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1-888-732-3234 (1- 888 - READ 234)

Welcome to the Spring 2008 Literacy BC E-bulletin

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## **March Focus on Literacy:**

### **BC Education Month / International Adult Learners' Week (IALW)**

Traditionally, each spring, B.C. dedicates a week for the celebration of education and learning. This year, "in honour of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia and on behalf of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, the B.C. Lieutenant Governor has proclaimed **March 2008 Education Month in B.C.**"

Find out more on the Education Month website:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edmonth/> and Read the Provincial Proclamation

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edmonth/proclamation.pdf>

March 3-9 was declared **International Adult Learners' Week (IALW)** by **UNESCO**

<http://www.unesco.ca/en/activity/education/AdultLearners.aspx>

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/MediaReleaseIALW.pdf>

**We will have full reports in the next edition of the E-Bulletin on these two events (below) organized by Literacy BC to mark IALW.**

### **BC Learner Leadership Project Launch (March 5)**

Launch of the provincial Learner Leadership Project, which had its origins in the 2007 Summer Literacy Institute in Vancouver.

### **Forum: English Literacy for New Canadians: the intergenerational challenge**

(March 6)

A groundbreaking forum for stakeholders from the immigrant settlement, ESL and literacy fields, featuring a review of current evidence and an exploration of new models that can address the connection between low English literacy of immigrant parents/caregivers and the educational development of their children.

### **Raising Awareness...**

#### **Literacy in Transit: "Everyone Can Learn to Read Better"**

Bus riders in 26 BC communities are being encouraged to dial the Literacy BC toll-free help line during March to find a literacy program for themselves or someone they know.

Transit ads promoting the Read 234 toll-free number (**1-888-READ-234**) and the BC Literacy Directory [www.literacybc.ca/directory](http://www.literacybc.ca/directory) are appearing on hundreds of buses throughout BC. The month-long public awareness campaign, created by Literacy BC, is time to coincide with International Adult Learners Week (March 3-9) and runs to March 31.

Ads will appear on buses in: Abbotsford, Campbell River, Castlegar, Chilliwack, Courtenay, Cranbrook, Dawson Creek, Duncan, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Kelowna, Kitimat, Nanaimo, Nelson, Penticton, Port Alberni, Powell River, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Sechelt, Squamish, Terrace, Trail, Vernon, Victoria, Williams Lake.

***If you spot one of the ads on your community transit system, call and let us know what you think.***

This awareness campaign comes one year after Literacy BC launched an expanded toll-free telephone line to help British Columbians find and access literacy programs and resources in their communities.

**1-888 Read 234** <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/helpline.htm> was established in January 2007, as part of the provincial government's \$27 million ReadNow literacy strategy. <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/flwrelease.htm>

To support and augment the Read 234 line, In September we launched the **BC Literacy Directory** [www.literacybc.ca/directory](http://www.literacybc.ca/directory) which enables users anywhere in BC to locate literacy programs and services online.

**National news..**

### **Mark your calendars for... First Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum April 14-15, 2008**

Over three days in April, Canadians at six host sites across the country, including Vancouver, will simultaneously participate in the first-ever **Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum**. <http://www.cmec.ca/literacy/forum.en.stm>

The Forum will use the latest technology to create a virtual community, where all participants will be able to listen to and interact with keynote speakers in real time. Each host site will also have local speakers and events relating to the site theme.

Keynote speakers will share their personal stories of the difference literacy has made in their lives. Some forums will feature literacy and education experts, policy makers, and celebrated entertainers. All will champion an individual theme, such as Aboriginal literacy, community, early learning, and workplace literacy.

### **BC Forum Site Theme: Communities Working Together for Literacy**

Details on the BC Forum site <http://www.literacy.cmec.ca/forum-bc-en.html>  
And the latest press release from CMEC  
<http://www.cmec.ca/releases/press.en.stm?id=58>

### **2008 Family Literacy Week ...**

For the ninth year in a row, the province proclaimed January 27 as Family Literacy Day. <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/pdfs/proclamation.pdf>

Family Literacy Week was celebrated in BC from January 21-27. The day and week were marked by dozens of events ranging from workshops and presentations in the Lower Mainland to family-focused activities, and celebrations in communities across the province. <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/flwbase.htm>

The annual **Breakfast of Champions**, the flagship event of BC Family Literacy Week, attracted key representatives from government, school districts, libraries, business, labour and other organizations with an interest in families and learning.

<http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/flw2008flyer.pdf>



**Literacy BC President Marilyn MacDonald welcomes guests to the 2008 Breakfast of Champions at the Vancouver Public Library**

This year, four special guest speakers addressed the Breakfast theme of **Bridging Cultures and Strengthening Communities** --how Information & Communications Technology (ICT) is being used effectively to improve literacy around the world.

Keynote speakers were **John Corcoran**, author of *Bridge to Literacy: No Child – or Adult – Left Behind*, on his foundation's online tutoring and assistive technology initiatives; **Calvin Helin**, northern-BC based author of *Dances with Dependency*, on the importance of literacy to Aboriginal communities; **Ian Thomson**, Director of TEFA International, on the success of a 'Computers in Homes' program in promoting learning for Maori families in New Zealand; and **Vince Walter**, Advisor to the Rotary International Literacy Resource Group, on their Computer Assisted Literacy Solution.



**Above and below: Keynote speaker Calvin Helin,** author of *Dances with Dependency, at the Breakfast.*



**Keynote Breakfast speaker Ian Thomson**



**Linda Reid, Minister of State for Child Care, addressing guests at the Breakfast, was presented with a certificate acknowledging her as a champion of family literacy**

Support for Lower Mainland Family Literacy Week was provided by the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (HRSDC) and by BC's Ministry of Advanced Education, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Children and Family Development

### **15,000 books donated to BC families**

Family literacy programs in BC received an early Christmas present in December, thanks to the generosity of one of BC's longstanding family literacy supporters. In the run-up to Family Literacy Week 2008, **Scholastic Book Fairs** generously donated **15,000 children's books** to Literacy BC for distribution to BC children and families.

On December 19, staff and volunteers from **Scholastic, Literacy BC, the Canucks Family Education Centre and Britannia Community Services Centre** joined representatives of the Canucks, and the kindergarten class of Britannia Elementary School, to package the donations and courier them to more than 100 programs province-wide. Lunch was provided by Panago Pizza and Starbucks Coffee Company

Scholastic Book Fairs and Literacy BC have worked together to support family literacy in BC for ten years.

## Provincial News...

### **New Funding for Regional Coordination**

The BC government has announced that BC's network of regional literacy coordinators (RLC's) will be supported under a new strategy that creates funding for the Regional Coordination within the Ministry of Advanced Education.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2008AE0012-000203.pdf](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008AE0012-000203.pdf)

Read Literacy BC's response at

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

### **School District Literacy Forum**

As part of BC school districts' continuing literacy planning, the Ministry of Education held a District Literacy Forum in Vancouver on January 31. The forum brought together teams from school districts across B.C. to develop strategies around their literacy plans. Among those attending the Forum

[http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/photogallery/2008/literacy\\_forum08.htm](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/photogallery/2008/literacy_forum08.htm)

were Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education (far right) and Jennifer Cliff-Marks, adult literacy coordinator /ABE Instructor, Nakusp/Selkirk region. Diana Twiss represented Literacy BC.

### **BC Library Conference, "Off the Shelf and Out of the Box: Creativity in Libraries" April 17 -19, 2008**

Next month's BCLA conference in Richmond will feature five literacy-related sessions or workshops, with Literacy BC Librarian, Debbie Monkman and Executive Director Cynthia Whitaker both hosting presentations. For a full list of workshops and registration information, contact:

<http://www.bcla.bc.ca/2008%20Conference/page/home.aspx>

The 2008 BC Conference is a partnership between the BC Library Trustees Association and the Health Libraries Association of BC.

### **Learning Disabilities Library**

The Learning Disabilities Association Vancouver (LDAV) recently launched the opening of a new and improved public library stocked with a wide selection of resource books and audio-books for children and adults. <http://www.ldav.ca/index.html>

The purchase of thousands of new books was made possible by the generosity of Kiwanis Vancouver Club. The LDAV supports public awareness about the nature and impact of learning disabilities, through advocacy, research, remedial programs, education and collaborative efforts.

## **News from Literacy BC - Welcome three new staff members**

**Judy Finch** has joined Literacy BC to work on our fund development initiatives, including our two major fundraising events, Literacy & Beyond and the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy BC. Prior to joining Literacy BC, Judy worked for several years as a Program Manager for the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Judy has a strong background in coordinating events, managing volunteer committees, and marketing. She is currently pursuing part time studies in Fund Development at BCIT. We are very pleased to welcome Judy to our team! Judy can be reached at [jfinch@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:jfinch@literacy.bc.ca) or 604-684-0624, Ext. 102.

**Tammy Gladue** has joined Literacy BC as a full time Projects Assistant, working with Jean Rasmussen, our Director of Community and Family Development, and our Office Administrator, Marj Froemgen, on the Literacy BC database and other projects. Tammy is from the Saddle Lake First Nations in Alberta. She previously worked for the Institute of Indigenous Government (First Nations College) for several years. Welcome, Tammy!

**Emily Hunter** recently joined Literacy BC as a part time Research Analyst. Emily was previously working as an English tutor with Korean high school students and became interested in literacy through volunteering as a literacy tutor at the Carnegie Centre. Her educational background is in English and Human Ecology.

### **Learner and Community Support: The Paul Gallagher Community Access Fund** <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/gallagher.htm>

The Fund, named in memory of the former Literacy BC President, provides financial resources to community-based adult learning centres to assist students with short term emergency needs such as transport, childcare, clothing, books or other costs that would make the difference between attending and not attending their literacy/ABE program.

The purpose of the Access Fund is to remove barriers by providing financial resources with few strings attached in order to fill gaps that more formal funding channels do not meet.

Awards of up to \$1000 are granted to BC community-based adult learning centres that demonstrate a need for financial assistance related to student access where other financial support is not available. **Application deadline: May 30, 2008**

*Stay tuned: Evaluation procedure under review.* Literacy BC is in the process of reviewing the evaluation procedures for the Access Fund. To make the process fair for all applicants, **we encourage you to submit your application following the publication of the procedures at the end of March 2008.** We will distribute these procedures on our web site, through the HUB and to the distribution list for this eBulletin.

## **PACE Bursary Fund**

Literacy BC provides direct financial assistance to part-time adult learners through the PACE Bursary Fund, supporting students who are pursuing educational upgrades at a registered public or private institution, but who are not eligible for financial support from student loans or other government student assistance programs.

**Application deadline: September 30, 2008**

For more information and an application form visit: <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/pace.htm>

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## **2008 Provincial Learner Achievement Award**



Nominations are now being accepted for the **2008 Co-operators Provincial Learner Achievement Award**. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in BC.

[http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/cooperators\\_award\\_files/cooperators\\_award.htm](http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/cooperators_award_files/cooperators_award.htm)

**The deadline for applications is May 16, 2008**

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## **Mark your Calendars for our fundraising events: Literacy & Beyond and the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy BC**

Literacy BC's signature fundraising events are just four months away. Please join us for **Literacy & Beyond** on **July 7<sup>th</sup>** and the **PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy BC** on **July 8<sup>th</sup>**. Hosted by Peter Mansbridge, Literacy & Beyond offers a unique opportunity to taste BC's most coveted wines, sample some incredible food and mingle with BC's finest. The PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy BC, founded by Peter Gzowski, includes a day of scramble golf followed by an awards dinner hosted by Peter Mansbridge. Together the events are expected to raise more than \$100,000 to support Literacy BC's programs and services for adult learners, including our two bursary funds for adult learners.

Look for more information on our website at the end of March. .

## Get Involved in ELMO!

**ELMO Reviews - Exemplary Literacy Materials Online Reviews** is a new project to review adult and family literacy materials. The ELMO Reviews web site will soon be available at [www.elmoreviews.ca](http://www.elmoreviews.ca). From the site, practitioners, tutors, learners, librarians and others working with literacy materials will be able to read and write reviews. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **Suggest a resource for review.** Are there any great literacy materials (books, web sites, videos, newspapers, etc.) you are already using? Email us at [library@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:library@literacy.bc.ca) or add them to the ELMO Web site yourself.
- **Write mini-reviews!** Learners, tutors and practitioners can all write mini-reviews. Find a great book, web site or any other resource that you have found useful. Then, write a mini-review. Tell us “What did you think of this resource?” “How would you use it?” “What feedback have you had about it?” You’ll also have the opportunity to give the resource a star rating. Consider using ELMO Reviews as a classroom exercise and ask learners to review a resource.
- **Conduct a field review.** Work with a learner one-on-one – or with a small or large group – to assess a resource. A field review is a more in-depth review that answers the question “Does this resource work in practice with my learner(s)?” Contact us at [library@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:library@literacy.bc.ca) if you would like to write a field review and we will provide you with the criteria and process.

Don’t forget to sign up to be kept up to date about ELMO Reviews at [http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/elmo\\_form.htm](http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/elmo_form.htm)

## Literacy BC Resource Centre

### New Resources & Reviews

Thanks to our guest reviewers, Sandrina Harwood, Community Literacy Coordinator in Dawson Creek, and Robert Melrose, librarian at the Down Syndrome Research Foundation.

### Web site for ESL students

Sandrina Harwood writes: *“I would like to share a fun site I discovered a short while ago [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com). Some of the ESL students have found it very useful for building vocabulary and really enjoy the fact that they are contributing (through the United Nations) to helping to feed people around the world. A win-win situation.”*

## **Literacy skills for students with Down syndrome**

***Literacy Activities Handbook: Supporting Literacy for People with Intellectual / Developmental Challenges*** (2001, Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres)

<http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/sarc/cover.htm> (or borrow from Literacy BC)

Excerpt (the complete review will be available on the **ELMO Reviews Web site**).

*“Prior to 1978, it was generally held that a person with Down syndrome would never learn to read. Flash forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it is now the normative belief that children with Down syndrome CAN learn to read. This is an excellent resource to have for teaching literacy skills to students with Down syndrome. A great strength of the book is its practical approach for novice or experienced instructors. It provides a good framework of the essential areas of literacy, reading, writing, numeracy (currency), and decoding (phonics) and the skills to use for teaching students with intellectual challenges. Both novice and experienced teachers will appreciate the student centered focus of the book. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has or will be teaching literacy skills to students with intellectual challenges and who needs the necessary tools to hit the ground running.”*

## **Literacy in BC**

Read a concise summary of literacy activities in BC provided by the Ministry of Education's ***EdInfo Digest***, special edition #2 (February 8, 2008) at

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edinfo/archives/volume7/special\\_edition2.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edinfo/archives/volume7/special_edition2.pdf)

## **Aboriginal Family Literacy**

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres supports the provision of family literacy programming among aboriginal and literacy social service providers. They also increase access to aboriginal-focused approaches and resources, and promote family literacy in BC. Learn more at <http://www.bcaafc.com/content/view/24/273/> or contact Vanessa Boylan at [vboylan@bcaafc.com](mailto:vboylan@bcaafc.com) to sign up for their newsletter.

## **Online Repository of Workplace Literacy Materials**

*NALD@Work* is Canada's digital library containing program models, teaching and learning materials, assessment tools, research documents and much more, all on the subject of workplace and essential skills. Visit the web site at

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

## **Canadian Literacy Research Directory is Back**

After a break from September 2005, this online directory of Canadian literacy research is back in operation. Be sure to send published or in progress research to Kirstie Blackmore at [kblackmo@ualberta.ca](mailto:kblackmo@ualberta.ca). To view the directory, go to

<http://www.nald.ca/crd/>

### **RiPAL-BC Web Site Updated**

The BC Research in Practice in Adult Literacy web site has been updated with new project information. Latest additions include *From the Ground Up, Toward a 'Whole-Life' Approach: Addressing Learning Disabilities in Adult Literacy Settings,* and "Connecting the Dots." View the web site at <http://ripal.literacy.bc.ca>

**ESI: Essential Skills Investigation [DVD], 15 minutes, 2007.** *Essential Skills Guiding Team of the BC/Yukon AHRDA Region.; Bear Image Production.; BC/Yukon : Sto:lo Nation human resources development.*

"ESI Agents are on a mission: To solve this deadly puzzle. What really happened to popular local Vancouver sports-caster, William Flynn? Why did dinner lead to disaster? ..." Join in with the investigators as they explore the nine Essential Skills: Reading Text, Document Use, Numeracy, Writing, Oral Communication, Working with Others, Thinking Skills, Computer Use and Continuous Learning to determine the guilty party!" Borrow this DVD from the Literacy BC Resource Centre.

**To see a full listing of new resources** to borrow, visit <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/resources/newresc/reswin08.htm>