

What's Happening in Literacy- May 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.

Teaching resources

- “**Single transferable what?**”... Are you looking for a good resource to draw on when your students ask about the upcoming Referendum on Electoral Reform and the Single Transferable Vote? This site is getting rave reviews from literacy instructors:
<http://citizensassembly.bc.ca/resources/flash/bc-stv-full.swf>
Elections BC also has information about the referendum and all the details necessary on how to vote online at: <http://elections.bc.ca/elections/ge2005/index.htm>
- The **Centre for Education and Work** (<http://www.cewca.org/>) in Winnipeg has launched its “*Essential Skills Portfolio for Youth*” kit, which includes a facilitator’s guide (available in PDF http://www.cewca.org/PDF/FG_ENGLISH.pdf#zoom=100), an activity guide and an interactive CD (called GAME). The kit aims to connect young adults’ life experiences to skills essential to the workplace. Although based on the needs of the retail and tourism trades, the activities are adaptable to other work areas. The order form for the material is under “multimedia” on their website.

Policy matters

- *Can't you feel the excitement?* On **May 11th, 2005** the results of the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS) will be released. This will signal only the beginning of the questioning and analysis. The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education has put together an activity booklet *We ask our own questions* <http://www.literaciesoise.ca/IALSSActivityBooklet.pdf> with the IALSS as a launching pad for further discussion. It also features Bonnie Soroke’s artwork!

RiPAL and Research

- **RiPAL** is hosting a **Research in practice** gathering **May 26th** at 6 p.m. in Prince George, at the College of New Caledonia. Everyone is welcome but please RSVP by Wednesday, May 25th. For more information: ripal@literacy.bc.ca or 1-800-663-1293

Professional development

- **The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education** presents an online course with **Jenny Horsman** entitled **Special Topics in Adult Education: Women, Violence, and Literacy Learning: Impacts and Options**. For more

information go to: <http://www.literaciesoise.ca/main.html> or contact Sheila Stewart or Nancy Jackson at (416) 923-6641 ext. 2708 for more info. Course starts May 2nd!

- **Community Literacy of Ontario** continues to offer online workshops. Two selections of note this summer include a three-hour online workshop about **volunteer management** (May 19th) and another in **best practices in family literacy: administering a family literacy project** (June 9th). Visit their webpage at <http://www.nald.ca/clo.htm> or contact them via email at: clo@bellnet.ca
- **May 31st** is the registration deadline for the **2005 Literacy BC Summer Institute: "More learning, less teaching": June 20th-July 15th** (Online conference) and **July 18-22nd** (face-to-face workshops). Join Heide Spruck Wrigley and Jim Powrie for what is certain to be another successful Summer Institute. The Institute is designed for instructors, coordinators and administrators of literacy programs, and its focus will be the development of language and literacy for adults and youths with literacy challenges. For more information go: <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/whatsnew/si2005/si05.pdf>

Upcoming conferences

- **May - 9-11, 2005 National Conference and Exhibition Opportunity - the Canadian Association for Distance Education (C A D E) and SFU: Learning Virtually ... Anywhere, Vancouver.**
Meet and exchange ideas with decision-makers and influencers in the distance and online education space across Canada. The program covers a wide range of topics on distance education practices. You can also participate as an exhibitor at the "Solution Seminar Series" to present your product offerings or services. For more information see the CADE website: www.cade-aced.ca/
- **May 16 & 17, 2005. Essential Skills in Action: Contributing to Canada's Workforce, Winnipeg, Manitoba**
SkillPlan and the Essential Skills Capacity Building project partners are pleased to present a national practitioners' conference on Essential Skills. The conference themes are: Awareness & Promotion – plug into your essential skills network; Implementation – strategies to use in any learning environment; Materials & Tools – relevant, practical instructional resources; Research & Theory – what we have learned from others. To register, visit <http://www.skillplan.ca/English/2005conference.htm>

Events

- Literacy issues cut across so many domains and areas of concern. Among them are the issues surrounding women who are in conflict with the law. **National**

Elizabeth Fry Week, which takes place **May 2nd-8th** (the week preceding mother's day), attempts to raise public awareness about women involved in the justice system. For more information and fact sheets, visit the Elizabeth Fry's website at:
<http://www.elizabethfry.ca/eweek05/efrywk05.htm>.

Literacy materials in our resource centre that are within this theme include:
Women's journey in self discovery by Judy Murphy (2004) and *Literacy for women on the street* by Lucy Alderson, et al. (2003).

Call for applications and nominations

- It's time for the **Canada Post Literacy Awards** again! If you want to nominate someone who has made an important contribution to literacy, the nomination has to be in by Friday, **May 27th**, 2005. More details are online at <http://www.canadapost.ca/literacyawards>
- The deadline is **June 3rd, 2005**, for nominations for the **Council of the Federation (COF) Literary Award** (http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/literacy/federation_award.htm). The nominations are open to individuals, groups, and projects that have made a significant contribution to the field of literacy.

Assistance required

- The **Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres** has a new **questionnaire** addressing issues surrounding literacy and disability. More information and the link for the survey can be found here: <http://www.nald.ca/lil/english/whatsnew/LDsurvey.htm>

The World of Books and Libraries

- The **CBC Studio One Book Club** is highlighting *The Vancouver Stories: West Coast Fiction From Canada's Best Writers* and it is having a competition to help inspire another short story to be written by a prominent Canadian writer. 60 contest finalists will attend the May 15th taping and dinner where the final contest winner will be revealed. Contest closes May 10th, so for more information and the entry form, go to <http://www.cbc.ca/bc/bookclub/>
- The **Canadian Library Association** has established a fund to assist in the rebuilding of libraries destroyed in December's tsunami. It has allocated a special fund, but is also accepting personal donations. Further information is available at http://www.cla.ca/tsunami_relief/index.htm The CLA has been working with the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), which since the tragedy has been communicating with those on the ground in Sri Lanka. Information and photos are available at <http://www.ifla.org/V/press/tsunami04.htm>