



# The Update

## Employment Ontario

It's been a busy fall for Literacy and Basic Skills agencies in Ottawa as we try to absorb the changes that are occurring under the Employment Ontario (EO) umbrella. In October the members of the Local Planning and Coordination Committee met with Christopher Hahn the EO Regional Service Delivery Manager, Field Consultant, Nycol Vinette and other EO staff to discuss *Apprenticeship, Second Career Strategy and Employment Benefits and Support Measures*.

Since then Chris Hahn has been seconded to assist with the establishment of the new College of Trades and Ginny Cunning is the acting Regional Service Delivery Manager.

To find out more about Ontario's employment and training network, visit the website at:

[www.edu.gov.ca/eng/tcu/etlanding.html](http://www.edu.gov.ca/eng/tcu/etlanding.html)

## Congratulations Isobel!

**Isobel Bisby** who recently retired as Executive Director of Alternative Learning Styles and Outlooks, received the **2008 Frances Lever Memorial Award** from the Ontario Literacy Coalition on October 8 in Toronto. She was nominated by Kim Oastler from ALSO and Chris Girard from People, Words & Change.

Isobel is respected by colleagues, staff, board members and students for her innovation and leadership, and for her work as an advocate for the students whose lives she has touched. With gusto and astounding energy, she initiated many innovative program ideas. Thanks to her efforts, ALSO not only serves a wide range of adult students but has a strong presence as a provider of Family Literacy services such as RAPP, the Reading and Parents Program.

Isobel sees in learners what they may not see in themselves, and persists in believing in them until they come to realize their own potential. In the words of one learner, "She stands behind you even if you cannot stand behind yourself. She believes in you 200%. I am really glad that Isobel saw something in me that I could not – for that I thank her."

Even though she has "retired" Isobel continues to help with fundraising at ALSO and as a member of OCCL's Board of Directors.

The **Community Works** Handbook and Guide are now available online at [www.occl.ca](http://www.occl.ca). See page twelve for more information on this innovative resource.

## Family Literacy Day (FLD) January 27, 2009

Mark your calendars! The *Ottawa Public Library* will kick off Family Literacy week with a fun-filled event at the Main Branch on **Sunday, January 25**. To end the week, the *Canada Aviation Museum* is also holding a special public event on **Friday, January 30**. See page fourteen for more information.

And, don't forget about the *Family Literacy Day Challenge* and the *Suzanne Pinel Book Award*. For information, eligibility criteria and entry forms, visit [www.occl.ca](http://www.occl.ca) and click on Family Literacy.

Last, but not least, we wish all of you the best of the season and a very happy new year! Perhaps you'll try our Festive Fudge Wreath recipe enclosed with this issue.

Warm Wishes,  
**Mary and Maureen**

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

OCCL's mission is to support, promote and strengthen adult literacy services in Ottawa through communication, research and public education.

Please direct any comments or questions to:  
**Executive Director:** Mary Wiggin  
**Community Coordinator:** Maureen McGovern

**Address:** 107-211 Bronson Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6H5

**Phone:** 613-233-3232

**Fax:** 613-233-0299

**Website:** [www.occl.ca](http://www.occl.ca)

**E-mail:** [abcline@occl.ca](mailto:abcline@occl.ca)

### Board of Directors

**Chair:** Marcia Aronson  
**Treasurer:** David Robertson

**Literacy Reps:**  
Kae McColl  
Brenda Gaitens  
Isobel Bisby

**Community reps:** Wendy Siebrasse

### Local Planning & Coordination Committee

**Co-Chairs:** Jan Goatcher/Sara Jappert

### Members:

Brenda Gaitens	Denise DeShaw
Kae McColl	Louise Lalonde
Kim Oastler	Carol McMurchy
Lina Léveillé	Maria Makrakis

**NOTE:** Articles and items published in **The Update** do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy* but are intended to share information and ideas related to adult literacy.

**January 7, 2009** - **Family Literacy Day Planning Committee meeting**  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street

**January 14, 2009** - **LPCC meeting**  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street

**February 4, 2009** - **Effective Powerpoint Presentation Workshop**  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street

**February 11, 2009** - **LPCC meeting**  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street

**March 11, 2009** - **Board & LPCC meetings**  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street

OCCL is offering a workshop on **How to Make an Effective Presentation** on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 in the Gallery at Heartwood House.

*This is a two-hour workshop. The cost to attend is \$10.00. For detailed information on this opportunity, see page twenty-one.*



## Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

### NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL NEWS

#### **NEWS from NALD...**

#### **National Indigenous Literacy Association chosen to benefit from Canada Reads 2009 challenge**

Canada Reads, CBC Radio's annual showcase of great Canadian fiction, has picked the [National Indigenous Literacy Association](#) (NILA) as a partner this year.

On [Canada Reads](#), five celebrity panelists make the case for why their favourite Canadian book of fiction should be chosen as *the* book for Canadians to read. The program will air March 2-6, 2009, on CBC Radio One. Canada Reads and participating publishers support literacy by donating books to libraries. The publisher of the winning book also makes a financial donation to a national literacy organization.

The National Indigenous Literacy Association (NILA) is a national network of literacy practitioners supporting Aboriginal literacy in developing and disseminating best practices, coordinating activities and offering access to resources and information. NILA works with partners to bring effective, accessible and practical services and resources supporting Aboriginal literacy development to communities. As the largest national Aboriginal Literacy organization in Canada, NILA is working to strengthen the voice of Aboriginal Literacy in Canada and advocates on behalf of literacy practitioners. To obtain more information about NILA go to [www.nila.ca](http://www.nila.ca).

The 2009 titles for Canada Reads are:

- √ *Fruit* by Brian Francis
- √ *Mercy Among the Children* by David Adams Richards
- √ *The Book of Negroes* by Lawrence Hill
- √ *The Fat Woman Next Door is Pregnant* by Michel Tremblay
- √ *The Outlander* by Gil Adamson

To read more about Canada Reads 2009 click on [www.cbc.ca/canadareads](http://www.cbc.ca/canadareads).

#### **2009 Ontario Volunteer Recognition Programs**

The Ontario government recognizes volunteers from all sectors through the following programs:

Volunteer Service Awards (VSA) - in recognition of continuous years of service with a community organization - Closing Date: **January 25, 2009**

June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Awards (JCOAA) - awarded for superlative volunteer work undertaken by individuals, groups or businesses - Closing date: **January 15, 2009**

Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers (OMYV) - presented to outstanding young volunteers between the ages of 15 and 24. Closing date: **January 10, 2009**

Nomination forms and additional information on each program are available on the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website at [www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards](http://www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards) or you can phone the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at 416-314-7526.



### NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

#### Afghan Literacy Program launches in Bamiyan

Hundreds of villagers gathered to celebrate a pilot literacy program launched by UNESCO Kabul in Bamiyan. UNESCO and the Afghan Ministry of Education have established 32 literacy classes in the Shaidan region of Bamiyan Province as a pilot scheme for the *Enhancement of Literacy in Afghanistan Program* (ELA).

Along with literacy, the ELA program aims to provide vocational skills trainings and micro-credit facilities to the newly literate and link them with income generating opportunities.

At the inauguration ceremony Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of UNESCO Kabul, said the program would cover 18 provinces in two phases and serve 600,000 people, of which 60 per cent would be women. Mr. Aoyagi said: "Shaidan's success is Bamiyan's success and Bamiyan's success is Afghanistan's success".

He thanked the Government of Japan for providing \$15 million US for the implementation of the first phase of the program. Mr. Mohammad Raza, Director of the Education Department for Bamiyan province, said illiteracy is a major obstacle on the road to the country's development.

Related link - <http://portal.unesco.org/education/>

#### Emergent Literacy: A Comprehensive Tool Kit

How do you assess beginning readers and writers? In 2005, a national survey was conducted with 400 adult educators who worked in Canadian colleges, school boards, community-based programs and workplaces. The findings indicated that educators wanted an assessment tool that assessed the emergent literacy skills of adults. In fact, this was the highest ranked need among the respondents.

This year, the Office of Literacy and Essential skills (OLES) funded a two-year project to address this need. Pat Campbell, the project director, is producing a comprehensive toolkit for educators who work with adults who are very beginning readers and writers.

The tool kit will contain a range of tools to assess adults' literacy practices, print conventions and concepts, phonemic awareness, sight word recognition, comprehension, phonics knowledge and writing. The purpose of the assessment is twofold: (1) to provide diagnostic information that can assist the educator to plan individualized lessons; and (2) to measure progress.

For more information, contact Pat Campbell at 780-448-7323 or at: [pat@grassrootsbooks.net](mailto:pat@grassrootsbooks.net)



### NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

*from the Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC)....*

#### Spotlight On Learning

**Spotlight on Learning: Literacy Takes Centre Stage** was a three-day training event held October 6 - 8 which provided an opportunity for stakeholders inside and outside the literacy field to learn, network and engage in dialogue surrounding the past, present and future of literacy. Workshops provided information on new research and policy, best practices in the field as well as tools and techniques to use in the classroom, to market an organization or to plan and implement future projects and initiatives.

Beginning the event with a thought-provoking keynote address, Dr. Allan Quigley discussed the ideas of professionalism and professionalization. This set the stage for a lively debate, which continued long after the tables were cleared. On day two, Scott Murray, presented the facts and figures surrounding the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS) and what this means for the future of literacy.

On October 8, the OLC launched its brand new website ([www.on.literacy.ca](http://www.on.literacy.ca)). Isobel Bisby was presented with the 2008 Frances Lever Memorial Award at the closing luncheon. In her acceptance speech she spoke of her 17 years of experience in the literacy field as well as the importance of adult literacy in many aspects of people's lives and in society. Most notably, she highlighted the depth of family literacy programming and how adult literacy and family literacy need to be integrated to underscore the fundamental nature of literacy as it cuts across all sectors.

The Spotlight On Learning event was three days of engaging speeches, informative workshops, stimulating dialogue and an abundance of networking opportunities. Truly, literacy took centre stage.

Workshop presentations and resources, Isobel Bisby's speech and photos can be found at:

[www.on.literacy.ca/whatwedo/initiatives/pd/current](http://www.on.literacy.ca/whatwedo/initiatives/pd/current).



## NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

### Changes to MTCU's Second Career Strategy

Second Career was launched in June to help laid-off workers in Ontario identify and train for new jobs in growing sectors. Each participant can receive up to \$28,000 to help pay for tuition, travel, books and other training costs.

MTCU has just announced that it is improving access to Second Career. As of November 10, 2008 the guidelines for Second Career were expanded to include:

- Workers laid off as far back as January 1, 2005
- Laid-off workers who have taken an interim job to make ends meet
- Short term training options (less than six months) for laid-off workers who are not eligible for Employment Insurance
- Potential additional financial assistance to cover expenses for the cost of academic upgrading, living away from home while participating in training, and dependent care.

For more information on Second Career and to read the success stories please visit:

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/secondcareer/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/secondcareer/index.html)  
and  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/secondcareer/factsheet.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/secondcareer/factsheet.html)

### OCCL Website ([www.occl.ca](http://www.occl.ca)) Activity Report

Listed below are the top downloads from our site for the months of September, October and November 2008.

#### September 2008

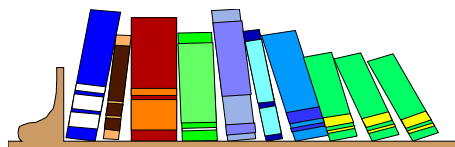
1. Literacy Outreach Package (**184**)
2. OCCL Newsletters (**166**)
3. Hire Learning Modules (**63**)

#### October 2008

1. Community Works Handbook (**440**)
2. Community Works Guide (**176**)
3. Putting Literacy on the Map (**104**)

#### November 2008

1. Community Works Handbook (**1,104**)
2. Literacy Outreach Package (**327**)
3. Community Works Guide (**304**)



### Fiction Featuring People with Disabilities

OPL's website is currently highlighting books of fiction about people with disabilities. Below is a list of the titles featured:

#### Autism and Asperger Syndrome

[As Dog is My Witness: Another Aaron Tucker Mystery](#)  
Author: Jeffrey Cohen. 2005. 227p.

[The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time](#)  
Author: Mark Haddon. 2002. 226p.

[Daniel Isn't Talking](#)  
Author: Marti Leimbach. 2006. 275p

[Eye Contact](#)  
Author: Cammie McGovern. 2006. 290p

[A Road Through the Mountains](#)  
Author: Elizabeth McGregor. 2004. 323p

[The Speed of Dark](#)  
Author: Elizabeth Moon. 2003. 340p

#### Deafness and Hearing Impairments

[Dead Body Language](#)  
Author: Penny Warner. 1997. 275p

[Deafening](#)  
Author: Frances Itani 2003. 378p.

[An Equal Music](#)  
Author: Vikram Seth. 1999. 380p..

[For the Sake of Elena](#)  
Author: Elizabeth George. 1992. 442p.

[Havana Heat](#)  
Author: Daryl Brock. 2000. 340p.

[The Heart is a Lonely Hunter](#)  
Author: Carson McCullers. 1967. 273p.

[A Maiden's Grave](#)  
Author: Jeff Deaver. 1995 419p.

[My Father's Notebook](#)  
Author: Kader Abdolah. 2006. 325p.

[Talk, Talk.](#)  
T. Coraghessan Boyle. 2006. 340p.

#### Blindness

[The Art of Seeing](#)  
Author: Cammie McGovern. 2002. 283p.

[The Beekeeper's Pupil](#)  
Author: Sara George. 2002. 314p.

[Murder in Grub Street](#)  
Author: Bruce Alexander. 1994. 555p.

[The Kreutzer Sonata](#)  
Author: Margriet de Moor. 2005. 157p.

[Strange Fire](#)  
Author: Melvin Jules Bukiet. 2001. 337p.

Visit the library website homepage and click on **Good Reads**. You'll be able to click on each title to see the specific branch where it is available and whether it's currently checked in or out. On the left menu, you'll see **Library Journal Review** which you can click on for a short write-up on the book.



## Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

### Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - Employment Services

As a way of increasing their outreach, **Canadian Hard of Hearing Association** has expanded their Employment Services to hard of hearing persons to include one-on-one services. While group participation using Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) is still available, those who cannot participate in a group format can obtain all the benefits of skill enhancement through individual sessions with an Employment Facilitator.

There are tremendous benefits to working one-on-one, including individually directed assistance and support. Clients can more easily access the precise expertise they need from an employment facilitator whose knowledge, experience and dedication are rooted in a lifetime of dealing effectively with their own hearing losses.

To learn more about how clients may benefit from the program please contact:

Nicole Synowski, Employment Facilitator,  
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association  
Email: [nsynowski@chha.ca](mailto:nsynowski@chha.ca)  
Phone: 613-526-1584  
TTY: 613- 526-2692  
Website: [www.chha.ca](http://www.chha.ca)

Neally Thompson, Employment Coach at Ottawa John Howard Society forwarded a useful link with information for accommodating people with disabilities from the **National Learning Disabilities Association of Canada's** website. Employers can use the link below to help with the screening process and accomodating needs for potential employees with disabilities. To find out what it's all about, visit:

[www.ldac-taac.ca/InDepth/employment\\_interviews08-e.asp](http://www.ldac-taac.ca/InDepth/employment_interviews08-e.asp)

Many thanks to Neally for passing this tip along to us!

### Deaf Literacy Initiative (DLI)

DLI develops classroom resources for literacy practitioners who work with Deaf and Deafblind adult learners. They are working on incorporating American Sign Language (ASL) into more resources as emerging technology allows. Check them out at:

[www.deafliteracy.ca/public/default.aspx?1=223&n=Resources](http://www.deafliteracy.ca/public/default.aspx?1=223&n=Resources)



## Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

### Spotlight on Learning Leadership Forum

#### Ontario Literacy Coalition

I enjoyed learning with the other students. I also liked the many presenters who led the discussions. They made me very comfortable about sharing my opinion, because usually I am shy.

I enjoyed the complete trip to Toronto, including the food and travel. I met many people from different cities. This was a great conference.... my first one!

*Françoise Longo*

On October 6, 7 and 8 potential learner leaders from across the province got together to network, learn and discuss topics around leadership. Topics included how to participate in a conference, big picture literacy, student associations, leadership skills and learner leadership from a Pan-Canadian perspective. We were lucky to have members of the Learners Advisory Network (LAN) of the Movement for Canadian Literacy participate in this event. Everyone appreciated hearing their experiences and having an opportunity to discuss future directions.

Learners were keen to continue their leadership journey. **Movement for Canadian Literacy** will be developing a *Leadership Toolkit* for Learner Leadership over the next few years.

Two participants from Ottawa attended, **Beth Hayward** from **ALSO** and **Françoise Longo** from the **Ottawa Catholic School Board**. They were very enthusiastic about their experience. Beth is taking it to the next level and is exploring the possibility of a training event for learners in Ottawa.

#### Message from MCL

**Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL)** is the national coalition advancing literacy and essential skills across Canada. MCL works to strengthen the learner voice and as part of this role we have recently revamped the learner section of our website.

We are really excited about the changes and encourage you to check them out! To do so, go to our website [www.literacy.ca](http://www.literacy.ca) and click on **learners** in the menu bar at the top of the homepage. This interactive section is very learner friendly. You will find information about MCL, the Learners Advisory Network, writing letters to the media and politicians, election tools and things to do. We hope that this is just the beginning because we are looking for funding to make this a model literacy learner site.

During **Adult Learners Week**, March 3 - 9 we will be encouraging everyone (including you) to evaluate the website and offer suggestions for additional content. We will also be asking learners across the country to participate in a Scavenger Hunt on the website and we hope that after checking out our website, you will encourage learners to participate. There will be prizes for learners and for programs so watch for more information in the coming months.

MCL's goal is to have an interactive website for learners where they can get information about literacy and also resources that they can use in the classroom or at home. If you want more information or have a great idea to help us reach this goal, please contact [chris@literacy.ca](mailto:chris@literacy.ca).



### Food for Thought

Are you having more difficulty reading a book these days? Is it challenging to find time to read? Do you feel that the Internet has affected the way you read? The following article was written by Robert Sibley for Ideas and Consequences in The Ottawa Citizen. It appeared in the July 7, 2008 edition.

#### Attention Deficits

For years I've devoted one bookshelf in my library to newly acquired books that I would read as time permitted. In recent years, the unread works have become a mountain too high to climb, occupying other bookshelves and spreading across the floor. I look at my books-to-read and think "I won't live long enough."

I could stop buying books, I suppose, but I subscribe to George Bernard Shaw's dictum: "Only in books has mankind known perfect truth, love and beauty." One of life's great pleasures is having a whole weekend to become lost in a book.

Those weekends are increasingly rare, but not because my reading is reduced. I read voraciously - magazines, newspapers, journals, both electronic and print. I've tended to think it was this non-book reading that interfered with my "real" reading. However, an essay by Nicholas Carr in the *Atlantic Monthly* offers another explanation. He says it is not lack of time that prevents sustained reading. Rather, we suffer Internet stupefaction.

"For more than a decade now, I've been spending a lot of time online, searching and surfing and sometimes adding to the great databases of the Internet," writes Carr. "(But) what the Net seems to be doing is chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation...Once I was a scuba diver in the sea of words. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a Jet Ski."

This is troubling.

Without silence and solitude it is difficult for anyone to engage in the reflective thought necessary that sustains us intellectually and spiritually whether as individuals or as a society.

I wonder if I can find a book on the topic, or a weekend to read it.



### Local Program News

#### Ottawa Catholic School Board

The Literacy and Essential Skills (LES) program at the Ottawa Catholic School Board has had some exciting changes lately. The program is now fully integrated with St. Nicholas Adult High School so LES students benefit from the standard program supports they have always enjoyed but can now access many additional supports, with guidance counselling being one of the most used.

In this new organization, students are seamlessly referred to credit or LES, as appropriate. For those who join the LES program, they can choose one of three pathways to help them meet their goals:

- 1) The traditional Learn to Read program we have always offered, which is useful for students at the early stages of literacy acquisition,
- 2) The credit system pathway, which provides students with time-limited LES studies and essential skills training to prepare them for the adult credit program at St. Nicholas, and
- 3) *WorkLinks*, our new program that teaches essential skills and other job-related learning so students can successfully find and keep paid or unpaid work.

Our *WorkLinks* class has a small student -to-teacher ratio and the teacher also acts as a job coach for students, finding placements for them in the community and supporting them after they get established. Students are telling us they appreciate knowing they have direction, that their time in LES is leading them in a direction they want, and they can work at their own pace and follow their own learning style.

*To refer students or for more information, call Trudy Lothian, Intake and Assessment Officer, St. Nicholas Adult High School, 613-228-8888 ext 228.*

#### New Food Bank in Ottawa

The Sadaqa Food Bank run by the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) opened recently in Ottawa. It is open to everyone. "Sadaqa" is the Arabic word for charity.

Phone: 613-680-5679 Email: [info@sadaqafoodbankottawa.org](mailto:info@sadaqafoodbankottawa.org)  
Website: [sadaqafoodbankottawa.org](http://sadaqafoodbankottawa.org)



### Local Program News

## Community Works: Learners Achieving Goals Through Volunteering

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The Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy is pleased to present an exciting new resource developed during our recent project, *Community Works: Learners Achieving Goals Through Volunteering*. The *Community Works Handbook* and the accompanying *Community Works: Implementation and Process Guide* are available to download, at no cost, on our website, [www.occl.ca](http://www.occl.ca).

OCCL worked with two terrific partners, **ALSO** and **Heartwood House**. Together we developed an innovative model of supported volunteering that provides training in transferable essential skills for learners who are marginalized and/or disadvantaged by a variety of barriers and challenges.

During the project, 10 learners from ALSO and People, Words & Change worked with amazing enthusiasm and energy to meet a variety of challenges head-on. They each participated in one of the following volunteer placements:

- Reception and inventory positions at OC Transpo Lost & Found
- Receptionist at ALSO
- Assistant in ALSO's Children's Room

Here are some of their comments:

*I'm an asset now – giving back – I no longer want to kick the world.*

*I can't tell my children what to do with their lives if I don't do something*

*If you have confidence, nothing can stop you.*

*I am actually happy to get up and come in.*

*We knew our own challenges but didn't recognize our own strengths.*

*Spread the word!!! Give other people a chance to do what we have done.*

Funded by:  
**The Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, HRSDC**



### Information Phone Lines

#### What is 211?

211 is an easy-to-remember, three-digit, non-emergency telephone number that connects callers to a full range of community, social, government and health service information in Ottawa. Bilingual and certified information and referral specialists answer 211 calls Monday to Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 211 is free, confidential and multilingual (150 languages). The information is also available online at :

[www. 211ontario.ca/ottawa](http://www.211ontario.ca/ottawa)

#### Who benefits form 211?

Everyone benefits - from individuals, families and professionals to community agencies and people facing barriers due to language, poverty or personal difficulty. Here are just a few examples:

- ◆ A son seeking transportation for his aging parents
- ◆ A senior seeking home-care support
- ◆ A laid-off employee wanting to find out about employment insurance
- ◆ A teenager trying to deal with school or social issues
- ◆ A recent immigrant looking for help getting settled in Ottawa

#### How is 211 different from 311, 411 and 911?

- 211** - Information and referral service that connects people to the full range of community, social government and health services programs
- 311** - Customer service line for the City of Ottawa municipal services such as road repairs, garbage removal or housing services
- 411** - Telephone directory listings
- 911** - Emergency number for medical, fire and police assistance



## Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

### Family Literacy Day - January 27, 2008

#### Ottawa Public Library *Family Literacy Event with Suzanne Pinel*

Join entertainer “ Marie Soleil” for songs and stories to kick off Family Literacy Week in Ottawa.

**Where:** Main Branch Mezzanine 120 Metcalfe St.

**When:** Sunday, January 25, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

For more information, call 613-580-2945.



#### Canada Aviation Museum

As the “bookend” event of the Family Literacy Week in Ottawa, on **Friday, January 30**, the Canada Aviation Museum welcomes school and daycare groups for a morning of fun learning activities.

From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., children will have the opportunity to meet Canadian children’s book authors, do hands-on type activities and learn about the *Silver Dart*, the first powered aircraft to fly in Canada plus take in an amusing show by the touring company *Les Aviateurs* that will complete the half day event.

Children are encouraged to bring a gently used book they have enjoyed reading and wish to share with others for the Book Swap table. We wish to thank the publishing company, *Dominique et Compagnie*, for their contributions to this activity.

FREE admission for groups of children 7 years old and under. Advance requests and reservations are required.

Participating authors:

Bruno St-Aubin, bilingual author and illustrator

Lucie Papineau, French author

Rachna Gilmore, English author

Frieda Wishinsky, English author

Francois Gauvreau, bilingual illustrator



#### Running a Book Drive for Family Literacy Day

The link below will take you to the Family Literacy Page on the Success by 6 website. The information on *How to Run a Book Drive* was developed by members of the Family Literacy Day Planning Committee in Ottawa.

<http://ottawakids.ca/site/sb6/index.php?page=477>



## The Learning Hub

### What is the Learning Hub?

This is an online learning site that delivers live (CENTRA) classes covering a variety of work-place, pre-GED and essential skills topics. Learners can choose from three study options: attending live online classes, working on online independent study courses - or both! After a learner fills out the registration form on the website, they are matched up with an online practitioner who works with them to set up their learning plan.

#### Practitioners

If you are referring a learner to the Learning Hub's program it is preferable they have a reading/comprehension level 2 or higher when they register

Learners should also have a basic understanding of computers and be encouraged to check for email correspondence from the Learning Hub staff several times each week.

Practitioners from the referring agency should also check in with their learners often to provide additional support for downloading course materials, and to assist the learner with the login process for classes, etc.

It is also important that your contact information is included on your learner's registration form to the Learning Hub staff can communicate progress and help troubleshoot questions as needed.

#### Learners

- √ Do you use the computer to check your email at least three times a week?
- √ Can you work independently and know when to ask for help if you get stuck?
- √ Can you search the Internet to find information online?
- √ Can you follow written instructions on how to use programs on your computer?
- √ Do you know how to download a program to your computer?
- √ Can you turn your Pop-up blocker off if you can't download information from the internet?

If you answered yes to these questions you are ready to start online learning with the Learning Hub.



# RESOURCES

## Stuart McLean's Story Exchange

On Stuart MacLean's show and website, listeners are invited to submit a story to be posted online. Here's a blurb from the website.

*Write a story and send it to us and we may read it on air. There are two rules. Your story must be true and it must be short, after that it is up to you. Write about a moment that you have experienced, witnessed or heard about. Something funny or something touching - anything - so long as it's a true story and so long as it's short.*

Some literacy practitioners enjoy downloading these stories and using them as reading materials for their learners. For more information on how to participate or just to check out the archived stories, visit:

[www.cbc.ca/vinylcafe/story\\_exchange.php](http://www.cbc.ca/vinylcafe/story_exchange.php)

## New from Literacy Link Eastern Ontario (LLEO) CABS Online: Common Assessment of Essential Skills (CAES)

Each of the CABS Online demonstrations (across the five LBS levels) has been articulated to the Essential Skills. When present in a demonstration, Reading Text, Document Use and/or Numeracy have also been identified by Complexity Level. The *CAES User Guide* is also available online.

This new resource, available from LLEO and similar to the one developed for the CABS manual, will assist LBS delivery agencies and learners to identify skills and gaps in terms of the Essential Skills. It will also assist agencies and learners to track Essential Skills development during LBS programming. Both CAES resources will be beneficial to agencies and learners, especially in light of the Learner Skill Attainment Framework.

If you would like to order the CAES resource for the CABS manual, please use the order form from the LLEO website:

[www.lleo.ca/LLEO\\_assets/pdfs/pub\\_order.pdf](http://www.lleo.ca/LLEO_assets/pdfs/pub_order.pdf)

## Learning Edge Issue #10

Check out the latest edition of Learning Edge Online Newspaper - Workplace Apprenticeship! This issue includes:

- An introduction to apprenticeship
- Several apprentices talking about their experiences
- An interview with the Dean of the School of Transportation and Building Trades, Algonquin College
- First 5 steps to apprenticeship
- Key questions to ask when starting an apprenticeship

The following link will take you directly to Issue 10: [www.thewclc.ca/edge/issue10/index.html](http://www.thewclc.ca/edge/issue10/index.html).



### RESOURCES

#### Family Math Fun!

Announcing a new resource: a manual of family numeracy activities, ready to use in early literacy programs, day care centres, primary grades and Adult Basic Education/Literacy programs. Patterns, recipes, and hand-outs all included (109 pages). Download your free copy at::

[www.nald.ca/library/learning/familymath/cover.htm](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/familymath/cover.htm)

Math for the whole person: Spirit, heart, body and mind are all connected in the activities in this book. When these are in balance, math becomes part of our whole lives, not a beast or a barrier.

Activities for the whole family: Things to do in the kitchen and on a walk, rhymes, games, and things to make, all to promote math thinking and learning.

For more information contact Kate Nonesuch at: [kate.nonesuch@viu.ca](mailto:kate.nonesuch@viu.ca)

For Family Literacy Day, you may want to have a look at the **How-to Kit - Family Cooking** from the North Western Literacy Council.

Cooking is a great family activity. When parents prepare a recipe with their children, they are teaching the children not only cooking skills, but also literacy skills. In this kit you will find the following:

- A glossary of cooking words and tools.
- Fun recipes that your family can make together.
- Recipes for special occasions.
- Cooking and literacy worksheets and extender activities.
- A list of other fun family cookbooks and cookbooks based on storybooks.

It is one in a series of how-to kits that can be downloaded from the NWT Literacy Council website at [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca).

#### Financial Literacy

Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI) has launched the Canadian Centre for Financial Literacy. The first of its kind in Canada, the Centre seeks to bring together businesses, governments and not-for-profit organizations to create opportunities for low-income Canadians to increase their financial literacy.

To find out more, visit: [www.sedi.org](http://www.sedi.org)



# RESOURCES

## The 3Rs of Research

*A Workshop for Practitioners to Learn How to Integrate Resources into Programming*

OCCL hosted a well-attended workshop on **The 3Rs of Research** on November 19 at the Hampton Inn. The workshop, led by Cindy Davidson, provided coordinators and practitioners with a wide range of innovative tips, tools and strategies to assist in incorporating programming ideas into daily practice.

*“The 3Rs of Research Practitioner Toolkit”* was developed by the Literacy Network of Durham Region (LiNDR) to provide literacy networks and programs with ways to efficiently identify current field research that is relevant and train instructors on how to use research in the classroom. It is intended to contribute towards the practice of active reflection by literacy practitioners on current research, theory and the integration of project products in order to benefit learners. This Toolkit is divided into several sections:

- a) addressing information about the value of research and research integration
- b) strategies to address barriers to research integration
- c) tools and templates, and,
- d) a model for integrating research into practice effectively.

For more information please see: [www.lindr.on.ca/research.htm](http://www.lindr.on.ca/research.htm)

## Youth Literacy Canada Website

Literacy BC has created a wonderful website called “Youth Literacy Canada”. This innovative website is designed to provide resources and ways to increase youth literacy in our country. The Youth Literacy Canada website shares information about young people with low levels of literacy and the problems and learning challenges they face. The website provides promising practices for increasing youth literacy, the voices and stories of youth, as well as research, tools and resources.

You can learn more about Youth Literacy Canada at: [www.youthliteracy.ca/](http://www.youthliteracy.ca/)

## New Online Discussion Group for Community Literacy Agencies is Now Available!

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to announce the creation of a new online discussion forum, where Ontario’s community- based literacy agencies will once again have the chance to link with one another to ask questions of their peers, share resources and strategies, and brainstorm ideas. This forum is called “Community-based Literacy”.

It's free to join the online discussion group Click on <http://on.alphaplus.ca/forums> for directions on how to register.



# RESOURCES

## 180 Technology Tips

**180TechTips.com** offers 15 hours of free computer training in 180 easy to follow 5 minute lessons. For more information and/or to sign up, visit: [www.180techtips.com](http://www.180techtips.com). Below is a sample of what 180 techtips offers:

### Password Pandemonium

Never before has so much information been so accessible to so many people. In many ways the “Information Age” is a wonderful time to be alive. But as is often the case, there is a dark side. The same technology that makes it really easy to search all the knowledge of the human race also makes it possible for others to get hold of your personal information. When it comes to using computers and the internet we are challenged to create a plethora of **user names and passwords** to protect our information. But how do you make up a username and password that will be easy for you to remember but impossible for anyone else to figure out. Here’s some advice:

Good Passwords and Bad Passwords? Here’s a website that specifically lists “bad” passwords. <http://geodsoft.com/howto/password/common.htm>. If someone wanted to “crack” your password using computer software they would probably check all of these kinds of passwords first. For the dedicated “password cracker” there are actually huge lists of common passwords available online. Here’s a link to more information about how passwords are cracked:

[http://geodsoft.com/howto/password/cracking\\_passwords.htm](http://geodsoft.com/howto/password/cracking_passwords.htm)

So what makes for a good password? Here are some basic suggestions but in the end it will be up to you to come up with something that works for you:

- 1) **Avoid common names**, dates, phone numbers or things easily associated with you.
- 2) **Avoid common words** or phrases as they would be the first thing checked by password cracking software.
- 3) **Use a combination of numbers and letters**. For example, substitute numbers for letters and letters for numbers in a word or phrase.
- 4) **Make it something you can remember** all by yourself. Don’t write it down anywhere!
- 5) **Don’t use naturally occurring keyboard sequences** (like “qwerty” for example)
- 6) **Try to make it at least 8 - 16 characters long**. Obviously the longer the better.
- 7) **Plan on changing your password often**. Experts suggest changing your passwords at least every six months. Whether it’s about protecting the money in your bank account or just accessing your email online, you’ll need to have good usernames and passwords to protect yourself. Choose wisely.



### RESOURCES

#### ***Moving Research about Addressing the Impacts of Violence on Learning into Practice***

*By Evelyn Battell, Shayna Hornstein, Jenny Horsman, Christianna Jones, Judy Murphy, Ningwakwe/E. Priscilla George, Kate Nonesuch, Mary Norton, Nadine Sookermany, Sheila Stewart and Heather Ward.*

Research has helped us to understand the impacts of violence on learning and to identify ways to address them. How can we move this research more widely into literacy practice? This question was a starting point for research by 11 practitioners from across Canada. In *Moving Research about Addressing the Impacts of Violence on Learning into Practice* they describe their research and share what they learned. Topics include:

- √ No easy answers; Moving research about violence and learning into practice;
- √ What do participants in my workshops really learn? A personal exploration of more effective ways to design and facilitate workshops and courses;
- √ Stories that breathe: Practitioners' stories opening windows and doors on learning and violence;
- √ Balancing: the impact of residential school on second and third generations;
- √ The unfinished collage: Examining the impact of violence on the lives of literacy learners and their children;
- √ How spirit, heart, mind and body are being recognized in literacy programming;
- √ The body's song: Can you listen in the stillness?;
- √ Invitation to the dance: A very small exploration about using arts-based approaches in adult literacy education;
- √ Navigating practitioner discomfort: Reflections on power and self-care; and
- √ One size does not fit all: Some observations on a research-in-practice model.

#### **Move the Body, Stretch the Mind**

##### ***Open yourself to learning through breathwork, movement and meditation***

*By Judy Murphy - Windsound Learning Society*

*Move the Body, Stretch the Mind* invites adult learners and teachers to prepare our whole self: mind, body, spirit and emotions for learning. Drawing on her experience as an adult educator, yoga teacher, and lifelong learner, the author explains how the mind and body interact to support or get in the way of learning. She provides step-by-step instructions for breathing, movement and meditation activities to help us ground, release tension, energize, and focus.

The activities in the book can be done individually or with a group, in class, at work or at home. Developed with adults in literacy and community learning groups, the activities require no prior experience or special equipment, and can be done standing or sitting.

*Both of these resources are available from Windsound Learning Society. For more information and an order form, email [windsoundlearning@gmail.com](mailto:windsoundlearning@gmail.com).*



## Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

### LOCAL WORKSHOP

*OCCL is offering the following workshop in the new year.*  
**Clear and Effective Presentations: Thinking Beyond Bullet Points**

#### **Goal**

Help participants make memorable presentations that “stick”.  
(Stickiness means that people understand and remember your message)

#### **Learning objectives**

The course will help participants learn how

- to connect with the audience
- to get and keep their attention
- to promote understanding
- to promote memory

Participants will also learn how to design clear and effective slides based on the best practices from the top presenters worldwide.

#### **Program**

- Key presentation principles
- Team exercise about do's and don'ts
- Team exercise on how to think in images and be more creative

Each participant will receive a booklet and practical tools to prepare clear and effective presentations.

**Presenter:** Michel Gauthier

Michel managed client service programs for Revenue Canada for many years. He has delivered more than 250 presentations on literacy and clear and effective communication across Canada. He received the 2002 and 2004 award for Staff Service Excellence in the field of clear and effective communication. At the Translation Bureau where he currently works, Michel is noted for developing innovative services in the field of clear and effective communications.

**Where:** Gallery, Heartwood House, 153 Chapel Street  
**When:** February 4, 2008 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
**Cost:** \$10

**Note:** *This is not a workshop on how to use PowerPoint. It is a workshop on how to present the content of your message clearly and effectively using PowerPoint and other communication tools. To reserve your spot, contact Maureen at [maureenmcgovern@occl.ca](mailto:maureenmcgovern@occl.ca) or by phone at: 613-233-3232.*



### A LITTLE HUMOUR

Let's face it - English is a crazy language!

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?



# Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

## HOTLINE STATISTICS

Contacts	August	September	October	November
Calls from learners	8	5	12	3
On behalf of learners	5	4	1	3
Learner follow-up	1	2	0	1
From Volunteers	3	6	1	4
Literacy Outreach/Community	35	45	90	67
OCCL Admin	52	98	96	60
Workforce Development	22	27	47	29
Special Projects/Resources	23	88	90	82
Provincial and National Activities	30	42	63	48
Network Calls/LPCC/Board/Emp ON	22	122	104	89
Training - Learner & Practitioner	16	83	72	66
Family Literacy/FLD Events	0	13	21	20
PGI	22	27	24	35
Events	11	60	33	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>512</b>
<b>Referrals*</b>				
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	4	1	1	
Ottawa Catholic School Board	3	2	1	
PWC	2	4	1	3
ALSO			5	1
Algonquin College (CCP)	4		5	
ILC Web site				
The Mission - GED			1	
ACElinks				
John Howard Society	1		3	
Sage Youth	1	1		1
Moi, j'apprends			1	
Adult High				
St. Nicholas Adult				
ACElinks	2			
Aphasia Centre		1		
Language Assessment Centre		1		1
Ottawa Public Library				
No referral				
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>
* At times we make more than one referral per call. The total number of referrals therefore may be higher than the total number of calls received.				
OW related calls:	5	4	4	1