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Welcome to the Fall 2005 Literacy BC e-bulletin!

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

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September 8th -- International Literacy Day

All over the world, literacy and lifelong learning are celebrated on September 8, International Literacy Day (ILD)

<http://www.nald.ca/literacyevents/annual/IntLtDay/IntLtday.htm>

ILD was established in 1965 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). ILD is marked with open houses, community reading festivals, literacy displays, fund raisers, and other local events.

The staff and Board of Literacy BC would like to mark this special day by extending a heartfelt thank you to our members, partners, donors, sponsors, and our colleagues from all over BC who work with us to achieve our vision of a more literate British Columbia.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/ild/nls/Resources/ild.shtml>

has posted a government announcement for ILD, more background, ILD News Releases, and a complete list national and provincial events.

Find events and activities planned for B.C. are at:

http://www.nald.ca/literacyevents/ild/province_ild.asp?lang=1&scope=3&year1=2005&province=2

International Adult Learners Week (IALW)

IALW is celebrated this year from September 8–14.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO www.unesco.ca is helping to coordinate Canadian participation of IALW and has produced an information kit, available on request.

If you would like one, contact Literacy BC at 1-800-663-1293 or email: info@literacy.bc.ca

The National Scene

The Movement for Canadian Literacy continues to work to influence public policy at the national level. For the current news from MCL, see the latest edition (Summer 2005) of the *Literacy.ca* newsletter online at <http://www.literacy.ca/public/litca/summer05/summer05.pdf>

Provincial and Regional

The 2005 Canada Post Literacy Awards

Canada Post has announced the winners of its 2005 Literacy Awards. These awards, in four categories, recognize grass roots literacy initiatives and celebrate the achievements of learners, educators, community organizations, volunteers and business leaders.

http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/corporate/about/community/literacy/literacy_awards/win_2005-e.asp

Congratulations to all the B.C. winners of the annual Canada Post Literacy Awards.

You can read about winners in each category at

http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/corporate/about/community/literacy/literacy_awards/bios-e.asp

The B.C. Canada Post Awards Ceremony will be celebrated on September 8 in Courtenay, in conjunction with the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce.

http://www.nald.ca/literacyevents/search_results.asp?event_id=3638&lang=1

Congratulations, CBAL! The first Council of the Federation (COF) Literacy Award

http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/literacy/federation_award.htm acknowledging outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy has been awarded to the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy <http://www.cbal.org/>

Update: Adult Literacy and Life Skills (ALL) Survey – Canadian Results

Originally scheduled for October, **the release of the Canadian national report from ALL**, with provincial results and specific national findings, has now been delayed until November 9. The second international report on literacy levels, [Learning a Living: First Results of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey](#) was released by Statistics Canada and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in May. When available, the Canadian results will include a national snapshot that will dig deeper into the Canadian statistics, and provincial/territorial releases will provide regional analyses. Statistics Canada has renamed these upcoming releases the IALSS (International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey). Full details on ALL at

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

News from Literacy BC

Some highlights from our summer...

The 2005 PGI GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR LITERACY BC RAISED A RECORD \$70,000!

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

The 15th Annual Tournament on July 12th was a record breaking success! Thanks to our many generous, sponsors, golfers, volunteers and celebrity guests, we raised more than \$70,000 to support Literacy BC's programs and services. To date the Vancouver PGI has raised more than \$600,000.

Thank You <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/pgi05/sponsors.htm> to all our sponsors, contributors, golfers and guests.

The Co-operators 2005 Provincial Learner Achievement Award

Congratulations to this year's winner – **Colleen Pierre of Burns Lake**. Colleen is a student at the Adult Education Centre, College of New Caledonia Lakes District Campus. Colleen's story is on our website at <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/sup-lbc/LearnerStory-ColleenPierre.htm>

The Co-operators Award is given every year to an adult learner who has shown exceptional progress in an Adult Basic Education program. This year we received more than 30 applications for this award from around the province. The Learners Committee of the Literacy BC Board assessed the applications and selected the person they believe most exemplifies the principles of The Co-operators Learner Achievement Award.

You can view a selection of photographs of the award presentation to Colleen at the PGI at <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/pgi05/announce.htm>

Developing a Framework for Research in Practice in Adult Literacy in Canada -- CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

A national steering committee, with support from [Literacy BC](#) and funding from the [National Literacy Secretariat](#), is launching an exciting new project. The steering committee has posted a call <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/framework.htm> to adult literacy/basic education practitioners, organizations or groups from each province or territory, to join a national team and to research what is happening in research in practice in adult literacy in their province/territory.

This is a wonderful opportunity to work with literacy educators from across the country and contribute to a national framework for supporting Canadian research in practice in adult literacy. The funding support is up to \$10,000 per provincial team – and the rewards in terms of learning and networking are great.

RiPAL-BC is a collective of literacy researchers and practitioners who have funding from the NLS to support adult literacy research in practice activities in BC. As part of its mandate **RiPAL-BC would like to encourage and offer support to any groups or individuals in the province interested in applying to join this project.** Research friends can support you to write your applications, and/or link you to other groups/individuals who you may want to collaborate with in applying.

The due date for applications is September 30, 2005.

If you would like support to put together an application, or would like to connect with other interested individuals or groups in BC, please contact:
Suzanne Smythe at ripal@literacy.bc.ca or phone: 604-708-5798.

Research in Practice

RiPAL-BC, in partnership with Literacy BC, has received funding for a new project **From the Ground Up: A Research-in-Practice Approach to Outcome-Oriented Program Evaluation.**

This project will bring together practitioners, funders and policymakers to develop a new evaluation process for programs funded through the B.C. Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Program (ALCSP). It will meet the need for literacy programs to be able to demonstrate their success in terms of the changes they bring about in participants' lives at home, at work, and/or in the broader community.

Over two-years, current evaluation tools and processes will be reviewed and new ones will be developed and tested through a number of pilot projects across B.C.

For further information contact Sandy Middleton at Literacy BC
smiddleton@literacy.bc.ca

Other proposed activities:

Literacy BC has requested NLS funding for activities within four broad project areas, including:

Best Practices Promotion – developing new tools and resources for adults and families, and program support for practitioners and administrators

Social Marketing – deepening awareness, understanding and support for literacy and lifelong learning among the general public and key stakeholder groups through special events and information dissemination

Policy Influence – working with our many partnerships and alliances to influence social and economic policy related to literacy and lifelong learning

Organizational Development – working to more effectively promote and support literacy and lifelong learning through our Board and fund development

We will also continue to provide our ongoing provincial services, including: the Learn Line (provincial toll-free information and referral); electronic infrastructure (The Hub); and field support (including professional development and training opportunities).

Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) Centre established in B.C.

The new **CCL Health and Knowledge Centre** will be led by the University of Victoria with a mandate to investigate the relationship between health and learning. The Centre is one of five based in different regions of the country examining various aspects of learning: adult learning (Atlantic Canada); early childhood learning (Quebec); work and learning (Ontario); Aboriginal learning (the prairies, NWT and Nunavut); health and learning (B.C. and Yukon).

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/english/know/health.asp>

Upcoming events and activities

Mark your calendars for this year's Word on the Street Festival!

<http://www.thewordonthestreet.ca/vancouver.php> Literacy BC will once again host a booth along Literacy Lane at WOTS, on Sunday September 25 downtown in Library Square. Drop by and visit us -- we look forward to seeing you there!

Reminder ... Raise-A-Reader Day is approaching. This year's RAR Day is Thursday, September 29. <http://www.canada.com/national/features/raiseareader/vancouver.html> On this day, volunteers and celebrities will hit the streets early in Vancouver and cities across Canada to sell newspapers and raise money for CanWest Global's Raise-a-Reader campaign. The campaign was created by The Vancouver Sun in 1997 to increase awareness of literacy and raise money to fund children's literacy programs. Last year Literacy BC disbursed its \$50,000 share of Raise-a-Reader funds to 50 family literacy programs in BC.

Books for Babies

A group of partners from the public library field in B.C. is working to launch a B.C. Books for Babies project this fall.

The idea behind Books for Babies is to develop a package that will include a children's book, information on the importance of parents reading to their children and other material, and distribute it to every baby born in B.C. (approximately 40,000 annually).

The project is in the planning stages now, and an official launch is set for January 2006. This fall, project organizers are working to purchase the books, develop a poster and book bags, and approach donors. When the packages are ready, they will be shipped to communities throughout B.C. Once packages are delivered to local libraries, the group anticipates that librarians will work with local organizations to determine the most effective way of getting them into the hands of parents. Local fundraising will be encouraged. An important piece of the project is to encourage the families who receive packages to bring their baby to the library.

Funds have been committed from the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB), Ministry of Education. The PLSB will fund a reprint of the popular British publication, *Babies Love Books* to be included in the package and organize distribution of the packages provincially.

The first book to be included is Raffi's "Baby Beluga," a natural choice organizers say, because of its B.C. authorship and content. Future plans include books with aboriginal content, and providing books in other languages for families whose home language is not English. While the project partners recognize there are many existing books for babies programs in B.C., they say this project is not supposed to be a replacement, but an enhancement to existing programs, and all community members are welcome to participate.

Organizers will be setting up a web site soon. For more information, contact:
Rhian Piprell, Deputy Director, Coquitlam Public Library (Phone: 604 937 4132, email
rpiprell@library.coquitlam.bc.ca) or Jim Looney, PLSB (604 660-7346 email:
Jim.Looney@gov.bc.ca)

Resource Centre Update:

Goodbye to our Resource Centre librarian, Valerie Patrick

On August 26, Valerie left us for her new job in Ottawa, where she has been hired on a one-year contract as staff librarian at Amnesty International. We'll miss her and we wish her all the best. We will keep you posted about resource centre developments in future e-bulletins. Meanwhile, a reminder that the resources link on our web page has recently been updated
<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/resources/newresc.htm>.

And – you can find **a list of the very latest acquisitions (August 2005) to our resource centre** at: <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/resources/newresc/resaug05.htm>

Feature Profile: Faces of Literacy

We have a new feature profile coming soon – watch for it at the Faces of Literacy link on our website. This feature is designed to put a personal face to the people and organizations who 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.

Do you know ... What's Happening?

Read the latest edition of [What's Happening](#), 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.