

## What's happening – June 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.

### NEW BEGINNINGS

- Congratulations to **Erin Cathro** who has started a new position as the Program Coordinator for the Learning Disabilities Association of British Columbia – Vancouver Chapter. Erin has been living in Vancouver for over a year, where she moved with her family from 100 Mile House after working in literacy for several years. Watch for an interview with Erin in the “Faces of Literacy” section of our next e-bulletin.

### POLICY MATTERS

- In May, 2005, Minister of Social Development Ken Dryden announced that the federal government will spend \$1.4 million on a national project to help Canadians better understand the role of the voluntary sector and non-profits. Fostering communication within the non-profit sector is an additional goal of the initiative, and in keeping with that, a hundred “community conversations” will take place, starting in the fall. For more information see the media release at:  
<http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/comm/sd/news/2005/050518.shtml>

### CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS AND APPLICATIONS

- Dr. Pat Campbell is launching a call for manuscripts regarding **assessment** for the upcoming publication *Assessment practices in adult basic education*. She is looking for writers to submit a one-page proposal addressing one of a wide range of topics within that of assessment. Remuneration is offered, and the deadline for submission proposals is **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005**. For more information, contact Pat Campbell at [pcampbell@interbaun.com](mailto:pcampbell@interbaun.com), or Literacy BC.
- The deadline to participate in the Canadian Volunteerism Initiative's British Columbia **Volunteer Academy** is **June 30**. The aim of the Academy is to bring together community leaders from all over the province, for an intergenerational exchange of ideas to strengthen community volunteerism. **The Academy** will take place in October, in Vancouver. The application form and more information are posted on Volunteer Vancouver's website at [http://www.volunteervancouver.ca/new/cvi\\_english.asp](http://www.volunteervancouver.ca/new/cvi_english.asp).

### FINANCING AND FUNDING RESOURCES

- The **Canadian Language and Literacy Research Centre** is accepting applications for a \$5000 **scholarship for postgraduate research**, to help increase the potential for unique opportunities and collaborations. Visit

<http://www.cllrnet.ca/index.php?fa=ScholarshipSupplements.showScholarshipSupplements> for more information and the deadline **June is 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005**.

- The **Canadian Language and Literacy Research Centre** and **Edudata** have launched a database of funding resources related to the Research Centre's themes of biology, sensory processes, language, literacy, and social, economic and program influences. CLLRC Members have unlimited access to the database, but non-members must fill out an online form to gain access. From their homepage at <http://www.cllrnet.ca>, select "Resources", then "researchers" and finally "Funding opportunities database."

## RESOURCES

- The National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) has created an online inventory of learner-oriented educational **software**. Six centres across the country evaluated over 400 software programs. The 108 most useful of them make up the database and receive a star (\*\*\*\*) rating. The database and the report is available from this starting point: <http://www.nald.ca/software/report.asp>. Users can search a browsable list of the programs, or perform a search by content, by skill level, or by operating system. Check out some of the catchy titles of shareware and freeware available, including "Be fruitful and multiply" and "Capital idea".
- Instructors have been singing the praises of this useful British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) website, full of games, exercises, reliable software, and activities: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/> The site is a virtual cornucopia of activities in grammar, spelling, reading, listing, writing, vocabulary, numeracy, workplaces skills, and more.

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Victoria READ Society launches its first session of summer classes July 4<sup>th</sup>, as well as a summer camp for kids aged 7 -13 on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Call (250) 388-7225 to register. Check out <http://www.readsociety.bc.ca/>
- **In the world of libraries:** It's that fabulous time of the year: kids' **summer reading club**! Coordinated through public libraries, the program is designed to encourage kids to read a little every day throughout the summer. Extra details and tips are on the British Columbia Library Association website at [www.bcla.bc.ca/src](http://www.bcla.bc.ca/src) and visit your local public library for further details! Also, for the first time, the SRC includes a related online, province-wide **teen summer reading club**, featuring a chat forum, reading lists, and web links. Check it out at: <http://www.teensrc.ca/>
- There is no denying that in both Canada and around the world, poverty and literacy issues are closely intertwined. The new "**Make Poverty History**" campaign is a collective call to action by organizations and individuals to eliminate debt and poverty all over the globe, as well as putting an end to child poverty in Canada. For more information for this campaign, visit: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/e/home.php>

## NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LITERACY BC RESOURCE CENTRE.

Contact the Resource Centre at [library@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:library@literacy.bc.ca) for information about borrowing.

- **Atlas of literacy and disability. Marcia Rioux, et al. Canadian Abilities Foundation, 2003.** This glossy and colourful book includes dozens of maps to show the relationship between disability and literacy. Also, “it jumps into the arena of analyzing the data to see how it can accommodate understanding disability from a rights perspective – and literacy as a critical phenomenon.” (Foreword)
- **Funding matters: the impact of Canada’s new funding regime on non-profit and voluntary organizations. Katherine Scott, 2003.** This report explores the emergence of new funding origins for the nonprofit field since government funding cutbacks began in the 1990s. Many nonprofits’ funding is now reliant on less predictable, short-term project funding. The study identifies some worrisome trends under the following “headings”: volatility, mission drift, loss of infrastructure, reporting overload, advocacy chill, and human resource fatigue. The report includes an executive summary.
- **How-to kit: facilitating a workshop. NWT Literacy Council.** Another quick and easy guide from the NWT Literacy Council! This one covers: setting up a workshop, your role as facilitator, icebreakers, warm-ups and energizers, and organizing group work.
- **Reading between the lines: a practical guide for organizations and individuals wishing to improve the accessibility of their literacy programs to people with physical disabilities. Time Readman, et al., 2004.** This practical guide was developed by the authors of Barriers to participation in literacy activities facing people with physical disabilities. It is the result of a literature review and of 27 interviews across Canada with people with a physical disability who self-identified with having problems with literacy. It includes recommendations and useful strategies.
- **Steps to follow in setting up a certified literate community. Charles Moody. Literacy Partners of Manitoba, 2004.** This is a short guide to involving an entire community in raising awareness and literacy skills among diverse community members, such as business and community services. This report is based upon the experiences in a town in rural Manitoba.