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Welcome to the May 2005 Literacy BC e-bulletin!

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

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1. National News

The long-awaited second international report on literacy levels (ALL) released on May 11 is a huge wake-up call. After nine years, the same percentage (42%) of adults age 16-65 in Canada have literacy skills below what is needed to cope with everyday demands. The time for action is now and a substantial increase in investment must take place immediately and across all sectors.

At the **Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL)** site <http://www.literacy.ca/all/all.htm> you will find the full ALL report, as well as an MCL backgrounder and press release. A special ALL edition of the MCL *Federal Literacy Facts* is also planned.

Learning a Living: First Results of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050511/d050511b.htm>

Is published by **Statistics Canada** and the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

For a news release and additional information, go to the **National Literacy Secretariat (NLS)**

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/lld/nls/About/new.shtml>

In October of 2005 the **Canadian national report** from ALL is scheduled for release, with provincial results and specific national findings. We will keep you updated on this in future e-bulletins.

2. Provincial and National Deadlines for Awards: Nominate Now!

(a) **There's still time to nominate your candidates for the 2005 Canada Post Literacy Awards** www.canadapost.ca/literacyawards. **The deadline is May 27, 2005**

The Awards recognize the efforts of learners, educators, volunteers and business leaders who have made a significant contribution to improving reading and writing skill levels in communities across the country.

Individual Achievement Awards celebrate the achievements of learners who overcame social or economic barriers by improving their literacy or ESL/FSL skills.

Educator Awards honour educators, tutors, and advocates who have demonstrated a commitment to literacy or ESL/FSL training.

Community Leadership Awards are presented for programs that have demonstrated long-term achievement, innovation, leadership and excellence in furthering the cause of literacy or ESL/FSL training for at least three years.

Business Leadership Awards honour a single business organization that has demonstrated its commitment to learning by establishing or supporting literacy or ESL/FSL programs in the workplace or community.

Nominations must be received no later than midnight EDT - Friday, May 27, 2005.

(b) The Co-operators, a national insurance company, proudly sponsors the **2005 Provincial Learner Achievement Award**

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/CooperatorsLearnerAchievementAward2005.htm>

This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in BC.

The deadline for applications is Friday May 27, 2005

(c) New Award: Attention Practitioners, Learners, Volunteers and others ... Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their literacy achievements?

In July of 2004 Canada's Premiers decided to create a special annual award to recognize achievements in literacy across the country. **The Council of the Federation (COF) Award** www.aved.gov.bc.ca/literacy/federation_award.htm acknowledges outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy. The award covers the entire spectrum of the field, including family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy.

The COF literacy award for B.C. will recognize the exceptional achievement of an individual, group or project. **The deadline for nominations for the Council of the Federation Literacy Award in British Columbia is June 3, 2005.**

3. Call for Applications: Developing a Framework for Research in Practice in Adult Literacy in Canada

This national project will contribute to the development of a framework to guide future practice and policy in research in practice in adult literacy. The project is directed by a nationally-based steering committee, administered by Literacy BC, and funded by the National Literacy Secretariat. Complete project details

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

The deadline for the applications is May 20, 2005

4. Space is still available in More Learning, Less Teaching, our 2005 Summer Literacy Institute.

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/si2005/si05.pdf>

A reminder that the Institute focuses on literacy and language development for adults and youth with literacy challenges. The principal facilitators are Heide Wrigley and Jim Powrie, who have recently been involved in the innovative program for youth at risk at The New School @ Surrey in BC.

The Institute consists of a **four-week online conference (June 20-July 15)** prior to **one-week classroom workshops (July 18-22)** onsite at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby.

5. PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

The 15th Annual **PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy**

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/pgi05/announce.htm>

will take place July 12 at the University Golf Course in Vancouver. 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 more than \$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 slucas@literacy.bc.ca.

6. New School New Report ...If you are Interested in finding out about the remarkable success of the three-year **National Youth Literacy Demonstration Project** partnered by Literacy BC and the Surrey School District, read the Summary Report

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/documents/NewSchool-SummaryReport.pdf>

7. “Faces of Literacy”

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

In this issue, we bring your attention to just some of the “**faces**” represented by the regional networks and partnerships that are the grassroots of literacy activity in B.C. These networks and partnerships, which continue to grow and flourish across the province, bring together people looking for literacy help with those that can provide it. They also: offer support, raise public awareness, train tutors, hold workshops, provide professional development, and share their knowledge and experience with other community agencies. They ARE the face of literacy in the province.

Here are just a few examples -- a representational sample only -- of some of the BC groups and networks that are making literacy happen; there are dozens more. Many BC literacy programs and organizational websites can be found on NALD <http://www.nald.ca/PROVINCE/prov.htm>

Caledonia Lit – The New Caledonia Regional Literacy Coordination Project

<http://www.lib.pg.bc.ca/lit/links.html>

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL)

<http://www.cbal.org/>

Campbell River Community Literacy Association

<http://www.readwithus.ca/>

Lillooet Learning Communities Society

<http://lillooetlearns.ca/>

Upper Skeena Learning Communities Partnership

<http://www.usdc.bc.ca/learning/partner.html>

Coast Cariboo Chilcotin Learning Network

<http://www.chilcotin.bc.ca/cccln/>

Houston Link to Learning

<http://www.learnhouston.ca/>

8. Do you know ... *What's Happening?*

Read the latest edition of ***What's Happening***, <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/wh/may05/1.htm> our compilation of abbreviated information about literacy activities and events.

If you have anything you'd like posted on this, our electronic bulletin board -- your events, conferences, professional development opportunities, teaching tools or resources to recommend -- please let us know. We plan to make this service more frequent in future ... so remember to check our website regularly for more ***What's Happening***.