

NALD Networks

Vol. 4 N° 3

Summer 1999

Websites Worth Remembering:

Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks
<http://language.ca>

Centre for Language Training and Assessment
<http://www.clta.on.ca/>

Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment (CLBA)
<http://www.clba.com/index.htm>

A Newcomer's Introduction to Canada
<http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca/english/newcomer/guide/new-toce.html>

The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers
<http://www2.tv.o.org/education/caslt/>

The Canadian Languages Network
<http://www3.sk.sympatico.ca/theb/home.htm>

English Language and Literacy Education on the Net
<http://cougar.vu.edu.au/~dalbj/>

National Clearinghouse on ESL Literacy Education (NCLE)
<http://www.cal.org/ncle/>

The ESL Center
<http://members.aol.com/eslkathy/esl.htm>

TESL Canada
<http://www.tesl.ca/>

Benchmarking Literacy for the ESL Classroom



*By William McMichael**



The abilities to use text to communicate ideas in writing, understand written information and make interpretations based upon it, and to perform basic mathematical functions in an independent manner are skills that one carries across languages. Learners who lack these skills face additional challenges when trying to learn another language and may be disadvantaged in the ESL classroom.

In order to address this problem, Citizenship and Immigration Canada contracted the Centre for Language Training and Assessment in 1997 to develop a set of tasks for assessing the literacy needs of ESL learners as specified in the Canadian Language Benchmarks (Supply and Services Canada, 1996). The result was the **Canadian Language Benchmarks Literacy Assessment (CLBLA)**, introduced in 1998.

The CLBLA is unique among ESL assessments in its use of first-language tasks, essential in determining client's literacy skills, which are transferable to the acquisition of English as a Second Language. Its aim is to determine whether a learner's successful acquisition of English will require attention and support in areas other than the purely linguistic.

To date, CLBLA tasks have been translated into the following languages: Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Croatian, Farsi, French, Korean, Kurdish, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Tigrigna, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. Translations into additional languages may be developed as required.

The CLBLA begins with a questionnaire on the client's past education and employment, which is completed with the assessor's assistance. Information is also obtained about the client's reading and writing habits. This questionnaire may be administered in English or using a translation. The overall direction of the assessment is determined by the answers given and on the degree to which the client is able to complete the form without assistance.

From this point, the assessor takes the client on an individualized path through a series of reading, writing and numeracy tasks, always responding to the skills that the client demonstrates. In this way, cli-

...continued on page 2

ents can be advanced to an appropriate skill level quickly, allowing more time to diagnose strengths and weaknesses within that level.

Although the information the CLBLA provides on the needs of learners helps ESL providers to respond appropriately, it does not make specific recommendations as to what levels of literacy mean to placement within ESL classes or ESL literacy programs. Learner placement into appropriate classes remains at the discretion of the individual program administrators who must interpret the results of the assessment in relation to programming and placement considerations.



*William McMichael is currently vice-chairperson of the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks. He is past president of the TESL Canada Federation (Teachers of English as a Second Language).

For more information, contact:
The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks, 803-200 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1L5, Tel: (613) 230-7729, Fax: (613) 230-9305,
E-mail: info@language.ca
Literacy benchmarks are listed at <http://www.language.ca>



Networks

The **NALD** Newsletter
Vol. 4 No. 3
Summer 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:

The Editor
Networks
c/o NALD Inc.
Scovil House
703 Brunswick Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick
Canada E3B 1H8

Toll Free:
1 800 720 NALD (6253)
Tel: 506 457 6900
Fax: 506 457 6910
info@nald.ca
<http://www.nald.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, it will be available for you to access 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.

NALD Networks Production Team:

Editor: Lorette Chiasson

Assistant Editor and Layout Manager: Lorraine Nolan

Graphics Managers: Earl Letts, Lorraine Nolan, Tracy Hine and Sandra Barry

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The Quest for a New Aboriginal Literacy in the New Millennium



Literacy is one of the most urgent issues facing the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. However, low literacy levels must compete for attention with desperate situations in housing (e.g. overcrowding), health (e.g. diabetes), education (e.g. high dropout rate), substance abuse and violence. Nevertheless, substantial gains in functional literacy would unquestionably lead to improvements in all of the above problems. While the most obvious influence of Literacy Enhancement would be improved employment prospects and career opportunities, it would be the indirect benefits that would, over time, have the most valuable impacts. For instance, improved literacy that leads to better governance, preventative medicine, heightened self-esteem and healing is the same path that guides us to self-determination and self-reliance.

Recognizing the important role that literacy could play in the improvement of the lives of Aboriginal Canadians, the Native Education Centre in Vancouver, partnered with CODE, a renowned non-governmental organization with more than 40 years experience in literacy training to produce a long term Strategic Plan. "Literacy training is an integral part of the long-term education process here at the Centre", says director Grace Mirehouse. "Both our urban and on-reserve training programs are built on the recognition that functional literacy levels must be achieved before the full impact of the training program can be realized."

The Components in Aboriginal Literacy

Aboriginal literacy, like issues such as healing, good governance, or healthcare, is complex and typically involves numerous stakeholders and funding sources, a range of cultural perspectives and multiple community and individual needs. A well executed strategy attempts to identify and assess the range of issues, address them both individually and collectively and then integrate the interdependent solutions into a comprehensive plan.

Over the next 10 months, a study team of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal professionals will work in collaboration with a national Coalition of Aboriginal Learner Centres to prepare a 10-

year Aboriginal Literacy Enhancement Initiative. "Of course we don't want this plan to sit on the shelf," says project director James MacGregor. "Therefore we will work closely with Aboriginal Learner Centres, provincial government literacy representatives and a variety of literacy based associations and coalitions that are either directly or indirectly involved in Aboriginal literacy. And we must also solicit greater commitment from the private sector to integrate literacy upgrading into workplace education."

"Isolated attacks against illiteracy, through ad hoc programs, are frustrating 'non-starters'."

As noted in the 1990 report *Aboriginal Literacy and Improvement* by the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs (Ken Hughes, M.P. - Chairperson).

Low literacy capacity is increasingly understood as a barrier to on-the-job training and other human resource development initiatives. Mrs. Ethel Blondin-Andrews, a champion of adult literacy training and Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic noted that "with two diamond mines opening in Yellowknife we have the potential to generate unprecedented job opportunities for our people. The companies are prepared to meet the job quotas and provide the training but the applicants lack the literacy skills...I wonder how many times this scenario is repeated across Canada each year?"

A Multilevel Approach to Literacy Enhancement

A successful Literacy Enhancement Initiative will necessitate addressing literacy at a number of different levels. In the initial report *Determining the issues, defining the approach, developing the process*, the study team identified the following twenty components to comprehending Aboriginal Literacy. At this time, they include, but are not limited to the following:

Focusing on Community-based programming; Preparing Distinct Aboriginal Training and Curriculum Material; Design and Construction of adequate Learner Centres; Developing Part-

nerships and Strategic Alliances; Capacity Building for Aboriginal Practitioners; Improved Funding and Resource Allocation; Meeting the Needs of the Learner (child care, transportation, peer counselling, etc.); Accredited Aboriginal-centered/administered Programs; Expanded Aboriginal and Government Leadership for Literacy; Serving those with Disabilities; Extending Prison Literacy Program Initiatives; Motivation of the Learner; Incorporating Aboriginal Values and Language; Expanded Distance Learning; Increased use of current/emerging Technologies; Aboriginal Literacy Stakeholders Communication Network and Clearinghouse; Improved Public Awareness and Communication Strategy; Aboriginal based Literacy Research, Assessment Techniques and Monitoring; Identification and Implementation of Best Practices and Pilot Projects; and Corporate Leadership and Workplace Education Program Development.

The Enhancement Initiative will provide a blueprint for the private and public sectors to focus their efforts and substantially improve their 'return on investment' for funds dedicated to literacy.

The final document, to be provided on the eve of the new millennium, will therefore reflect the hopes and aspirations for a literate and self-reliant people in the next century.

If you have a program or an experience that you wish to share, then we are anxious to know about it. It is important for us to appreciate the issues and concerns of all stakeholders involved in the delivery of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Literacy Programs.

For more information, access to our newsletter, current status and findings of our activities, please do not hesitate to contact:

Aboriginal Literacy Enhancement Initiative
c/o Native Education Centre / CODE Inc.
2255 St. Laurent Blvd., Suite 120,
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 4K3
Attention: James MacGregor
E-mail: aboriginal.literacy@home.com
Tel: (613) 260-3457 **Fax:** (613) 260-3458

Networks Datebook Your Literacy Events Calendar

... with an international focus

September 4 - 9, 1999

4th Global Conference on Ageing - Montreal, QC, Canada

Org: United Nations

Contact: International Federation on Ageing
425, Viger St. West, Suite 520, Montreal, QC,
N2Z 1W5 Canada

Tel: 514 396 3358 Fax: 514 396 3378

E-mail: ifa@citenet.net

September 8, 1999

International Literacy Day - Celebrated worldwide

September 9 - 10, 1999

Teaching and learning for the new millennium: Facilitating change through self assessment - Bristol, UK

Org: University of Bristol Graduate School of Education

Contact: Judith Thomas

SAPHE '99, The Graduate School of Education,
University of Bristol, 35 Berkeley Square, BS8 1JA
Tel: 0117 928 7037 Fax: 0117 925 1537

Email: Judith.Thomas@bris.ac.uk

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Education/saphe.htm>

September 15-18, 1999

EUROCALL'99 - Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France

Contact: Laboratoire d'Informatique de Besançon,
Université de Franche-Comté, 16 route de
Gray 25030 Besançon Cedex, France
Fax: (33/0) 3 81 66 64 50

Email: eurocall99@lib.univ-fcomte.fr

September 16-18, 1999

International Congress on Intercultural Education - Jyväskylä, Finland

Org: University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Contact: Ms Kirsti Häkkinen, Organizing
Committee Secretariat

University of Jyväskylä Continuing Education
Centre, P.O. Box 35, FIN-40351 Jyväskylä,
FINLAND

Tel. + 358 14 602 510 Fax + 358 14 602 514

hakkinen@cone.jyu.fi

21 -23 September 1999

**6th International Conference ALT-C 99:
'The Learning Technology Life-Cycle'** -

University of Bristol, UK

Contact: Sara Hassen, ALT-C 99 Conference
Office, 1 Riverside St. Anne's Road Bristol BS4
4ED United Kingdom

Email: enquiries@inanyevent-uk.com

Tel: +44 (0) 117 977 9477 Fax: +44 (0) 117 972 4345

<http://www.ilrt.bristol.ac.uk/alt-c99/>

September 21 - 23, 1999

**CREAD : Engaging Partnership International
Conference on Distance Education and
Partnerships** - Vancouver, BC, Canada

Org: University of British Columbia

Contact: UBC Distance Education and Technol-
ogy, Continuing Studies, "C.R.E.A.D. Septem-
ber 1999 Conference", 2329 West Mall, Room
1170 Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4

Tel: 604 822 8889

Email: heather.francis@ubc.ca

<http://cread.cstudies.ubc.ca/conferen.htm>

September 27 - 30, 1999

**1999 LERN Conference on Learning: 6th
International Literacy and Education Re-
search Network Conference on Learning** -
Penang, Malaysia

Org: Universiti Sains Malaysia and the Penang
Department of Education

Contact: LERN Conference 1999, PO Box K481
Haymarket NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA

Tel: (+61) (0)2 9281 6575 or (+61) 0412 466 929

FAX: (+61) (0)2 9281 6587

Email: lern@edoz.com.au

<http://www.edoz.com.au/lern/index.html>

September 30 - October 2, 1999

LD and ADHD: Transitions Through Life -
Winnipeg MB, Canada

Org: Learning Disabilities Association of Canada
and LDA Manitoba

Contact: LDA Manitoba, 2nd Floor - 60 Mary-
land Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1K7
Tel: 204 774 1821 Fax: 204 788 4090

Email: ldamb@escape.ca

<http://www.mbnet.mb.ca/enable/ldamb>

October 4-6, 1999

New Frontiers in Learning Conference -
Brighton, England

Org: Global Educator Team and the National
Conference Logistics Centre

Contact: Continuing Education, The University
of Oklahoma, 1700 Asp Avenue, B-1, Norman
OK, 73072-6400, USA

Tel: 800 522-0772 ext. 2248 inside USA

Tel: 1 405 325-2248 outside USA

Fax: 1 405 325-7164

<http://cee.indiana.edu/GET/conf/england99/index.html>

mmikesh@VAX2.WINONA.MSUS.EDU

October 11 - 13, 1999

**The ASCD Conference on Teaching and
Learning: Assessment in the Learning
Organization**

Org: ASCD

Contact: Association for Supervision and
Curriculum Development, 1703 North
Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311-1714
USA

Tel: 1 800 933 2723 or 703 578 9600

fax: 703-575-5400

info@ascd.org

<http://www.ascd.org/>

October 24-30, 1999

WebNet 99 - Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Org: University of Hawaii

Contact: WebNet1999/AACE, PO Box 2966
Charlottesville, VA 22902 USA

Tel 804 973 3987 Fax: 804 978 7449

<http://www.aace.org/info.html>

Email: conf@aace.org

November 4-7, 1999

**ICCE 99 7th International Conference on
Computers in Education** - Chiba, Japan

Contact: Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge
Computing Lab., Graduate School of Informa-
tion Systems, The University of
Electro-Communications 1-5-1 Chofugaoka
Chofu-shi, Tokyo 182-8585 JAPAN

Tel & Fax : +81 424 89 6070

Email: icce99@ai.is.uec.ac.jp

<http://www.ai.is.uec.ac.jp/icce99>

or contact Geoff Cumming, La Trobe Univer-
sity, Australia

Email: G.Cumming@latrobe.edu.au

November 11 - 13, 1999

**CAEL 1999 International Conference:
Building the Future Through Learning** -
Seattle, WA, USA

Contact: CAEL, 243 South Wabash Avenue
Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60625 USA

Tel: 312 922 5909 Fax: 312 922 1769

ewolf@cael.org

November 24 - 26, 1999

**Online Educa Berlin 1999, 5th International
Conference and Exhibition on Technology
Supported Learning** - Berlin, Germany

Org: The German Minister For Education And
Research

Contact: ICEF GmbH Niebuhrstr. 69 A D -
10629 Berlin Germany

Tel.: +49 30 327 61 40 Fax: +49 30 324 98 33

<http://www.online-educa.com>

Email: icefberlin@icef.com

November 25 - 27, 1999

**TEL-isphere 1999 The Caribbean &
Technology-Enhanced Learning** - St. Michael,
Barbados

Org: The Commonwealth of Learning

Contact: Conference Secretariat, TEL-isphere
1999, 1285 West Broadway, Suite 600 Vancou-
ver, BC V6H 3X8 Canada

Tel: 604 775 8200 Fax: 604 775 8210

Email: tel99@col.org

<http://www.col.org/tel99>



... with a national focus

September 26, 1999

**The 5th Annual Word on the Street/ La ruée
des mots** - Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa
& Halifax

Org: WOTS

Contact: The Word on the Street Canada
1629 12 Ave SW, Calgary AB T3C 0R3

Tel: 403 269 9701 Fax: 403 269 9704

wotscal@telusplanet.net

October 28 - 31, 1999

1999 Canadian Forum on Volunteerism -
Montreal, QC

Org: Volunteer Canada

Contact: 1999 Forum on Volunteerism

275, Rue Saint-Jacques Ouest, bureau 720

Montreal, QC H2Y 1M9

Tel 514 843 6312 / 1 800 715 7515 Fax 514 843 6485

fcabq@cam.org

... with a provincial focus

September 8, 1999

Annual General Meeting for the PEI Literacy Alliance - Charlottetown Hotel, PE

Org: PEI Literacy Alliance
Contact: PEI Literacy Alliance
3 Queen Street, 3rd Floor, PO Box 400
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7K7
Tel: 902 368 3620 Fax: 902 368 3269
Email: peiliteracy.alliance@pei.sympatico.ca
<http://www.nald.ca/peila.htm>

September 10, 1999

Bernard Richard 3rd Annual Golf Tournament - Pine Needles Golf Club, Haute-Aboujagane, NB

Org: The Adult Education classes of the Shediac and Cap-Pelé regions.
For more information, or to obtain tickets, contact Victor Boudreau.
Telephone: 506 533 3636 / Fax: 506 533 3638

September 11, 1999

"Mapping out a Strategy for Literacy in the new Millennium" Literacy Partners of Manitoba Board and staff retreat - Winkler, Manitoba

Org: Literacy Partners of Manitoba
Contact: LPM Grain Exchange Building, Room 998, 167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0V3
Tel: 204 947 5757 Fax: 204 944 9918
email: literacy@magic.mb.ca

September 11, 1999

Ride for Literacy! - Pembina River Area
Org: Drayton Valley Adult Literacy Program
Contact: Carol Ulmer, Drayton Valley Adult Literacy Program
Tel: 780 542 3872

September 12

Margaret Laurence Award for Excellence in Volunteer Tutoring - Morden Park, MB

Org: Literacy Partners of Manitoba
Contact: LPM, Grain Exchange Building, Room 998, 167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0V3
Tel: 204 947 -5757 Fax: 204 944 9918
email: literacy@magic.mb.ca

September 12

Brandon Pickle Festival Scrabble Challenge - Brandon, MB

Org: Brandon University Learning Skills Centre and Literacy Partners of Manitoba
Contact: LPM, Grain Exchange Building Room 998, 167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0V3
Tel: 204 947 5757 Fax: 204 944 9918
email: literacy@magic.mb.ca

September 17- 18, 1999

PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy - Grand Falls Golf Club, Grand Falls/Grand Sault, NB
Org: ABC CANADA
Contact: PGI National office 416 350 6270 or ABC CANADA , 1450 Don Mills Road, Don Mills ON M3B 2X7
Fax: 416 442 2293
abccanada@southam.ca, or
pgi@corporate.southam.ca
<http://www.abc-canada.org/>

September 17-18

SLN Board Meeting - Saskatoon, SK
Org: Saskatchewan Literacy Network
Contact: Saskatchewan Literacy Network
206-220-3rd Ave S, Saskatoon, SK., S7K 1M1
Tel: 306 653 7368 Fax: 306 653 1704
Email: sklit@sk.sympatico.ca
<http://www.nald.ca/sklitnet.htm>

September 20 - 25, 1999

Literacy Week - Hamilton, ON
Org: Hamilton and District Literacy Council
Contact: Hamilton & District Literacy Council
75 MacNab Street South, 3rd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 3C1
Tel: 519 743 6090

September 21, 1999

Learners Conference - Hamilton, ON
Org: Hamilton & District Literacy Council
Contact: Hamilton & District Literacy Council
75 MacNab Street South, 3rd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 3C1
Tel: 519 743 6090

September 26, 1999

Be A-mazed!! Celebrate Literacy this September - Toronto, ON
Org: Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy
Contact: MTML/Literacy Access Network, 365 Bloor St. E, Suite 1003, Toronto, ON M4W 3L4
Tel: 416 961 4013 Fax: 416 961 8138
email: mtml@interlog.com
<http://www.nald.ca/mtml.htm>

October 1, 1999

PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy - Willow Park Golf & Country Club, Calgary
Org: ABC CANADA
Contact: Carolyn Meier - 403-686-9300 or PGI National office 416 350 6270.
pgi@corporate.southam.ca for details
ABC CANADA, 1450 Don Mills Road, Don Mills, ON M3B 2X7
Tel: 416 442 2292 Fax: 416 442 2293
abccanada@southam.ca
<http://www.abc-canada.org/>

October 1

Report to the Minister of Education and Training - Winnipeg, MB
Org: the Working group
Contact: Literacy Partners of Manitoba
Grain Exchange Building, Room 998, 167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0V3
Tel: 204 947 5757 Fax: 204 944 9918
email: literacy@magic.mb.ca

October 14 - 16, 1999

Laubach Literacy of New Brunswick AGM
Org: LLNB
Contact: Arnie Shaw - 506 859 0482
Jean MacArthur - 506 384 0114
Peter Sawyer - 506 388 3013
62 Williams Street, Moncton, NB E1C 2G5
Email: psawyer@nbnet.nb.ca

October 22, 1999

Literacy Connections 'Ripples on the Pond' - Greater Victoria, BC
Org: Victoria Read
Contact: Helen Thomas, Victoria Read Society, 720 Lindon Avenue, Victoria BC V8V 4G7
Tel: 250 388 7225 Fax: 250 386 8330
hjthomas@victoriaread.bc.ca

October 22

Embracing Change - Vincent Massey Collegiate, Winnipeg MB
Org: Literacy Partners of Manitoba
Contact: LPM, Grain Exchange Building, Room 998, 167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0V3
Tel: 204 947 5757 Fax: 204 944 9918
email: literacy@magic.mb.ca

Oct. 22-23, 1999

Family Literacy Conference - Vancouver, BC
Org: The IRA & the BC Literacy Council
Contact: BCLC, Meredyth Kezar, 455 W. 21st, Vancouver, BC V5Y 2E6
Tel: 604 713 4784
Email: merekat@aol.com

October 25 - 27, 1999

Community Learning Network Fall Conference - Calgary, AB
Org: Community Learning Network
Contact: Gwyn Butler, CLN, 501, 9707 - 110 Street, Edmonton, AB T5K 2L9
Tel: 403 948 3815 Fax: 403 948 3806
Email: clnwk@telusplanet.net

October 31, 1999 - November 2, 1999

Beyond 2000 - Present and Future Issues in Corrections - Vancouver, BC
Org: Region VI Correction Education Association
Contact: Frank Wise, Conference Chair, Correctional Education, Fax: 604 796 4501
Email: fwise@uniserve.com

November 4-6, 1999

Provincial Literacy Conference '99: The Power of Words - Edmonton, Alberta
Org: Alberta Association for Adult Literacy and Literacy Coordinators of Alberta
Contact: Candice Jackson
PLC '99: The Power of Words c/o LCA, Room 528, 332-6th Ave SE, Calgary AB T2G 4S6
Tel: 403 297 4995 Fax: 403 297 4849
candice_jackson@aaal.ab.ca
<http://www.nald.ca/province/alt/aaal/confer/confer.htm>

November 18 - 20, 1999

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

November 27, 1999

LPM Annual General Meeting and Sharing Circle - Winnipeg, MB
Org: Literacy Partners of Manitoba
Contact: LPM, Grain Exchange Building Room 998, 167 Lombard Avenue Winnipeg, MBR3B 0V3
Tel: 204 947 5757 Fax: 204 944 9918
email: literacy@magic.mb.ca

Cool URLs

Unesco Institute for Education (UIE)

<http://www.unesco.org/education/uiie/>

Hope

for Learners
with a Mental Illness

by Wendy Lindblad *

Imagine you are a high school student. Your goals are set and your future is planned. Then, from nowhere and for no reason, you begin to hear voices inside your head. There is no one in the room. The television and radio are turned off. Over time, the voices grow louder. You start thinking someone is watching you and following you. These experiences occur more often. You see your doctor and are told "You have schizophrenia". What can be done? Antipsychotic drugs can control the voices and hallucinations. Drugs are also needed to control the side effects of antipsychotic drugs. When you receive the drugs, you feel sleepy. You can't concentrate. You sleep and eat more. It's a repeated cycle of feeling better and feeling tired. You can't keep up in school so you drop out.

This is what happens in Canada everyday. Someone is diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder. Whatever dreams they had are soon diminished. Their life is reduced to visits to their medical doctor, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse, social worker, and welfare worker. Their self worth is reduced because they can't work or attend school. Friends, family, and others may avoid them and they become isolated. Why? People don't have information on mental illness or are misinformed.

An important link to recovery for people with a mental illness is knowledge. It is not the person with a mental illness who needs the knowledge but those people who can help him to recovery. Many people with a mental illness have education goals but have very low literacy skills. They need literacy workers. Literacy workers need information on tutoring learners with a mental illness. Two excellent resources are *Just Ask! A handbook for instructors of students being treated for mental disorders* by Howard Davidson and *Am I Welcome Here* by Julia Rogers. Research is being done on supported education programs in many colleges and universities. The Centre for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University has a website for adult educators giving them information, tips, articles, etc. The website is at: <http://www.bu.edu/sarpsych>

The **Canadian Mental Health Association** has branches across Canada. The branches provide services for people with a mental illness. Staff can also answer questions and offer support. The national office has a website (<http://www.cmha.ca>) which provides links to other branches and mental health sites. If you are a literacy worker and need assistance, the Canadian Mental Health Association in Melfort, Saskatchewan has a resource library. Materials are available on loan by request. If you are looking for information on the Internet, there is no site linking literacy and mental illness or adult education and psychiatric disabilities. With this project, we hope to see one soon.



* Wendy Lindblad is a mental health worker for the Canadian Mental Health Association in Melfort Saskatchewan. She was a literacy coordinator with Literacy Partners of Manitoba. Wendy is completing her last course in the Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education Program offered by four western universities. To contact Wendy: CMHA Melfort, Box 2390, Melfort, SK S0E 1A0, Tel. 306 752 2284, Fax 306 752 4302, Email: wlindblad@hotmail.com

Teaching Tips

Talking about the weather in the ESL literacy class

1. Use a weather map in the newspaper and a short video of a TV weather forecast to make some lessons that will help students learn to use these tools.
2. Introduce the weather vocabulary by looking at the key of weather words on the weather map.
3. Have students practice this vocabulary by talking about the map (i.e. "There is snow in Regina") and matching the words with the symbols.
4. They can practice "warmer" and "colder" by looking at the temperatures in the 5-day forecast.

[Taken from *Hands-on English*, Vol. 7, No. 1, May/June 1997]



Workplace Literacy at High Liner Foods

rkplace Literacy at High Liner Foods

rkplace Literacy at High Liner Foods

rkplace Literacy by Linda Wentzel, Coordinator

Workplace literacy as it exists at High Liner Foods in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia is a result of a joint effort by the company and the union, CAW Local 1944. Our goals are:

- to give fisheries workers the education and skills to adapt within or outside the industry;
- to help employed and laid-off workers with basic education needs.

We decided to use the Laubach Literacy of Canada (LLC) *Workplace Skills Training Program*. Since we had thirty different start and stop times and a fleet schedule to work around, one on one tutoring was the easiest solution. In the fall of 1994, we started training tutors and matching them with students. We have had as many as 130 students in the program at once. Due to layoffs and restructuring, those days have gone. Today, we are maintaining a program with 15 - 20 students in various stages of the *Laubach* program. This includes *Laubach Way to Reading, Challenger*, spelling programs, grammar programs and math programs. The programs are individualized for each student, with some students working in more than one program; i.e. math and *Challenger*.

We have designed some components of the program to accommodate our needs at High Liner Foods and our fleet. First, we invented a system of *mentors* for our math students. These are students who read fairly well and wish to upgrade their math skills. Each student is given a mentor, someone they can phone or meet with on an ad hoc basis when they encounter problems. Most meetings or conversations are less than thirty minutes long. These are very independent students.

We also have *tutor meetings*. Our tutors had expressed feelings of frustration and isolation. Since our program is confidential,

tutors did not know each other. We now have meetings two or three times per year. Tutors can discuss problems, share strategies and receive support. These meetings are popular, and in the future, will include an occasional guest speaker. We have an in-house *newsletter*, produced bimonthly. All employees receive it, as well as the fleet. It keeps everyone up to date on happenings in the program and in the community.



Clear Language is at the core of LLC training. We have conducted seven workshops and now have a *clear writing committee*. The Employee Safety Handbook has been rewritten and other projects are ongoing. Our Workplace Literacy program has expanded, just this year, to include *GED* classes. We have three classes with a total of 27 students. We offer 80 hours of instruction in small classes of between 7 - 12 students. The instructor also uses computers during the class, giving students another new skill. The classes usually meet in our new Learning Centre. Empty spaces in the classes were offered to spouses and laid-off workers taking *GED*.

Family literacy is an offshoot of the basic program that no one on the Joint Plant Educational Committee foresaw. As parents became aware of the Workplace Skills

Training Program and saw what it could do for them, they realized it could benefit their children too. This is an area of projected growth for our program. To date, there has been one LLC workshop for parents, called *Creating a Learning Culture in the Home*. The workshop will be offered again in the future. Future plans include: computer training, new courses that workers suggest, and finding better ways to address the needs of the fishing fleet.

There are many reasons why the *Workplace Skills Training Program* at High Liner Foods has been successful. It has the support and encouragement of the union leadership and the company management team. It occurred at a time of great need, in the midst of the fisheries crisis. But there is also an often undervalued factor, the tutors. They are all volunteers. Most tutors agree to a one year commitment. We are fortunate in our workplace to have many who have been active since 1994. We also have a coordinator who works 16 hours per week for the program, which is my job. I am a unionized worker. I work on the production floor three days a week. I am very accessible, anyone can talk to me at work, during breaks and after work in the community, and they do! It is common for me to receive a phone call at 10pm to ask about our program. All these things can happen because we exist and operate a program in an environment that encourages lifelong learning.



The Literacy Bookshelf

Community Computer Literacy (1998)
by Dee McRae, Dave Manahan and Jim Dewar

Report on a project that provided computers to adult learners for open-ended learning and play, with back-up support and instruction, low-key and relaxed. Each of the three approaches supported and increased the effectiveness of the others. Integration of the approaches was continuous in the way the community used the available services.

Contact: Houston Link to Learning, Box 1277, Houston BC V0J 1Z0,
Tel. 250 845 2727, Fax 250 845 3521.
Also available online at NALD.

All About ERIC (1998)
Educational Resources Information Centre (ERIC)

A booklet that describes the ERIC system, part of the US Dept. of Education's National Library of Education. Contents includes: Searching the ERIC Database; How Can You Get Copies of ERIC Documents and Journal Articles; ERIC Publications and Products, etc.

Contact: ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education, 29 Children's Research Center, 51 Gerty Drive, Champaign, IL 61820-7469 USA,
Tel. 1 800 583 4135 or 217 333 1386,
Fax 217 333 3767,
accesseric@accesseric.org
<http://www.accesseric.org:81/>

Academic Preparation for Science (1999)
Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)

A new multimedia package intended for adult learners functioning at a grade 7 to 11 level. Provides a stimulating and motivational learning environment for adult learners who may not have been successful with traditional methods of learning science. Materials are Canadian based with an Aboriginal focus.

Contact: SIAST Woodland Campus Bookstore, 1100-15 Street East, Prince Albert SK S6V 6G1,
Tel. 306 953 7056, Fax 306 953 7099,
<http://www.siastr.sk.ca/~science>

Equity Across the Curriculum (1997)
by Alfred Jean-Baptiste

Aims to ease the dealing with organizational change and its surrounding issues. Examines strategies and approaches to achieving equity, and information is provided on how to plan and start an organizational change process - from identifying systemic barriers in the delivery of services, to measuring progress over the long term.

Contact: U. of Toronto Press, Order Fulfillment Division, 5201 Dufferin Street, North York ON M3H 5T8,
Tel. 416 667 7847, or 1 800 221 9523,
Fax 416 667 7856 or 1 800 221 9985,
jmurray@utpress.utoronto.ca

Handbook for Online Board Meetings (1998)
by Maia Shapley

A handbook which results from the field development project "Meetings in an Electronic Environment", produced by Laubach Literacy Ontario (LLO). An instructional guide for nonprofit organizations wishing to hold formal board meetings on the Internet while following parliamentary procedure.

Contact: LLO, 591 Lancaster Street, Unit 4, Kitchener ON N2K 1M5,
Tel. 519 743 3309, Fax 519 743 7520,
llo@golden.net
<http://www.trainingpost.org/llo.htm>

On the Margins: Creating Opportunities for Learning with Computer Technology for Homeless People (1998)
Frontier College Press

Beat the Street is a program of Frontier College offering basic literacy instruction and upgrading to street youth and homeless adults. This report is about Beat the Street's study of computer technology and how it can be used effectively.

Contact: Beat the Street, 290 Jarvis St., Toronto ON M5B 2C5,
Tel. 416 979 3361, Fax 416 979 3292,
<http://www.nald.ca/bts.htm>



Reading the Greens: PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy (1999)
ABC CANADA

A booklet about the *PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy* (for Peter Gzowski Invitationals), founded in 1986 by author and broadcaster Peter Gzowski to raise awareness for literacy across Canada. Includes photos taken at the different tournaments, personal accounts as well as a listing of corporate sponsors.

Contact: ABC CANADA, 1450 Don Mills Road, Don Mills ON M3B 2X7,
Tel. 416 350 6270, Fax 416 350 6262,
abc@corporate.southam.ca
<http://www.abc-canada.org>

Personal Life Management Literacy Program for The Native Women's Resource Centre - Facilitator's Manual (1998)
Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto

An innovative program which focuses on two extremely important areas in the Native community, Literacy and Personal Life Management. A manual that comes complete with an overview, ready-to-go activities, handouts and overhead material.

Cost: \$70
Contact: Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto Inc., 191 Gerrard Street East, Toronto ON M5A 2E2,
Tel. 416 963 9963, Fax 416 963 9573.

The language of documents: A guide to information display in the workplace (1999)
by Linda Fownes

A sequel to an earlier SkillPlan publication, *Document Literacy: A Guide for Workplace Trainers and Educators*. Intent of the new guide is to establish a common language for talking about documents and to advance the discipline of document literacy instruction.

Contact: SkillPlan, 4303 Canada Way, Burnaby BC V5G 1J3,
Tel. 604 436 1126, Fax 604 437-7539,
skilplan@axionet.com
<http://www.nald.ca/skill.htm>

Research into Providing Literacy/Upgrading Programs for Youth Who Have Dropped out of School (1999)
by Philip Fernandez

A special project of Frontier College, which concluded that strong literacy skills are a predictor of success in school and in the workplace. Purpose of the research was to identify those elements which contribute to creating effective and successful programs for youth who have dropped out of school.

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
Also available online in NALD's Full-Text Documents.

Peppercorn Books Resource Guide (1999)
Peppercorn Books and Press, Inc.

A resource catalogue that contains material for new adult learners as well as teachers who are involved in adult education. Includes titles from several international publishers such as Avanti Books, U.K., Juta Publishing and ViVa Books, South Africa, as well as Literacy South, US.

Contact: Andrew Pates, Peppercorn Books & Press Inc., PO Box 693, Snow Camp NC 27349, USA
Tel. 336 574 1634, Fax 336 376 9099,
post@peppercornbooks.com
http://www.peppercornbooks.com/

Family Literacy Annotated Bibliography of Resources (1998)

Terrie Moar for Literacy Partners of Manitoba

Includes references on these three headings: Family Literacy Resources, Internet Resources, Parenting Resources.

Contact: LPM Resource Centre, 998-167 Lombard Ave., Winnipeg MB R3B 0V3,
Tel. 204 947 5757, Fax 204 944 9918,
Email: literacy@magic.mb.ca Also available online in NALD's Literacy Collection.

The Language of Literacy: A National Resource Directory of Aboriginal Literacy Programs (1998)

by Beverly Anne Sabourin and Associates

Attempts to gather, in narrative form, critical-core information about the operations of Aboriginal literacy programs throughout Canada. A comprehensive, representative sample of Aboriginal literacy initiatives operating in urban, rural and remote regions of the country.

Contact: Beverly Anne Sabourin and Associates, 66 Cuthbertson Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3P 0N8,
Tel. 204 885 0660, Fax 204 885 0659,
beaujess@mb.sympatico.ca
Also available online in NALD's Full-Text Documents.

Easy Does It! (1998)

Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA)

This Health Communication Training Package will help health providers serve the 48% of adult Canadians with low literacy skills. Includes: Easy Does It! Training Manual with 8 units of information, effective communication tools, etc.; Face-to-Face video; CD-ROM version of (plain.word)[™] which helps you simplify the language you use with your clients.

Cost: \$79.95

Contact: CPHA Health Resources Centre, 400 - 1565 Carling Avenue, Ottawa ON K1Z 8R1,
Tel. 613 725 3769, Fax 613 725 9826
hrc/cds@cpha.ca
http://www.cpha.ca/

Regional Tidbits



Strategic Literacy Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is currently considering a strategic plan to advance literacy in the province. According to Statistics Canada, adult literacy rates decrease from west to east across Canada. On January 1, 1998, the Provincial Government announced its intention to develop a **Strategic Literacy Plan** to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources to improve literacy within Newfoundland and Labrador. The terms of reference for the project stated that the Plan be developed through consultation with literacy stakeholders, learners, community groups, volunteers, professionals, industry, labour, the Literacy Development Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, and both levels of government. The Plan would also look at literacy for all ages, both within and outside the formal school system. Ms. Luanne Leamon was given a one-year secondment from Executive Council, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, to develop the Plan.

The process to develop the Plan began with the establishment of a Literacy Strategic Planning Unit with two other staff: a Manager of Communications & Consultations, and a Secretary. A Steering Committee was established to consider issues based on findings from research, focus groups and a public consultation process. The first tasks of the Steering Committee were to establish a working timetable, explore the issues, draft a consultation paper, and determine who should be consulted and how to reach the broadest number of stakeholders. The *Strategic Literacy Plan Consultation Paper and Workbook* divided the issues surrounding literacy into seven major sections, each of which contained a few key questions to generate discussion and feedback. Between May-June 1998, public consultations and smaller stakeholder meetings were held across Newfoundland and Labrador for a total of thirty-one meetings. In addition, the Unit received over fifty written submissions and studied literacy plans developed by stakeholder organizations.

After reviewing and analysing the results of the consultation process and holding some further discussions with stakeholders, the Literacy Strategic Planning Unit, in consultation with its Steering Committee, began writing the Strategic Plan. It was completed in December 1998 and presented to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador whereby it is currently under consideration. On January 1, 1999, the Government appointed Ms. Leamon, author of the Plan, as Assistant Deputy Minister-Literacy, within the Department of Education.





VISIONS 11 (1999)

Edited by Joe Hilbig

An anthology of stories, poetry, art and other literary works by students of Basic Education 10 and Adult 12 of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST), Kelsey Campus.

Contact: SIASST, Kelsey Campus, Saskatoon SK S7K 3R5,

Tel. 306 933 8374,

Email : HILBIG@siast.sk.ca



MTML's Learners' Leadership Project (1997)

Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy (MTML)

Some learners took part in the early years of MTML's *Literacy Workers' Training Course*. Some of those participants wanted a course in Toronto for learners only. They wanted it to be a little like the *Learners' Leadership Institute* held by the **Ontario Literacy Coalition** and like the *Literacy Workers' Training Course*. This book documents the project which took place in 1996.

Cost: \$10 (plus \$2 postage)

Contact: MTML, 365 Bloor Street East, Suite 1003, Toronto ON M4W 3L4,

Tel. 416 961 4013, Fax 416 961 8138,

mtml@interlog.com

<http://www.nald.ca/mtml.htm>

Sick but not Scared: A Children's Health Book to Reduce Their Fears of Illness and Disease, Revised Edition (1996)

A. Tony Rhodes-Marriott, Oliver G. Deets & Bob Allowski

A book for both parents and children to read through to gain insight into many conditions that children or their friends or family may face during their early years. Children will eventually ask parents why they get a fever, a cough, a headache; what happens when they go for x-rays, a check-up or to have a broken bone fixed. This book works on the principle that knowledgeable, informed children and parents are the best combination to reducing fears.

Contact : Friesens Publishing, Canadian Children's Programs, Winnipeg MB R3L 2T4,
Tel. 1 800 447 8374 or 204 452 7626.

Tiny Steps Stories: A Collection of Short Stories with a Moral from Authors from Across the Country (1997)

Edited by Rob Truthwaite

A collection of stories written for children ages 3 to 9 years old. Stories that can uplift you and make you smile and stories that you can learn by and even make you a bit sad.

Contact: Friesens Publishing, Canadian Children's Programs, Winnipeg MB R3L 2T4

Tel. 1 800 447 8374 or 204 452 7626.

The Sweet Grass Road : Stories and Poems of Survival Written by Native Women (1994)

Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto

The writers in this collection of stories have chosen to give their message in a variety of literary styles - poetry, lyrics, short story and essay. While these pieces portray the harshness of a stark, unforgiving, urban life, they illustrate the hope that is integral to these writers' survival as aboriginal women. They have looked beyond the concrete walls to find a place for themselves and their communities. This book is about resistance and survival.

Cost: \$11

Contact: Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto Inc., 191 Gerrard Street East, Toronto ON M5A 2E2,
Tel. 416 963 9963, Fax 416 963 9573.

Cool URLs

Links to Cool Sites for Adult Learners

<http://www.nsn.org/wkkhome/adult/ALC5.html>

LEARNER'S STORY

We have a poem written by Ella Avaguimin, from Montreal, Quebec. Ella is originally from Russia, and she emigrated to Canada to start a new life.

Life
by Ella Avaguimin

I'd like to tell about my immigration to Canada.

When I just arrived in Montreal
I thought how great everything was.
I liked all the things around me.

My mood was perfect.

But then I got into the world,
Where people were cold, strange
And careless about anything.

And I had a lot of problems.

Because, it was not my country
And I didn't know the language.
And my mood slowly went down.
My life, at one time pink and white
In colour became black and grey.

But I have hope,
I just need time.

And everything will be all right

[This poem was taken with permission, from *Something on My Mind*, An Anthology of Poems by students at the High School of Montreal.]

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.

International

UNESCO Literacy Research Award - 1998-99 Recipient : "Why Eat Green Cucumbers at the Time of Dying?" - a study on Women's Literacy sponsored by the Government of Canada and the French governmental literacy agency *Groupe permanent de Lutte contre l'Illettrisme*, and supervised by UNESCO and the UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE), author, Anna Robinson-Pant of the United Kingdom.

Provincial

Alberta

Alberta Association for Continuing Education (AACE) Lifelong Learning Award - 1999 Recipients: Beryl Ballhorn, Community Learning Council, Wetaskiwin & Area; Rolie Seville, Advanced Education & Career Development Alberta - Edmonton

Ontario

ABEA Literacy Awards - Hamilton Wentworth - 1999 Recipients:

- *Adult Learner's Literacy Award*: Janette Whitham - Marty Karl Centre

- *Ken Cross Individual Literacy Award* (to a volunteer in literacy & adult education): Kathleen Clements - Hamilton & District Literacy Council

- *Spectator Literacy Award* (to a business or labour organization): CUPE Local 5 and the City of Hamilton

- *Excellence in Teaching Award* (to a teacher/instructor in adult literacy/basic education): Gwen Marsh - Briarwood Adult Learning Centre, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Literacy Foundation Awards of Merit - 1999 Recipients:

Program/Project category: Reaching the Rainbow - Aboriginal Literacy in Canada (through Parkland Regional College, Yorkton)

Corporate/Associations category: Saskatchewan Literacy Network

Professional category: Pat Colpitts, SARAW, Neil Squire Foundation, Regina

Volunteer category: Lisa Vargo (tutor and READ Saskatoon Board member, Secretary SLN Board, member of Saskatoon Literacy Coalition, member of organizing committee SLF Word Whiz)

Learners category: Carey Rigby, READ Saskatoon learner and Roger Spetz, SIAS Kelsey learner

And, Among
The Winners Were...