



The Centre for Literacy

News from The Centre

JUNE 2011

Our Web site:

As a national centre of expertise, our objective is to better serve Canada's literacy and essential skills community. Large sections of our web site have recently been translated into French. www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/fr/bienvenue We have revised portals for easier access and a new portal for the Fall Institute 2011 (IALS) has been created. We will create new ones for qualifications, professionalization and embedded learning after Summer Institute.

Our web site is the electronic voice of The Centre to you our readers. We are constantly updating and adding information and links. Your input is valued – please give us feedback. info@centreforliteracy.qc.ca

IALS – Its Meaning and Impact for Policy and Practice

Register early! Filling fast
October 23-25, 2011
Banff, AB

Our first Fall Institute is attracting interest in Canada and abroad. The program will explore the “story” of IALS in Canada and other countries. It will trace the evolution from “literacy” to “skills” to “competencies”. Newly confirmed participation by the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and by Ron Pugsley, retired former National Director of Adult Education and Literacy with the US Department of Education who will tell the US AILS story. <http://www.regonline.ca/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=964070>



Summer Institute 2011

The third in a series of summer institutes on workplace literacy and essential skills reflects a continued interest, with a large number of participants having attended both the

2009 and 2010 institutes. We expect a diverse group – practitioners, researchers, policy-makers – to bring divergent perspectives and engage in lively exchange. We have circulated a discussion/debate paper on “Qualifications for Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills teachers” and compiled a draft list of “Adult Education and Adult Literacy Education Certification and Training Programs in Canada”. These will be posted on our website after the Summer Institute. A literature review on “Models for embedding literacy and essential skills in workplace training” will be available in August. Dr. Ann Kelly, School of Education and Professional Studies, Adult & Vocational Education, Griffith University, Australia and Anne McKeown, Professional Development Manager for the London Strategic Unit at the National Research and Development Centre in the UK bring international viewpoints. *See our website for more details.* http://www.regonline.ca/summer_institute_2011_workplace_literacy_essential

The *Measures of Success* research project is developing an evaluation framework to measure the long-term outcomes of WLES programs through examining twenty workplace learning initiatives in Nova Scotia and Manitoba. The field research begun in February continues, with eleven sites to date – six in Manitoba and five in Nova Scotia. Baseline data collection has been completed at six of the sites, and 3-month follow-up has started, with preliminary findings of interest. A full analysis of the data is expected by April 2012. At the upcoming Summer Institute in Montreal, project team members will present what has been learned from the project thus far.



Research study:

Understanding LES needs of Quebec Anglophone adults

This project is designed to deepen knowledge and understanding of the literacy and essential skills (LES) needs of Anglophone adults living in Quebec as a basis for more effectively serving English-speaking communities across the province. The literature scan and interviews have been completed, and the report is currently being edited. After it has been validated by selected respondents in late June-early July, it will be published on The Centre's web site. While the study is explicitly about Quebec, the emerging themes will resonate in many parts of the country.

The Centre for Literacy

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This project was made possible with funding support from the Government of Canada's Office of Literacy and Essential Skills

NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome Jocelyn Charron as Senior Project Officer and Irwin Stein as Senior Bookkeeper to our staff. Jocelyn previously managed national projects and worked on post-secondary access issues for twenty years. Irwin worked in accounting for many years in the telecommunication, manufacturing and not-for-profit sectors. See bios on the web site.

Building a Learning Organization

To improve our efficiency and build on the skills and expertise of each staff member, The Centre undertook a Human Resource Review in 2010-2011. Prior evaluations and interviews with each staff member provided the base for restructuring the organization and the work flow. Competency-based descriptions were created for each position including a professional development and learning plan. We are monitoring our first year in the new mode, and are pleased to share our experience with colleagues in other organizations.

Friends Campaign 2011

Our Friends campaign will begin this month as we seek funds for our on-going initiatives. Last year, with your help, we purchased 100 books for a remote community in northern Quebec and many more for Family Literacy Day at the Montreal Children's Hospital and covered fees for four writers in the WIC project. Without your help we could not do this.

NEWS about ENEWS

This is the last quarterly edition of ENEWS. Beginning in August, in an effort to keep NEWS current and reduce costs, The Centre will put out a monthly electronic version of ENEWS. News from The Centre will continue to be published on a quarterly basis while we assess whether we sustain readership exclusively on line.

OUTCOMES FROM:

Lire/Imagine/Read

Celebration !!!!!!!- International Literacy Day -September 8, 2011. The Montreal Children's Hospital and The Centre will host an exciting event at the hospital to create a Reading Corner in honour of a beloved Canadian author. Watch for news in August.

Writers in the Community (WIC) tracks impacts

The Centre for Literacy and the Quebec Writers' Federation, offer writing workshops for Montreal youth from troubled backgrounds and excluded from the mainstream. We have developed an evaluation protocol for the participating schools and agencies, the teachers, writers and the two sponsor organizations to set distinct goals, identify what will count as success and track outcomes. The process engages all the parties in thinking deeply about what they hope to achieve, and whether we have done it, and allows us to constantly adjust projects for better results. This spring, three projects were in Montreal schools serving students with behavioural difficulties and/or social maladjustments. They met in eight sessions with professional writers to explore a variety of approaches to literary expression. From this activity they published three collective "zines" and one individual chapbook, and gave two readings at which some of the young poets shared their creative work with fellow students and the general public. <http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/projects/writers-community>

Health literacy

Medical Interpreters Course – The Centre, in 2009, in collaboration with the Centre for Training and Development at Dawson College, the Lester B. Pearson School Board, and the Montreal Children's Hospital, conducted a needs assessment on training English-language interpreters in Quebec's health and social services network. Based on positive response, the partners developed an over-subscribed two-day pilot workshop. Using feedback from that pilot and collaborating with key sectors in the network, the group received funding from the Ministry of Education and Leisure (MELS) to design a competency-based accreditation in interpretation in a healthcare setting in an English-speaking context. The program proposal is in the final stages of approval to be submitted to MELS. Pilot courses will be created in 2011-2012.

Conferences/presentations by The Centre

- ◆ Presentation on Health Literacy in Whitehorse, Yukon to the Association Franco-Yukonnais at the 4th Annual Forum Sante in March 2011.
- ◆ The Executive Director was a keynote speaker at The Canadian Respiratory Conference in Niagara Falls in April.
- ◆ Workshop on Health Literacy at the Leading & Learning Professional Development Day at the English Montreal School Board on April 15, 2011.
- ◆ The Executive Director was invited to sit on the Advisory board of the Multicultural Mental Health Resource Centre (MMHRC) project.

Resource Discovery Centre

June will be an exciting month. Automation of the library will be completed. We will pilot-test our first Resource Discovery Pathfinder (on pediatrics and health literacy) with pediatric health care professionals and students and launch a more generic pathfinder for health care professionals and another for adult educators. The first Research Discovery Summary (on workplace literacy) will also be launched. http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/resource_centre

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