

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LITERACY?

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.

Policy issues

- ABC CANADA has published a four page report on the key findings of the *Adult Literacy and life skills (ALL)* survey released May 11th, 2005. It is available in print in the May, 2005 issue of *Literacy at Work* and from their website at: http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/all_survey_2005_r2.shtml

Professional Development

- Literacy and Parenting Skills (LAPS) training workshops will be held in Dawson Creek, BC, **June 23rd and 24th**. These workshops are intended for facilitators wanting to establish family literacy programs in their communities. For more information, see: <http://www.nald.ca/laps/>

Research news

- A new issue of *Literacies: researching practice – practising research* has been published, making this issue #5 (spring 2005). The journal's website is found at www.literacyjournal.ca.

Potential funding source

- The Minerva Foundation of BC was founded to help provide funds to assist registered charities working to develop opportunities for women in the fields of education, safety, work and leadership development. Find out more information at <http://www.theminervafoundation.com/index.html>

Events and announcements

- The Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library is celebrating its tenth anniversary at its new location with "Library square at ten". It is a ten-day celebration running from **May 24th until June 2nd**. The events will include information tables, author readings and performers. Check it out at: <http://www.vpl.ca/MDC/tenth-ann.html>
- **Literacy Nanaimo's Brian O'Rooney** is going to walk The Great Walk (<http://www.greatwalk.com/>) again! The Annual fundraising event is sponsored by the Tahsis Lion Club and helps walkers raise money for a charity- in this case, Literacy Nanaimo. It is a rugged 63.5 kilometer walk from Gold River to Tahsis, on Vancouver

Island and Brian is going to try to beat his previous record of 9 hours and ten minutes. He is collecting pledges, so contact him at Brian@LiteracyNanaimo.org

- **Project Literacy Victoria** is having a pre-PGI celebration June 7th: “The night before the PGI with Arthur Black”, at the Strathcona Hotel. The tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling (250) 381-3755
- **The Victoria READ Society** is having a student book launch **June 15th**, at 3:30, featuring Art Boudreau’s *Elephant Mountain*. For more information, visit <http://www.readsociety.bc.ca/whatsnew/launch/invite.htm>
- **A call for writers!** Ningwakwe Learning Press in Ontario (<http://www.ningwakwe.on.ca/>) is looking for writings from Aboriginal adult writers from across Canada for the third volume of *Journeys of the spirit*.

World of Books and Libraries

- In May, Statistics Canada released a report examining at the state of school libraries in Canada, and what it revealed is disturbing. Although the vast majority of elementary and secondary schools had libraries in 2003 and 2004, they tended to be suffering from under-funding and understaffing. The report, entitled *Canadian school libraries and teacher-librarians: results from the 2003/4 information and communication technologies in schools survey*, is available <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/81-595-MIE/81-595-MIE2005028.pdf>. This is not the first time that the situation in which school libraries find themselves has been highlighted. In June 2003, Dr. Ken Haycock released his report entitled *The crisis in Canada’s school libraries: the case for reform and reinvestment* <http://www.peopleforeducation.com/librarycoalition/Report03.pdf>
- The winners of the Red Cedar Book Award for children’s books were announced this month and the honours go to *Parvana’s Journey* by Deborah Ellis for fiction and *Hana’s suitcase* by Karen Levine for non-fiction. The list of the 2005-2006 nominees are posted on the Award’s website at <http://www.redcedaraward.ca/> The winners are determined by a BC-wide vote among participating grade 4-7 students. The Award was established in 1996 to encourage literacy among youth, and promote quality Canadian books.