



www.literacy.bc.ca 1-800-663-1293

Welcome to the December 2005 Literacy BC e-bulletin!

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

The National Scene

- [Canadian Report from IALSS -- Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey](#)
- [Election 2006 – A Call to Action for Literacy](#)
- [Literacy and Essential Skills Report to the Minister of State for Human Resources Development](#)
- [Literacy Action Day \(LAD\) in Ottawa – report and pictures](#)
- [Senator Joyce Fairbairn honoured at LAD](#)
- [National Initiative: ABC CANADA and Starbucks launch *Gift of Words™*](#)

Provincial News

- [Family Literacy Day /Week Celebrated in January 2006](#)
- [2006-07 B.C. Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Application Guidelines](#)

News from Literacy BC

- [Our AGM and New Board for 2005- 2006](#)
- [Introducing our new Provincial Literacy Training & Development Manager](#)
- [‘Tis the Season for Giving Thanks!](#)
- [New Calendar on our web site](#)
- [Faces of Literacy: Feature Profile of Erin Cathro](#)

On the National Scene...

The International Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (IALSS, 2003)

The Canadian Report of the IALSS - **Building on our Competencies: Canadian Results of the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey** - was released on November 30, 2005. Statistics Canada has **highlights from the full IALSS report**. (The Daily, November 30, 2005)

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

This is the second release of data from IALSS. The first, on November 9, 2005, summarized provincial and territorial findings. The **provincial/territorial analysis of IALSS** (The Daily, November 9, 2005)

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

You can access the full 242-page report from Statistics Canada (in pdf) at

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/89-617-XIE/89-617-XIE2005001.pdf>

The IALSS is the Canadian component of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills study, a joint project of the Government of Canada, the US National Center for Education Statistics and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The IALSS built on its predecessor, the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS), which was the world's first internationally comparative survey of adult literacy.

Links to national responses to IALSS, including those from ABC CANADA and Frontier College, can be found on the MCL website: <http://www.literacy.ca/all/all.htm>

Election 2006 – A Call to Action for Literacy

We urge everyone to read the December 2005 issue of **Federal Literacy Facts**, the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) bulletin of updates on literacy-related developments at the national level. This latest issue highlights the national organization's lead in developing resources, including plain language voter materials, for the forthcoming federal election.

MCL has created a series of on-line election resources and toolkits, including an interactive "how-to" on voting for learners, an election study kit for use in programs and a Literacy Action Kit designed to help make literacy an election issue.

MCL is also working with Elections Canada to coordinate the distribution of plain language voter information to literacy programs across the country.

Read this issue of **Federal Literacy Facts** <http://www.literacy.ca/public/litfacts/dec05/1.htm> and more background on all MCL activities at the national level www.literacy.ca.

Literacy and Essential Skills Report to the Minister of State for Human Resources Development

A national advisory committee on Literacy and Essential Skills has presented its report to The Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of State for Human Resources Development.

The report calls upon the Federal Government to take an immediate leadership role in the development of a comprehensive Pan-Canadian Literacy Strategy.

The executive summary and the full report is available on NALD.

<http://www.nald.ca/whatnew/hnews/2005/towards/1.htm>

Literacy Action Day

Every year on **Literacy Action Day (LAD)** <http://www.nald.ca/literacyevents/annual/LtActDay/lad.htm> literacy representatives from across the country come together on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to discuss literacy issues with Members of Parliament (MPs) and Senators.

This year, Literacy BC President Melanie Austin traveled to LAD to represent our organization. Here is Melanie's report:

Literacy BC representatives Ellen Szita, Norma Smith and Melanie Austin flew to Ottawa and joined reps from literacy groups all over Canada on October 27 for Literacy Action Day on Parliament Hill. Our purpose was to talk to Members of Parliament (MPs) and Senators to explain how literacy issues touch the lives of Canadians and encourage them to support literacy efforts in their home communities as well as throughout Canada.

The Movement for Canadian Literacy organized this busy day, and the opening speech on the Hill was given by one of our strongest advocates, Senator Joyce Fairbairn. The BC group spoke with Libby Davies (Vancouver East), Nathan Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Valley), and policy advisors for Stephen Owen, (Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Vancouver Quadra), David Emerson (Minister of Industry, Vancouver Kingsway) and Senator Jack Austin (Vancouver South). Norma and Ellen captivated their hosts with their literacy stories, and everyone felt their trip had been very successful.

Have a look at photographs from our day at LAD:



Melanie Austin (Literacy BC President), Norma Smith (Learner Representative, Literacy BC Board), Senator Joyce Fairbairn, Ellen Szita (outgoing Literacy BC Learner Rep and Learners' Advisory Network



Norma Smith, Carey Rigby Wilcox (Saskatchewan), Shirley Annable (Ontario), Senator Joyce Fairbairn, Dianne Smith (PEI), Marie David (Nova Scotia), Ellen Szita.



Norma Smith, Oksana Kowalchuk (Special Assistant to Stephen Owen), and Ellen Szita

Senator Joyce Fairbairn Honoured at LAD

<http://www.nald.ca/WHATNEW/hnews/2005/fairbairn.htm>

In a special presentation during LAD, Senator Joyce Fairbairn, a long time literacy advocate, was presented with the first-ever **Canada Post Special Recognition Literacy Award**, in appreciation of the Senator's commitment and dedication to literacy.

National Initiative to Benefit Family Literacy Programs

The ABC **CANADA Literacy Foundation and Starbucks Coffee Canada** have joined together to sponsor the *Gift of Words™ presented by Starbucks*.

The program, developed and managed by ABC CANADA, is a national funding initiative providing resources for public and school libraries and literacy organizations to expand their book collections and launch 'reading circles' that encourage students, their teachers and parents to read and learn together. Each successful applicant for book collections receives \$1,500 to spend on book titles, and each recipient of funding to create reading circle programs receives \$2,500.

To apply for funding, organizations must fill out the application form online at www.abc-canada.org/gow/. The deadline is February 1, 2006.

On the Provincial Front ...

... Celebrating Family Literacy

Mark your calendars for **National Family Literacy Day** on January 27, 2006 and the celebration of **Family Literacy Week** in B.C. from Sunday, January 22 to Saturday, January 28.

Once again, Literacy BC will host our annual **"Breakfast of Champions" on January 27** at the Vancouver Public Library to honour and celebrate the champions of family literacy and learning in B.C. The keynote speaker at the Breakfast is Vanessa Little, General Manager, Learning Community Department, Hume Global Learning Village, Hume, Australia. Key representatives from federal, provincial and municipal governments, school districts, libraries, business, labour and organizations with an interest in families and learning will also be in attendance.

Plans for the Week's events in the Lower Mainland will be finalized throughout December --watch for the events flyer posted on our website at www.literacy.bc.ca

Promotional materials, developed and produced by ABC CANADA, have been delivered to the province's Regional Literacy Coordinators for distribution to local family literacy programs. As in past years, **schools and libraries can view the materials and order their own selection directly from ABC CANADA, using the online order form.**

<http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/orders.shtml>

2006-07 B.C. Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Application Guidelines

Important reminder for groups and organizations intending to apply for next year's BC-Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Program (ALCSP) funding: the guidelines, application forms and instructions for the BC ALCSP will be posted at the Ministry of Advanced Education website <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/literacy/form-toc.htm>. The deadline to apply for ALCSP is February 28th.

For inquiries about the BC ALCSP program, contact:

Marissa Thola

Education Officer

Ministry of Advanced Education

Private Institutions and Developmental Programs Branch

1st Floor, 835 Humboldt Street

P. O. Box 9177

Victoria, BC V8W 9T6

Phone: (250) 387-6174

Fax: (250) 356-8851

E-mail: Marissa.Thola@gov.bc.ca.

BC ALCSP information: <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/literacy/projects.htm>

For organizations interested in applying for a research in practice funding, RiPAL-BC will provide help.

Details on our website: <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/RipalBC-BCALCSF06-07.htm>

News from Literacy BC

On October 14, 2005 Literacy BC held its **annual general meeting and reception** at the Executive Hotel, Vancouver. Special guests and board members past and present mingled with federal and provincial representatives, literacy practitioners, colleagues and friends to hear highlights from another busy and successful year.

Our special guest speakers were Leona Gadsby and Jennifer Cliff-Marks, co-founders of The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL), a highly successful regional alliance encompassing 17 communities in the east and west Kootenay region of B.C. CBAL was the first recipient this year of the Council of the Federation's National Literacy Award in recognition of its outstanding work.

This year we **welcomed four new members to the Literacy BC Board**: Joan Andersen, Member at Large; Susan Copland, Member at Large; Anne Docherty, Northwest Region; and Cynthia Williams, Member at Large. We also extended a warm thank you and good-bye to the following retiring Board members: Jim Cooke, Jennifer Cliff-Marks, Jerry Laidlaw, Barbara McBride, and Kate Nesbitt.

The full Board of Directors:

Melanie Austin - Camosun

Diana Twiss - Capilano

Shelly Joyner - Cariboo

Leanne Callier-Smith - Kootenay

Marilyn MacDonald - Fraser Valley

Laurie Gould - Lower Mainland

David Moddle - Malaspina

Marcia Timbres - New Caledonia

Anne Docherty - Northwest

Carol Forbes - North Island

Val Keeler - Northern Lights

Colleen Hanscom - Okanagan

Susan Copland - Member at Large

Cynthia Williams - Member at Large

Joan Andersen - Member at Large

Norma Smith - Member at Large

Welcome, Wazi!

Literacy BC has added a new member to our management team.

Wazi Dlamini-Kapenda joined Literacy BC on Monday, December 5 as **Provincial Literacy Training and Development Manager**. Her role will be to manage and support our Regional Literacy Coordinators throughout the province, assisting them to strengthen and support regional literacy networks and develop literacy activities, programs and resources; and to arrange and oversee training and PD opportunities for new and established practitioners.

Wazi comes to Literacy BC with 15 years of experience focused in the areas of community development and capacity building; and program and curriculum development, delivery and training. She was the first HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents with Pre-School Youngsters) Project Coordinator in Canada, managing the HIPPY program for six years at the Britannia Community Services Centre in East Vancouver and Simon Fraser University.

She has impressive credentials in partnership building and community development, as well as research, teaching and information management. Wazi holds a Diploma in Education and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Swaziland, and a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University in New Orleans.

We welcome Wazi to Literacy BC – she will be a tremendous asset to our team.

‘Tis the Season for Giving Thanks...

Literacy BC would like to take this opportunity to **thank the many donors and sponsors** who have contributed throughout the past year. This support is so important to our organization and is greatly appreciated.

The following highlights two innovative fundraising initiatives that resulted in generous donations to Literacy BC this year:

In October, **Esquires Coffee** held a week-long book drive combined with a one day fundraising campaign in their BC stores. The result was a contribution of more than 850 children’s books for the families at the Canucks Family Education Centre. In addition, Esquires donated 10% of the coffee sales for the Saturday which was matched by Esquires’ Head Office. This resulted in a donation to Literacy BC of more than \$1000.

TELUS Communications selected Literacy BC as an eligible charity for its Annual Employees Charitable Giving Campaign. Through the campaign, several TELUS employees designated funds to Literacy BC which were matched by TELUS. The result was a \$10,000 contribution to Literacy BC.

To Esquires, TELUS and all of our supporters thank you for making a difference!

On our website ... some new features

Please have a look at our website for a new feature we’ve designed – a **CALENDAR of important dates**. Our intention is to create a place where upcoming meetings, conferences, deadlines, professional development opportunities and events relevant to literacy in B.C. (and occasionally across Canada) are listed in a “quick-read” style format.

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

This events calendar will be updated weekly, so please let us know if you have anything to add. Email info@literacy.bc.ca or call 1-800-663-1293.

And....we’d like to draw your attention to the **“Faces of Literacy”** located on our home page

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

The feature is designed to put a personal face to the people and organizations which are making a difference in BC. From learners to teachers, practitioners, administrators and researchers, small community-based agencies to large community colleges and school districts, faces of literacy define our community.

This new profile by Nancy Richardson of Literacy BC features Erin Cathro, a long-time B.C. practitioner in adult, family, and community literacy. Erin now works for the Learning Disabilities Association of B.C. – Vancouver Chapter (LDAV). We think you’ll enjoy the read...

Notice: The Literacy BC office will be closed during the holiday season from December 21 to January 3. *Season’s greetings to all.*