



Literacy in Action

The Bulletin of Literacy Alberta

April/May 2006 Practitioner--Volunteer Edition

Mark Your Calendar!

*Check Page 3 for upcoming LA professional development opportunities!

June 8, 9 and 10

Vitalize Conference "Unleashing Opportunities"
Edmonton AB
www.vitalizeconference.ca

June 28, 29 and 30

Centre for Literacy Summer Institute
"Accountability and Public Trust: Restoring the Balance"
Montreal QC
www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca

June 18, 19 and 20

The Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network's 2006 Annual Network Conference
Charlottetown PEI
jennifer@cllrnet.ca

Remember to check *Share* for the latest events in literacy!
For training and info on our electronic community, call Yvonne at 1-866-410-5708.

Announcements

Board News

We are pleased to announce the results of the Literacy Alberta 2006 board election. Congratulations to:

- Vice President: **Ian Kennedy**
- Director: Student: **Paul Ruot Galuak**
- Director: Practitioner: **Holly Handfield**

Thank you to Ginette Marcoux-Frigon, Aimee Anhill and Lois Polege for your many contributions to the board during your terms of office. The new board will have its first meeting together May 4, 5 and 6, 2006.

New Vision and Goals for Literacy Alberta

As we begin our fourth year, Literacy Alberta has set a new vision and new goals. You can read about our goals at www.literacyalberta.ca/about.htm.

Our new vision is: "We are leaders for literacy in Alberta. Together we foster a culture of learning for all Albertans." We are excited by our new vision and goals and trust that you too, are encouraged by them.

Literacy Alberta: Creating Change for the Future

Literacy Alberta has been busy building new partnerships and making connections all over the province. Some of this has come about because of the work of the Literacy Policy Round Table, through which stakeholders from literacy in all its forms and various government departments have been meeting for almost a year. Together we have created a document that contains a policy framework, goals and strategies for literacy in Alberta. We have had the full support of former Advanced Education Minister, Dave Hancock who really understands, and continues to champion, the benefits of literacy and essential skills for individuals and our society.

The current draft of the document can be viewed on the "Literacy in Alberta" page at www.literacyalberta.ca and on *Share*. Your feedback is welcome! Please write to: policydocument@literacyalberta.ca with your comments.

Now we are moving to a new phase—getting the policy in front of as many people as possible, including industry and other potential champions so that it can be accepted, resourced and implemented. Stay tuned—good things are happening and we'll keep you posted!



Literacy
Alberta

Literacy Help Line of Alberta: 1-800-767-3231

Library News

Now available from our library...Literacy and Disabilities Study (LaDS) publications including:

- LaDS *Learner Stories*
- LaDS *It Gets in Your Brain: Effective Practices in Adult Literacy using SARAW for People with Disabilities*
- LaDS *SARAW Survey Report*

To borrow these and many other resources, contact Laura at library@literacyalberta.ca.

New trunks ready-to-roll!

The LA library welcomes three new trunks to the library. Our Self-Care, Aboriginal Learning and Essential Skills trunks are all ready to go out to Literacy Alberta members.

Also, our "Build-a-Trunk" service is now a choice for members. You can create a trunk or tote to suit yourself. Tell us what subject area you're interested in (fundraising, public speaking, assessment, etc.), and we'll put together a trunk of resources for you!

Thanks to the tutors and resource people who participated in the Tutors Totes survey earlier this year. Your help is much appreciated!

Surfing Sites...

www.research-works.ca contains 59 reviews of research findings on child literacy published over the past 40 years. See how child literacy has been studied and framed in the research literature. The catalogue was created for educators, researchers, policy makers, parents and other stakeholders in child literacy.



Did You Know....?

Membership Changes

Only members whose membership dues are paid in full are able to access the many benefits we offer: discounts on PLC registration, use of the LA library, use of *Share* and more. When your renewal form comes in the mail, help us save paper and postage costs by renewing right away so that we don't need to send you a second reminder notice.

Soon, members will receive a letter about the changes in our membership structure and fees. This letter will also be posted on *Share*. As well, in order to save time and administration costs, we will no longer mail out membership cards to new and renewing members. We will mail your membership receipt only. If you have questions about your membership, contact lgodfrey@literacyalberta.ca or call 403-410-6993.

Best Practices

47 literacy practitioners from around the province attended the recent Best Practices seminars.

ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day™

Literacy Alberta distributed several thousand items to literacy programs all over Alberta this year. We still have materials available. Contact us if you want to order more.

Professional Development Opportunities

*For information on any of these workshops, contact Berniece at bgowan@literacyalberta.ca or 403-410-6991.

April 28

Perspectives: Theory and Practice in Adult Literacies

Stanley Milner Library, Edmonton AB

This workshop is a highly recommended part of the *Pathways* program.

Facilitators: Judy Murphy and Mary Norton

\$50: members

\$100: non-members

May 4

Plain Language Workshop

Bow Catering Centre, Calgary AB

Learn how to write in plain language to make your program brochures, forms and other client documents easier to read.

Facilitator: Audrey Gardner

\$45: members

\$60: non-members

May 12

Stepping Stones to Volunteerism

Red Deer Public Library, Red Deer AB

Bring your knowledge, share ideas, and learn more about involving and supporting volunteers in literacy programs.

This workshop may be taken for credit in the *Pathways* program.

Facilitator: June Hughes

\$50: members

\$75: non-members

Congratulations, Literacy Coordinators!

The following literacy coordinators will be recognized for their years of service with their Community Adult Learning Council at the Community Learning Network Conference in April:

Carol Roberts, Barrhead (10)
Linda Weir, Lac La Biche Class (15)
Kathryn Ponomar, Warner (5)
Cheryl Caan, Crowsnest (10)
Fay Holt Begg, Drumheller (10)
Lois Polege, Flagstaff (5)
Jodi Cassell, Forty Mile (5)
Ellen Kildaw, Grande Prairie (5)
Heather Ward, Hanna (5)
Kathy Bulger, Newell (15)
Lois MacDonald, TriCommunity (10)
Judy Smith, Valleyview (15)
Louella Komadina, Wainwright (10)
Alysa Fisher, Willow Creek (5)
Lee Switzer, Big Country (10)

We congratulate these coordinators and applaud their hard work and dedication to community literacy!

Public Speaking is a BLAST

Great news! We are starting a new project to train adult literacy students as public speakers for literacy. We are looking for eight new students to be part of this exciting speakers team.

To apply, students should:

- live in rural Alberta
- be active in a local literacy program
- have a minimum Grade 7 to 8 reading and writing skill level
- be willing to sign a contract outlining responsibilities
- have approval from his/her program to take part

For more information and application, contact Cindy Easton at 403-410-6992.

Applications must be received by Literacy Alberta before May 3, 2006!

More Lit Bits...

Calling All Adult Literacy Volunteers!

Do you know an outstanding volunteer in an adult literacy program? The Council of the Federation 2006 Literacy Award will be awarded to an Albertan who has made a difference in the lives of literacy learners.

Watch your mailbox soon for the nomination information and form. Deadline for nominations is June 2, 2006. This prestigious award will be presented in the fall.

Regional Roundup

★ **Whitecourt Region** ★

The regional adult learner and tutor conference will be at Pembina Educational Consortium on April 29 in Whitecourt. Contact Teena Pankonin 780-349-6333 for more information.

★ **Calgary Region** ★

The regional adult learner and tutor conference will be at Calgary Public Library on April 29. This is a joint project between Literacy Alberta, Calgary Public Library and Bow Valley College. Thank you to the literacy programs in the region that have worked together to organize this event. Contact Berniece Gowan or Tara Rogerson Musk (STAR) at 403-410-6991 for more information.

★ **Edmonton Region** ★

The Edmonton "Learning Together" conference for students and volunteers will be at the Learning Centre on October 14. For more information contact Rebecca Still 780-968-7617.

The Edmonton STAR team is also offering a traveling workshop called Design Your Own Binder Cover, an excellent self esteem booster and way to allow students and tutors get to know each other. For more information or to book this session in the Edmonton region contact Rebecca or Lil at 780-482-3296 or Phil at 780-481-3805.

★ **Red Deer Region** ★

Red Deer STAR conference for adult learners and tutors on March 25 was a huge success! Twice as many people took part compared to last year. Thank you to Bonnie Ireland for organizing a wide range of learning opportunities. Thank you to our BLAST team members Jill and Jaquie, who spoke about their literacy journeys. Thanks also to Starbucks for the yummy snacks and great coffee. To get involved, contact Bonnie Ireland 403-742-2999.

★ **Lethbridge Region** ★

Lethbridge STAR team is "glowing" strong! To get involved, contact Monica Ekvall at m.ekvall@lethbridgecollege.ca.

★ **Fort McMurray Region** ★

Fort Mac STAR is still glowing! Keep your eye on the horizon for news of upcoming events. To get involved, contact Jeanette Wanchuk 780-791-8943.

★ **Grande Prairie Region and Lloydminster Region** ★

We are looking for STARS in these regions. Contact Berniece 403-410-6991 for information on how you can be the newest STAR in our galaxy!

Let us know what is happening in your region! Email office@literacyalberta.ca or post your news on *Share!*

"Just as there are no little people or unimportant lives, there is no insignificant work."
~Elena Bonner