



Literacy in Action

The Bulletin of Literacy Alberta

December 2006 Practitioner--Volunteer Edition

Mark Your Calendar!

December 2006

Literacy Alberta will be posting important information about the upcoming 2007 board election on *Share*, at <http://share.literacyalberta.ca> and on our website at www.literacyalberta.ca

Voting in the election will be done electronically in March.

January 27, 2007

Family Literacy Day
www.abc-canada.org/fld/

January 31, 2007 (tentative)

Pathways Learning Disabilities workshop Part 2
Norquest College, Edmonton
Contact Candice Jackson at [cjackson@literacyalberta.ca](mailto:cjac@literacyalberta.ca)

April 23 to 27, 2007

CLN conference
Leading the Way
clnadmin@telus.net

May 6 to 9, 2007

Western Fundraising Conference, hosted by
Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)
Westin Hotel, Calgary AB
www.westernfundraisers.net



Literacy
Alberta

Announcements

Great News from the Library

During the summer Literacy Alberta began discussions with the Calgary Learning Centre regarding the possible merger of our libraries. Last week the decision was finalized and we are delighted to announce the creation of the Literacy and Learning Resource Centre of Alberta. (This is the working name, which might change as we finalize the details.)

Calgary Learning Centre provides assessment, programs and support to people, of all ages, who have learning difficulties. Their library is the single biggest collection of professional resources for people working in this field in western Canada. The merger between the two libraries will create a unique resource centre for professionals working in literacy and learning in Alberta.

While the details of the agreement have yet to be ironed out, the agreement in principle is in place and we will move our collection into the wonderful space at the Calgary Learning Centre before Christmas. We see huge potential for increased service to our members, and an overall increase in users over time.

Laura Godfrey, our librarian, is very excited by the opportunity to create a new and vibrant resource centre. She, like all of the staff is determined that this will mean better service and increased access to resources for all of you. Another great thing about this new library is that Laura will be dedicated to it for three full days per week. While we undergo the transition the Travelling Trunks will still travel, and individual books will still be mailed out. Stay tuned on *Share* for the details of how to continue using the library and how you will soon be able to access this bigger and better collection.

Black & White & Read All Over!

The 2006 PLC, held in Calgary November 2-4, was a great success. Over 330 delegates enjoyed a variety of workshops, networking opportunities and learning experiences surrounded by the exquisite elegance of the Fairmont Palliser Hotel. During this time of funding uncertainty, the conference was a time for reflection on our work, and a celebration of those who contribute so much to the field of literacy. Thank you to all who made it so memorable. *Please note:* The Palliser Hotel was extremely generous in their negotiations with us regarding costs for the conference. Our costs were comparable to those at the Delta Edmonton South Hotel for previous conferences.

Staff Changes at Literacy Alberta

The recent federal cuts to literacy funding have had a direct impact on our organization.

In the past few months, three employees of Literacy Alberta have moved on. Bernice Lee, our part time office assistant, Robin Waldo, our financial director, and Cindy Easton, manager of the Help Line and BLAST, have all left Literacy Alberta. We wish them all the best in what ever they choose to do next.

In the meantime, our dedicated staff continues to explore other options for funding while maintaining the level of service our members have come to expect and deserve.

Board News

Thank you to the members who came to our conference and took time to attend the Annual General Meeting on November 2. The Literacy Alberta Board of Directors met on Wednesday November 1 and Saturday November 4 as part of the time we shared at the conference.

As you know, Literacy Alberta has experienced difficulty with our federal funding base, but we continue to work to the best of our ability to serve the needs of literacy learners and practitioners in our communities. We were very pleased with the outcome of the Champions of Learning Gala on September 8. In addition to raising awareness about literacy, we were able to raise approximately \$70,000 to support our continued work.

The Board is looking forward to a new year of opportunity to develop as an organization. Members can help by volunteering to become involved with the Literacy Alberta Board. This spring we will be holding elections for four positions: President, Director: General, Director: Student and Director: Practitioner. Being on the Board is a great opportunity to help build the organization as well as to learn and grow as a leader.

To find out more about becoming part of the Literacy Alberta Board of Directors, please contact either Bonnie Ireland at 403-742-2999 or Beverly Norman at 403-385-3900.

Surfing Sites...

<http://www.google.com/literacy/>



The Literacy Project

A resource for teachers, literacy organisations and anyone interested in reading and education, created in collaboration with LitCam, Google, and UNESCO's Institute for Lifelong Learning.

Find books, articles and videos about literacy, or start your own literacy or reading group!

Available Resources

Essential Investment

The first 100 LA members who contact Greg Maruca at AUPE will receive a free copy of the "Essential Investment" DVD free of charge. Email g.maruca@aupe.org. Make sure you include your name, full address and phone number.

Greg can also email you the PDF of the manual "How to Set Up an Essential Skills Program in Your Union or Workplace", written by Nancy Steel of Bow Valley College. Contents include: Principles of Good Practice in Workplace Essential Skills Programs, Glossary of terms and acronyms, and AUPE history of essential skills activity.

Family Literacy Day Materials

We will once again provide FLD materials to help you celebrate this special day in your community. You can find the order form at www.literacyalberta.ca/events. Deadline for orders is January 12, 2007.

Thanks to ABC Canada Literacy Foundation for helping Literacy Alberta cover the cost of mailing the materials.



Family Literacy Day is January 27

Professional Development

PD Calendar

Date Changes for "Creating Learning Partners: a facilitators guide to training effective tutors" These much anticipated workshops were scheduled to begin in Feb. 2007, around the province. A number of factors, including the complexity of the material and commitment to quality of the product, have resulted in our having to change the dates for the workshops.

Please Note: Literacy Alberta will be rescheduling these workshops to begin in May 2007. We will let you know the new dates as finalized. Thank you for your patience.

Learning Together Conference

March 3, 2007

There will be a conference for literacy students and tutors on March 3, 2007 at the Learning Centre in Edmonton. The **Learning Together** conference will be hosted by the "Student Voices for Students" group.

Rebecca Still, Lillian Gallant, and other volunteers will be helping to plan this exciting day. Please come out and learn and meet other students and tutors! For more information call Rebecca Still at 780-968-7617 or rstill@literacyalberta.ca

Calgary Working Group Conference

March 24, 2007

Literacy Alberta's regional activities have been scaled back due to the announcement of the recent budget cuts to literacy. Despite this, the Calgary working group which planned and delivered the student and tutor conference last year is going forward with a plan to host a second one-day conference. This professional development opportunity will take place at Bow Valley College on March 24, 2007.

For further information, or to have input into the planning, please contact Berniece at bgowan@literacyalberta.ca. Thanks to all who are involved in this activity. We appreciate your energy and commitment!

Festival of Literacies

Winter Session Course (Online)
January - April 2007
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education,
University of Toronto
www.literaciesOISE.ca

Special Topics in Adult Education: Women, Violence and Literacy Learning - Impacts and Options

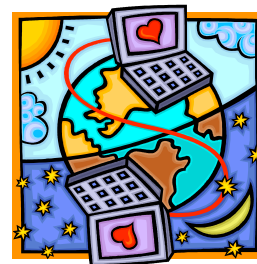
Instructor: Jenny Horsman

This is a graduate level course but literacy practitioners can participate as a non-credit community member. The cost is \$100 plus course materials. Contact Sheila Stewart, sstewart@oise.utoronto.ca or 416-923-6641, ext.2708

Cindy Crichton Bursary

The Cindy Crichton Bursary was established in 2003 to recognize Cindy Easton (Crichton) and the work that she has done over the years with adult literacy students. The bursary provides a learning opportunity for students. Applications as well as donations to the bursary are accepted all year round.

We are pleased to congratulate Phil Beakhouse of PALS in Edmonton as this year's winner. Phil chose to use his bursary to attend the conference in Calgary.



**Remember to check *Share* for the latest events and professional development news! For training and info on our electronic community, call Yvonne at 1-866-410-5708 or email sharehelp@literacyalberta.ca.

2006 Literacy Alberta Awards of Excellence

This year we received 14 nomination submissions! Congratulations to our nominees:

- Calgary Coop
- Calgary Reads
- Chinook Community Futures, Taber
- Diane Jeffrey, Taber
- EIPS READS (Elk Island Public Schools), Sherwood Park
- Grace Oyleusi, Calgary
- Janet Cable, Calgary
- Lawrence Hazlett, Edmonton
- Mary Crumblehulme, Brooks
- Pet Therapy Society of Northern AB (PAWS), Edmonton

Congratulations to our recipients:

- **Practitioner:** Carolyn Reicher, Calgary
- **Student:** Euphema Blake, Calgary
- **Organization:** Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute (VRRRI) Research Department Plain Language Service, Calgary
- **Volunteer:** Edouard Boulay, Edmonton

Nominations are accepted all year round. For more info, contact the office.

Feedback from the Provincial Literacy Conference

“The sessions that I attended empowered me with information that I can utilize in my efforts as a tutor and mentor with the BLAST program. The Friday night gala was TREMENDOUS, especially the presentation by Brian Keating. I feel richly rewarded for my work and reenergized to do more.”

“The conference was very beneficial for me in that I was able to network with like-minded people from all over the province.”

“Literacy has a very positive and beneficial impact on so many people and it is awesome that your organization can share it with others.”

“It was great to meet so many interesting, enthusiastic and dynamic people throughout the conference. Please keep up the good work!”

“I want to thank Literacy Alberta for allowing me to attend the conference. Without the bursary support, I would not have been able to do it.”



Literacy lights the world.
Happy Holidays everyone! Best wishes to
you all in the coming year.

~From your friends at Literacy Alberta

