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/pace/pace.htm>

This fund provides financial assistance to part-time adult learners. The fund is for BC residents, 19 years of age or older, who have a demonstrated financial need, and are attending a registered public or private post secondary educational institution.

The Co-operators 2006 Provincial Learner Achievement Award

Deadline: TBA (Spring)

The Co-operators, a national insurance company, proudly sponsors the [2006 Provincial Learner Achievement Award](#). This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in BC.

Although the 2006 applications deadline has not yet been set, it is expected to be late May. Details will be posted on our website and in our Calendar of Events.

The BC Family Literacy Fund (Raise-a-Reader)

Deadline: TBA (April)

Application packages will be distributed to existing family literacy programs in late April.

The 16th Annual PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

Date: July 11, 2006

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/2006PGIGolfTournamentforLiteracyBC.htm>

Founded by Peter Gzowski, and hosted by Peter Mansbridge, the PGI raises valuable funds for literacy activities in BC.

In our last e-bulletin, we introduced you to a new addition to the Literacy BC team, Wazi Dlamini-Kapenda, Provincial Literacy Training and Development Manager.

In her new role, Wazi has begun to make connections with literacy programs and practitioners and, especially, with practitioners new to the field.

Assisting Regional Literacy Coordinators (RLCs) to strengthen and support regional literacy networks and develop literacy activities, programs and resources

“One way we support RLCs is to provide funding for practitioner training every Spring. There has been great enthusiasm for the Spring Regional Training Events this year. I am hoping to attend some of the training events and meet some of the regional practitioners personally. These events provide training “closer to home” and opportunities for practitioners from the region to get together, share their experience and resources.”

Training and PD opportunities for new and established practitioners

“A pilot on-line orientation training course for new practitioners started in January and will finish the third week of April. 40 new practitioners were invited to take the training and we have had fairly good participation, with some joining in the discussion, and others reading what others have contributed. Some of the topics we have covered so far include: Who’s who in the literacy field, literacy statistics; Introduction to the Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Programs (proposal and report writing); assessment and evaluation; tutor training and community development and partnerships.

In the Fall of 2006 we are planning a Professional Development event for both new and veteran practitioners.”

LBC Staff Changes

Literacy BC welcomes another new addition to our staff, Doreen MacLean. Doreen began work at Literacy BC on February 1 this year.

Doreen’s primary area of job responsibility is conducting research for The New School Canada replication campaign.

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/documents/NewSchool-SummaryReport.pdf>

Doreen is also developing multimedia tools and resources for the New School classroom and curriculum, and working on creating “a new more robust web presence for The New School.”

Doreen Maclean, Research Assistant - New School Project

Phone: (604) 684-0624 Ext. 102

dmaclean@literacy.bc.ca

Stacey Huget, who rejoined Literacy BC last year and was involved in a variety of initiatives, has left our organization to work in another field.

Stacey is now Executive Director of the Institute for Global Ethics (Canada), a non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Vancouver. IGE Canada “promotes ethical behaviour among Canadians and our institutions – through research, public discourse, and practical action – and seeks to achieve shared moral values that shape our relationships, determine our decisions, and guide our actions.” Education is a key area of focus for IGE Canada.

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10. Meet our New Regional Literacy Coordinators

Literacy BC is very pleased to welcome June Hughes and Rebecca Beuschel as Regional Literacy Coordinators.

June Hughes -- Mid-Island Region

June was employed at The Centre for Family Literacy in Edmonton for the past five years as a Volunteer and Adult Tutor Program Coordinator. She has an employment background that is very varied, having worked as a police officer, a doctor’s assistant, event coordinator, Executive Director of an AIDS organization, a volunteer manager and a Literacy Coordinator. A former Literacy Alberta Board Member, she is presently writing a module for the Literacy Alberta “Strengthening Pathways to Professional Development” project (a certification course for Alberta literacy practitioners).

June is based at Literacy Nanaimo

Phone: (250) 754-8988

Email: JHughes@thehub.literacy.bc.ca

Rebecca Beuschel - New Caledonia Region

Rebecca came to Canada from Australia nearly 11 years ago and has lived with her husband and family in the Cariboo region since July 1996. Rebecca’s work history in Australia involved working with children and ESL students. Since coming to Canada Rebecca has worked as a Family Literacy Coordinator, Parent Educator and Course Facilitator, Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutoring Program Coordinator, an Instructor in an Adult Upgrading Program and as a Coordinator for an Anti-racism Awareness program.

Rebecca holds a B.A. from the University of Melbourne, a Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language to Adults from Cambridge University, and a Teaching Assistant Certificate from the College of New Caledonia in Quesnel.

We are very pleased to have Rebecca join us.
Rebecca is based at Carney Hill Neighbourhood House in Prince George.
Phone: (250) 992-3424
Email : beuschel@thehub.literacy.bc.ca

11. Resource Centre Update

We are pleased to welcome Deb Monkman as the new Librarian at Literacy BC. Deb has a Master's Degree in Library Science and has worked with different organizations over the last several years assisting them in developing their libraries. These include the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses and the Tzu Chi Institute for Complementary Medicine and Riverview Hospital.

Deb is highly skilled in information retrieval and training and library management, providing information research services to diverse populations, and is familiar with library software, web-based catalogues, and web site coordination. She also has past experience as a volunteer tutor in a literacy program.

Deb wrote the following for this e-bulletin:

“As someone new to the literacy field (at least in this capacity) I am impressed by the amount of publishing and networking in the field and by how much full-text information is on the Web. That is wonderful! Yet, sometimes the more information that exists, the more confusing it can be to find what you need. I hope you'll think of the Literacy BC library as your “one-stop shopping” source when you need information and resources for literacy programming, writing reports and giving presentations, conducting research, or for learners and tutors. I hope I will be able to save your time by getting you the resources you need to be even more effective. I look forward to connecting with you and finding out about your specific information needs – please email or call. And I hope you'll forward any resources you produce so they can be made available in the Provincial Literacy Resource Centre!

One new resource I'd like to highlight for literacy teachers is Sandra Price-Hosie's *All About Literacy: A How To Book for Classroom Teachers of Literacy Level Adult ESL*. I enjoyed the easy-to-read, practical nature of the book which is based on Vancouver Community College's TESOL Program, Teaching Literacy segment. I was fascinated to read about how different learners learn and the importance of understanding the learner. (Please contact me if you'd like to borrow this or other resources).

The latest acquisitions to the Literacy BC resource centre catalogue are online at:

Contact:
Deb Monkman, Librarian
library@literacy.bc.ca
Tel: 604-684-0624 or Toll free in BC: 1-800-663-1293
Fax: 604-684-8520