



Literacy in Action

The Bulletin of Literacy Alberta

June/July 2006 Practitioner--Volunteer Edition

Mark Your Calendar!

September 27- 29

16th National Conference on Learning Disabilities "Discover the Road to Learning...on the Rock"
St. John's NF
www.nald.ca/ldan/ or
ldan@nf.aibn.com

Coordinator Regional Meetings:

September 18-19

Whitecourt Region
Contact Carol Roberts at croberts@literacyalberta.ca

September 22

Grande Prairie Region
Contact Yvonne Remple at learn@gc.telus.net

September 29

Edmonton Region
Contact Wendy Rhodes at wrhodes@literacyalberta.ca

October 14

Red Deer Regional Tutor Training
Contact Bonnie Ireland at bireland@literacyalberta.ca

November 2

Literacy Alberta Annual General Meeting, Calgary AB
Make sure your membership is up to date!



Literacy
Alberta

Announcements

September 8-14: Celebrate with Champions of Learning!

Literacy Alberta, together with programs and organizations from Calgary, will celebrate International Literacy Day (ILD) and International Adult Learners' Week (IALW) in a big way. We have several things planned for ILD: celebrations in the morning at the Calgary Public Library, a think tank in the afternoon, and a gala banquet in the evening.

The think tank will bring together representatives from business and industry, community stakeholders and government to discuss literacy and its impact on society. It is hoped that solid plans for action come out of these discussions.

Our evening fund raising gala banquet will feature Jacques Demers, former NHL coach who recently came forward to tell the world that he can't read and write. Proceeds from this event will help Literacy Alberta continue to create change in Alberta through our many projects and services. Call the office for tickets and information.

What is your group doing to celebrate ILD and IALW?

Let us know and we will help get the word out. Email your events to office@literacyalberta.ca or post them yourself on Share!

November 2-4: Provincial Literacy Conference (PLC)

Join us in Calgary for the 2006 Provincial Literacy Conference, "Black and White and Read All Over" November 2-4 at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel.

Brian Keating, Head of Conservation Research at the Calgary Zoo, is our banquet keynote speaker. Brian is an adventurer, world traveler and author. His topic "Cold Leadership" is the story of Ernest Shackleton and his voyage to the Antarctic—one of the most astounding wilderness survival adventures of all time.

Over 50 workshops are being planned covering a wide range of topics and presented by experienced leaders in their respective fields. Discounted fees are provided to Literacy Alberta members. Full conference information will be available later this summer. Thank you to the Fairmont Palliser Hotel administration for supporting literacy in this province.

Library News

The Literacy Alberta Library is pleased to partner resources with the Violence Information & Education Centre, in the form of the Violence and Learning Take Action (VALTA) Travelling Trunk. We're also in the process of negotiating a similar arrangement with Volunteer Calgary and The Calgary Learning Centre.

The library's three newest trunks—Self-Care, Aboriginal Learning, and Essential Skills—are all ready to go out to Literacy Alberta members. Contact the library if you would like to borrow one at library@literacyalberta.ca or call 403-410-6993.

BLAST: Student Speakers Team of Alberta

Literacy Alberta is pleased to announce that the BLAST Student Speakers Team has expanded! BLAST is building a provincial network of Student Speakers for literacy.

Our team comes from Lethbridge, Calgary, Cochrane, Rocky Mountain House, Blackfalds and Edmonton. We now have 11 students ready to visit your community to talk about their personal literacy journeys. To book a community presentation contact Cindy Easton at 403-410-6992 or email ceaston@literacyalberta.ca.

Call for Nominations for LA Awards of Excellence Open

The Awards of Excellence celebrate achievements in literacy and are presented every year at the PLC banquet. Nomination forms and brochures have been mailed to all members, and are available both on *Share* and on the web site if you need more copies.

Deadline for submissions to be received is **October 1**. Please nominate a deserving Albertan for this very special award. For info, call Myra at 403-410-6990.

Adult Learner and Tutor Bursary

We will once again offer bursaries to learners and tutors to attend PLC. Contact Candice at cjackson@literacyalberta.ca for info.

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. Donations to this bursary fund are welcome all year round. Funds are used to allow a student with limited financial resources to attend the PLC. Please consider making your contribution to this bursary fund!

Surfing Sites...

Check out the Verizon Literacy Campus at

www.literacycampus.org. They offer professional development courses at no charge. The self-paced, online courses and literacy resources are for educators and volunteers serving children, parents and families.



The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks at www.language.ca is the centre of expertise in support of the national standards in English and French for describing, measuring and recognizing second language proficiency of adult immigrants and prospective immigrants for living and working in Canada.

Professional Development

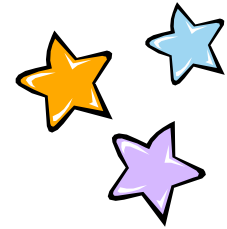
New Coordinator Training (NCT) will be offered in St. Albert on October 3-5.

For more information, contact Candice at cjackson@literacyalberta.ca.

**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.

STAR Watch

It has been a very busy winter/spring with many accomplishments. Conferences were held in the Calgary, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Whitecourt regions. Edmonton STAR has done two traveling workshops and is planning a fall conference. Watch for STAR activities in Fort McMurray as they can be fit into that bustling learning community.



There has been a new STAR sighting in the Lloydminster region...welcome Lois Polege, our newest STAR!!! Cornelia Listoe has joined the Red Deer team. We are still recruiting for STAR in the Grande Prairie region...please encourage and support a team in this region.

The goal of STAR is to host regional activities around the province for students and tutors. We know each region poses unique challenges and opportunities for these activities. Thanks to the STARs and the communities who have supported them! Watch for news in the fall and on SHARE!

Competency-Based Cultural Diversity Training Workshops

These two-day workshops are designed to accommodate 25 participants including Council Coordinators, Literacy Coordinators and Family Literacy Coordinators.

Workshop dates (note that there will be two workshops in Edmonton):

Edmonton: October 4-5

Hanna: October 12-13

Calgary: October 16-17

Grande Prairie: October 19-20

Vermilion: October 26-27

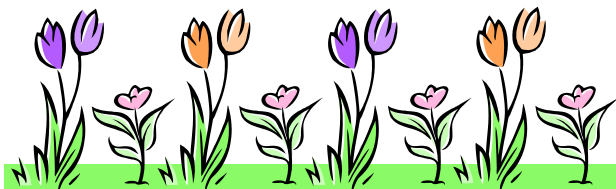
Lethbridge: November 6-7

Edmonton: November 23-24

Watch for a program flyer and registration form to be distributed early in August.

Travel, accommodation and meal costs will be covered for all participating Community Programs Branch staff. Reimbursement will be made through the CLN.

If you have any questions about this initiative please call Bev Sochatsky at 780-427-5625.



What's New on Share (<http://share.literacyalberta.ca>)

Media Exposure...

with Tony Tighe, Global News Calgary

June topics include:

- How to work with the media
- Establishing media contacts
- Developing a media package
- Planning your media campaign NOW for International Literacy Day (September 8).

On August 15, we will reconvene and learn how to develop a yearly Media Planning Calendar.

- How can you promote literacy issues or upcoming events?
- When should you contact newspaper, radio and TV?
- What is the benefit of setting a yearly events calendar and media plan?

Have a question that has not been covered? Please join in and ASK your question. This forum is open and is for people who have all levels of experience and media training.

To *Share* in this exciting discussion and get new ideas from the experts, contact:

Yvonne Stewart

SHARE User Support

1-866-410-5708 sharehelp@literacyalberta.ca

The Calgary STAR conference was held on April 29. These comments are from the Music and Learning session. Each person was asked to answer the question, “Why are you passionate about learning?” This is what people wrote:

- Learning is important because it promotes and encourages creativity.
- It allows us to tap into spirituality.
- Learning is important to me because it empowers me.
- Learning opens my mind and emotions to new experiences.
- Learning helps me to communicate my needs.
- It's something to do other than being bored.
- I come from a culture where learning/education is a means for social and economic mobility.
- Learning opens doors, expands horizons and keeps me young.
- Learning is very important to me first to know others cultures.
- It allows me to know what is going on in the world.
- Learning new skills is said to ward off Alzheimer's.
- It adds interest to life—the “same old thing” can be very dull.
- We learn something new every day, whether we want to or not.
- Learning is good for your brain cells and keeps you wanting to do more.
- Learning refreshes and strengthens your brain, your mind, your heart and your soul.
- Learning never ends, so a person needs to be passionate about it so that he/she can get the most out of it and pass along that learning.
- Being involved with learning has taught me about my strengths and how much I learn from my students.
- Learning is life long.
- Learning requires patience.
- Learning opens your experience to knowledge.
- Knowledge opens your experience to knowing. I feel that learning to read opened up such a vast new world to me. I can never go back to being satisfied with what I know—I want to go further!
- Learning is a tool nobody can take away from you.



Have a great summer everyone!

~From your friends at Literacy Alberta