

What's happening – July 2005

At Literacy BC we use a variety of methods for disseminating news and information to the field. Yet, still more information passes through our office that we would like to pass along. To that end, we have a service called What's Happening in Literacy. What's Happening is a compilation of abbreviated information about new projects, upcoming conferences, funding opportunities, teaching resources, general news, and much more.

FINANCING, FUNDING RESOURCES AND APPLICATIONS

- The **Canadian Council on Learning** has launched a Request for Proposals to provide *state of the field reviews* in the areas of early childhood education, elementary and secondary school learning, post-secondary learning, adult learning, work and learning, and health and learning. The deadline is **August 1st**. Visit <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/english/news/state.asp> for more information.
- **Social Development Canada (SDC)** has launched a Request for Letters of Intent to express interest for funding that will support national learning on pre-established, innovative approaches to community-driven collaborations to reduce poverty and improve social well-being. The deadline is **July 29th**. For details check out: <http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/hip/sd/SDPPcfp2005/rfli.shtml>
- Although it's not exactly "funding", the **United Way** is accepting applications for their "**Day of Caring**" in which teams of volunteers from companies or organizations in the Lower Mainland are paired with a nonprofit organization to complete one day projects. Details and the application information are here: <http://www.uwlm.ca/What+We+Do/Programs+and+Initiatives/Day+of+Caring/default.htm> Deadline is July 30th!

RESEARCH

- At the 4th Annual Network meeting of the **Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network** in Toronto, Yves Clermont of Statistics Canada highlighted results from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALL) regarding youth aged 16-25. The results point to policy and practice in Canada making a difference in literacy scores. He also notes that "the evidence shows how it is possible to reduce the disadvantages in skills typically associated with low levels of parental education and to improve the skills of an entire population." NALD has more details here: <http://www.nald.ca/WHATNEW/hnews/2005/rates.htm>

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to those partnering for the **Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE)**, who have won a national program award from the Canadian Association of University Continuing Education (CAUCE). The award was presented to all four universities who partner in the CACE consortium, which includes the University of Victoria. The Certificate is a part-time professional development program aimed primarily at those wanting to build their skills as adult educators or training. For more details, please visit: www.uvcs.uvic.ca/csie/cace/
- According to an article in the Vancouver Sun newspaper, the Coquitlam School District 43 announced this month that it will hire 12 teachers to work as literacy workers for Grade 1 students. Their goal will be to improve early reading and writing skills.

RESOURCES

- Check out two new sets of tools addressing **essential skills**. One is Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's site for "Essential Skills Online Learning Tools": http://www15.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/english/general/learning_tool_e.asp. It provides short assessment tests addressing differing skills in computers, numeracy, and working with others. The second is the new site for Essential Skills Portfolio (ESPORT) Pilot Project which is a "facilitated, Internet-driven tool to help people prepare for entry-level occupations". Check it out at <http://www.esportfolio.com/>

THE WORLD OF BOOKS AND LIBRARIES

- Okay, so you probably know that the most recent installment of the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince* has been released. But, did you know that the Canadian publisher of the tome, Raincoast Books, has used 100 percent recycled paper for the publication? Raincoast estimates that the move will save approximately 30,000 trees and about 8,500 tonnes of greenhouse gases, according to a CBC story. The publisher had also used 100 percent recycled paper for the previous installment of the series. The book has not been published on 100 percent recycled paper by the American publisher in United States.
- Summer time can be seen as a time to catch up on all that reading you think you should do, or it can also mean time to chill out and read "summer reads"- fun, light, humorous or adventurous stories! There are lots of summer reading lists out here, but here are a few more. Check out the University of California at Berkeley's annual thematic reading lists at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/Instruction/readinglists/>, the UK's *Guardian* at <http://books.guardian.co.uk/summerreading2005/0,16094,1508103,00.html>, *BookReporter's* Beachbag of books at <http://www.bookreporter.com/features/beachbag2005/> or the CBC's Cross Country Check-up's Summer booklist at <http://www.cbc.ca/checkup/booklists.html>.