

FYI:
Current Literacy Information & Resources
Summer 2008

For more information or to obtain these resources, contact Literacy BC's Provincial Literacy Resource Centre at library@literacy.bc.ca or 1-888-READ-234 (1-888-732-3234) in BC or 604-684-0624 ext. 105.

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 Thank you for forwarding to us information you would like to see in the next **FYI**.

Take a [short survey](#) about the FYI

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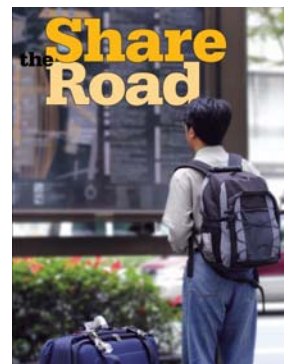
Adult Learners

International Adult Learners' Week in Canada

Canada celebrated UNESCO's International Adult Learner's Week March 3 – 9, 2008 with a variety of activities. A magazine featuring adult learners entitled *Share the Road: A Road of Possibilities through Learning*, as well as other materials, can be found at

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

[Please email library@literacy.bc.ca if you would like a print copy of the magazine]



Book Donations

Children's Books Donated to Literacy Groups

The Institute for Cross-Cultural Exchange (ICE) invites groups with charitable status to apply for donations of children's books. The Institute donates high quality illustrated books from the Middle East and Central Asia to literacy programs serving children in need. Learn more at <http://www.iceeducation.org/>

Bookstores

Frontier College New Readers Bookstore

Laubach Literacy of Canada has transferred the New Readers Bookstore and its training and certification program to Frontier College. Browse for materials for literacy tutors, learners and practitioners at <http://www.frontiercollege.ca/english/bookstore.html>

Computers/Technology

A Canadian Consortium for Technology-Assisted Delivery of Adult Basic Education

An AlpaPlus Centre final report released in June 2008 recommends proceeding with a consortium of organizations, groups and individuals interested in maximizing the potential of technology-assisted delivery to address the adult basic education needs of learners across Canada. To find out more about the consortium initiative and subscribe to the mailing list, visit <http://www.alphaplus.ca/consortium>

One Quarter of Canadians Use the Internet for Education

About 25 per cent of Canadians use the Internet for education, training or school work, according to a Statistics Canada report. About two-thirds of those users were searching for information for school assignments, and one in four went online for distance education, self-directed learning or correspondence courses. The October 2007 article, based on findings from Statistic Canada's *2005 Internet Use Survey*, is available at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/81-004-XIE/2007004/internet-en.htm>

New Online BC Literacy Forum

The Ministry of Education has set up a new online BC Literacy Forum to build on the momentum generated by the Council of Ministers of Education's April 2008 conference. It's quick and easy to join. Share ideas and network about promoting literacy for all ages. Get started at <http://bcliteracyforum.ning.com/>



Early Literacy

Early Literacy Programmes Work

Children in the UK who receive “Reading Recovery” support through the *Every Child a Reader* programme are getting higher than average results for their age. These findings, from the Institute of Education, show these children are roughly one year ahead of children in schools where the programme is not available, and able to write twice as many words. Read the Department for Children, Schools and Families press notice at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0086

Environment

What Will You Do With Your \$100 Climate Action Dividend?

The government of British Columbia is giving \$100 to every BC resident as an incentive to help us combat the effects of climate change. How will you spend your \$100? Increase your “environmental literacy” with these resources:

- Visit the BC government’s site on the Climate Action Dividend. Find suggestions for reducing your carbon footprint at <http://www.smartchoicesbc.ca/EN/home/>
- Learn about climate action projects in your community. Some organizations believe that by donating and pooling our \$100, we can have a greater effect. Browse projects designed to *Green Your Campbell Cash* at <http://contest.thetyee.ca/greengyourcampbellcash/projects>
- Explore these links for educators from the *Climate Change Educator Program* from Wild BC at <http://www.hctf.ca/wild/educator/ccep.htm>
- Borrow new books from the Provincial Literacy Resource Centre on climate change and the environment, written at an independent reading level
- Written for new adult readers at a grade 1 level, *How To Live Green*, by Linda Kita-Bradley will be available in September 2008 from Grassroots Press (or borrow from the Provincial Literacy Resource Centre).



Family Literacy

Parents and Practitioners Rate Parenting Programs

Making Choices is a Canadian inventory of parenting programs developed by the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs to give parents and practitioners more choices. The inventory describes programs in detail and also invites comments and ratings from users. Log in and add your reviews at

<http://frp.ca/makingchoices/about.asp>

Family Literacy for Newcomers to Canada

The Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters (Immigrant PALS or IPALS) pilot program received funding in April 2008 from the BC government to support immigrant families and preschool-aged children who have been in Canada for up to three years. IPALS helps newcomers to Canada support their young children's early literacy development, through interactions in English and their first language. Learn more at <http://www.2010legaciesnow.com/PALS/>

More Canadian Children Raised by Grandparents

The number of Canadian children being raised by grandparents has risen a startling 15% since 2001, according to a report cited in the March 31, 2008 BC Council for Families newsletter. To address the needs of grandparents, the Shuswap Family Resource Centre in Salmon Arm began a support group for Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren in September 2007. The group is popular with grandparents, demonstrating the need for these types of services. Resources for grandparents can be found at <http://bccf.bc.ca/hm/inside.php?id=47>

Survey of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Legal Issues

Parent Support Services of BC is conducting a survey of grandparents raising grandchildren. Fill out the legal issues survey online at http://www.parentsupportbc.ca/grg_legal.html

Blog for Family Literacy

Keep up with the latest US family literacy news on the National Center for Family Literacy blog. Read and subscribe by email or RSS feed at <http://ncfilliteracynow.org/>

Hot Issues

What's Hot, What's Not in Literacy for 2008

The UK's National Literacy Trust carried out a policy-scoping survey of 35 leading literacy professionals to explore which literacy issues are currently 'hot' or 'not hot' and what 2008 might bring. Top of the list? Assessment and phonics! What *should* be hot? Comprehension and reading for pleasure. Read the report at http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/What%27s_hot_2008.pdf?dm_i=210480172

Jobs for Educators

Educator Job Postings

Education Canada Network is a Canadian Web site for educators to browse for job opportunities, and for employers to search for education professionals. See

<http://www.educationcanada.com/>

Libraries

AlphaPlus Decentralizes Library

In November 2007, Ontario's AlphaPlus Centre library shut its doors. By working with the adult literacy and public library communities – and through a massive evaluation process – they found new homes for many of their 49,000 resources! For the full story see the AlphaPlus blog at <http://blog.alphaplus.ca/2007/11/21/alphaplus-library-on-the-move/>

Literacy Resource Centres Have a Positive Impact

This study demonstrates the positive impact literacy Resource Centres have on the ability of a state's literacy providers to do their job. Often left out of policy discussions, Resource Centres perform as valuable, integral players in the field of adult literacy.

Reference: Dominique Chlup and Lesley Tomaszewki. The Forgotten Player in Adult Literacy: The Impact of a State Literacy Resource Centre. *Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal*, volume 2, number 1, Spring 2008, pp. 34 – 4 [Email library@literacy.bc.ca if you would like a copy]

Literacy in BC

Auditor General's Literacy Report

In February 2008, British Columbia's Auditor General released a report on literacy in BC. Appended is the Ministry of Education's response to the report, as well as promising practices in BC. The complete report is available at

http://www.bcauditor.com/PUBS/2007_08/Report6/Report%206%20Literacy%20WEB%20rev.pdf

BC Literacy Overview

The Ministry of Education's *EdInfo* special edition on literacy in BC describes many initiatives in the province, from early childhood through adulthood. Read the February 8, 2008 special issue at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/edinfo/archives/>

Numeracy

Focus on Numeracy

The latest *Focus on Basics* issue (volume 9, 2008) is all about numeracy and includes an article on page *Changing Practice, Changing Minds* by BC educator, Kate Nonesuch. *Focus on Basics* is a free journal that links literacy research and practice, available at <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=31>

Research

The Directory of Canadian Adult Literacy Research in English is Back

The Directory of Canadian Adult Literacy Research is being updated! Send your completed or in progress research to them for inclusion. View the Directory at <http://www.nald.ca/crd> To find BC research, click on "Research Site" and then select "BC."



Statistics

Keeping Track of Literacy Statistics

NALD provides access to the full-text of Statistics Canada publications relating to literacy at <http://newswire.nald.ca/feed/3>

15 Million Adult Canadians with Low Literacy by 2031

Almost half of all Canadians face literacy challenges today, and this proportion will remain virtually unchanged through 2031, according to a Canadian [Council on Learning](#) study. The June 2008 study, *Reading the Future*, looks at the human face of literacy and offers potentially effective solutions. Visit <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/ccl/reports/readingfuture/index.htm> and link to the *Projections of Adult Literacy-Measuring and Moving (PALMM)* tool to run projections. You will also find videos, fact sheets, a research summary and the full report.

Canada Improves Composite Learning Index Score

The Composite Learning Index is the world's only index of lifelong learning. The Canadian Council on Learning's third annual survey shows that Canada's overall score

has increased for two consecutive years. Among the most improved cities was Kelowna, BC. Learn more at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/CLI?Language=EN>

International Survey of Reading Skills

Of interest to practitioners, as well as to policy makers and researchers, will be a new report from Statistics Canada, *Learning Literacy in Canada: Evidence from the International Survey of Reading Skills*. It identifies the reading profiles of different groups of adult Canadians with low literacy skills and offers insights into effective reading instruction programs. Read the summary at <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/080109/d080109a.htm> and link to the full paper.

Youth in Transition Survey

Four out of every five young people whose major transitions in life were tracked over a six-year period had undertaken some form of post-secondary education by the time they reached their mid-twenties. Details from the Participation in Postsecondary Education survey can be found in the November 20, 2007 issue of *The Daily* at <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/071120/d071120b.htm>

Learning as an Indicator of Well Being

This latest statistical site from HRSDC presents a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of the well-being of Canadians and Canadian society. Areas of well-being include learning, which details statistical information about adult literacy, adult numeracy, etc. Go to <http://www4.hrsdc.gc.ca/home.jsp?lang=en>

Canadian's Health Literacy Skills Lacking

Canadians with the lowest health literacy skills are 2.5 times more likely to report being in fair or poor health as those with the highest skill levels. Read this extensive report from the Canadian Council on Learning, along with a summary report, fact sheet, news release and summary map at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/HealthLiteracy?Language=EN>

Labour Market and Literacy

The 2007 report on *Literacy and the Labour Market: The Generation of Literacy and its Impact on Earnings for Native Born Canadians* adds considerably to our understanding of the complex relationships that between schooling, literacy skills, ageing and the labour market. Read the summary and link to the full report at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/81-004-XIE/2007006/article/10528-en.htm>

Canadian Youth Perform Well in Science, Reading and Math

Canadian 15-year-old students are still among the best in the world when it comes to science, reading and mathematics, according to new results from an international study that assesses the skill level of students nearing the end of their compulsory education.

These results, from the 2006 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), can be found in summary (with a link to the full report) at <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/071205/d071205b.htm>

Workplace & Essential Skills

Great Employment Resource for Students

The Learning Edge is a multimedia newspaper designed for learners from the Wellington County Learning Centre in Arthur, Ontario. Combining audio, graphics and text, it is simple and accessible for learners. Recent issues look at the literacy and essential skills required for two entry level jobs, cashier and florist assistant, and at apprenticeships in the trades for men and women. Read and listen at <http://www.thewclc.ca/edge/>

What are Essential Skills?

Essential skills are the skills needed for work, learning and life. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change. The nine essential skills identified by the Government of Canada are: reading text, document use, numeracy, writing, oral communication, working with others, continuous learning, thinking skills and computer use. The government's web site has a variety of resources, which include:

- *The Equalizer*, available at http://srv108.services.gc.ca/english/general/equalizer_e.shtml, shows you what different jobs require in terms of the essential skills
- Free publications you can order at http://srv108.services.gc.ca/english/general/Tools_Apps_e.shtml
- Authentic workplace materials – materials actually used on the job – that instructors, learners and tutors can use, at http://srv108.services.gc.ca/english/general/Auth_Work_Mats_e.shtml