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Welcome to the Summer 2006 Literacy BC e-bulletin

We are pleased to bring you our local, provincial and national news about literacy.

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The National Scene

The National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) has not yet issued its Call for Proposals for literacy programs, projects, or organizations, although the announcement is expected shortly. We will post news on our website as soon as it becomes available.

On June 28, The Honourable Senator Joyce Fairbairn presented a notice of motions and questions in the Senate regarding this issue. Senator Fairbairn posed a notice of inquiry in the Senate about the survival of the National Literacy Secretariat and whether funding for programs on the ground will be met for this year. You can read the text of the discussion in the Senate at <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2006/state.htm>

The current issue of *Federal Literacy Facts*

<http://www.literacy.ca/public/litfacts/06may/1.htm>

from the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) <http://www.literacy.ca/start.htm> has background on this issue, as well as other updates on literacy developments at the national level.

More federal literacy-related news, events and press releases are posted in “What’s New” on the Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) website <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/lld/nls/About/new.shtml>

And check out National Adult Literacy Database *Headline News*

<http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/headline.htm> for links to the latest literacy news and events from across the country.

Canada's first-ever interactive learning map

A unique new tool from The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) is a “must-see.” The Composite Learning Index (CLI) <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/CompositeLearningIndex2/> is a fascinating multi-layered interactive map of Canada that allows you to travel across the country and view learning results by province, region and city. The CLI is a tool that “connects the dots” to show the big picture. The Index measures the ways Canadians learn in school, in the home, at work and in the community.

You can find more about the results of the CLI, with regional breakdowns, and the interactive Canadian map at www.ccl-cca.ca/cli

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Home/index.htm?Language=EN> is a national, independent, non-profit organization, with a mandate to inform Canadians about learning issues, encourage and facilitate the exchange of research and knowledge about learning, promote a Canada-wide learning culture, and create a national learning network.

A presentation about the Composite Learning Index is scheduled for July 7th in Victoria, hosted by the Victoria-based Health & Learning Knowledge Centre. The presentation is an opportunity for questions and discussion on how the CLI can be improved, especially in the areas of health and learning.

For information, contact: Robert Aucoin, Coordinator, Health & Learning Knowledge Centre, Victoria, B.C.
rcaucoin@uvic.ca
(250) 721-7833

The Adult Learning Knowledge Centre held its first national symposium in Fredericton, New Brunswick, June 21-23. For details on the symposium called “Adult Learning in Canada: What...? So what...? Now what...?” visit the CCL symposium site at: <http://www.unb.ca/ALKCSymposium/indexe.html>
Detailed information on the CCL Adult Learning Knowledge Centres and links to the five knowledge centres across Canada at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeCentres?Language=EN>

ABC CANADA has announced the appointment of a new President, effective July 10, 2006.

<http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2006/abcpres.htm>

On the Provincial Front

IALSS Presentation at the Vancouver Public Library

On June 21, Literacy BC, Service Canada and the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) hosted a presentation on the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS) at the Vancouver Public Library.

The presentation was delivered by Dr. Satya Brink, Director, National Learning Policy Research, Learning Policy Directorate, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (NLS).

Guests, including federal, provincial and civic representatives, literacy practitioners from colleges and school districts, librarians and the general public heard Dr. Brink present a powerful and compelling examination of the results of the latest survey, with a focus on how the BC results compare to the rest of Canada. Some of the themes covered were the links between health and literacy, the literacy levels of immigrants to BC, aboriginal and youth literacy, and how literacy levels impact on the economy.

For those who missed it or were not able to attend, Dr. Brink's Power Point IALSS presentation will be made available by Literacy BC and posted on our website within the next couple of weeks.

If you are interested in viewing related presentation material by Dr. Brink, the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) has created links to these materials from its online library: <http://library.nald.ca/>

Other links to the IALSS data:

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/051130/d051130b.htm>

And <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/051109/d051109a.htm>

Vancouver Declared a “Learning City”

Vancouver was publicly designated a “Learning City” at the launch of the Vancouver Learning City Initiative at the World Urban Forum on June 22nd .

The Vancouver Learning City Initiative has been several years in the planning stages, with a Working Group co-chaired by Jean Rasmussen, Director of Community and Family Development, Literacy BC, and Paul Whitney, Director of the Vancouver Public Library.

The Learning City Initiative Coalition represents more than 35 different member organizations and agencies committed to advancing literacy and lifelong learning.

Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan made the Proclamation in front of a group of invited guests, including members of the Working Group, City of Vancouver Councilors, literacy and library practitioners and representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal governments. The event was held at the Great Northern Way Campus, festival site for the 2006 United Nations World Urban Forum. Prior to this event, City Council had proclaimed Vancouver as one of the first major Learning Cities in Canada.

The Proclamation reads in part:

....Vancouver, through collaboration and partnership, has developed a lifelong learning strategy, which addresses the learning needs of all citizens from infancy through to later life. This strategy builds on the capacities of individuals, groups and organizations to contribute to the social, economic and environmental health of the City, while addressing barriers and gaps which inhibit learning from occurring.

....Vancouver now has a coalition in place which is committed to implementing the lifelong strategy. This coalition, with an initial membership of 35 organizations and growing, is facilitating new networks and partnerships to create a culture of lifelong learning.

...I, Samuel Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the City of Vancouver as Canada’s first major Learning City. I urge our citizens to embrace lifelong learning in the City of Vancouver.

For more background on the Learning City initiative, see The Vancouver Working Group Discussion Paper http://www.wuf3.ubc.ca/pdf/e_the_learning_city_eng.pdf as well as <http://www.learningcity.gnwc.ca/>

Literacy Now Appointment

Leona Gadsby, our Regional Literacy Coordinator for the East Kootenay region, will resign her position effective July 14, 2006 to take on a new role with 2010 Legacies Now.

Leona has accepted a position with 2010 Legacies Now as the Director of Community and Adult Literacy in the Literacy Now department, beginning July 17. Congratulations, Leona!

2010 Legacies Now is a not-for-profit society that works in partnership with community organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector and all levels of government to develop sustainable legacies in sport & recreation, arts, literacy, and volunteerism.

<http://www.2010legaciesnow.com/Content/Home.asp>

Literacy Now was designed to provide leadership and support for reaching the province's goal of making British Columbia the most literate province in Canada and a global leader in literacy learning by 2010.

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

News from Literacy BC

Linda Mitchell to Retire: A Message from Melanie Austin, President, Literacy BC Board

After an exceptional sixteen years as Executive Director of Literacy BC, Linda Mitchell has made the difficult decision to retire on August 31, 2006. Although the Board of Directors has accepted this news with regret, we also join the staff and all of her colleagues in wishing Linda much happiness in her future endeavours. She has left a legacy to be proud of. Literacy BC has evolved into a strong, dynamic provincial organization under her vision and leadership.

With Linda's retirement comes the challenge to recruit an exceptional individual who is able to fill this critical position. The Board of Directors and its Selection Committee is hard at work on this process and expects to introduce our new Executive Director in the Fall edition of this e-bulletin.

Meanwhile, you will have an opportunity to wish Linda a fond farewell and to meet our new Executive Director at our Annual General Meeting in October. More information will be posted on the Literacy BC website and in the Fall e-bulletin.

Reminders:

The PACE Bursary Fund deadline for applications is **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 16th Annual **PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy** takes place July 11, 2006 at the University Golf Club in Vancouver.

<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 B.C. Check our website after July 11th for the follow-up photograph, and highlights from this exciting day!

The Provincial Literacy Resource Centre

Our Resource Centre librarian, Deb Monkman, offers the latest from the library, including:

- “Did You Know?”
- Links to the latest print and online resources
- Highlights from our survey on your literacy resources needs
- “Extreme reading” at the public library ... and more

[About Literacy BC's Provincial Literacy Resource Centre](#)

And, we have a new feature: “FYI” - our guide to some current literacy resources: **[FYI: Current Literacy Information & Resources - Summer 2006](#)**