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Welcome to the Spring 2007 Literacy BC E-bulletin

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

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## **Read 234: expanded toll-free information and referral**

On January 26th this year, Literacy BC launched an expanded toll-free hotline to help British Columbians find and access literacy programs and resources in their communities.

**1-888 Read 234** <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/helpline.htm> was established as part of the provincial government's \$27 million new ReadNow literacy strategy, announced on January 26. <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/flwrelease.htm>

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2007OTP0005-000060.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007OTP0005-000060.htm)

The **1-888 Read 234 hot line** considerably expands the toll-free service provided to the province since 1989. The expanded line is designed to provide literacy information and referral service across a range of sectors, including families (the early years, the K-12 system), youth, senior, workplace, Aboriginal and others. Translation can be arranged if needed for callers who require referrals in a language other than English.

**We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education to develop and expand the Read 234 service.**

Literacy BC, with the support of temporary staff, has undertaken extensive research into literacy-related services in B.C, and is in the process of transferring this data to a web-based directory. The online directory will be launched later this year. Currently, we operate the Read 234 information/referral line during regular business hours Monday to Friday.

Apart from the extended scope, the nature and depth of our information and referral service has been enhanced to incorporate increased networking with Regional Literacy Coordinators, our many partners and principal contacts across sectors.

Other elements of the provincial government's ReadNow strategy announced on January 26 include funding for Literacy Now, Ready Set Learn, StrongStart Early Learning Centres, the Community Adult Literacy Program, Early Learning Grants, and other initiatives.

## **Breakfast of Champions 2007 – Celebrating Family Literacy**

Literacy BC and our partners celebrated our 8<sup>th</sup> annual **Breakfast of Champions: Setting the Course for a Lifetime of Learning** on January 26 at the Vancouver Public Library. The annual Breakfast – featuring special keynote speakers and a wide cross-section of guests -- is a cornerstone of the Family Literacy Day celebration and a key part of British Columbia's Family Literacy Week.

### **Keynote Speakers: Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) Report Launched**

One of two keynote Breakfast speakers was Dr. Paul Cappon, President and CEO, Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) who launched the first annual report from the CCL on *The State of Learning in Canada (No Time for Complacency)*. The CCL website has full details of the Breakfast launch, report highlights, and additional news releases. <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/?Language=EN>

The CCL report is a comprehensive analysis of research on key aspects of learning in Canada, including early childhood learning, learning in school, adult learning and Aboriginal learning.

In addition to launching the CCL Report, the Breakfast also featured Peter Hicks, Executive Director, Strategic Analysis, Audit and Evaluation Branch, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, who presented a keynote address on "*A life-course approach to policy analysis: Does it work for literacy?*"

More than 200 guests attended the Breakfast, including representatives from all levels of government, colleges, school districts, libraries, business, labour and organizations with a vested interest in families and learning.

Breakfast guests were welcomed by federal and provincial government representatives Shirley Bond, Minister of Education and Deputy Premier; Linda Reid, Minister of State for Child Care (Ministry of Children and Family Development); Hedy Fry, MP, Vancouver Centre; and Lorne Mayencourt, MLA, Vancouver-Burrard.

Welcoming remarks were also given by special guests Joan Andersen, Chair, Vancouver Public Library Board, Sir John Daniel, President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning; and Robert Munsch, children's author and national spokesperson for **ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day®**

Below, two pictures from the **Annual Breakfast of Champions** on January 27.



**Keynote Speaker Peter Hicks, Executive Director, Strategic Analysis, Audit and Evaluation Branch, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at the Family Literacy Day® Breakfast of Champions in Vancouver**



**Robert Munsch, children's author and spokesperson for ABC CANADA at the Family Literacy Day® Breakfast of Champions in Vancouver**

In conjunction with the Breakfast this year, Shaw TV's Fanny Kiefer Show focused on literacy on a conversation with two special guests -- Dr. Cappon from the Canadian Council on Learning, and Ellen Szita, long-time B.C. literacy advocate and champion. Dr. Cappon presented highlights from the CCL Report and Ellen spoke eloquently and candidly about her personal experiences as a literacy learner.



**Ellen Szita and Dr. Cappon with Fanny Kiefer on the Fanny Kiefer Show January 26.**



Libraries across B.C. celebrated Family Literacy Day with events that promoted the importance of reading as a family. To mark Family Literacy Day, Education Minister Shirley Bond took part in a family storytime at her local library in Prince George .

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2007EDU0009-000064.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007EDU0009-000064.htm)



**Education Minister Shirley Bond reads to children at library story time in Prince George (Jan. 27, 2007)**

**Minister Bond with the Premier at the Launch of the \$27-Million Plan to Improve Reading (Jan. 26, 2007)**

## ***Family Literacy Day across the province...***

Family Literacy Day and Week were also celebrated by dozens of events, ranging from workshops and presentations in the Lower Mainland to family-focused activities, festivities and celebrations in communities across B.C.

The Vancouver Public Library was the focus for:

### ***Workshop: LEAP BC (Literacy Education Activity and Play)***

An innovative program recently launched by the Ministry of Education, LEAP is designed to promote literacy in children up to age 5 by integrating language skills with play, and to provide parents, caregivers and educators with tools and resources to encourage physical activity and healthy eating.

### ***Presentation: Raising the Critical Thinking Child in the Cyber Age***

With Shari Graydon, Canadian youth author and media activist, on the topic of developing the necessary critical thinking skills kids need to function in an electronic age.

### ***Forum: Literacy – Everyone’s Responsibility: Connecting Policy Research to Community Practice***

A research forum exploring how communities support literacy and how policy can support learning communities. Facilitated by Cynthia Whitaker, Executive Director, Literacy BC, and panelists Charles Ungerleider, Dr. Ron Faris, Peter Hicks, and Anne Docherty.

***Write On! Event: Family Literacy Day® at the VPL:*** An afternoon of children’s authors and family activities

Across BC, families, practitioners, coordinators and communities hosted events and celebrations, with Regional Coordinators distributing **Family Literacy Day®** public awareness stickers, posters, bookmarks and other materials.

On the North Island, events were held in Courtenay (Family Literacy Open House at the Adult Learning Centre); Campbell River, Gold River (Family Literacy Event February 11th during Spirit of BC Week ); Port Hardy / Port McNeill; Powell River and Bella Coola. The City of Port Alberni (Parks & Recreation), the Alberni Valley Community School and Pacific Care Child Care Resource and Referral co-sponsored a family event at the community centre called ABC Stone Soup. In the Selkirk /Kootenay region the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) hosted celebrations in Castlegar, Kaslo, Nelson, Salmo, Creston, Kimberley, Nakusp/New Denver, Windermere Valley, and Grand Forks.

In the Fraser Valley, events included the annual “Riot of Reading” in Mission, a Family Literacy Day celebration in Abbotsford, and a “Flipping for Family Literacy” pancake breakfast fundraiser at the University College of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwack.

### ***New Training: Family Literacy Certificate Launch***

Vancouver Community College, in partnership with Literacy BC, the Centre for Family Literacy and 2010 Legacies Now, have announced the launch of the new **FAMILY LITERACY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.**

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/pdfs/Final%20Dates%20Family%20Literacy%20202.pdf>

The certificate, the first of its kind in British Columbia, will be of interest to people who currently work in or who wish to work in the area of family literacy

The Family Literacy Introduction (prerequisite course) is being launched at six pilot sites in B.C. this spring, with the first pilot underway at Vancouver Community College Downtown Campus on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Other training sites are: Vernon, Kimberley, Trail, Ashcroft and Nanaimo.

VCC has a link to content details of the program at:

<http://vcc.ca/cs/details.cfm?area=CSFAMLIT#FAMLETCERT>

### ***Corporate Champion: Starbucks Raises Funds for Family Literacy***

On March 13, Literacy BC's Communications Manager Mark Campbell attended 'Friends & Family Night' to launch the spacious new **Starbucks in Langley** (at 200 Street and 86 Avenue). Refreshments were by donation, and almost \$400 was raised to help Literacy BC support family literacy programs.

We thank Starbucks for their generous support.



(left to right) Store Manager Scott Sampson, Chief Supervisor Christina Harper and District Manager Ferdinand Heyde welcomed a full house to 'Friends & Family Night' at the new Starbucks in Langley.

### ***British Columbians Reading Together: The Family Stories Project***

In other family literacy news, Literacy BC is again partnering with Word on The Street on **The Family Stories Project** <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/faces.htm>  
<http://www.thewordonthestreet.ca/Family%20Stories%20press%20release%2002-28-2007.pdf>

The project distributes working journals that learners use to record and share their family stories. Adults who are upgrading their literacy skills use the journals as launch pads to explore literacy with their families. Diverse groups of learners in 20 literacy and learning centres throughout B.C are participating.

To find out more about this innovative B.C. project, contact:  
Jean Rasmussen at Literacy BC [jrasmussen@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:jrasmussen@literacy.bc.ca) or Jennifer Hinnell at Word on the Street [Jennifer@rebuscreative.com](mailto:Jennifer@rebuscreative.com).

### ***Raise-a Reader Fund***

Once again, Literacy BC will distribute application packages this spring for family literacy programs to apply for the CanWest Global Raise-a Reader Fund. For more information contact **Jean Rasmussen** at Literacy BC.

[jrasmussen@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:jrasmussen@literacy.bc.ca)

### **News, events and project updates**

#### ***2007 Summer Literacy Institute***

Join us for a unique, two-part, five-week learning opportunity .... Registration is now open for the Literacy BC **Summer Literacy Institute**. This year's theme: **"Looking with New Eyes: Leadership in Literacy."**

Details of the Institute format -- a four-week Online Conferencing component (Monday, June 25 to Friday, July 20) and one week on site at SFU Burnaby Campus (July 23 to July 27) -- is posted at:

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/sli2007.htm>

An Institute brochure is currently being designed that will provide detailed information about the structure, content and facilitators of the online and onsite courses and workshops. Watch for it soon on our website.

***Remember to register early as space is limited.***

## ***2007 PGI***

Registrations are invited for the **17<sup>th</sup> Annual PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy**, to take place **July 10, 2007** at the University Golf Club in Vancouver.

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

The PGI sells out every year, so interested players need to register early to be guaranteed a spot. Click here for more information about the tournament and how to register

[http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/2007\\_PGI.htm](http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/2007_PGI.htm)

The 2007 PGI will be more exciting than ever... Plans are underway to hold, for the first time, a *pre-PGI fund-raising special event*.

## ***Literacy and Beyond***

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, **Peter Mansbridge** will host ***Literacy and Beyond*** an exclusive wine-tasting and exotic food event at Vancouver's newest hotspot, **Beyond Restaurant and Lounge**. You don't want to miss this rare opportunity to meet Peter and taste some of BC's most popular wines. Taking place the night before the legendary PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy BC, ***Literacy and Beyond*** will expand Peter Gzowski's legacy of support for literacy in a fresh new way. Tickets are \$150.

To register contact Sarah Lucas at 604-684-0624 or [slucas@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:slucas@literacy.bc.ca). Stay tuned for more details to be posted soon on [www.literacy.bc.ca](http://www.literacy.bc.ca)

## ***Support for Learners***

### **2007 Cooperators Learner Achievement Award**

The Co-operators, a national insurance company, is once again the proud sponsor of the **2007 Provincial Learner Achievement Award**. This annual award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in BC.

Full details, including **eligibility requirements, learner application forms and information for teachers and tutors** are posted on our website

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/2007Co-operatorsAward.htm>

The deadline for applications: **May 31, 2007**.

### ***The Paul Gallagher Access Fund***

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. A minimum of four awards of \$500-\$1000 will be granted.

This year's **deadline for applications is May 4**. Funds are disbursed in August. Fund Backgrounder and 2007 application form

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

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/paulgall/applform.pdf>

### ***The PACE Bursary Fund***

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

The PACE fund provides financial assistance to part-time adult learners, who must be BC residents, 19 years of age or older, with a demonstrated financial need, and attending a registered public or private post secondary educational institution. The deadline for PACE applications is September 30, 2007

## Provincial Conferences

### Adult Basic Education Association of BC

The 2007 annual conference of The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. (ABEABC) will be held May 9-12, 2007 at the University College of the Fraser Valley in Chilliwack. <http://www.abeabc.ca/confe.htm>

#### Conference Theme: Opening Pathways

This year's focus is on the entry needs of colleges, universities and workplaces, and the availability of different types of testing and qualifications. Prior learning and credential evaluation topics will be included, as well as instruction for the essential skills needed and types of courses available for progress through from ESL and adult literacy to graduation.

Literacy BC Executive Director Cynthia Whitaker will deliver a keynote speech on *"Having your cake...and eating it too: value for money AND value for learners"*.  
<http://www.abeabc.ca/2007conf/cynthia.pdf>

For ABEABC details, see [www.abeabc.ca](http://www.abeabc.ca) or contact Yvonne Chard  
[yhard@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:yhard@deltasd.bc.ca)

### Violence and Learning: Research to Practice -- An electronic conference on The Hub, April 29 to May 26, 2007

Facilitator: Kate Nonesuch

Pre-conference: April 25 to 28, 2007

Conference: April 29 to May 26, 2007

Are you interested in the relationship between violence and learning? Are you interested in making change in literacy programs to deal with violence and learning? Are you interested in research in practice (practitioner research)? If so, this on-line conference is for you. The conference will run from April 29 to May 26; feel free to participate in the discussion, or just read what other people have to say. Your hosts are practitioner-researchers Jenny Horsman, Evelyn Battell, Nadine Sookermany, Heather Ward and Kate Nonesuch.

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

## **Projects: What's New**

***Focused on Practice: A Framework for Adult Literacy Research in Canada.***  
Jenny Horsman and Helen Woodrow, Editors. RiPAL-BC (Research in Practice in Adult Literacy in B.C.) 2006.

The research report of the pan-Canadian project, ***Developing a Framework for Research in Practice in Adult Literacy Research in Canada***, was published in January by Literacy BC. Based on data collected by and analyzed by practitioners across the country, the report's findings focus on three key themes: the state of the literacy field; conceptions and responses to research broadly; and research in practice itself.

Visit [www.literacy.bc.ca/](http://www.literacy.bc.ca/) to view and download the document or contact us at [info@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:info@literacy.bc.ca) to request a hard copy.

## **Research in Practice: New Project**

***Learning disabilities in adult literacy settings: Building a framework for professional development***

RiPAL-BC, in partnership with Literacy BC, has received funding to plan a two-year professional development initiative that will address the needs of adult literacy educators to identify and remediate learning disabilities in the context of their practice. The planning project, now underway, involves consultation with key stakeholders to identify current practices, tools, trends, and theory.

The project timeline is December 2006 to June 2007

For further information, contact [ripal@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:ripal@literacy.bc.ca)  
<http://ripal.literacy.bc.ca/>

## ***Regional Literacy Coordination/Spring Practitioner Training***

Once again this spring, Literacy BC is offering opportunities for professional development events, planned and coordinated by our Regional Literacy Coordinators.

This spring, events focus on:

- best practices in instructional strategies
- assessment/program delivery and evaluation
- alternate delivery models
- strategic planning/community development.

Some samples of training events in the planning stages for this year include:

- Outcome measurement tools
- strategic planning
- workplace literacy
- Introduction to Family Literacy Practitioner Training
- Multi-sensory Math and Manipulatives
- Making connections within the community
- Engaging the Learner

If you would like to find out more about your local training or events from your Regional Coordinator, contact: Wazi Dlamini-Kapenda, Manager, Provincial Training and Development at Literacy BC.

## ***Awards - National and Provincial***

### **Mark your Calendars for...**

#### ***The 2007 Canada Post Literacy Awards***

It's time to nominate a deserving individual, program or business from your community for a **2007 Canada Post Community Literacy Award**.

This year, Canada Post will present awards in two categories: **Individual Achievement and Educator**.

[http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/corporate/about/community/literacy/literacy\\_awards/default\\_2007-e.asp](http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/corporate/about/community/literacy/literacy_awards/default_2007-e.asp) for rules for eligibility and nomination forms.

Nominations must be received **no later than midnight EDT Friday, May 25, 2007**.

#### ***Council of the Federation Award (COF)***

Nominations are now open for a national award that celebrates outstanding achievements in literacy.

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/nominations.htm>.

Award Nominations are welcome from all areas including early childhood, family, aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy.

The deadline for nominations for the **2007 COF Literacy Award in British Columbia** is **May 25, 2007**.

#### ***Generous Donations Honour Linda Mitchell's Leadership in Literacy***

Literacy BC has received over \$4500 in donations in honour of Linda Mitchell's retirement last August. On behalf of Linda and everyone at Literacy BC, we would like to say **a special thank you to the many people who made a contribution**. This generous support adds to Linda's legacy.

If you would like to make a contribution in honour of Linda's retirement, please contact Sarah Lucas 604-684-0624 or [slucas@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:slucas@literacy.bc.ca)  
You can also donate on-line at [www.literacy.bc.ca](http://www.literacy.bc.ca).

## News from Literacy BC

### ***The New School Project: Lessons Learned***

For three years, Literacy BC and School District 36 (Surrey) operated a research and demonstration classroom for at-risk youth aged 15 to 16 with significant literacy difficulties. The youth had either dropped out of school or were highly likely to do so because of their low attendance, behavioural issues, and failure to complete previous grades.

The program was remarkably successful at accomplishing its goals. Students stayed in school, developed necessary skills, and moved back into traditional and alternative high school classes with a greatly increased likelihood of graduating. Because of its success, School District 36 institutionalized the program and doubled its size.

During March this year, New School research team members **Jim Powrie** and **Heide Wrigley**, with **Literacy BC President, Diana Twiss** traveled to six B.C. communities to present research from the New School Demonstration Project.

Presentations were held in **Campbell River, Sechelt, Hazelton, Houston, Smithers and Vancouver**. The presentations included a visual history of the school, video clips of students and parents and open discussion of the project research. The presentations were designed to engage practitioners in discussions about literacy challenges that face at-risk youth in their learning communities and how to adapt successful New School strategies and apply them to related but different learning circumstances.



**New School research team members Heide Wrigley and Jim Powrie Giving a New School Presentation in Hazelton.**

## Resource Centre Update

We'd like to draw your attention to the Literacy BC home page for our **current compilation of information and resources** of interest to practitioners in the literacy field: <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/resources/newresc/reswin07.htm>

Resource Centre Librarian Deb Monkman reports here on new acquisitions, mini-reviews and some recommendations from practitioners in the field:

### ***Changing the Way We Teach Math***

Kate Nonesuch has written a manual about how to teach basic math to adult students. She based her work on both research and practice. There are sections on group work, hands-on learning, real life math, student resistance, students taking charge of their learning, and no-prep activities for students. Download the **Instructor's Manual** or borrow from the Literacy BC Resource Centre.

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/mathman/mathman.pdf>

Download the **literature review**, "More complicated than it seems," at

<http://www.nald.ca/library/research/morecomp/morecomp.pdf>

### ***Popular Literacy Resources***

We have compiled a list of the most frequently borrowed library resources. If you are looking for aboriginal resources, community literacy, disabilities, family literacy, instructional and learner materials, learner assessment, program evaluation, tutoring or women's literacy, check out our **Popular Resources** list

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

*It's a great way to create your own travelling trunk of highly recommended resources.*

### ***Libraries and Literacy***

We would like to remind you of the upcoming **Libraries and Literacy conference**, to be held in **Montreal June 27 - 29, 2007**. Using case studies from various countries, attendees will look at the opportunities and challenges that surround library-literacy partnerships. Case studies include Calgary Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Vital Links (Reading Agency UK), and more. To register or for more information, visit The Centre for Literacy's Web site:

<http://www.centreforliteracy.gc.ca>

### ***Reminder: New Resources***

Be sure to browse the latest additions to our Resource Centre at

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/resources/newresc/reswin07.htm>