



[www.literacy.bc.ca](http://www.literacy.bc.ca)      1-800-663-1293

## Welcome to the latest Literacy BC e-bulletin!

We are pleased to bring you the most recent local, provincial and national news -- and lots of interesting web links.

### In this issue ...

1. Exciting and encouraging news on the provincial front
2. Changes at AVED
3. On the national front ... Momentum building for Pan-Canadian Literacy Strategy
4. National Literacy Secretariat now housed in the new Department of Human Resources and Skills Development
5. New fund supports community based learning centres in memory of former Literacy BC President Paul Gallagher
6. 2004 Provincial Learner Achievement Award
7. Family Literacy Week wrap-up
8. Web access to the Provincial Literacy Resource Centre at Literacy BC
9. Faces of Literacy: Profiling Ruth Farrell, workplace educator extraordinaire
10. Applications of Working and Learning (AWAL): Connecting the Communities of Learning and Work
11. Calling all SARAW Programs

### 1. Exciting and encouraging news on the provincial front

The province will launch a major new initiative to foster literacy in BC.

From the [Speech from the Throne](#), February 10, 2004: "Your government wants British Columbia to become recognized as the most literate location in North America by 2010 ... To that end, your government will launch a major new initiative to foster literacy in B.C. -- enhancing reading, writing, numeracy, as well as computer literacy and proficiency in English for all British Columbians."

Initiatives include:

- ❖ An early learning success strategy targeted at students in the early years of school
- ❖ A program to improve literacy in schools, the workplace and communities
- ❖ A doubling of B.C.'s annual contribution to the [Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Program](#) and a challenge the federal government to "do the same."
- ❖ A new Premier's Advisory Council will be created to assess British Columbians' most urgent needs in literacy and recommend actions for improvement.

This is wonderful news ... please take a moment to [send an email](#) to the Premier thanking him for this bold and encouraging support. [Premier online](#).

[TOP](#)

## **2. Changes at AVED ... and introducing Literacy Advisor, Jan O'Neill**

Literacy and Adult Basic Education has moved to the [Private Institutions and Developmental Programs Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education \(AVED\)](#)

Responsibility for Developmental Programs, which, in addition to Literacy and ABE, includes Adult Special Education (for persons with disabilities) and ESL Literacy, moved to the Private Institutions and Developmental Programs Branch of AVED in October, 2003. The reason for this change was prompted by the heavy workload within the Public Institutions Branch.

Jan O'Neill is now the senior advisor within the Branch, following the retirement of Audrey Thomas last year. Jan is responsible for adult literacy, including the federal/provincial cost-shared program, and for Adult Special Education. Barbara Binczyk is responsible for Adult Basic Education and ESL Literacy.

Jan O'Neill, Senior Advisor  
Private Institutions and Developmental Programs Branch  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
Phone: 250 387-6174  
Fax: 250 356-8851  
e-mail: [Jan.ONeill@gems1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jan.ONeill@gems1.gov.bc.ca)

Barbara Binczyk  
Adult Basic Education and ESL Literacy  
Telephone 250 356-7738  
e-mail: [Barbara.Binczyk@gems2.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Barbara.Binczyk@gems2.gov.bc.ca)

[TOP](#)

## **3. On the national front .. Momentum building for Pan-Canadian Literacy Strategy**

The [Movement for Canadian Literacy \(MCL\)](#) and its partners are continuing to work on promoting a pan-Canadian strategy on literacy and essential skills. Visit the "What's New" section and the Government Relations links of [www.literacy.ca](http://www.literacy.ca) for all the relevant documents and background, particularly, "[Building a Pan-Canadian Strategy on Literacy and Essential Skills: Recommendations for the Federal Government](#)," the current issue of the MCL newsletter, [Federal Literacy Facts](#).

[TOP](#)

#### **4. National Literacy Secretariat now housed in the new Department of Human Resources and Skills Development**

The former department of Human Resources Development Canada has been split into two separate departments: Social Development and Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD). The [National Literacy Secretariat](#) is now part of HRSD. HRSD is responsible for providing all Canadians with the tools they need to thrive and prosper in the workplace and community. The Minister "supports human capital development, labour market development and is dedicated to establishing a culture of lifelong learning for Canadians." The HRSD Minister is The Honourable Joseph Volpe, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

[TOP](#)

#### **5. New fund to support community based learning centres created in memory of former Literacy BC President Paul Gallagher**

[The Paul Gallagher Access Fund](#) has been created to provide 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 will be 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 - \$1,000 will be granted. The Allocation Committee of the Literacy BC Board will select the recipients. **The deadline for applications is April 12, 2004. Funds will be disbursed in August 2004.**

[TOP](#)

#### **6. 2004 Provincial Learner Achievement Award**

The search for a well deserving individual is on again as **The Co-operators**, a national insurance company, proudly sponsors the [2004 Provincial Learner Achievement Award](#). This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in BC.

**The deadline for applications is May 15, 2004.**

[TOP](#)

#### **7. 2004 Family Literacy Week Wrap-up**

This year's B.C. [Family Literacy Week](#) in January was another huge success! Read our **wrap-up on the Week** and the annual "**Breakfast of Champions**," and news on **how you can give us feedback** on the celebrations in your community.

[Thank you to our partners](#)

[Family Literacy Day Proclamation](#)

[TOP](#)

## 8. Access to Literacy BC Resources Now Online

The Provincial Literacy Resource Centre at Literacy BC is now live on the web! A state of the art [web-based catalogue](#): now offers electronic access to BC's largest lending collection of literacy resources. The catalogue was developed by Literacy BC in partnership with the [National Adult Literacy Database \(NALD\)](#). The searchable catalogue contains more than 3650 items.

[TOP](#)

## 9. Faces of Literacy: Ruth Farrell, workplace educator extraordinaire

With this e-bulletin we begin a new feature -- **The Faces of Literacy** -- to honour people who work in our field. In 2003, Canada Post presented its Literacy Award, posthumously, to an extraordinary workplace educator, Ruth Farrell of Vancouver. Ruth's husband and friends nominated her for the award as a way to honour her legacy. In this issue, we share with our readers a profile of Ruth, taken from the award nomination by Ruth's friend and colleague, Tracy Defoe. Read [Tracy's story](#)

[TOP](#)

## 10. Applications of Working and Learning (AWAL): Connecting the Communities of Learning and Work national project

[AWAL](#) (Applications of Working and Learning) is a national, professional development program that helps educators across Canada make better connections between the academic or career subjects they teach, and the Essential Skills critical for success in the workplace. Begun in BC in 1997 working with both K-12 and adult educators, AWAL now welcomes the participation of literacy practitioners from across the country. The project is funded with support from the federal government and managed by Camosun College.

[TOP](#)

## 11. Calling all SARAW Programs

If you are using a Speech Assisted Reading and Writing (SARAW) talking computer program, or know someone who is, a new national project wants to hear from you. The project, called the [Literacy and Disability Study \(LADS\)](#) is researching different models used to deliver literacy instruction to adults with disabilities using SARAW software. SARAW is a talking computer program that helps teach basic reading, writing and math to adults with disabilities. LADS is a project of [Bow Valley College](#) in Calgary and the [Neil Squire Foundation](#) in Burnaby.

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



[www.literacy.bc.ca](http://www.literacy.bc.ca)

1-800-663-1293