

FYI:
Current Literacy Information & Resources
Summer 2006

For more information, or to obtain any of the resources highlighted in FYI, contact the Provincial Literacy Resource Centre at library@literacy.bc.ca or call 1-800-663-1293 or 604-684-0624

FYI is a compilation of resources and information that may be of interest to practitioners, researchers, policy makers and administrators in the literacy field in B.C. It is compiled by library staff based on the reports and journals we receive at the library, email notices, websites and other current awareness services. FYI will be included quarterly with our E-Bulletin and posted on the Literacy BC website under "Publications" at www.literacy.bc.ca Thank you for forwarding to us information you would like to see in the next FYI.

- **How Has Life Changed Since the 1950s?**

Journal: *Transition*, Spring 2006, p. 3-15

<http://www.vifamily.ca/library/transition/transition.html>

Elaine Lowe, from the Vanier Institute of the Family, writes on 50 years of societal changes. In this walk down memory lane (for some of us), we remember what the previous generations faced and ponder what may be in store for future generations. What was life like in the 1950s compared to now? A fascinating look at influences on our life experiences, social service development, diversity, the rural to urban shift, education, the labour market, housing, the role of women, and 1950s technologies (credit cards, birth control pill, modem...).

- **Vancouver Learners Read About Climate Change**

Available at: **http://www.onedayvancouver.ca/take_action.php?itemId=33**

More information: Phone 604-737-8555 or email rgeorg@telus.net

Cool Vancouver News is a newspaper about climate change for adult learners. This free publication comes with Instructor's Notes suggesting classroom activities and exercises. It is published by *Fored BC* in partnership with the City of Vancouver and distributed free throughout Vancouver.

- **Learners Experience Personal and Social Benefits from Literacy Programs**

Available at: **<http://www.nald.ca/ppr/researchproject.htm>**

Ontario's Parkdale Project Read released a report on learners' experiences in literacy programs: *I've Opened Up: Exploring Learners' Perspectives on Progress – Adult Learners in Community-Based Programs*. The report indicates that learners come away with personal and social benefits through their engagement with literacy programs. Also available *Measuring Non-Academic Outcomes in Adult Literacy Programs: A Literature Review (2005)*.

- **Video Helps Teachers Self-Evaluate and Validate Their Practice**
Article: *Video as a Professional Development Tool* by Jessica Tomkins
Publication: *Focus on Basics, 8(B): May 2006.* <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=1107>
National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy
Teachers can use video as a professional development tool to increase self-awareness and awareness of students' needs, and as a source of positive validation of their practice. This article describes the benefits to teachers as they were videotaped in a research study on student engagement.
- **An International Perspective on Literacy Policy Issues**
Journal: *Literacy Across the Curriculummedia Focus*, Vol. 18, no. 1, 2005
<http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/publications/lacmf/litarch.htm>
The recent issue of the Centre for Literacy journal, *Literacy Across the Curriculummedia Focus* contains a number of short articles on literacy policy issues from authors reporting on Australia, UK, US and New Zealand, as well as Canada. One article from this issue is freely available on the website: *Processes of policy making and theories of public policy: relating power, policy and professional knowledge in literacy agendas*, by Joseph Lo Bianco. Also in this issue, University of Saskatchewan authors Veeman, Walker and Ward present findings from a qualitative applied policy study in Canada and Sweden. Their goal was to account for reported literacy differences between the two countries. These same authors have also published a book, *Valuing Literacy: Rhetoric or Reality*, scheduled for release in September 2006. For more information about their book and to pre-order a copy, visit <http://www.nald.ca/WHATNEW/hnews/2006/valuing.htm>
- **Workplace Challenges to Learning and Training in the Columbia Basin**
New resource: *Skills for Life: Essential Skills and Workplace Literacy: Final Report*
Funded by the Government of Canada in partnership with College of the Rockies and Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. 2006
The Skills for Life team traveled throughout the East Kootenay region asking businesses about the challenges they faced in regards to workplace literacy, essential skills and training in the workplace. The results from the 77 businesses interviewed were used in the Skills for Life conference. This report has information from the conference as well as the results of the survey.

- **Lifelong Learning in Canada – Does Everyone Have the Right to Learn? *Too Many Left Behind: Canada’s Adult Education and Training System.* Karen Myers and Patrice de Broucker. CPRN Research Report W|34, June 2006, 109 pages <http://www.cprn.org/en/doc.cfm?doc=1479>**

This new report from the Canadian Policy & Research Network documents the availability of formal learning opportunities for adults. It identifies gaps in adult learning systems and recommends measures to fill the gaps. Based on an examination of five provinces, Alberta, B.C., Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec, *Too Many Left Behind: Canada’s Adult Education and Training System* describes impacts on the labour market of the gaps in adult education, and puts forward a vision for an adult learning system where everyone has the “right to learn.”

- **Boys and Literacy Skills**
Article: *Boys Exhibit High Literacy Skills with Video Games, Vancouver Sun,* May 31, 2006

<http://www.canada.com/vancouvernews/story.html?id=d91eb782-4169-4a6b-ad09-1868d2a2783b>

According to this article in the *Vancouver Sun*, designing video games – and even playing them – helps develop sophisticated operational, cultural and critical literacy skills. Researchers from the University of Victoria followed a group of boys aged 11 to 16 for 19 weeks at a video design camp. They found that the boys had high level literacy skills while engaged in games. Much of video game operational literacy is taken for granted by the players because of the large amount of time they have devoted to learning the symbol/language system.

Interested in reading more about video games and literacy? Check out *Video Games and Young People*, 2004

<http://www.slis.ualberta.ca/cap05/heather/introduction.htm>

- **NALD Library Gets a Makeover**
 Use the online NALD (National Adult Literacy Database) Library to access full-text learner materials, research reports and items to purchase.

<http://library.nald.ca/>

- **BC Public Libraries and Literacy Communities Share Information**
Report from the Libraries and Literacy Provincial Forum, February 27, 2006.

<http://www.bcpl.gov.bc.ca/literacy/index.php>

Members of the literacy and the library communities met for one day in December 2005 to share information about how they support literacy in B.C. This report summarizes the presentations and discussions and paints a picture of the variety of activities going on in the province in both communities.

- **The Relationship between School Success and Healthier Adults**
Are Those Who Flourished At School Healthier Adults? What Role for Adult Education? by Cathie Hammond and Leon Feinstein, Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning. February 2006
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RCB02-06.pdf>
 A UK study investigated whether those who flourished at secondary school – as measured by physical and mental health, health behaviours and well-being – have better outcomes as adults than those who did not. While health outcomes were better for those who did flourish at school, the study also investigated the impact of adult learning. Adults who engaged in adult learning found positive changes in their health and well-being.
- **Does Dropping out of High School Affect Employability, Income and Work Hours?**
The importance of functional literacy: Reading and math skills and labour market outcomes of high school drop-outs, by Ross Finnie and Ronald Meng. Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series, no. 275, March 27, 2006, Statistics Canada
<http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=11F0019MIE2006275>
 This paper focuses on how literacy and numeracy skills affect outcomes for those at the bottom end of the Canadian labour market. Findings indicate that literacy and numeracy skills have a significant effect on the probability of being employed and on hours and weeks of work for both men and women. They also have a strong influence on men's, but not women's, incomes.
- **New Violence and Learning Web site**
<http://www.learningandviolence.net>
 The new *Violence and Learning* Web site examines the impact of violence on learning, explores ways to support learning in the aftermath of violence, and shows who is doing research or developing innovative practice to address the issue. The multi-media design has information about the issue and a forum for participating in discussion.