

NALD Networks

Vol 5 no 4

Fall 2000

Websites

Worth

Remembering:

Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
www.cnib.ca/

World Blind Union
umc.once.es/

Braille Day in Canada
brailleday.starcs.on.ca/

Braille: History, Use and Current Research
www.acb.org/Resources/braille.html

The Language of Literacy: A National Resource Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs
www.nald.ca/fulltext/langlit/cover.htm

Stories of the Mi'kmaq
www.nald.ca/CLR/mikmaq/cover.htm

Canada Information Office
www.cio-bic.gc.ca/

Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD)
www.ccsd.ca/

Partners in Learning
www.nald.ca/pil/Index.htm

Second Chance for Seniors
www.nald.ca/scs.htm

The Knowledge Loom
knowledgeloom.org/

Your Dictionary.com
www.yourdictionary.com/

Wordbot
www.wordbot.com/

Writing Resumes and Cover Letters
www.cdn.org/themes/writing_resumes.html

Global Schoolhouse
www.gsh.org/wce/

NALD Honours Senator

Joyce Fairbairn



Senator Joyce Fairbairn was awarded the inaugural **National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) Award for Contributions to Literacy** on September 8, 2000. This award ceremony was held on the occasion of *International Literacy Day*. The award was created to reward the efforts of individuals in promoting literacy across Canada.

Senator Fairbairn has been a Special Advisor for Literacy to the Minister of Human Resources Development since 1987. "It gives me great pleasure to receive this award from NALD", said Fairbairn. "I want to congratulate NALD for its dynamism, its leadership and its innovative approach to literacy."

The NALD Award for Contributions to Literacy has been instituted in

recognition of the participation and leadership of individuals who have made outstanding contributions and endorsements toward the advancement and development of literacy issues in Canada, and who have supported the technology infrastructure which has helped form NALD.

The NALD Award for Contributions to Literacy is intended for those who have embraced this initiative, and have undertaken significant activities to help promote literacy and enhance literacy and lifelong learning. The award places significance on the goals, growth and overall effectiveness the recipient has had in the literacy community; how the recipient has gone above and beyond the call of duty to encourage, promote and be a spokesperson for literacy awareness; and in advocating for continued support and efforts in the various realms of literacy, thereby fulfilling the above stated literacy challenge.

Senator Fairbairn was awarded the NALD Award for Contributions to Literacy for her community involvement in literacy. She has chaired the National Literacy Campaign and initiated the first parliamentary debate at the Senate on the issue of literacy. She offers a constant support to people involved in literacy. On June 29, 1984, she was appointed to the Senate. She is the first person to have been appointed as Minister with Special Responsibility for

...continued on page 2



Frances Shamley, Chair; Hon. Frank McKenna, Honorary Chair - award presenter; Sen. the Hon. Joyce Fairbairn - award recipient; and Charles Ramsey, Executive Director of NALD.

Literacy. She has held the positions of Vice-Chair of the National and Western Liberal Caucus and Co-Chair of the Liberal Party of Canada Election Readiness Committee. In 1993, she was appointed to Cabinet, as the first woman Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Senator Fairbairn is a committed and dynamic parliamentarian known for her concern and stand on many issues, such as Senate reform, abortion legislation and the rights of aboriginal peoples. In 1988, she was involved with the launch of the National Literacy Secretariat. During the International Literacy Year 1990, she campaigned across the country. In 1993, she co-chaired the Liberal Party National Election Campaign and ensured that the party platform's "red book" committed to immediate restoration of funding for the NLS and regular national and international

surveys through Statistics Canada and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The Honorary Chair of NALD's Board of Directors, Honorable Frank McKenna, presented the award to the Senator on September 8th in the NALD office in Fredericton.

As Senator Fairbairn remarked :

"Technology is having a greater and greater impact on all of our lives. It has raised the literacy bar to a new level. It has placed greater expectations on our communities and on ourselves that we must struggle to meet.

Central to our goals is the establishment of a culture in this country of lifelong learning, that begins with the smallest child, is nurtured in our schools, in the home, in the community and workplace, and keeps right on going until the end of our lives.

Let there be no doubt that literacy is the rock on which we must build this technological change. It is a key element in our international competitiveness. We really do not have a choice."

Networks

The **NALD** Newsletter
Vol 5 no 4
Fall 2000
ISSN 1485-2713

Networks, the newsletter of the National Adult Literacy Database Inc., provides the Canadian literacy community with current information on educational activities in adult literacy and basic adult education.

NALD keeps literacy practitioners, learners, administrators policy makers and researchers informed on trends, recent publications, available resources, upcoming events and ongoing activities both nationally and in the regions.

For further information, or to give your comments, please contact:

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703 Brunswick Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick
Canada E3B 1H8

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1 800 720 NALD (6253)
Tel: 506 457 6900
Fax: 506 457 6910
info@nald.ca
<http://www.nald.ca>

Season's Greetings

*May the holiday season
hold very special happiness
for you and yours*

NALD Networks Production Team

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NALD would like to thank Yukon Learn (YT), CNIB/INCA (ON), Priscilla George, Donald Violette and Jacques Allard (NB), and the SIAST Kelsey Campus (SK) for the opportunity to use their photographs within this newsletter.

In a word ... Opportunity!

by Lisa Hartford, National Communications Coordinator,
The Canadian National Institute for the Blind



Our ability to communicate, especially to read and write, is one of our most valuable tools as humans beings. Thanks to Louis Braille's «six magic dots», individuals who are blind and visually impaired also enjoy this most essential freedom. Braille has been a successful reading and writing system since it was developed by Louis Braille in 1829, and has provided a world of opportunity for people who are blind and visually impaired to enjoy intellectual freedom, entertainment, and equality.

Louis Braille was blinded at the age of three after an accident with an awl in his father's harness-making workshop. He soon became frustrated with the large raised letter alphabet he used while learning to read and write as a young student. While attending a school for the blind years later, Louis met a French artillery officer who gave him the idea of reading by tactile code. After much experimentation, Louis improved on that method and developed a reading and writing system that is used around the world today.

The braille system is based on groupings of dots, or «cells». Each braille cell is comprised of six dots arranged in a specific order. Numbers, punctuation marks, and even musical notes are also represented in braille. Like any language, it takes time and practice to learn braille, but the rewards are innumerable. Studies have shown that Canadians who are blind and visually impaired who read and write braille have achieved higher levels of education and employment than those who can't.

The importance of braille can be easily measured by imagining a world in which print is inaccessible to you.



How would you order your meal in a restaurant or buy food in a grocery store? Could you read your bank statement or play cards with your friends? Financial institutions, restaurants, government agencies, and even playing card manufacturers have responded to the need to provide their products and services in braille. However, less than 3% of published material is accessible to print-disabled Canadians. Advancements in technology have facilitated a greater access to information, but technology will never replace basic literacy skills. Braille literacy is essential to a productive and vibrant life for an increasing number of Canadians, whether they've been blind since birth, or whether they've grown increasingly visually impaired over the years.

There is still much to be accomplished if we are to face the challenges of Canada's looming crisis in vision loss. As our population ages, the demand for accessible products and services for individuals who are blind and visually impaired will reach unprecedented proportions. To help promote braille literacy and increase awareness of these important issues, the Honourable Herb Gray, Deputy Prime Minister, and **The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)** declared February 9, 2000 as the first **Braille Day** in Canada. This proclamation will help ensure that braille literacy continues to be promoted and supported in Canada, and that one day, individuals who are blind and visually impaired have the same access to published material as sighted people.

For more information, contact
CNIB, 1929 Bayview Ave.,
Toronto, ON M4G 3E8,
Tel. (416) 480-7021,
Fax: (416) 480-7019,
Website: <http://www.cnib.ca/>

Networks Datebook

Submit your events
for publication on
our website and here in our datebook!
To see how, visit our
events page at www.nald.ca

... with an international focus

December 2, 2000

IRA 2000-2001 Professional Development Forums- "New Literacies for New Times: Integrating Technology and the Internet Into the Curriculum" - United States

ORG: International Reading Association
Contact: 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark DE 19714-8139, USA

Tel: (302)731-1600

Fax: (302) 731-1057

Email: forums@reading.org

December 3, 2000

The International Day for Disabled Persons - Worldwide

ORG: The United Nations

Contact: Public Inquiries Unit, United Nations GA-57 New York, NY 10017 United States In Canada -

Tel: (416)923-1885

Fax: (416)923-9829

Email: able@abilities.ca

www.abilities.ca

December 4-6, 2000

IEEE International Workshop on Advanced Learning Technologies (IWALT 2000) - New Zealand

ORG: Microsoft Research IEEE

Learning Technology Standard Committee.

Contact: Chris Jesshope General Chair Institute of Information Sciences & Technology Massey University, Private Bag 11-222 Palmerston North, New Zealand

Tel: +64 6 350 5799 Ext 2467

Fax: +64 6 350 2259

Email: C.R.Jesshope@massey.ac.nz

December 9 - 14, 2000

ASCILITE 2000: Learning to Choose - Choosing to Learn - Australia

ORG: Southern Cross University

Contact:

<http://multimedia.scu.edu.au/ascilite2000/index.html>

December 10 - 13 2000

International Conference: "Working Knowledge - Productive Learning at Work" - Australia

ORG: The Research into Adult and Vocational Learning (RAVL) Group

Contact: Ravl Conference Secretariat: PO Box 246, Gladesville NSW 2111, Australia

Tel: +61 2 9879 6674

Fax: +61 2 9879 6029

Email: info@governance.com.au

www.ravl.uts.edu.au

January 22-24, 2001

Women and Literacy - United States

ORG: Centre for Literacy of Quebec

Contact: Sandy Vaughn Center for the Study of Adult Literacy, University Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30303-3083 USA

Fax (404) 651-1415

email alcsvv@langate.gsu.edu

February 3, 2001

"New Literacies for New Times: Integrating Technology and the Internet Into the Curriculum" - United States

ORG: International Reading Association

Contact: 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark DE 19714-8139, USA

Tel: (302)731-1600

Fax: (302) 731-1057

Email: forums@reading.org

February 7-10, 2001

LDA 2001 International Conference - United States

ORG: Learning Disabilities Association (LDA)

Contact: LDA, 4156 Library Road Pittsburgh, PA 15234-1349 United States

Tel: (412) 341-1515 (voice)

Fax: (412) 344-0224

Email: mailto:ldanatl@usaor.net

<http://www.ldanatl.org/conf/>

February 12-14, 2001

Opening Gates in Teacher Education - Online Conference - Online

ORG: Mofet Institute, Israel

Contact: <http://vcisrael.macam.ac.il>

vc@macam.ac.il

February 24 - 27, 2001

American Association for Applied Linguistics Annual Conference: Applied Linguistics for the 21st Century - United States

ORG: American Association for Applied Linguistics

Contact: American Association for Applied Linguistics PO Box 21686 Eagan, MN 55121-0686 USA

Tel: +1-952-953-0805

FAX +1-952-431-8404

aaaloffice@aaal.org

February 27, 2001 - March 03, 2001

TESOL 2001: GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE - United States

ORG: Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL)

Contact: TESOL, Inc. 700 South Washington Street, Suite 200 Alexandria, VA 22314 USA

Tel: 703-836-0774

Fax: 703-836-7864

March 7 - 9, 2001

Career Development - Going for the Gold: An International Conference on Educational and Vocational Guidance - Canada

ORG: International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG)

Contact: Going for Gold Secretariat Office, c/o Pacific Northwest Planners, 250 - 3651 Moncton Street, Richmond, BC CANADA V7E 3A5

Tel: (604).271.7471

Fax: (604).276.9142

pnwp@netcom.ca

<http://workinfontet.bc.ca/goingforgold2001/index.html>

March 17, 2001

The Pennsylvania Adult and Continuing Education Research Conference - United States

ORG: Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education

Contact: Trenton R. Ferro and Gary J. Dean Department of Adult and Community Education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

trferro@grove.iup.edu

gj dean@grove.iup.edu

March 18-20, 2001

10th Annual Conference on Family Literacy - United States

ORG: National Center for Family Literacy

Contact: NCFL, 325 West Main Street, Suite 200 Louisville, KY 40202-4251 United States

Tel: (502) 584-1133 or 1-877-326-5481

fax: (502) 584-0172

email: ncfl@famlit.org

March 22, 23, 24, 2001

"Let's Develop Genuine Learning Communities" - 26th LDAQ International Conference on Learning Disabilities - Canada

ORG: Learning Disabilities Association of Quebec (LDAQ)

Contact: Learning Disabilities Association of Quebec 284, rue Notre Dame Ouest, suite 300 Montréal (Québec) Canada, H2Y 1T7

Tel: (514) 847-1324

Fax: (514) 281-5187

Email: aqeta@sympatico.ca

<http://educ.queensu.ca/~lda/aqeta>

March 31, 2001

International Reading Association 2000-2001 Professional Development Forums- "New Literacies for New Times: Integrating Technology and the Internet Into the Curriculum" - United States

ORG: International Reading Association

Contact: Professional Development Division International Reading Association 800 Barksdale Road PO Box 8139, Newark DE 19714-8139, USA

Tel: (800) 336-7323

Fax: (302) 731-1057

Email: forums@reading.org

Cool URLs

The John Howard Society of
Ontario

<http://www.johnhoward.on.ca/>

... with a national focus

January 27, 2001

Family Literacy Day - Throughout Canada

ORG: ABC Canada Literacy Foundation

Contact: ABC CANADA 333 King Street East

Toronto, ON M5A 4N2

Tel: (416) 350-6270 or 1-800-303-1004

Fax: (416) 350-6262

abc@corporate.southam.ca

<http://www.abc-canada.org/>

March 22 - 24, 2001

Let's Develop Genuine Learning Communities -
Montreal, Quebec

ORG: Learning Disabilities Association of Quebec
(LDAQ)

Contact: LDAQ, 284 Notre Dame Street West, suite
300, Montréal Québec H2Y 1T7

Tel: (514) 847-1324

Fax: (514) 281-5187

aqeta@sympatico.ca

... with a provincial focus

December 1, 2000

Yukon Learn Christmas Party - Whitehorse, Yukon

ORG: Yukon Learn

Contact: Yukon Learn, 308 Hanson St., Whitehorse,
YT Y1A 1Y6

Tel: (867) 668-6280

Fax: (867) 633-4576

Email: learn@yukon.net

March 21-23, 2001

TRANSFORMATIONS IN LEARNING - Calgary,
Alberta

ORG: Alberta Association for Continuing Educa-
tion and Calgary Community Adult Learning
Association

Contact: Calgary Community Adult Learning
Association, 200, 301-14 St. NW Calgary, AB T2N
2A1

Tel: (403) 266-6444

Fax: (403) 266-6449

Email: ccala@learning-resource.com



The literacy community now has access to an on-line version of the **Canadian Literacy Thesaurus/Thésaurus canadien d'alphabétisation**, thanks to a grant from the National Literacy Secretariat. The Thesaurus is a list of subject terms in English and French relating to the field of adult literacy. Developed in consultation with the Canadian literacy community, both the terminology and structure of the Thesaurus reflect the diversity of regional literacy practices across Canada.

The last ten years have seen a tremendous surge in the production of literacy resources across Canada. As these materials find their way into programs and resource centres, it becomes necessary to organize them in a useful way. The Thesaurus can be used to index documents, whether they are print, audio-visual or electronic. It can also be used to organize reading lists and bibliographies. People can consult the Thesaurus when searching in existing databases such as library catalogues. Finally, the Thesaurus will be helpful to people who wish to familiarize themselves with terminology or emerging concepts in the Canadian literacy field.

The **Canadian Literacy Thesaurus/Thésaurus canadien d'alphabétisation** was first published in 1992 by the **Canadian Literacy Thesaurus Coalition**. By mounting the Thesaurus on the Web, the Coalition hopes to make it more accessible to individuals and organizations both within Canada and beyond. The on-line Thesaurus will also be easier to use and update. In addition, the site will actively encourage user feedback and suggestions for new terms.

Members who participated in the Web project include the Centre AlphaPlus Centre in Toronto, the Centre FORA (*Centre franco-ontarien de ressources en alphabétisation*) in Sudbury, the *Centre de documentation sur l'éducation des adultes et la condition féminine* in Montreal, and the National Library of Canada.

Currently there are very few thesauri available on the Internet. The **Canadian Literacy Thesaurus/Thésaurus canadien d'alphabétisation**, now fully web-enabled, is truly one of a kind. It is the Coalition's hope that it will prove a valuable addition to literacy work both in Canada and internationally.

For more information, please contact: Thora Gislason
Canadian Literacy Thesaurus Coalition
2040 Yonge Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto ON M4S 1Z9
Telephone: (416) 322-1012 ext. 129 or 1 800 788-1120
Fax: (416) 322-0780 or 1 800 788-1912

Web: www.thesaurusalpha.org

Moving?

Make sure your copy of **Networks/ Réseaux** follows you to your new location by letting the National Adult Literacy Database know your new address. Send your change-of-address information by

Email: info@nald.ca;
Post: NALD, Scovil House,
703 Brunswick Street,
Fredericton, NB E3B 1H8;
Fax: (506) 457-6910;.
Call : (506) 457-6900 or
toll-free, 1-800-720-6253



The vision of Yukon Learn: A more literate Yukon

by Liesel Briggs, Executive Director, Yukon Learn

Yukon Learn is a non-profit society incorporated in 1983 that works to help the development and provision of learner and community based programming. We also promote understanding of literacy issues. This organization started as a very much grass-roots group dedicated to providing literacy instruction. It has grown over the years and become involved in many aspects of literacy and community development through interesting and innovative projects, steering and planning committees.

Yukon Learn is both a literacy coalition office and a learning centre. This has both its challenges and benefits. Our attention is constantly drawn to the immediate needs in the Yukon community while we also focus on the bigger literacy picture. Our learning centre welcomes everyone who wants to learn. We have more than 130 learners in Whitehorse focusing on a wide range of needs. Additionally there are projects, programs, learning centres or literacy contacts in each Yukon community:

- Basic literacy tutoring and group classes
- One-to-one tutoring in reading, writing or math
- GED and upgrading
- English as a Second Language classes
- HOST and ISAP programs
- Family Literacy
- Life skills tutoring
- Computer and Internet classes
- Youth specific programming
- Rural Itinerant Coordination and Tutoring in small communities
- Special workshops, training, programs, projects and presentations for learners and volunteers such as Therapeutic Riding, Music and Literacy, Cooking and Literacy

We have a large resource library with books, videos, audio-tapes, easy-to-read manuals and

workbooks, workplace education and family literacy materials, children's books, easy to read health information, and much more. Yukon Learn has developed some of its resources including *Lingo Bingo*, *A Safe Driving Manual and Workbook* and some easy to read books.



Family Literacy books, games and materials are available through Yukon Learn. The Greyson Books for Yukon Children Fund also donates books to organizations that help to put books into homes that have little reading material. This little girl and her puppy dropped by for a cookie and a read one afternoon, while her parents attended the GED upgrading class.

Our classes - and our meetings take place at 308 Hanson Street. Whenever the weather is warm you'll see GED classes, one-to-one tutoring and meetings around our picnic table. Anything to catch a few rays of our Northern sun. (Even if it means wearing a jacket!)

This past 12 months has been exhilarating and active at Yukon Learn. The time has been comprised of a some new and exciting endeavours including:

- developing a Yukon Literacy Strategy in partnership with the Advanced Education branch of the Department of Education. This included meetings in all Yukon Communities. At present the final draft is being reviewed by all the stakeholders.

- designing and putting together a book that is a reflection of learning through visual art and writing by both professional and beginning artists and writers.

- writing a facilitator manual about the Klondike Gold Rush based on the photo-book *The Klondike Gold Rush*.

We are also involved in a number of Northern undertakings which include: a pan-northern coalition for children and families whose vision is to bring together the experience and knowledge of northern, community-based, children and family service organizations, researchers, academics and governments; interagency group planning for conferences focussed on families and children.

Special Events each year include PGI, International Literacy Day, Canada Post Awards, Yukon Literacy Week, Halloween Dress-Up for Literacy, Christmas Dinner for Volunteers and Learners, Family Literacy Day, HOST and ISAP program multi-cultural events. Many of these events take place in the communities as well as in Whitehorse. In the case of Yukon Literacy Week and Family Literacy Day, special packages of materials are sent to each community. There is widespread support for the events from the general community.

For more information : Yukon Learn, 308 Hanson St., Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1Y6, Tel. (867) 668-6280, Fax (867) 633-4576, Email : lbriggs@yukon.net www.nald.ca/yuklearn.htm

Teaching
Tips

Have students use a journal in class and suggest areas for journal writing, such as :

- the impact of something I learned in my life
- behaviours I need to change
- barriers in my life I need to overcome
- what I need to do to take charge of my life
- why attitude is so important
- how I can communicate more effectively
- how key people in my life have given me support
- what I need to do to succeed

[Taken from *Personal Life Management Literacy Program*, Native Women's Resource Centre, Toronto]



THE FIRST EVER IN CANADA

National Aboriginal Literacy Gathering (NALG)

by Priscilla George, NALG Coordinator

In 1996, Beverly Anne Sabourin and Associates (BASA), Winnipeg, Manitoba (formerly Saint Lambert, Quebec) and Step-by-Step Early Learning Centre, Kahnawake First Nation submitted a proposal to the National Literacy Secretariat with the intent of «developing a comprehensive policy framework and strategic approach to the complex issue of literacy within Aboriginal communities and among Aboriginal citizens of Canada».

Phase One compiled an inventory of more than 90 adult literacy programs sponsored and/or initiated by Aboriginal Peoples, and involving Aboriginal learners as clients. Phases Two and Three looked at those factors and variables that have contributed to the «success» of Aboriginal literacy programs. The inventory, as well as two chapters entitled «Common Threads» and «Critical Indicators» constitute *The Language of Literacy, A National Resource Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs*.



Those interviewed suggested developing a national network of Aboriginal literacy practitioners, and having a **National Aboriginal Literacy Gathering (NALG)**. Phase Three established a *National Aboriginal Design Committee (NADC)* that is nationally representative of Aboriginal literacy practitioners to oversee such a gathering - the NADC includes a Learner and an Elder.

- Joy Coldwell, Yukon Learn Society, Whitehorse
- Nora MacDonald-Plourde, Nova Scotia Department of Education & Culture
- Beverly Anne Sabourin, Red River College, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Edwina Wetzel, St. Anne's School, Conne River First Nation, Newfoundland
- Derek Payne, Sto:lo Nation, Chilliwack, British Columbia
- Don Pinay, Yorkton Tribal Council, Yorkton, Saskatchewan
- Nancy Cooper, AlphaPlus, Toronto, Ontario

Because this was the first ever NALG in Canada, we felt it crucial to have learners and Elders present. However, we had to bear

in mind that it was the practitioners who requested the gathering. We modestly projected 10% participation from each of learners and Elders. We met, and even exceeded, that goal. Of the 129 people present at the NALG, there were 23 learners, 6 of whom are Elders, and 3 who participated on the Learners' Panel. There were 14 Elders/ traditional teachers at the NALG - 6 of whom are learners, and 4 who are also practitioners.

The NADC used issues and topics identified in the Phase I survey in our Call for Presenters. When we cross-referenced proposed presentations to issues and topics, language and technology needed to be strengthened. We sought out people to fill in the gap.

To make the NALG as culture-based as possible, we decided to have it in a natural environment, preferably on a First Nation. That's how Nakoda Lodge was chosen. It's surrounded by the majestic beauty of Mother Earth - mountains, Chief Hector Lake, animals, birds. A different Elder opened each day of the NALG. The medicines that they shared with us were prayers and songs in their own language.

The NADC felt it important to provide opportunities for NALG participants to sit with healers, and to participate in a sweatlodge. As literacy practitioners, we're often so busy with the administrative and delivery aspects of programming, expectations of the host organization, commitments to community and family, that we forget to look after ourselves. The sign-up sheets for the healers and the ceremonies were full within minutes of being posted. (Many thanks to Diane Hill, Tim Southwind and Denys Auger who were available for healing/ counseling sessions.) We even had to run a second sweat-lodge. Several people were given their names, clans and colours - our own type of literacy.

Gichi Miigwech to NALG participants for respecting the feelings and customs of the Stoney First Nation, when initial plans to have a

Round Dance had to be changed. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Dale House of the Stoney First Nation, who, on short notice, was able to do Give-Away Teachings of that area, and a song (with his son).

NALG participants shared jokes, stories, and honourings with each other that evening. Several people blessed us with a song in their own language. Gichi Miigwech to all who brought gifts to exchange in the Give-Away. You brought meaningful gifts,

along with your good intentions and best wishes. You also got to take home something that was infused with the loving energy in the room that night.

Our Saturday Morning Plenary Speaker was Evan Adams. Evan was such a hit at the NALG, that even the staff at Nakoda Lodge stopped their work to hear him speak. In fact, lunch was almost over by the time Evan was finished signing autographs, and having his picture taken with people. He gave many powerful messages to NALG participants. Thanks, Evan, for taking time out from your busy schedule as a medical student, an actor, a speaker at many First Nations functions, and as a participant in valuable work in your community to come and be with us. Your words have touched the hearts and lives of many.

Quite a few people said that the Saturday afternoon Closing Plenary was the most important part. We used the energy generated at the NALG, and made plans for solidifying the foundation of Aboriginal literacy in Canada. Those present gave much valuable information for the NALG follow-up strategy. Recommendations that we take forward to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples on your behalf are to maintain the momentum begun by the NALG through: having more NALGs; and, developing a National Aboriginal Literacy Organization. To that end, thirteen people

volunteered to work with the existing NADC. We'll keep you posted on developments.

Should anyone wish a copy of the NALG video, please contact Priscilla George at (416) 250-7428.



The Literacy Bookshelf

Issues and Challenges in Communicating with Less Literate Canadians (2000)

Canada Information Office (CIO)

Canadians with lower levels of literacy want to be better informed on issues that are relevant to everyday lives. Improving the literacy skills of Canadians is an important challenge. The study's objective lies with identifying the challenges associated with communicating with less literate Canadians.

Contact: Diane Viau, Director of Operations, Canada Information Office, 155 Queen Street, 5th floor, Ottawa ON K1P 6L1
Tel. (613) 992-6432

info@cio-bic.gc.ca

www.cio-bic.gc.ca/

Available online in pdf format at :

www.cio-bic.gc.ca/report/alpha/alphadl_e.html

Practical Resources for Adult ESL: A Selection Guide (2000)

by Anna Silliman and Abigail Tom

Reviews over 260 titles that can be used in adult English language instruction. Sections include teaching reading, speaking, listening, and grammar; classroom activities; instructional series; etc...

Contact: Alta Book Center Publishers, 14 Adrian Court, Burlingame, CA 94010, USA
Tel. 1-800-258-2375 or (650) 692-4654
Fax 1-800-238-2329

info@altaesl.com

www.altaesl.com

Our Home and Native Land: Canada Geography (1999)

by Sonja E. Schild

Consists of reproducible outline maps of Canada (about 25 maps) with a page of exercises for each one, plus additional review exercises. Map exercises cover provinces and territories, capital and other cities, and rivers and lakes.

Cost: \$24.99 (book) or \$18.99 (Poster map)

Contact: Smart Toys, #210-5550 Beresford St., Burnaby, BC V5J 5G8
Tel. (604) 433-1347

Fax (604) 433-2498
smarttoys@bbr.ca

Reviewing our Vision of Adult Education - Discussion Kit on the Fifth International Conference on Adult Education (2000)

Canadian Commission for UNESCO

A kit that was prepared for people working in the area of adult education, in government ministries and agencies, educational institutions, the private sector, community centres and groups, labour unions, non formal education organizations in various fields and in settings and communities advocating the sharing of knowledge.

Contact: Chantal Léveillé, Cdn Commission for UNESCO, 350 Albert St., Box 1047, Ottawa ON K1P 5V8

Tel. (613) 566-4414 Ext 4565 or 1-800-263-5588

Fax (613) 566-4405

chantal.leveille@unesco.ca

www.unesco.ca

T'NT - Tips N' Tricks for Dynamite Learning (1999)

by Mary Cole and Anne Price

Filled with tips and tricks for dynamite learning. Targets parents of students entering Junior High, Homeschooling parents and tutors, teachers of students with special needs, substitute and teacher assistants, and child care workers.

Cost: \$22 (plus GST)

Contact: Calgary Learning Centre, 3930 20 St. SW, Calgary AB T2T 4Z9

Tel. (403) 686-9300, Fax (403) 686-0627

calearnc@cadvision.com

www.nald.ca/clc.htm

A Practical Guide for Literacy Coordinators (2000)

Further Education Society of Alberta

Information to guide a new Literacy Coordinator through their first months on the job. Practical advice from experienced Literacy Coordinators, including working with literacy learners and ESL students, training volunteer tutors, administering a literacy program, choosing resources, fundraising, and working with partners.

Cost: \$26 (plus \$5 shipping & handling)

Contact: Further Education Society of Alberta, c/o 119 Silver Crest Crescent NW, Calgary AB T3B 3T8

Tel. (403) 297-2876, Fax (403) 297-2876

Riding the Technology Wave: Experiences of adult literacy students and teachers in Ontario (2000)

by Jean Lock Kunz and Spyridoula Tsoukalas

Examines the extent to which teachers and students have access to and make use of computers and the Internet. Also an extensive listing of resources.

Contact: Canadian Council on Social Development (CCDS), 441 MacLaren Street, 4th Floor Ottawa ON K2P 2H3

Tel. (613) 236-8977

Fax (613) 236-2750

council@ccsd.ca

www.ccsd.ca/

Also available in pdf format on the CCDS Website.

The Revised Common Writing Assessment : A Tool Linked to Ontario's LBS Learning Outcomes Levels (2000)

by Norman Rowan and Neil Graham

A revised assessment tool used successfully for the past few years by several programs in Ontario. Shows how to evaluate a writing sample using scales based on these three important features of writing : *Focus, Development and Organisation; Voice, Vocabulary and Sentence Variety; Grammar and Mechanics.*

Contact: Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC), 365 Bloor Street East, Suite 1003, Toronto ON M4W 3L4

Tel. (416) 963-5787

Fax (416) 963-8102

onlitco@interlog.com

Adult Literacy Now (2000)

Edited by Maurice Taylor

Brings together four faces of the adult literacy picture -- community-based literacy, workplace literacy, family literacy and school-based literacy. Overall design allows practitioners in various capacities and in a multitude of settings to see how the four parts of the literacy picture intersect and complement one another.

Cost: \$34.95 (plus s&h and GST)

Contact: Grass Roots Press, PO Box 52192, Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

Tel. 1-888-303-3213

Fax (780) 413-6582

grassrt@telusplanet.net

www.literacyseniors.com



Conquering Test Writing Anxiety : Developing confidence and skills (2000)

by Ellen Long

A flexible, user friendly manual for teachers and tutors to help adult students cope with the anxiety many of them feel when confronted with a test. Sample tests and specific strategies on blackline masters give the instructor the option of addressing specific kinds of tests or covering the entire text anxiety experience. With student CD-ROM.

Cost: \$29.95 (plus s&h and GST)

Contact: Grass Roots Press, PO Box 52192, Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

Tel. 1-888-303-3213

Fax (780) 413-6582

grassrt@telusplanet.net

Taking Flight : Celebrating Literacy Through the Words of Learners (2000)

Edited by Donna M. Smith

A millennium project which spans the last 30 years of literacy in London/Middlesex County, Ontario. Features a collection of learner-written stories and articles from literacy workers sharing their experiences and giving insight into the personal rewards of being a literacy worker.

Cost : \$10 (plus s&h)

Contact : Donna M. Smith, London/Middlesex Literacy Network, 305 Queens Avenue, London ON N6B 3L7

Tel. (519) 661-5182

Fax (519) 663-9013

donna.smith@treasure.lpl.london.on.ca

<http://discover.lpl.london.on.ca/service/lonlit.htm>

Adult Literacy Assessment Tool Kit (2000)

Illinois Literacy Resource Development Center et al.

Tool Kit was field-tested by library literacy programs across the US, and is designed to help adult literacy programs build effective and accountable programs while meeting the needs of learners, instructors, and funders. Suited to specific programs and broadly applicable to the full spectrum of literacy programs.

Cost : \$35 US

Contact : American Library Association (ALA), 155 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606-1719, USA
Tel. 1-800-545-2433

Fax (312) 836-9958

www.alastore.ala.org/

A Toolbox for ESL Tutors - An Instructional Guide for Teaching English as a Second Language to Newcomers (2000)

Frontier College Press

Provides tutors/teachers with practical lesson activities and ideas for lessons that can be adapted and or expanded depending on the student's interest, goals and prior knowledge.

Contact: Frontier College, 35 Jackes Avenue, Toronto ON M4T 1E2

Tel. (416) 923-3591, or 1-800-555-6523

Fax (416) 323-3522

information@frontiercollege.ca

www.frontiercollege.ca/

Available online at : www.frontiercollege.ca/english/public/online/Toolbox/cover.htm

It Guided Me Back to Learning : A Longitudinal Research Study on Calls to the Literacy B.C. Helpline (1999)

prepared by Sandy Middleton, Literacy BC

It was recognized that calls to the provincial toll-free literacy helpline provided a valuable research opportunity to explore the needs, aspirations, and experiences of adults with low literacy skills in B.C. The study offers the possibility of gaining unique insights into critical issues about participation in literacy education.

Contact: Literacy BC, 601 - 510 West Hastings Street, Vancouver BC V6B 1L8

Tel. (604) 684-0624

Fax (604) 684-8520

literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca

Also available online at : www.nald.ca/PROVINCE/BC/LBC/Research/Itguided/pg1.htm

Regional Tidbits



AlphaRoute is an on-line literacy learning environment which will provide Literacy and Basic Skill delivery agencies in Ontario with the tools and resources necessary for distance or alternative delivery of literacy training. **Centre AlphaPlus Centre** in partnership with the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, officially launched AlphaRoute in September 2000. Senator Joyce Fairbairn and Minister Dianne Cunningham participated in the opening ceremonies; along with Onésime Tremblay, Chairperson of the Board of Directors and Linda Monteith, Executive Director. Other launch sites included Thunder Bay Literacy Group in Thunder Bay, *La Magie des Lettres* in Ottawa, Fanshawe College in London and Contact North in Sudbury.

Participating Ontario Literacy and Basic Skill agencies will be phased into AlphaRoute delivery during the pilot year of operation from September 2000 to August 2001. Literacy and Basic Skill agencies in Ontario will be provided with full access to AlphaRoute environment as well as staff training for mentors and local facilitators, and ongoing technical and curriculum support. Once this first year of implementation has been completed, partnerships with interested literacy providers outside Ontario will be explored. It is planned that by the end of 2002, all Anglophone and Francophone Literacy and Basic Skill agencies will have access to AlphaRoute. AlphaRoute environments for the Native and Deaf learners will be launched in September 2001, and Literacy and Basic Skill agencies in the Native and Deaf streams will be phased in at that time.



What do learners have to say about AlphaRoute

Forty-six learners between the ages of 18 and 35 participated in an 8-10 week research pilot of AlphaRoute completing a minimum of 24 hours of on-line activities. Three English language centres participated, two from Ontario (Kingston Literacy Read-Write Centre and Beat the Street – Frontier College) and one from British Columbia (College of the Rockies); and three French language centres including two from Ontario (*ABC Communautaire de la Péninsule du Niagara* and *La Magie des lettres*) and one from Quebec (Centre Élisabeth-Bruyère).

Here's what learners have to say about the learning experience:

"I thought I learned who I was from this. I always knew that I wanted to be a writer but I didn't know how bad until the eight weeks on AlphaRoute."

"You know, I took keyboarding before but I found it boring. I didn't want to be there. But this, there's different things you can choose from. It's not just like, you know, writing. Or if you don't want to do writing, you can do an activity." "...usually, when I do a program, I'll go there just to see how it is and then all of a sudden other things will come up and I drop out ... like bad attendance or I get kicked out because of attendance. But I came here all the time and for me that's good because I usually never do that."

We invite the public to visit the Centre AlphaPlus Centre website at <http://alphaplus.ca> during 2001 to find out more about this exciting new on-line resource and the results of this pilot year of implementation.

Learner's Corner



RESOURCES FOR LEARNERS

Voyager: Reading and Writing for Today's Adult (2000)

Laubach Literacy of Canada (LLC)

A four-stage program that uses contemporary content and instructional approaches to teach the reading, writing, critical thinking, and communication skills that adults need in today's world. Takes students from the beginning stages of reading and writing through the ninth-grade level.

Contact : LLC, 70 Crown Street, Suite 225, Saint John, NB E2L 2X6, Tel. (506) 634-1980, Fax (506) 634-0944, <http://www.laubach.ca>

Exploring the Atlantic Provinces (1998)

by Calvin Coish, College of the North Atlantic

Takes the beginning reader on various tours, exploring nooks and crannies throughout Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Several photographs and maps illustrate the areas covered in the tours. Also contains a glossary of difficult words.

Contact : Calvin Coish, College of the North Atlantic, P.O. Box 745, Grand Falls-Windsor, NF A2A 2M4, Tel. (709) 709-489-4844, Fax 709-489-2277.

Also available online at : <http://www.nald.ca/CLR/Atlantic/index.htm>

The Grass Roots Readers (2000)

Literacy Services of Canada

An innovative series designed to provide simple text for adults who are reading at or below a Grade 1 level. Offers a range of genres, including romance, mystery, adventure, and non-fiction. The reader is presented with a photograph and one to two lines of text on each page. The photography reflects the diversity of today's society.

Cost : \$7.90 for each title (plus shipping & handling & GST)

Contact : Grass Roots Press, PO Box 52192, Edmonton AB T6G 2T5, Tel. 1-888-303-3213, Fax 1-780-413-6582, grassrt@telusplanet.net <http://www.literacyservices.com>



Multimedia Spelling Bee

Indigo Rose Corporation

A very simple game that allows students to practice their spelling. Students are asked to type the words they hear. Pictures are shown to help them remember the words.

Cost : \$28.53

Contact : Indigo Rose Corporation, 123 Bannatyne Ave., Suite 230, Winnipeg MB R3C 3R5, Tel. 1-800-665-9668, <http://www.indigorose.com>

Learning Outside The Lines : Two Students with Learning Disabilities and ADHD Give You The Tools for Academic Success and Educational Revolution (2000)

by Jonathan Mooney and David Cole

Every day, your school, your teachers, and even your peers draw lines to measure and standardize intelligence. This is written by two such «academic failures», who graduated from Brown University at the top of their class. They teach you how to take control of your education and find true success.

Contact : Simon & Schuster Publishers, c/o Distican, Inc., 35 Fulton Way, Richmond Hill ON L4B 2N4, Tel. 1-800-268-3215 or (905) 64-0073, Fax 1-888-849-8151 or (905) 764-0086 order_desk@distican.com <http://www.simonandschuster.com/>

Literacy Kit (2000)

by Robert Grimminck

Designed to help adults improve their reading skills. The books are colourful, user friendly and full of interesting subjects. Comes with a *Follow and Lead* CD and computer software program.

Cost : \$68

Contact : Folker Press Publishing, 1595 Highbury Ave. N., RR 1, Arva ON N0M 1C0 <http://www.home.golden.net/rgrimminck/Reader.htm>

Learner's Story

This poem was written by Annie Mean, from Hartland, New Brunswick. Annie was born in Woodstock, Carleton County, N.B. She is 37 years old, and has two daughters and a son, whose ages are 20, 12 and 11. Her parents are Paul and Mildred Mean.

My Mom

by Annie Mean

My mom is so special to me.
She helped me and raised me up to be the
Sweet girl I am today.
Mom showed me how to take care of
Myself; and how to take care of others,
And how to love; share my love with
Everyone.

She raised me with good manners, to
Say please and thank you. If it wasn't for
Her and her patience, I wouldn't be where
I am today. If anything should ever
Happen to my mom, I will be very sad, I
Love my mom very much. She's a
flower
That's always in bloom with her radiant
Smile and sense of humor.

Since my mom has moved away, I don't
See her very much like I used to, but
She knows that I love her very much
Everyday. I talk to her on the telephone
2 or 3 times a day, and before I hang up the
Telephone I say, «Talk to you later mom,
Remember I love you no matter how old
you get. I will be there if you ever need
Someone to talk to or ever need any
help.
You know you can always count on me.»



And, Among The Winners Were...



The battle for world literacy is too often a story of unsung heroes. That's one reason the NALD newsletter will bring to you on a regular basis a list of those individuals, programs and organizations honoured with international, national and provincial recognition for outstanding work in the global literacy initiative.

National

Canada Post Literacy Awards 2000

Individual Literacy Achievement Awards : Lionel Boucher, Saint-Georges-de-Beauce, QC; Connie De Melo, Castlegar, BC; Thomas Pierce, Fortune, NF; Corinne Marie Pitre, Spruce Grove, AB; Raymond Roy, Tourond, MB; Diane Doyle, Brandon, MB; Sylvie Malenfant, Saint-Léonard, NB; Yvonne J. Westall, Fredericton, NB; Laura Jarvis, Dartmouth, NS; Matthew Harrison, Inuvik, NT; Keppel Disney, Ottawa, ON; Yolande Robitaille, Penetanguishene, ON; Darlene Arsenault, Wellington, PE; Norma Arsenault, Summerside, PE; Doreen Aubertin, Chateauguay, QC; Roger Spetz, Saskatoon, SK; Marlene M. Drapeau, Mayo, YK.

Community Leadership Awards : Prince George BC, Library's program «Catch'em in the Cradle»; Literacy and Parenting Skills (LAPS), Calgary, AB; Transcona Literacy Centre, Winnipeg, MB; Fredericton Regional Family Resource Centre, Fredericton, NB; Teachers on Wheels Inc., St. John's, NF; Digby Area Learning Association, Digby, NS; Association des francophones de Fort Smith, Fort Smith, NT; CNIB Library for the Blind, Toronto, ON; Centre d'éducation Évangéline, Wellington, PE; Action ABC, Montréal, QC; Saskatchewan Literacy Foundation, Saskatoon, SK; Whitehorse Correctional Centre Literacy Program, Whitehorse, YK.

Educator Awards : Wendy Kraglund-Gauthier, Morell, PE; Deborah Morgan, Camrose, AB; Karen Taylor, Victoria, BC; Sally Gellard, Vancouver, BC; William T. Fagan, Portugal, NF.

Business Leadership Award : Palliser Furniture, Winnipeg, MB

Provincial

Manitoba

Margaret Laurence Award

Rural winner : Bill Taylor - Samaritan House Training Centre, Brandon

Urban winners : Beda Drury - Journeys Adult Education Centre, Winnipeg and Rosella Aylward - Transcona Literacy Centre, Winnipeg

New Brunswick

Lieutenant-Governor Early Childhood Literacy Awards - 2000 Recipients

Author - Children's Story: Krista Johansen, Sackville

Children's Poetry: author Shirley Downey, St. Stephen, and illustrator Phoebe Anne Magee, St. Andrews

Organisations: La Garderie Les Débrouillards de Val D'Amours Inc., Campbellton and Saint John Learning Exchange

Library: Dr. Walter Chestnut Public Library in Hartland and Bibliothèque publique La Moisson de Saint-Quentin

Individual: Dianne Elizabeth Clowater, Boiestown and Linda Landry, Beresford

Grandparent: Warreene Agnew, Moncton

Ontario

Adult Basic Education Association of Hamilton-Wentworth Literacy Awards for 2000 :

Stelco-Hilton Works Learner Award : Sam Peci

Honourable Mention - Learner : Robert E. Jones

Ken Cross Individual Literacy Award : Ruth Spencer

Dofasco Excellence in Teaching Award : Richard Patz

Spectator Corporate Award : Fortino's Dundurn

Hamilton and District Literacy Council Awards 2000 :

Commitment to Literacy Award : Salvatore Gallo

Outstanding Achievement Award : student (name withheld)

Tutor of the Year Award : Rick Marriage

Cool URLs

The Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre

<http://WWW.NALD.CA/RedLake.htm>