



Websites Worth Remembering:

**United Nation's International
Year of Older Persons Website**
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/iyop/>

**Canada's International Year of
Older Persons website**
<http://iyop-aipa.ic.gc.ca/>

**Older Adults and Learning Technol-
ogy Project**
<http://www.mbnet.mb.ca:80/crm/oalt/>

**The Canadian Senior Citizens
Information and Services Centre**
<http://www.infoseniors.com/>

**Senior Net: Computers and Internet
Education for Seniors and Older Adults**
<http://www.seniornet.org/>

Technology Literacy for Seniors
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/tech/seniors.htm>

**Seniors Computer Information
Program (SCIP)**
<http://www.mbnet.mb.ca:80/crm/>

**At Risk: A Socio-economic Analysis of
Health and Literacy Among Seniors**
<http://www.nald.ca/nls/ials/atrisk/cover.htm>

Seniors' Education Centre
<http://www.uregina.ca/extnsion/seniors/index.html>

**My Virtual Encyclopedia- Seniors
Online**
<http://www.refdesk.com/seniors.html>

Second Chance for Seniors

by Diane Mullan *

Second Chance for Seniors is a program designed to address the literacy learning needs of older adults. Since May 1997, the Seniors' Education Centre at University of Regina Extension has housed this unique project. It is funded by a special endowment made possible through a generous bequest of the late Eva Bassett (Pook) of Toronto matched by the National Literacy Secretariat.

Older adults ranging in age from 50 to 85 years participate as learners and as peer tutors. The tutor training provides information about special accommodations for older adult learners who may have sight, hearing or memory loss, as well as mobility challenges. Peer tutoring is just one component of the Second Chance for Seniors program. The program staff are exploring ways to address the gap between the large numbers of potential learners in this age group and the low participation rate of older adults in literacy programs.

In Canada more than 1.6 million people over the age of 65 perform at Literacy Levels 1 and 2 (low and very low literacy skills) according to the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS), 1996. Many older adults do not identify literacy skill development as a high priority. This may appear to be resist-



ance to learning or fear that they are too old. However, they may not realize that they are not functioning at a level needed for them to cope with everyday reading, writing and comprehension. Data from IALS indicates that older Canadians overestimate their literacy skills. In fact, 67% of seniors aged 65 and over who scored at Level 1 and 90.3 % who scored at Level 2, believe that they possess good to excellent reading skills. As a result, they may make serious mistakes by misunderstanding important health or financial information.

Through *Second Chance for Seniors*, community learning groups have been developed to reach older adults who are not accessing current peer tutoring or other literacy programs, or who shy away from the term "literacy". The community learning groups focus on "keeping the mind active" and creating a friendly relaxed approach to learning. In one neighbourhood, at Al





Networks

The **NALD** Newsletter
Vol. 4 No. 2
Spring 1999

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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http://www.nald.ca

* *NALD is funded by the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada*

Ritchie Health Action Centre in the Regina Health District, seniors gather for monthly potlucks. Their focus, besides sharing good food and friendship, is the production and distribution of their community cookbook entitled *Tried and True Recipes from Al Ritchie Seniors*.

In cooperation with Regina Housing Authority, monthly community learning programs are offered at two seniors income-subsidized high-rises. These programs, called Something Old, Something New, involve reading together, discussing the content, and checking for comprehension on a variety of topics of interests. The "Something Old" portion involves the use of old objects and stories about the past to stimulate reminiscing. "Something New" looks at various aspects of the world today, through current events, learning about the

new technologies, etc. The older adults are wonderful storytellers who often have a rich past of experience to draw upon. They are being encouraged to record their memoirs, independently or with assistance. Older adults are learning and keeping their minds active by practicing the basic skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

The motivation of older adults to improve literacy skills is different from young single mothers or unemployed workers who have many years of possibilities and challenges ahead of them. Older adults may feel that it is really too late for them to take on a rigorous schedule of training. Second Chance for Seniors supports older adults in the belief that they are never too old to learn. Their needs, interests, learning preferences and pace of learning are at the heart of the program.

* Diane Mullan is the literacy program coordinator for *Second Chance for Seniors*, Seniors' Education Centre, University of Regina. She has worked in older adult education since 1991. Diane is the producer of several documentaries about the lives of older people, including "Never Too Old to Learn", a video about older adults and literacy. For more information about the literacy program or the video please contact Diane Mullan at (306) 585-5847 or E-mail diane.mullan@uregina.ca Diane would especially like to share ideas and resources with others who are working in older adult literacy.

Did You Know...

-  A substantial number of Canadian seniors are currently back in school. In 1996, almost 20,000 were enrolled in some kind of formal educational program.
-  Seniors have, on average, relatively low levels of formal educational training.
-  The majority of today's seniors, over six out of ten, never completed high school; 25% had attended, but had not graduated from high school, while 37% had less than a Grade 9 education.
-  8% of all Canadians aged 65 and over had a university degree in 1996, compared with 17% of people between the ages of 25 and 64.
-  Many seniors have difficulty reading written material. 53% were only able to perform simple reading tasks, such as locating one piece of information in a text, in the International Adult Literacy Survey conducted in 1994.

[Taken from the *International Year of Older Persons* Website at : <http://iyop-aipa.ic.gc.ca/> Statistics prepared by Statistics Canada for the Division of Aging and Seniors.]

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NALD would like to thank Carleton Literacy Council CASP-NB, Carnegie Learning Centre-BC, Victoria READ Society-BC, Frontier College, Mr. Howes, Ms. Laidlaw, Second Chance for Seniors-SK, Revenue Canada, Bow Valley College-AB, Projet Aîné.e.s à la page-ON, Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français, Pluri-elles Inc.-MB and the Northwest Territories Literacy Council-NWT for the opportunity to use photographs within this newsletter.

Mailed under Canada Post Publication Mail Sales Agreement Number 1502808



FRONTIER COLLEGE FRONTIÈRE

1899 - 1999 THE FIRST 100 YEARS

“Education must be obtainable on the farm, in the bush, on the railway, and in the mine. We must educate the whole family wherever their work is, wherever they earn their living; teaching them how to earn and at the same time how to grow physically, intellectually, and spiritually.... This is the real education. This is the place of a true university.” *Alfred Fitzpatrick-1920*

by Dan Khimasia, National Coordinator

This year, 1999, marks a milestone in Canadian education history as Frontier College celebrates its centenary. Founded by Alfred Fitzpatrick and a group of university students in 1899, Frontier College's original aim was to make education accessible to the labourers in the work camps of Canada. Instructors or Labourer-Teachers were trained and sent out to work alongside labourers by day and teach reading and writing by night. The Labourer-Teacher program continues to this day.

Frontier College was founded on the premise that education should be available to all people. The initial name of the organization was The Reading Camp Association, in 1919 this name was changed to Frontier College. For a short period from 1922-1933 Frontier College was given degree granting status. During this period workers in the field were able to work on university courses through correspondence. A large number of labourer teachers were placed in the 1930s to work in relief camps and other settlements. A number of prominent figures served as Frontier College volunteers in the first thirty years, these included: Dr. Norman Bethune, Dr. Margaret Strang and Dr. Benjamin Spock. After WWII the College began to work with labourers on the two national railways, this continued until the early 90s.

In the early 1970s Frontier College recognized that the geographical frontiers were diminishing and that the literacy needs in urban 'frontiers' were more pressing. As a result, the College developed a series of programs that addressed the more specific needs of people living in urban and rural communities. In 1999 our volunteers are

drawn from across the country. In 1992, the Students for Literacy program was launched. This initiative trains university



students to be tutors in their specific communities, campus based programs now exist at 35 campuses across the country.

To celebrate our 100th Anniversary we have a number of events planned across the country. Some of the events include:

September 11, 1999 100th Annual General Meeting Featuring: afternoon and evening events including a labourer-teacher reunion, a concert with John McDermott, and speaker Stephen Lewis. This event will be held at Convocation Hall, University of Toronto.

September 24, 1999 – Frontier College Day Rallies will be held at all of our campus sites across Canada. We will produce a bilingual chain-story with each campus program contributing two paragraphs. The chain will start at 8:30 a.m. at Memorial University (NF) and finish at 9:00 p.m. at the University of Victoria (BC). The completed story will be published and distributed.

To support our 100th Anniversary celebrations we are receiving support from Canada Post and the CRB Foundation:

Frontier College / Canada Post Commemorative Stamp

This stamp will be issued in September.

Frontier College / CRB Heritage Minute This spot was filmed on February 25, 1999. The Heritage Minute will begin airing in September.

For more information on the above, please visit our site:
<http://www.frontiercollege.ca>

For a detailed history on Frontier College, please refer to: Morrison, James H. (1989). *Camps and Classrooms: A Pictorial History of Frontier College*. Toronto: Frontier College Press

Frontier College, 35 Jackes Ave., Toronto, ON, M4T 1E2,
Toll Free: 1 800 555 6523, Tel: 416 923 3591 Fax: 416 323 3522
information@frontiercollege.ca



University
of
Alberta

Directory of Literacy Research in Canada

The University of Alberta's Center for Research on Literacy is developing a comprehensive directory of adult literacy research. When the directory is completed, you will be available to access it through NALD. We are actively seeking names and addresses of practitioners and academics who are conducting research in adult literacy. Please contact Pat Campbell at Patty.Campbell@ualberta.ca or phone (780) 492-2984 or fax (780) 492-0113 for more information.

Networks Datebook Your Literacy Events Calendar

... with an international focus

June 27 - 30, 1999

Lifelong Learning Network Summer Institute 1999 Literacy and Technology: Can Less be More? - Montreal, QC, Canada

Org: The Centre for Literacy of Quebec and Georgia Tech

Contact: CLQ, 3040 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, QC Canada H3Z 1A4
Tel: 514 931 8731 x1415
<http://www.nald.ca/litcent.htm>

... with a national focus

May 13 - 15, 1999

Share the Memories...Share the Dream! - Carleton University Ottawa, ON

Org: Laubach Literacy of Canada

Contact: LLC, National Development Office, 60-C Elizabeth St., Bedford, QC J0J 1A0
Tel: 450-248-2898 Fax: 450-248-7054
<http://www.nald.ca/llc.htm>
laubach@netc.net
laubach@nbnet.nb.ca

May 25 - 28, 1999

Assessing our Progress; Envisioning Our Future - Identifying Best Practices - Belleville, ON

Org: Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment

Contact: Ms. Lynn Wilson, RR#1, York Road Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Ontario K0K 1X0
Tel: 613 396 2122 or 1 800 267 0637
Fax: 613 396 2761 lynnw@fnti.tyendinaga.net
<http://www.tyendinaga.net/fnti/prior/10th/>

May 26 - 29, 1999

Annual meeting: Discover the Experience: Community Education at Work - Gros Morne National Park, NF

Org: Canadian Association for Community Education (CACE)

Contact: Sue Rendell, Coordinator, General Delivey, Norris Point, NF A0K 3V0
Tel: 709 458 3212 Toll Free: 1 877 558 3213
sue.rendell@nf.sympatico.ca
<http://www3.nf.sympatico.ca/sue.rendell/>

June 10 - 12, 1999

Passion and Politics: 99 Years of Adult Education in Canada - University of Sherbrooke, Quebec
Org: Canadian Association For The Study Of Adult Education
Contact: Tara Fenwick, Ed South #341 Faculty of Education, University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G5
parwick@telusplanet.net
<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/CASAE/maineng.html>

July 8 - 10, 1999

CEA-CSBA-BCSTA JOINT CONVENTION - Victoria, BC

Org: Canadian Education Association

Contact: Canadian Education Association, Suite 8 - 200, 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1V5
Tel: 416 924 7721
Fax: 416 924 3188 acea@hookup.net <http://www.acea.ca/EVENTS.HTML>

August 16 - 17, 1999

First Annual Summer Literacy Symposium - Edmonton, Alberta

Org: Edmonton Regional Consortium, Learning Network, University of Alberta, and Edmonton Literacy Committee

Contact: Irma Sach, Room 748 Edu. South U of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2G5
Tel: 1-888-430-5339 Fax 780 492-9972
irma.sach@ualberta.ca
<http://www.quasar.ualberta.ca/erc>

... with a provincial focus

May, 1999

How do we Improve our Education System - Whitehorse, YK

Org: Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon
Contact: Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon, 1154C 1st Ave. Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1A7
Tel: 668 5167 Fax 668 6504
lday@yknet.yk.ca
<http://www.nald.ca/lday.htm>

May, 1999

Spring Training Workshop - YWCA in the Pink Lounge, Hamilton, ON

Org: The Hamilton and District Literacy Council

Contact: Hamilton & District Literacy Council, 75 MacNab St. South, 3rd floor Hamilton, ON L8P 3C1
Tel: 519 743 6090 or 529 9907

May 18, 1999

Monthly Board Meeting of the Dartmouth Literacy Network - Dartmouth, NS

Org: Dartmouth Literacy Network,
Contact: Dartmouth Literacy Network, PO Box 1004, 300 Pleasant Street, Dartmouth NS B2Y 3Z9
Tel: 902 464 3444 Fax: 902 464 3052
as495@chebucto.ns.ca
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Education/DLN/index.html>

May 18, 1999

Barrie Literacy Council's Annual General Meeting - Barrie, ON

Org: Barrie Literacy Council

Contact: Barrie Literacy Council, 80 Bradford Street Unit #244, Barrie, ON L4N 6S7

Tel: 705 728 7323 Fax: 705 728 7155
barrie_literacy@on.aibn.com



May 28 - June 8, 1999

Walk for Literacy 1999 - Between Bathurst and Moncton, NB - 350 kms

Org: La Fédération d'alphabétisation du N-B
Contact: New Brunswick Committee on Literacy, 88 Prospect Street West, Fredericton, NB E3B 2T8,
Tel: 506 457 1227 Fax: 506 458 1352
literacy@nbnet.nb.ca
<http://www.nald.ca/nbclhom.htm>

May 29, 1999

Spread the Word Literacy Festival - Collingwood, ON

Org: Georgian Literacy

Contact: Triangle Literacy, 180 Ontario Street, Collingwood, ON L9Y 1M6
Tel: 705 444 2250, Fax: 705 445 6362
geolit@georgian.net
<http://www.georgian.net/gtl/sword.htm>

June 1, 1999

Golf Day for Literacy in Quebec - Cedarbrook Golf Club, Ste. Sophie

Org: Literacy Partners of Quebec and the Centre for Literacy of Quebec

Contact: Centre for Literacy of Quebec, Inc, 3040 Sherbrooke Street West, Room 4B.1-6 Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3Z 1A4
Tel: 514-931-8731, x 1415 Fax: 514-931-5181
literacycntr@dawsoncollege.qc.ca

June 4 - 5, 1999

Network's 10th Anniversary Literacy Matters: Past Present and Future - Saskatoon

Org: Saskatchewan Learning Network
Contact: SLN, 206-220-3rd Ave S, SASKATOON, SASK., S7K 1M1
Tel: 306 653 7368 FAX 306 653 1704
sklit@sk.sympatico.ca
<http://www.nald.ca/sklitnet.htm>

June 10 - 12, 1999

Vitalize '99 Provincial Volunteer Conference - Edmonton, AB

Org: Wild Rose Foundation

Contact: Wild Rose Foundation, 204 Legislature Building, 2007 Toronto Dominion Tower, Edmonton Centre Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Z1
Tel 403 422 9305 Fax 403 427 4155

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/~wrf/>

June 10, 1999

Barrie Literacy Council's Annual Banquet

- Barrie, ON

Org: BLC

Contact: Barrie Literacy Council, 80 Bradford Street, Unit #244, Barrie, ON L4N 6S7
Tel: 705 728 7323 Fax: 705 728 7155
barrie_literacy@on.aibn.com

June 16, 1999

Annual General Meeting of the Dartmouth Literacy Network - Dartmouth, NS

Org: Dartmouth Literacy Network,

Contact: DLN, PO Box 1004, 300 Pleasant Street, Dartmouth NS B2Y 3Z9

Tel: 902 464 3444 Fax: 902 464 3052

as495@chebucto.ns.ca

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Education/DLN/index.html>

July 18, 1999

Barrie Literacy Council's Ride for Literacy

- Barrie, ON

Org: BLC

Contact: BLC, 80 Bradford Street, Unit #244, Barrie, ON, L4N 6S7
Tel: 705 728 7323 Fax: 705 728 7155
barrie_literacy@on.aibn.com

August 18, 1999

Barrie Literacy Council's Summer

Barbeque - Barrie, ON

Org: BLC

Contact: BLC, 80 Bradford Street, Unit #244, Barrie, ON, L4N 6S7
Tel: 705 728 7323 Fax: 705 728 7155
barrie_literacy@on.aibn.com



Don't forget that 1999 is the International Year of Older Persons!! Contact your local literacy coalition and find out what is going on in your area, better yet - organise an event or two!!

"The PGIs bring together so much that matters to me: friends, laughter, poetry, music-all playing to make a better world. Thanks to thousands of golfers, corporate sponsors and hardworking volunteers, the PGIs have become a network that stretches from sea to sea to, as I am proud to say, sea. We've raised millions of dollars to help people learn to read and write or just make their lives a little better. And we're going to keep on doing it."

- Peter Gzowski



Founded in 1986 by author and broadcaster Peter Gzowski to raise funds for literacy across Canada, the PGIs (for "Peter Gzowski Invitationals") have raised over \$5 million since 1986. Every dollar raised at a PGI stays in the community to help support local literacy programs.

The PGIs are fun, informal affairs, featuring music and poetry-every tournament has a Poet Laureate! Special guests this season include CBC TV's Peter Mansbridge, CBC Radio Two's Shelagh Rogers, Globe and Mail golf columnist Lorne Rubenstein, and Ernie Coombs (a.k.a. Mr. Dressup).

Contact your local tournament committee to get involved, or contact Susan Brekelmans, PGI National Coordinator, PGI national office at ABC CANADA by one of the following means:

Tel: 1-800-303-1004 Fax: 416 442 2293;

Email: sbrekelmans@corporate.southam.ca

Address: ABC CANADA, 1450 Don Mills Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2X7 URL: <http://www.abc-canada.org/>

May 4, 5, 6

Golf Tournaments and Celebrations - Kugluktuk, Nunavut
Contact Sue Glowach - 867 873 8389

June 2, 1999

Pine Ridge Golf & Country Club, Winnipeg, Contact: Literacy Partners of Manitoba - 204 947 -5757 literacy@magic.ca for details

June 7-8, 1999

The Briars, Jackson's Point, ON Contact: Frontier College - 416 923 3591

June 14, 1999

Bally Haly Golf Club, St. John's, NF, Contact: Sheila Barrett- 709 726 3357 for details

June 17 1999

The Canadian Golf and Country Club, Ottawa, ON Contact: PGI National office 416 350 6270 pgi@corporate.southam.ca

June 18, 1999

Grand Falls Golf Club, Grand Falls/Grand Sault, NB Contact: Paul Duffie - 506 475 2221 for details

June 23, 1999

Uplands Golf Club, Victoria BC Contact: Project Literacy Victoria - Susan Kurushima - 250 381 3755

June 28, 1999

Granite Springs Golf Club, Halifax NS Contact: John Gray - 902 852 3419 for details

July 3-4, 1999

Mountainview Golf Course, Whitehorse Contact: Liesel Briggs - 867 668 6280 for details

July 8

University Golf Club, Vancouver Contact Linda Mitchell, Literacy BC - 604-684-0624

July 16

Brudenell River, PEI Contact the PEI Literacy Alliance - 902-368-3620

July 18-19, 1999

Assembly of First Nations, Vancouver Contact: Paulette Tremblay - 613 241 6789 for details

August 5, 1999

Wascana Country Club, Regina Contact: Susan Clarkson - 306 653 7378 for details

October 1 -

Willow Park Golf Club, Calgary. Contact Carolyn Meier, Calgary Learning Centre - 403-686-9300



Plain Language - Clear and Simple: A Priority for Revenue Canada

by Josée Ricard *

To many Canadians, Revenue Canada means complicated, rather than simple.

However, the Department is constantly trying to simplify its publications—something that is not always an easy task. Let's not forget that Revenue Canada must explain complex laws like the *Income Tax Act*, the *Customs Act*, and the *Excise Act* using plain language. Add to this the thousands of documents the Department publishes each year to help Canadians understand their rights and obligations with regard to taxation, and you will have a good idea of the size of the job. Still, the Department has made plain language a priority, since it recognizes that it is asking Canadians to complete complicated forms.

It all began in 1988, when the federal government created the *Government Communications Policy*, which explains its support for plain language. Revenue Canada immediately saw that clear, simple language improved client services. In 1989, it began offering a course on the subject to employees. In addition, the Department updates its writing style guidelines for employees every year. Gradually, the publications have become more simple. After in-depth reviews, many documents have been completely reworked by their authors. In fact, some parts of the guide to the general tax return are

being reviewed now. Revenue Canada has been part of the Interdepartmental Committee on Plain Language since 1996. In 1998, the Department introduced its *Fairness Initiative*, which confirms the commitment to give Canadians information in clear and simple language.

However, Revenue Canada did not stop there. Soon after the International Adult Literacy Survey report was published in 1996, the Department started an extensive project to better understand the needs and expectations of Canadians who have difficulty reading and writing. Officials even asked one of the authors of the literacy survey to look at some Revenue Canada forms, to try to determine what level of literacy a person needs to complete them.

As well as continuing to simplify its publications, the Department still offers training courses on plain language to interested employees. In addition, employees who want to have their language skills evaluated can take a diagnostic test on computer. A basic grammar course, developed by the Department, is also available to employees who feel they need one. Revenue Canada is currently developing an administrative writing course. It will complement the basic course and prepare employees for the plain language course.

Revenue Canada has come a long way, but knows it must not lose sight of its goal—to stay well ahead of the game in plain language.

* Josée Ricard is a Readability and Editing Officer with the Communications Branch, Revenue Canada.

Tips on Plain Language

Think of your readers and write for them.
Use informal, personal language.
Use language which includes women and minorities.
Use the active voice, where the subject does the action.
Use large print that's easy to read.
Use pictures or graphics to show what you mean.
Break up a long message.
Use plenty of white space around your message.
Use one sentence for each idea.
Ask somebody in your audience to look at your work before you send it.

[From the ABC CANADA Website, at: <http://www.abc-canada.org/wordzone/playw.html>]



Dietician and Literacy Advocate Writes Meal Planning Book with Support from the NLS

by Karen Graham

Meals for Good Health is a beautiful book that is easy-to-read. It has actual-size photographs of a month of meals and includes everyday, easy-to-make, low-fat recipes. This book is a must for all consumers. See the book on NALD's Website at <http://www.nald.ca/meals.htm>

Unique features of *Meals for Good Health*:

Easy-to-read and easy-to-understand. The text reads at a Grade 6 reading level, and the life-size photographs of the meals make this book useable by someone who does not read or whose first language is not English. Additional bonuses to the book include colour coding for each section in the book, side bars to highlight key information, and large font size in the text.

A guide to healthy living. The number of calories in the meals have been worked out for you.

Multiple uses. This book was published in cooperation with the Canadian Diabetes Association. It is, however, more than a book for people with diabetes. It will help if you need to lose weight or control high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

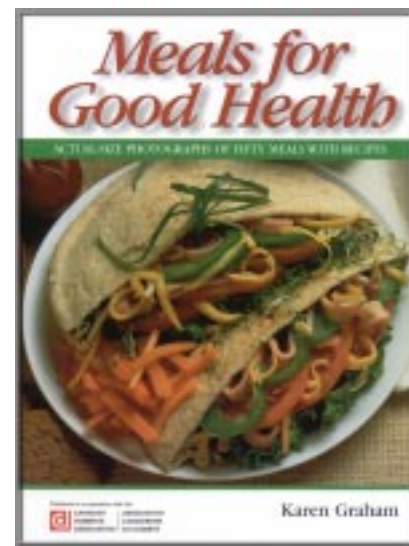
Multicultural. An excellent guide for making changes within the framework of your usual food intake and cultural food habits.

Simple recipes.

The *Meals for Good Health* Manual is available in all chain bookstores, and most independent bookstores across Canada. In the United States, sold in some bookstores. US bookstores can order the book from Associated Publishers Group distributors.(1-800-327-5113). In Canada, order by calling your local Canadian Diabetes Association (listed in your phone book) or the Canadian Diabetes Association national office at 1-800-BANTING (1-800-226-8464) in Canada, or outside Canada call 1-416-363-3373.

The book can also be ordered directly from:

Paper Birch Publishing
89 Wilkinson Crescent
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 1A7
Tel: 204-857-7365
Fax 204-239-6918



New literacy and parenting skills program provides tools for Aboriginal parents



Bow Valley College has launched its Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills (A-LAPS) program and training workshops. Created in collaboration with Aboriginal specialists and groups, it is designed to meet the needs of low-literate Aboriginal parents. Through group exercises and discussion parents can improve their literacy skills, strengthen their

parenting skills and nurture literacy development in their children. Interest for the program has already been expressed across Canada and even in the United States due to its success in combining literacy and parenting skills with Aboriginal history, stories and legends.

"The combination of culture, literacy and parenting skills makes sense," says Lauren MacKenzie, project coordinator for Bow Valley College's Literacy and Parenting Skills program. "Most low-literate parents know first-hand the importance of reading. They want to be able to read to their children and encourage their children to read themselves - this program can help them do that."

The A-LAPS program is the third in a series of family literacy programs developed by Elaine Cairns and Lauren MacKenzie at Bow Valley College. Existing Literacy and Parenting Skills programs for mainstream and English as a Second Language populations are currently offered in women's shelters, community centres, schools and family drop-in centres across Canada.

The LAPS program also provides two or three-day training workshops that prepare community workers to deliver the program in both rural and urban settings. Workshop topics include strategies for working with low-literate aboriginal parents, how to develop a family literacy program within a community, and how to facilitate a parent education program. The Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills project has been generously funded through the National Literacy Secretariat.

For more information, contact:
LAPS, Bow Valley College
332 - 6 Avenue SE Calgary, AB T2G 4S6
Tel. 403 297 4778, Fax 403 297 4949
lmackenzie@bowvalley.ab.ca

The Literacy Bookshelf

Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills (LAPS) Training Manual (1999) Bow Valley College

The third in a series of family literacy manuals designed to assist learners to improve their literacy and parenting skills and encourage literacy development in their children. The Aboriginal LAPS program includes sessions on parenting issues; facilitator's instructions; stories and legends; pre-literacy and literacy activities, etc.

Cost: \$25

Contact: Elaine Cairns or Lauren MacKenzie, LAPS, Bow Valley College, 332-6 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 4S6, Tel. 403 297 4778, Fax 403 297 4949.

At Risk: A Socio-economic Analysis of Health and Literacy Among Seniors (1998) by Paul Roberts and Gail Fawcett, Centre for International Statistics, Canadian Council on Social Development

Compares the health-related characteristics of seniors with their literacy skills and practices using Canadian data from the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS). Findings support the view that literacy skills and practices may serve as barriers in the attainment of good health.

Contact: Nancy Darcovich, Statistics Canada, Tel. 613 951 4585. Also available online at: <http://www.nald.ca/nls/ials/atrisk/cover.htm>

Through the Lens of a Good Practice Framework: Looking at Our Workplace Education Programs (1998) by Maurice Taylor

A discussion paper about a framework of good practice principles and how well it held up to some documented workplace program experience. Also about how you can use the same framework as: a tool for new instructors; a marketing concept for clients; as a format to evaluate workplace education programs, etc.

Contact: National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada, 15 Eddy Street, Room 10E10, Ottawa, ON K1A 1K5, Tel. 819 953 5280, Fax 819 953 8076, nls@fox.nstn.ca <http://www.nald.ca/nls.htm>

Geography-Based Language Studies (1998) by Annalore Jackson

A new ESL and Adult Literacy series of five teaching units that were developed to teach both the English language and the varying aspects of Canada's geographical regions. Activities are included in each section, testing such elements of language as Reading, Vocabulary, Working with Sentences, etc.

Cost: \$39.95 (each Teaching unit) or \$159.95 (complete series)

Contact: Reidmore Books Inc. Educational Publishers, 18228 - 102 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5S 1S7, Tel. 403 444 0912 or 1-800-661-2859, Fax 403 444 0933, reidmore@compusmart.ab.ca <http://www.reidmore.com/>

Using Learner Writing to Assess Reading Skills : A Tool for Literacy Practitioners (1998) by Susan Toews

An assessment tool that contains passages written by students. This test contains fiction and non-fiction passages ranging from basic to advanced levels, covering a variety of topics that students will enjoy reading. Each passage can be used to test the student's word identification and comprehension skills.

Cost: \$25

Contact: Literacy Services of Canada Ltd., P.O. Box 52192, Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5, Tel. 780 413 6491, Fax 780 413 6582, brokop@telusplanet.net <http://www.literacyservices.com/>



Literacy Promotion and Fundraising : Your Guide to Planning a Special Event (1998) The Regina Public Library

A reference manual for any program trying to raise money and awareness for literacy. A guide to assist your organization in the planning and implementation of a special literacy event such as "The Corporate Definition Derby for Literacy", which attracts 350-400 participants and nets about \$15,000 annually.

Cost: \$75.00

Contact: Literacy Services of Canada Ltd., P.O. Box 52192, Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5, Tel. 780 413 6491, Fax 780 413 6582, brokop@telusplanet.net

Computer Labs for Literacy Groups : A Practical Guide (1998)

Project Literacy Parksville/Qualicum

A useful guide when planning a computer lab for a literacy group. Topics discussed are: *Setting objectives; Choosing software and hardware; Choosing an Internet service provider; Lab space considerations; Using the literacy network; A comprehensive guide to computer components.*

Contact: Project Literacy Parksville/Qualicum, P.O. Box 27, Parksville, BC V9P 2G3, Tel. 250 248 4041, Fax 250 248 4042, writeplc@island.net <http://www.island.net/~writeplc>

How To Engage Youth In Literacy : Lessons Learned in an Evaluation of a Cluster of Youth and Literacy Programs (1998)

by Burt Perrin, Burt Perrin Associates

The purpose of the Youth and Literacy Cluster was to explore and experiment with different ways of enabling out-of-school/out-of-work ("at risk") youth to get back into learning. At-risk youth, for various reasons, have not succeeded in the regular school system. Many have extremely limited literacy skills and face a variety of other barriers.

Contact: Burt Perrin Associates, 99 Rose Park Drive, Toronto, ON M4T 1R3, Tel. 416 486 4666, Fax 416 486 4665. Also available online at: <http://www.nald.ca/fulltext/perrin/cover.htm>

Themes from Rural Life (1998)

by Dan and Ellen Friesen

A booklet intended as a resource that can be used in a variety of flexible and creative ways to meet a wide range of needs in rural literacy programs. A farming-based language-learning resource written at various reading levels, using verb forms of varied complexity.

Cost: \$7.95 (plus shipping)

Contact: Dan & Ellen Friesen, L.E.A.R.N., Box 91, Roblin, MB R0L 1P0, Tel. 204 937 4646.

Learning and Talking Together : Research investigating persistence and retention in adult literacy programs (1998)

by Robin Millar and Joy So

An investigation on what adult literacy programs can do to promote student persistence and retention, with a comparison of students assigned to a cohort group versus students whose program was only individualised. Among the Report recommendations : Provide opportunities for regular small group discussions; Focus on learning strategies and study skills, etc.

Contact: Journeys Adult Education Program, 315 McGee Street, Winnipeg, MB R3G 1M7, Tel. 204 987 2646, Fax 204 779 9671, journeys@pangea.ca Also available online at: <http://www.nald.ca/fulltext/journeys/cohort.htm>

Older Adults with Developmental Disabilities (1998)

by Claire M. Lavin and Kenneth J. Doka

Provides an overview of the elderly population who have developmental disabilities. Attempts to assess their needs and their lives as they age. As this population of persons ages, new challenges will emerge for specialists and educators both in the areas of gerontology and developmental disabilities.

Cost: \$32 US

Contact: Baywood Publishing Company, Inc., 26 Austin Avenue, Box 337, Amityville, NY 11701 USA, Tel. 1-800-638-7819, Fax 516 691 1770, <http://www.baywood.com/>

Literacy: The Hidden Problem, Video (1998)

Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC)

A 12 minute video produced by CAC, with opening by Peter Gzowski and a challenge to improve literacy awareness in people's own communities. It is hoped that this video will inspire organizations to work to improve consumer literacy in their community.

Cost: \$20

Contact: CAC, 267 O'Connor Street, Suite 307, Ottawa, ON K2P 1V3, Tel. 613 238 2533, Fax 613 563 2254, info@consumer.ca, <http://www.consumer.ca/>

Learning for Life: Canadian Readings in Adult Education (1997)

Edited by Sue M. Scott, Bruce Spencer and Alan Thomas

A book about recovering our origins, inspired by the great tradition of progressive adult education in Canada and those who contributed to the liberal movement that formed Canadian and international adult education. A contemporary guide to the condition of adult education which should be of value to citizens, policy-makers and students.

Contact: Thompson Educational Publishing Inc., 14 Ripley Avenue, Suite 104, Toronto, ON M6S 3N9, Tel. 416 766 2763, Fax 416 766 0398.



Literacy in Nunavut

By Kim Crockatt *

On April 1st, 1999, the map of Canada changed forever with the creation of a new territory called Nunavut. Nunavut (noo-na-voot), is an Inuktitut word which means "our land". This new territory is an Inuit homeland for people who trace their ancestry back 4000 years. Nunavut has a total population of 24,730 people, 16,000 of those are Inuit. At 1,235,200 square kilometres, it comprises one-fifth of Canada's land mass. Much of Nunavut remains uninhabited although settlements stretch as far north as Ellesmere Island.

In the high arctic community of Pelly Bay, 40 people recently participated in a strategic planning session to plot the future course of their community. Elders expressed their concerns about the health of the Inuktitut language, the high drop-out rate at school and difficulties in developing a strong local workforce. Literacy Coordinator Sadie Komaksuit agreed with those attending that low literacy levels in Inuktitut and English are at the root of most of these problems. This community, like many others, has resolved to do something about it.

Literacy levels in Nunavut are some of the lowest in Canada. Residents struggle to maintain their own language while trying to master the English that is necessary to get an advanced education and wage-paying jobs. However, rather than fearing the future, many people feel optimistic. The Inuit have faced extraordinary change. Many people grew up with

parents speaking only Inuktitut and teachers speaking only English. It is therefore understandable that they have difficulty speaking fluently in either language. The Inuit culture is rich in oral history, however it is only recently, historically speaking, that formal education has been introduced. Books and reading materials are expensive and most communities do not yet have public libraries.

Communities are beginning to establish definitions of Aboriginal language literacy for themselves as a starting point to developing long-term strategies.



Two such things are pictured here: Drumdancing/Storytelling - This was one of the many community literacy activities held in the May Hakongak Community Library. Last year we had the same thing except out in a huge igloo built for the occasion; & the Library Reading Tent - This is another favourite place for storytelling and reading and the kids love it. The May Hakongak Community Library Committee painted the tent with the help of artist Cyndi Foster.

The NWT Literacy Council supports this approach by offering communities assistance with developing culturally relevant, truly community-based literacy programs. In order to address the low literacy levels, language revitalization and literacy programs must focus on the individual, the family and the community. Hamlet Councils and other community organizations are aware of these issues and enthusiastically support literacy initiatives. With such broad-based support, as in Pelly Bay, one can see why there is such confidence for the future.

* Kim Crockatt is a Community Literacy Development Facilitator with the Northwest Territories Literacy Council. She provides resources, workshops and assistance to communities in Nunavut who are interested in developing new or enhancing existing literacy programs.



Never Too Old to Learn, Video
Seniors' Education Centre, University of Regina

A video about older adult literacy in Canada. Gives a human face to the staggering numbers of older adults with low literacy levels. It provides useful information for tutors, programmers, learners and others interested in older adult literacy.

Cost: \$30

Contact: Seniors' Education Centre, Room 106, Gallery Building, University Extension, U. of Regina, Regina, SK S4S 0A2, Tel. 306 585 5816, Fax 306 585 5736.

From Your Child's Teacher : Helping a Child Learn to Read, Write and Speak (1998)
by Robin Bright with Lisa McMullin and David Platt

A resource for teachers and parents of primary students. Helps parents understand how their children learn.

Cost: \$19.95 (plus shipping)

Contact: FP Hendricks, 4806 - 53 Street, Stettler AB T0C 2L2, Tel. 403 742 6483, hendricks@telusplanet.net

Women Getting Together (1998)
The Women's Health Group at The Learning Centre

A booklet produced as part of a literacy and health project. It is a photostory about a women's health group at The Edmonton Learning Centre. Written in plain language with a large font.

Cost: \$3 (plus shipping and handling)

Contact: The Learning Centre Literacy Association, 10116 - 105 Avenue, Edmonton AB T5H 0K2, Tel. 780 429 0675, Fax 780 425 2205, learningcentre@compusmart.ab.ca

Explore Canada, CD-ROM (1998)
NAS Educational Software

Multimedia material which includes a CD-ROM and a Teacher's Manual. Deals with Canada's history and geography and is suitable to be used as a learning tool for people with English or French as a second language or for literacy learners.

Cost: \$49

Contact: NAS Educational Software Inc., 91 Heatherton Way, Thornhill ON L4J 3E7, Tel. 905 764 0695.

Another Harvest of Memories (1998)

Edited by Lorri Stewart-Sauve

A compilation of short stories and poetry, written entirely by senior citizens. A good resource for learners as well as practitioners.

Cost: \$15.00 (plus shipping and handling)

Contact: Lorri Stewart-Sauve, Waterloo Catholic District School Board, 291 Westminster Drive North, Cambridge ON N3H 1S3, Tel. 519 650 1250, Fax 519 650 4999.

Exploring the Atlantic Provinces (1998)
by Calvin Coish, College of the North Atlantic

A book for new readers that takes you on various tours throughout Atlantic Canada. You will explore nooks and crannies in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. General maps and photos included to accompany the text.

Contact: College of the North Atlantic, P.O. Box 745, Grand Falls-Windsor, NF A2A 2M4, Tel. 709 758 7037.

Going West (1998)

An easy-to-read but "adult enough" Canadian history book. "We wanted to tell the stories of immigrants from a very personal point of view. What was life really like in the pioneer West, especially for families? What was it like for native people as the prairies gradually became farmland?"

Cost: \$12 (plus postage)

Contact: People, Words & Change, 211 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1R 6H5, Tel. 613 234 2494, Fax 613 234 4223.

Writers, Young and Old (1997)
College of New Caledonia

A collection of stories by members of Seniors' Writing Circles and Fundamental Level Students, College of New Caledonia, Prince George, British Columbia. This is the first time these seniors have had the opportunity to join these intellectually stimulating circles through which they have developed and used the literacy skills necessary to put their experiences on paper.

Contact: Maree Thair, Centre for Student Success, College of New Caledonia, 3330 - 22nd Avenue, Prince George BC V2N 1P8, Tel. 250 561 5848, Fax 250 561 5816.

Cool URLs

Best Practices in Education
<http://www.bestpraceduc.org/>

Connecting Students : Internet-Based Lesson Plans
<http://www.connectingstudents.com/>

Learner's Story

This story was written by Paul Perreault, from Kelowna, B.C. Paul brings a lifetime of knowledge and interesting experiences to his lessons. He has improved his reading so that he can now read the many books he owns, but could not previously enjoy. He has also felt more capable in being able to put his memories into actual written form. Paul is retired after a life of working in mining. He now finds himself with the time to devote to his life-long dream of learning to read and write. Paul deeply desires to write about his life and read to extend his interests. He is active and his soap stone carving hobby provides him with much satisfaction.

Learner's Story

Learner's Story

Work by Paul Perreault

I can write my name now. My dad said, "If you can write your name, that's all you need to know on the farm. That's more than the farmers know out here." But that was in 1939. I was just a little boy at that time. I was eight years coming on nine. I left home and went to work. It was a sad day for me; February 20, 1939. At that time I knew all the farm work. All I got was \$15.00 a month, but that was big money in those days. I was getting the same as the men who were working there.

I worked there for seven more years until 1946 and I got a job on the C.P.R. It paid 65 cents an hour. It was all bull work. I was 15 years old, but I said I was 16 and got the job in my home town called Sintaluta, Saskatchewan. There was not much to do there. The people were French, English, German, and Indian. On Saturday, there was all hell to pay because everyone would go wild. On Sunday, everyone would be in church like nothing happened.

On the weekend, we would play cars with the little boys sometimes. It was to have something to do and they loved it. Also, I think it was because we didn't have time to play when we were young. We had three pool tables at the local Pool Hall and they went from 7 a.m. to 12:30 at night. The only way my dad would come out of there was if the Pool Hall men would put the lights out. Sometimes the men would play with Dad until 3 a.m.

It was always nice to get home to the old log cabin and get some hot food into you... I remember the love for the family and Mum and Dad. There are times I would like to be a little boy again. The hard work played you right out. You didn't have to do any exercise or go for walks. No one had to tell you to go to bed — you were ready.

[This story was taken with permission, from a collection of stories and poems written by learners at Project Literacy Kelowna, entitled *Our Words III*, p. 79.]

National

Isabel Mackey Award

In 1998, Frontier College awarded eleven scholarships in two categories. The recipients were:

Organizers: Andrew McCann, Bishops University; Benjamin Berger, University of Alberta; Robert Kennedy, Memorial University, Peter Jun, University of Toronto; Nancy Houle, University of Sherbrooke; Kim Bradley, Carleton University

Tutors/Reading Buddies: Grace Yung, University of Toronto; Amanda Holland, Saint Thomas University; Jason Ashbaugh, McMaster University; Robin Vaughan, Memorial University; Karen Wong, University of Calgary

Honourable Joyce Fairbairn, P.C. Literacy Public Awareness Award 1998

Recipient: Honda Canada

Provincial

New Brunswick

Premier's Youth Initiative Awards - 1998 Recipients: *Dimensions*, an interactive theatre group; Garth Wade, a teacher from Fredericton

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.

And Among
The Winners Were...