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1. [2005 Family Literacy Day a Resounding Success](#)
2. [A Legacy to Last](#)
3. [BC Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Program Call for Proposals](#)
4. [Stacey Huget Returns to Literacy BC](#)
5. [Provincial Literacy Resource Centre: Help us build our collection!](#)
6. [The National Scene](#)

1. 2005 Family Literacy Day a Resounding Success

January was once again a month for celebrating as Literacy BC championed the partners, sponsors and literacy proponents across sectors who make the annual **National Family Literacy Day** a huge success. The “**Breakfast of Champions**” was held on January 27th at Vancouver Public Library, where **Premier Gordon Campbell** and other representatives from government, business, schools, libraries, and organizations with an interest in families and learning joined an audience of over 250 to hear two very special keynote speakers. This year’s presenters were **John Abbott, Director, [The 21st Century Learning Initiative](#) (UK)** and **Clyde Hertzman, Director, [Human Early Learning Partnership](#).**

A highlight at the Breakfast was the presentation by the Premier of his high school graduation certificate to Nick Prince, a student at the **Canucks Family Education Centre** in Vancouver. Nick was featured on the [NALD Story of the Week](#).

Sponsored by Honda Canada and celebrated in communities across B C and Canada, **Family Literacy Day** spotlights the fact that learning is a family affair.

Every year, on January 27, families celebrate this day at literacy-themed events coordinated by literacy organizations, schools, and libraries. Events range from special breakfasts, read-a-thons, celebrity story readings, book drives, and reading circles.

This year, the government of BC, along with more than 40 mayors from towns and municipalities across the province, proclaimed **January 27th as Family Literacy Day**.

Read the events flyer and a complete list of the partners and sponsors of the [2005 Family Literacy Day/Week Campaign](#).

2. A Legacy to Last

In November, 2004 **Premier Gordon Campbell appointed a 12-member advisory panel** with a mandate of assessing the nature and scope of literacy challenges in British Columbia; describing those communities and groups whose unmet needs are greatest; and evaluating strategies for building capacity, forging intersections, and increasing profile for the issue in the province.

Since their appointment, the **Premier's Advisory Panel on Literacy** has met four times over five days. Chaired by **Linda Mitchell, the Executive Director of Literacy BC**, the Panel has reviewed the numerous research and consultation studies of the past decade, surveyed participants from the **Premier's Literacy Summit**, listened to community perspectives arising out of the initial work of Literacy Now, and engaged in dialogue with diverse literacy and lifelong experts.

Now putting the finishing touches on its Interim Report, which it will present to the Premier on February 22nd in Victoria, the Panel is recommending 15 sweeping policies to the provincial government and, more specifically, identifies eight strategic priorities for action.

Literacy is one of the pillars of the government's 2010 **LegaciesNow** initiative – as is **Literacy Now**, a \$5 million initiative to support community-based planning and coordination of literacy throughout BC, based on the Panel's recommendations. The province seeks to make BC the world's most literate jurisdiction in North America by 2010.

3. [BC Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Program Call for Proposals](#)

The call for proposals for the 2005/06 BC Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Program has been posted. Please note that the application process for provincial funding has changed this year. It is important to read the entire 2005-06 package carefully before completing the forms. The application deadline is March 24, 2005.

4. Stacey Huget Returns to Literacy BC

Stacey Huget, the former Coordinator of the NLS-funded **BC Workforce Literacy Initiative** and author of [The Big Picture Up Close: Outcomes of a Province-Wide Consultation on Literacy and Learning in BC](#), has rejoined the staff of Literacy BC on a six-month contract basis. While she will be involved in a variety of initiatives, Stacey's primary role is working with the Premier's Advisory Panel on Literacy to document their conclusions, recommendations, and strategic priorities for the province. The Panel's Interim Report is being presented to Premier Gordon Campbell on February 22nd. A Final Report will be prepared later this year.

5. Provincial Literacy Resource Centre: Help us build the collection!

Do you know of a useful literacy resource that is not in our resource centre collection? If so, complete the “**suggested purchase form**” at our online resource catalogue’s webpage at <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/catalogue/suggest/>. Alternatively, email the Resource Centre librarian at library@literacy.bc.ca. If you are a member of The Hub electronic network, you’ll find a “suggested purchase form” in the Resource Centre folder.

6. The National Scene

Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD) has a new Minister, Lucienne Robillard. Joe Volpe has left HRSD to become the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Mme. Robillard is a nine-year veteran of the federal Cabinet and will retain her current position as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, in addition to the HRSD portfolio. She has a Masters of Social Work and has worked in health and social services. [For more information on Lucienne Robillard](#). For an analysis of the impact of Mme. Robillard’s appointment on the literacy field, as well as other literacy-related developments at the national level, read MCL’s [January 2005 Federal Literacy Facts](#).

The Movement for Canadian Literacy was invited to make a presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance in November 2004. MCL Executive Director Wendy DesBrisay outlined the importance of establishing a pan-Canadian literacy strategy. Read MCL’s [written brief](#) and add your voice in support of the strategy by signing [MCL’s literacy action petition](#) .

In May, 2005 new findings from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS) survey will be released. Internationally, the survey will be called the Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey (ALL), but according to Jean Pignal, Chief of the Literacy Section at the Special Surveys Division of Statistics Canada, Canada wanted to keep the recognition that comes with the IALS abbreviation. IALSS builds on the earlier International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS), which has described literacy rates in Canada since 1994.

As its predecessor did, IALSS will compare findings between countries. It will directly measure prose literacy, document literacy, numeracy and problem solving. IALSS will also indirectly try to measure teamwork skills, including interpersonal communication skills, and information communication technology skills. In an interview for the fall 2003 issue of [Literacies](#), Mr. Pignal stated that “while literacy and numeracy are basic skills that have impacts on individual well-being and socio-economic success, other skills must also be considered if we are to better understand the impact of skills on our labour market and social fabric.” [For more information](#).