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A CALL TO ACTION: MAKE LITERACY COUNT IN THIS ELECTION! On June 28 Canadians will cast their ballots to form a new federal government. In this e-bulletin we explore tools and ideas to help you make literacy an important election issue and to encourage the participation of literacy students in the electoral process.

Also in this issue...

The 14th annual **PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy** on July 13, an event that raises valuable funds to support literacy activities in BC.

Our **Faces of Literacy** profile celebrates an amazing achievement by the New Westminster Community Development Society.

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1. Making literacy an election issue

The Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) has produced a [Literacy Action Kit](#), designed to help you get the information you need to make an informed vote, and to provide you with tools to make literacy an election issue in your riding. Suggested activities include making contact with each candidate in your riding, and raising the issue of literacy at a public forum.

MCL has written to the leaders of each of Canada's nine official political parties and asked them to respond to [seven important questions](#) about literacy, ranging from "Will you support a pan-Canadian literacy strategy?" to "Will you promise to be a literacy champion in your own riding?" Read the [leaders' responses](#)

2. Encouraging participation in the electoral process

Are you looking for resources to help literacy students understand and participate in the election? Check out MCL's [Interactive On-Line Tools](#) which offers animation, voiceovers, and step-by-step demonstrations to make the election process more accessible.

MCL's [Election Study Kit](#) offers interesting and fun teaching activities and materials to encourage understanding and participation in the election.

[Elections Canada](#) also has a number of [reader-friendly resources](#) about the election. Most of these are free of charge and can be viewed or downloaded online.

Visit [Decision 2004](#) by The Globe and Mail and read what the party leaders have to say about the main issues surrounding the election, as well as leader profiles, a voter toolkit, and more.

3. PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

The 14th Annual PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy will take place at the University Golf Course in Vancouver on Tuesday, July 13th, 2004. Founded by Peter Gzowski, and hosted by Peter Mansbridge, the PGI raises valuable funds for literacy activities in BC. To date the Vancouver PGI has raised almost \$500,000 to support Literacy BC's provincial services. The cost to participate is \$195 which includes, a day of golf, lunch and dinner...plus music, prizes, celebrity challenge events and more! For more information or to register call 604-684-0624 or email Sarah Lucas at slucas@literacy.bc.ca.

4. Faces of Literacy: The New Westminster Community Development Society

The mission of the [New Westminster Community Development Society](#) (NWCDS), headed by former Literacy BC President Vicki Austad, is "to support individual growth, community development, and economic progress through innovation and collaboration." Its outstanding success in the fulfillment of that mission has made NWCDS one of 12 organizations from around the world short listed for the US \$1 million [Alcan Prize for Sustainability by the Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum \(IBLF\)](#).

The Alcan Prize for Sustainability was created in January of this year to recognize outstanding contributions to the goal of economic, environmental,

and social sustainability by not-for-profit, non-governmental, and civil society organizations. An in-depth review of the short list will select the winner of the prize and up to four recipients of bursaries. These US\$15,000 bursaries will allow a senior representative of each selected organization to earn a post-graduate certificate in Cross Sector Partnerships from the University of Cambridge. The winners will be announced at the World Economic Forum Annual General Meeting in Davos, Switzerland in January, 2005.

Vicki Austad says "We are thrilled to be on the short list for the Alcan Prize for Sustainability. Winning the Prize or an Alcan Bursary would be a major impetus for our work. But just to be considered puts us on the international map. And that, alone, has enormous value." We congratulate Vicki and all the staff at NWCDS for this tremendous honour and wish them the best in the next round of competition.

Stay tuned for the next Literacy BC e-bulletin coming soon!

If there are changes to your contact information, or if you do not wish to receive the bulletin, please let us know by replying to e-bulletin@literacy.bc.ca.

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