

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LITERACY?

At Literacy BC we use a variety of methods for disseminating news and information to the field including our web site, our print newsletter, our electronic network, and this e-bulletin. Yet, still more information passes through our office that we would like to pass on to you. To that end, we have instituted a new 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, and much more. As well, it includes a list of new acquisitions available for borrowing at our Provincial Literacy Resource Centre.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE PROVINCIAL LITERACY RESOURCE CENTRE

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Staying the Course: Literacy and Health in the First Decade. Second Canadian Conference on Literacy and Health, October 17-19, 2004, Ottawa, Ontario. Co-sponsored by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the National Literacy and Health Program, Canadian Public Health Association

The conference themes are: building best practices in literacy and health, focusing on language and culture, building knowledge in literacy and health, building healthy public policy. The conference includes: plenary presentations, poster displays, oral presentations, and workshops. In addition, a Learners Gallery will display stories, art and

poetry sent in by adult learners. An online discussion group will begin discussion of the conference themes during the two-week period before the conference begins. For further information and how to register: <http://www.cpha.ca/literacyandhealth/>

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Integrating Literacy, National Literacy Secretariat

The National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Skills Development Canada has a call for preliminary proposals for the 2004-2005 Integrating Literacy national funding stream. To be eligible for funding, projects must be national in scope and support one of the following five activities: the development of learning materials, research, the improvement of access and outreach, the improvement of coordination and information sharing and increasing public awareness. Projects will be accepted that strive to create new means of promoting and integrating literacy in the voluntary sector, among professional organizations and generally in sectors of Canadian society not previously engaged. The twice-yearly deadlines for submission of project proposals are June 4 and September 30 (postmarked). Further information can be found at:

<http://www.nald.ca/NLS/whatnew/cfp-nat04.htm>

Knowledge Development Centre, Canadian Centre for Philanthropy

The Canadian Centre for Philanthropy's Knowledge Development Centre provides funding to nonprofit and charitable organizations and post-secondary institutions to conduct research on volunteering and volunteerism. The research themes for the 2005 funding competition are: governance and leadership; volunteer recruitment, management, and development; the value of volunteering; volunteer experiences such as aboriginal volunteerism, youth volunteerism, volunteerism and diversity, volunteerism in rural and remote communities. The Knowledge Development Centre is funded by the Government of Canada through the Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI). www.kdc-cdc.ca/default.aspx

The National Research Program of the National Homelessness Initiative, National Secretariat on Homelessness (NSH)

The National Homelessness Initiative (NHI) assists governments and community organizations to come together to alleviate homelessness. Its National Research Program, with approximately \$7 million in funding over the next three years, will invest in filling some of the remaining research gaps on homelessness identified at both the national and regional levels. Funding will be provided to partners to strengthen their capacity to develop a deeper understanding of homelessness and to help guide effective solutions to homelessness. The National Research Program relies on partnerships with research and community organizations, other federal departments and academic researchers. There are three calls for proposals in the areas of homelessness and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, homelessness and immigration or justice issues; homelessness and the north. For further information visit

www.homelessness.gc.ca/home/index_e.asp

TEACHING RESOURCES

Low-cost educational software

A project coordinated by the National Adult Literacy Database recommends 108 pieces of educational freeware and shareware for use by adult literacy students. These 108 were found most useful out of a total of 438 programs evaluated by learners and instructors at adult literacy centres across Canada. The programs are rated, categorized, and posted online for download. Visit www.nald.ca/software

Common Assessment of Basic Skills (CABS) Online

CABS is an initial/ongoing assessment tool currently in use by adult literacy programs in Ontario. It is designed to meet the needs of learners attending urban, rural, or remote adult literacy programs by providing an online, common assessment tool. Literacy Link Eastern Ontario (LLEO) is marketing the CABS Online across Canada. and will develop articulation templates to provide a common language among literacy providers across educational jurisdictions. The templates will ensure that learners who move from one jurisdiction to another will be placed appropriately in the new literacy system. LLEO is looking for conferences or events across Canada to introduce CABS Online. For further information visit http://www.lleo.ca/col/cabs_online.html or email cabsonline@lleo.ca.

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

Health Literacy Network (HLN) Online Community Discussion 'Doing health literacy', September 15-16, 2004

Join an online discussion this September about the activities and initiatives that fall under the umbrella of health literacy. The discussion is hosted by the Health Literacy Network Online Community, a program of the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, What do we mean when we talk about health literacy? What do health literacy activities look like? Can you do health literacy work and not be aware of it? Is health literacy work an attitude as much as an activity? These are some of the questions the discussion will address.

The asynchronous discussion takes place over two days, September 15 and 16. At the end of the discussion posts will be summarized and published on the HLN community website and in the next HLN Update newsletter. Participation is free.

If you are not a member of the Health Literacy Network online community, visit <http://www.communityzero.com/hln> to join or send an email to wdi@bccpd.bc.ca and ask to join HLN. Membership is free!

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**NALD Weekly Update**

A new service developed by the National Adult Literacy Database helps keep you up-to-date on changes and additions to the NALD site. If you sign up for the service, you will receive an email each Monday letting you know what's new on the site, for example, additions to the full text documents and the NALD resource collection, headline news and other items. Register for the NALD weekly updates at www.nald.ca.

Knowplace.ca

Knowplace is an online community of educators, employment counsellors, coaches and their colleagues. Knowplace offers courses through Continuing Education at Capilano College, provides consulting services and hosts dynamic learning environments. An online newsletter is distributed regularly. For more information visit <http://knowplace.ca>.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LITERACY BC RESOURCE CENTRE FALL 2004

The Literacy BC resource centre catalogue is online at: <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/catalogue/>. Requests can be made via the catalogue, by email to library@literacy.bc.ca, by telephone 1-800-663-1293, or by interlibrary loan through your public library.

- **Barriers to Participation in Literacy Activities Facing People with Physical Disabilities.** Neil Squire Foundation. 2004
Explores the issues of access and participation in literacy programs from the perspectives of people with a physical disability. The report also provides information about the personal and systemic factors that both facilitate and prevent people with disabilities from participating in literacy initiatives. Also available is '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.
- **Boiling over: writing from the heart of Vancouver.** Sally Gellard, ed. 2003.
A cost-shared project between the National Literacy Secretariat and the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, this is a compilation of works- principally poetry and short essays- by members of the First United Church writing group.
- **Building community literacy from the ground up.** Leona Gadsby and Jennifer Cliff-Marks. 2003.
This manual traces the process of developing family literacy programs and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. As well as telling their stories, the document acts as a manual for others striving to build cooperative movements by providing personal narratives, activities, guidelines, and resources.

- **Connecting Literacy to Community series:**

Building Community Capacity : focus on adult literacy: handbook. Audrey Gardner. 2003.

Includes three parts: a description of the Connecting Literacy to Community (CLC) project; activities, tools, workshops to try in your own communities; and research in practice. It is designed with both literacy practitioners and readers in mind, who want to strengthen the capacity of their communities to address literacy needs.

Literacy specialists: competencies and practices. Bill Holbrow. 2003.

This research project concentrated on identifying the core competencies or skills literacy specialists use. The list was made into a manageable inventory of skills, and the best practices identified for use in the design of a potential "Literacy Specialist Training Program".

- Doing Freedom: An Ethnography of An Adult Literacy Centre. [Masters Thesis, UBC] Bonnie Soroke. 2004. [Also available online at:

<http://www.nald.ca/fulltext/soroke/freedom.pdf>

Examines the experiences and perceptions of the people of the Reading and Writing Centre in Duncan, BC. Based on a sociocultural perspective of literacy and using a framework of power, this ethnography explores what a dialogic, learning-centred literacy program looks like from the perspective of those involved. It asks: how are power and authority operating in this place? The goal is to document the relationship dynamics of good adult basic education in a place where teachers and students say they are "doing freedom". Also, it demonstrates that within this educational environment it requires creating and maintaining a community relationship and a facilitative power system through the force of the teachers' philosophy and vision of a learner-run centre.

- The impact of violence on learning for youth: what can we do? and The challenge to create a safer learning environment for youth (full report). 2004. Jenny Horsman.

Examines the impact that violence plays in the learning process, principally by interviewing young people struggling with learning. Looks at the role of schools in the process and how educational professionals can address the trauma of violence. The research's findings can be applied to Parkdale Project Read's (Toronto, Ont.) literacy programs. The reports feature interviewees' own words.

- Literacy for women on the streets. Lucy Alderson and Diana Twiss. 2003.

Report of a participatory action research project "to examine the impact of literacy activities on the lives of women working as sex-trade workers in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver." Centred on the women using the WISH Learning Centre, the report includes debunking myths surrounding the learners, a literature search, the methodology, and findings.

- More writing out loud. Deborah Morgan. 2002.
A follow-up to the successful Writing out loud, this work looks more closely at the context and challenges in which teaching writing takes place. It addresses what it is like to be a teacher of writing, examining one's fears surrounding writing, and how to handle the emotional side of writing.
- Moving the markers: new perspectives on adult literacy rates in Canada. 2003. Susan Sussman.
The report describes a project intended to identify demographic patterns among adults with low literacy skills in each province....The project was based on the assumption that demographic information about people with the lowest literacy skill levels can and should be used to develop more effective literacy policies and programs. [Exec. Summary]
- Sharing the light. Cape Breton Literacy Network. 2000.
Kit documents the public awareness campaign developed for the Cape Breton Literacy Network by Icon Communications. Audiocassette contains two 30 second radio promotions and the videotape contains one 30 second promotional advertisement. Both are narrated by Cape Breton singer/songwriter Jo-Anne Rolls, whose song, Share the Light was used as the basis for the promotional initiative.
- Teaching reading to adults: a balanced approach. Pat Campbell. 2003.
Author draws on her experience to integrate participatory theory and practice with the needs of literacy students and available resources. In the tradition of popular and participatory education, Campbell argues that teaching reading should also be addressed within a socio-political and economic context.
- Tutor tools. Edited by Verna Beswick with support from Literacy Alberta. 2004.
This booklet is a collection of "tips, strategies, tools, tactics, ideas, and guidelines". It includes tips on creating a positive learning environment, reading and writing strategies, activities, games, numeracy, family literacy tips, and resources.