

**FYI:**  
Current Literacy Information & Resources  
Summer 2007

For more information or to obtain these resources, contact Literacy BC's Provincial Literacy Resource Centre at [library@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:library@literacy.bc.ca) or 1-800-663-1293 or 604-684-0624

**FYI** highlights information and resources that may be of interest to practitioners, researchers, policy makers and administrators in the literacy field in British Columbia. **FYI** is compiled by library staff based on the reports and journals we receive at the library, email notices, Web sites and other current awareness services. It is sent out quarterly with Literacy BC's E-Bulletin and posted on the Literacy BC Web site under "Publications" at [www.literacy.bc.ca](http://www.literacy.bc.ca) Thank you for forwarding to us information you would like to see in the next **FYI**.

[Community Development](#) | [Computer Recycling](#) | [Disabilities](#) | [Distance Education](#) | [Early Learning](#) | [Education Resources](#) | [Health Literacy](#) | [Libraries and Literacy](#) | [Literacy – Canada](#) | [Literacy Journals](#) | [Literacy Booksellers](#) | [Literacy Research](#) | [Literacy Statistics](#) | [Reading](#) | [Technology](#) | [Violence](#) | [Workplace Literacy](#)

### *Community Development*

- **Community Literacy Plans**

<http://www.2010legaciesnow.com/353/>

The Literacy Now Communities program guides communities through a planning process to identify local literacy needs. Community Literacy Plans are available for many parts of BC.

- **Vancouver's Community Learning Strategy**

<http://www.ccl->

[cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/VancouverLearningCity.htm](http://cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/VancouverLearningCity.htm)

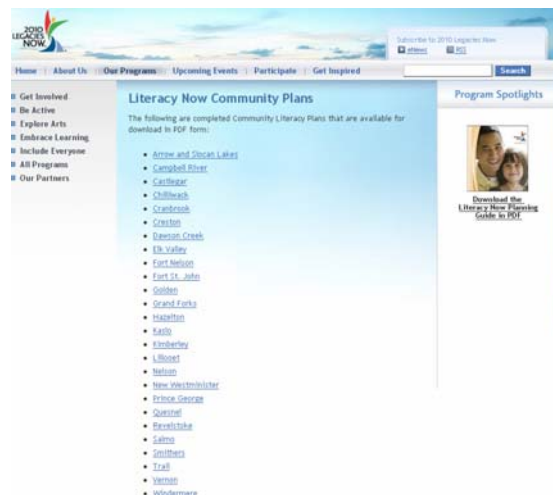
The Vancouver Learning City Initiative and the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) announce a demonstration project. They will use the Composite Learning Index (see Literacy Statistics in this section) as a "learning lens" to develop an in-depth analysis of Vancouver's learning conditions.

### *Computer Recycling*

- **Computer Donations & Recycling**

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

Donate old computers or receive donations of recycled computers. Vancouver Computer Literacy Society is a non-profit organization that works with the public and



private sectors to help deal with surplus and obsolete electronics. The Society collects old computers for donation and recycling in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

## Disabilities

- **Putting a Canadian Face on Learning Disabilities**

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

In March 2007, the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada released the results of a three year study on the social costs of learning disabilities (LD) in Canada. You will find information about the study, prevalence of LDs by age group and province, as well as supplementary reports, such as the social costs and neurological basis of LD.



- **Literacy, Disability & Canadian Labour Force Participation**

<http://www.abilities.ca>

“People with disabilities don’t get many opportunities to get jobs and keep them.” This report, and accompanying maps, demonstrates that nearly half of people with disabilities are not in the labour force. Supported by personal stories, it describes the issue of low literacy levels.

Reference: Rioux, M et al. Who’s in and who’s out? Literacy, disability and Canadian labour force participation. *Abilities*, Spring 2007, 38-39.

- **Canada Slow to Overcome Limits for Disabled Learners**

[http://www.ccl-](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20070222)

[cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20070222](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20070222) [Slow overcome limits disabled learners.htm](#)

This Canadian Council on Learning report looks at disability and literacy, educational attainment, employment and earnings. It points towards changing attitudes towards people with disabilities, providing supports for children with disabling conditions, creating conditions for school success, encouraging and supporting further education and accommodating people with disabling conditions.

## Distance Education

- **Getting Online (GO) – Distance Education Promising Practices for Canadian Literacy Practitioners**

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

GO, a national project, will research the development and application of distance and online education for literacy practitioners in Canada. A 10-20 minute survey (<http://www.nald.ca/gettingonline/survey.htm>) asks for information about online methods, tools and strategies practitioners currently use. One goal of the project is to deliver a national, asynchronous online course on effective practices in distance and online education. The project manager is Diana Twiss, Capilano College.

### Early Learning

- Ministry of Education’s Early Learning Framework**  
[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early\\_learning/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early_learning/)  
 The BC Ministry of Education is developing an early learning framework for children from birth to age five. A summary of public feedback on the framework is available; the Ministry is revising the framework based on this information.
- Encyclopedia of Language & Literacy Development**  
<http://literacyencyclopedia.ca/>  
 A new web-based encyclopedia, developed by the Canadian Language & Literacy Network, provides research-based answers to questions about children’s language and literacy in an accessible format.

### Education Resources

- Walkingthetalk.bc.ca - BC Working Group on Sustainability Education**  
<http://www.walkingthetalk.bc.ca>  
 This working group's vision is to "create leadership and support for the implementation and evaluation of sustainability education across the province. The group will create recommendations for curriculum and policy development and an action plan for implementation." One of its roles has been to create the Walking The Talk Web site. This online network, e-dialogue and listserv contains linkages and information about sustainability for higher education, K-12 and non-formal education.
- Vancouver 2010/edu – A Canadian School Portal for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games**  
<http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/edu>



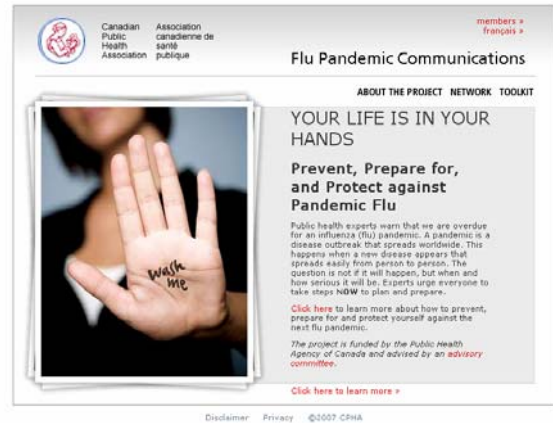
For students, schools and teachers, this Web site will have teaching resources and interactive programs connected to a wide range of school curricula and student interest. Subscribe with your email address.

## Health Literacy

- **Flu Pandemic Resources**

[www.pandemic.cpha.ca](http://www.pandemic.cpha.ca)

The Movement for Canadian Literacy and the Canadian Public Health Association worked together to help prepare Canada for a flu pandemic. Their toolkit contains fact sheets, a poster showing a hand with "wash me" written on it and the caption "Your life is in your hands," a user guide and issue brief for organizations, a newsletter and a CD-ROM.



- **Health Literacy Skills Required for Patient Self-Management**

<http://www.ccl->

[cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20070619\\_patient\\_self\\_management.htm?Language=EN](http://cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20070619_patient_self_management.htm?Language=EN)

Day-to-day self-management of chronic conditions requires patients to understand and assess health information, plan and make lifestyle changes, make informed decisions and understand how to access care. This article highlights the issue of low literacy for those with health challenges and ways the challenges can be met.

Reference: Patient self-management: health literacy skills required, June 19, 2007, *Lessons in Learning*, Canadian Council on Learning.

- **October is Health Literacy Month!**

[http://www.healthliteracy.com/hl\\_month.asp](http://www.healthliteracy.com/hl_month.asp)

Find health literacy resources to celebrate health literacy month, including an event planning guide for health literacy advocates and promotional materials.

- **Health Literacy Network News – A BC Blog**

<http://www.hlnnews.blogspot.com/>

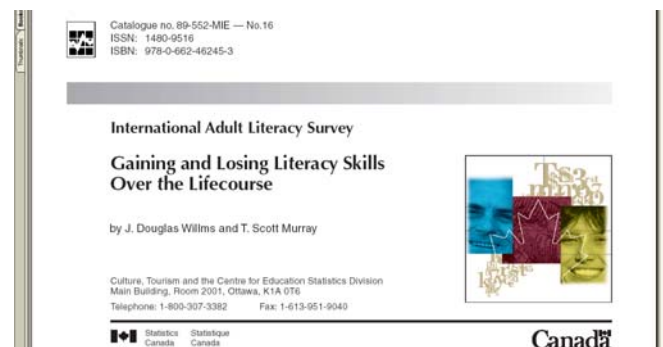
This blog, a program of the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, is useful for keeping up with general health resources, events, and news. Sign up for RSS feed or email updates.

## *Libraries & Literacy Partnerships*

- **Reports from the Summer Institute - Libraries and Literacy, June 27 - 29, 2007, The Centre for Literacy, Quebec**  
<http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/whatsnew/sli2007.htm>  
Looking for ideas on how literacy programs and libraries can collaborate? Quebec's Centre for Literacy's 2007 Summer Institute reports on library and literacy partnerships from the provinces. There is a report from BC on community development at VPL and The Carnegie Learning Centre, as well as a literature review on early literacy outreach from Books for BC Babies. There are also reports from the UK, Australia and the US.
- **Libraries and Literacy – A National Web Site!**  
[www.librariesandliteracy.ca](http://www.librariesandliteracy.ca)  
Learn what is happening across Canada in libraries and literacy organizations. Libraries and literacy.ca is a new Web site that reports on the 2006 National Summit on Libraries and Literacy. To participate in the discussion of library-literacy partnerships, visit the online discussion group.

## *Literacy – Canada*

- **The State of Learning in Canada**  
<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/StateofLearning?Language=EN>  
This report, published by the Canadian Council on Learning, examines factors that lead to successful lifelong learning – from early childhood, through the school years, into adulthood. Canada's literacy challenges are highlighted.
- **Gaining & Losing Literacy Skills**  
<http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=89-552-MWE2007016>  
Many Canadians experience a significant loss of literacy skills during adulthood, and this loss appears to be concentrated in adults from lower socio-economic backgrounds, according to a new study based on the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey and the 2003 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey. The Summary Report can be found at  
<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/070706/d070706b.htm>



- **AlphaPlus Blog Launched**

<http://blog.alphaplus.ca/>

AlphaPlus has launched *Learning Outside the Lines: Literacy in Ontario*, a blog with various news and resources about literacy. Subscribe to RSS feed or email alerts.

### *Literacy Journals*

- **Literacies is Back!**

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

Be sure to subscribe to the Canadian journal *Literacies: Researching Practice and Practicing Research*. Back after a hiatus, it will be publishing an issue in September 2007 on 'What Counts as Literacy Work.' Subscriptions are \$15 (two issues/year).

- **Literacy Café – Chit Chat from Literacies**

<http://literaciescafe.blogspot.com/>

A blog for those with an interest in literacy research in practice from the *Literacies* journal folks. Subscribe to RSS feed or by email.

- **New ABE & Literacy Journal**

<http://www.coabe.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=journal>

*Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal*, published jointly by ProLiteracy America and the Commission on Adult Basic Education, offers features of immediate use to practitioners as well as carrying peer-reviewed research articles. For example, the Practitioner Perspective has first-person narratives by people who have solved problems that instructors or program directors often encounter. Published 3 times a year.

- **New Journal of Applied Research on Learning**

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/Journal/?Language=EN>

This biannual research publication from the Canadian Council on Learning addresses specific, practical problems affecting learning in Canada and applied research of significance to Canada. The first issue, April 2007, contains an article from BC on changing immigrants' attitudes toward intentions to use the BC HealthGuide program.

- **NCSALL Comes to An End – Focus On Basics Continues**

<http://www.ncsall.net>

The US National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy's (NCSALL) funding ended on July 31, 2007, after 10 years. The Web site remains available for free downloading of NCSALL materials. *Focus on Basics* is now published by World Education. The topic of the October 2007 issue is learning disabilities.

## Literacy Publishers/Booksellers

- **AlphaPlus Store Closes**

<http://www.alphaplus.ca/eng.asp>

As of June 2007, the AlphaPlus Store located in Ontario has closed.

## Literacy Research

- **Disseminating Literacy Research**

<http://www.ncsall.net/?id=1157>

How do literacy practitioners use research to improve their practice? The US National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) shares its conclusions from 10 years of dissemination activities. They report that dissemination must start with a focus on practitioners, that there needs to be a range of activities and tools for dissemination, that policies, funding and supports for practitioners need to be in place, and that dissemination is cyclical.

Reference: Smith, C; Bingman MB; Bealle, K. Effective research dissemination: Lessons from NCSALL, *Focus on Basics*, Vol 8, issue C, November 2006.

## Literacy Statistics

- **Canada's Literacy Atlas**

<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/peopleandsociety/literacy>

The Atlas of Canada Web site provides a wealth of information about Canada's people and society, health, history, economy, etc. Literacy is featured in map format with data from the 2003 Adult Literacy Skills Survey.

- **Geographic Distribution of Adult Literacy Skills in Canada**

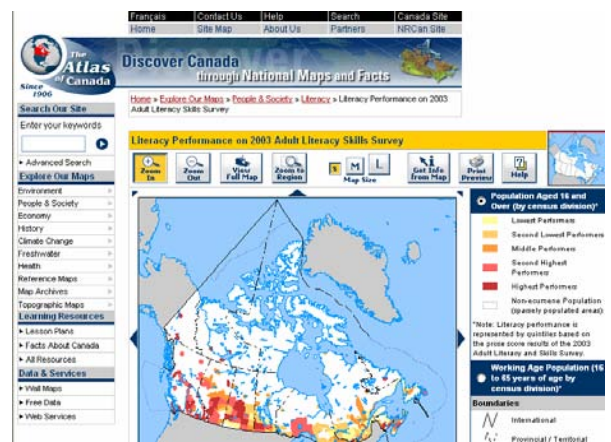
[http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/publications\\_resources/research/categories/lisd/978\\_0\\_6\\_62\\_6983e.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/publications_resources/research/categories/lisd/978_0_6_62_6983e.shtml)

This CD-ROM, available from the HRSDC, includes interactive maps of adult literacy skills in Canada and presentations on literacy performance of the working age population.

- **Composite Learning Index (CLI)**

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/CLI2007/index.htm>

The CLI is another mapping tool. It provides an annual measure of Canada's performance in areas related to lifelong learning. It is based on statistical indicators that reflect the different ways Canadians learn in school, at home, at work and in the community.



- **Community Information Database**

<http://www.cid-bdc.ca/homepage.htm>

With this Web resource, find demographic/socioeconomic data – including education indicators – for specific or multiple geographic regions in Canada on an interactive map. The database was developed by the Rural Secretariat, provinces, territories, other federal departments, and community groups.

### *Reading*

- **Reading for Pleasure**

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/Research/readpleasure.html>

From the UK's National Literacy Trust, this paper explores reading for pleasure. It shows that promoting reading can have a major impact on children/young people and adults and their future.

### *Technology & Learning*

- **Mobile Phones for Learning?**

<https://www.basic-skills.co.uk/sharingpractice/schools/detail.php?SharingPracticeID=1222466138>

Mobile phones, texting and computer games are frequently blamed for causing a decline in spelling and grammar among young people. Could they be used for learning? The UK Basic Skills Agency reports on a project using M-learning that "engendered so much interest that others, all of whom had been unsuccessful at school and had not engaged in learning since, found their way to the learning centre and asked to be participants... Everyone interviewed for this article was convinced about the potential of mobile technology for engaging young people in basic skills learning..."

Also of interest and referenced in this article is a web site for m-learning

<http://www.m-learning.org>

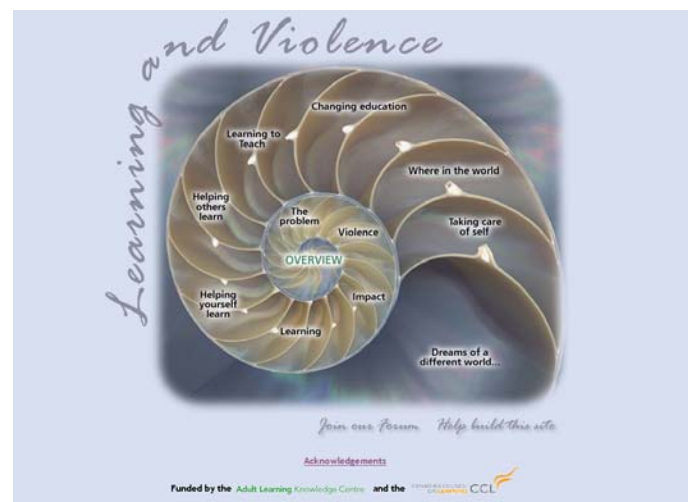
Reference: Mobile learning – December 2006, Schools Sharing Practice, Basic Skills Agency, UK

### *Violence*

- **Violence & Learning Web site**

<http://www.learningandviolence.net>

The Learning & Violence Web site has evolved! It covers a vast range of materials – both text and visual – from understanding the complex issues of violence and its impact on learning, self-help for learning, connecting with others



working on this issue, to dreaming of a different world.

### *Workplace Literacy*

- **Unlocking Canada's Potential**

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/StateofLearning/UnlockingCanadasPotential.htm>

This report, from the Canadian Council on Learning, describes the state of workplace and adult learning in Canada.

- **New Zealand's Workbase Portal**

<http://www.workbase.org.nz>

Workbase is a non-profit organization that specialized in improving workforce literacy. The Web site has online publications, an e-mail newsletter, and other useful information for those involved in workforce literacy. Subscribe to the newsletter with your e-mail address.