



The Spider's Web

ONTARIO NATIVE LITERACY COALITION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2005

Regional Training Events Fall 2005

The first of four Regional Training Events recently took place in London, Ontario.

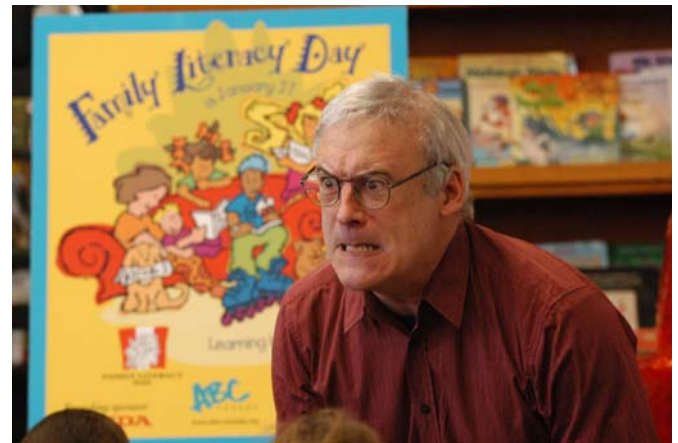
Content included a recap of Train Ontario I for those who missed the original and the follow-up training from Train Ontario II. It also included a Common Assessment workshop, an AWAL Essential Skills presentation, an address by MTCU Field Consultant, Laura Hamilton, and a segment on Technology.

Content will vary slightly at the remaining three training events depending on the needs of each group and availability of presenters.

The next Regional Event will take place November 3 – 6 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay. The final two events will be held November 10-13 in Sudbury at the Days Inn and November 18-20 in Peterborough at the Holiday Inn.



MUNSCH AT HOME CONTEST!



Canadian Families can enter to win a visit from Robert Munsch to their own private ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day™ (FLD) event.

All they have to do is write and tell us about what they are planning to do for FLD.

The contest begins on September 12, 2005 and runs through to December 9, 2005 and is open to all Canadian families but not to organized groups, schools, libraries or resource centres.

The winner of the contest will receive a one-hour visit on the evening of Monday, January

23, 2006 by renowned Canadian children's author, Robert Munsch.

Mr. Munsch will spend that time storytelling and visiting with the winning contestants. The event can be held by a single family or a group of families in a private residence and should have a minimum of 8 children and a maximum of 20.

Mr. Munsch is not bilingual and will be conducting the storytelling in English only.

One entry form per family/families please. Entry forms can be downloaded from the ABC CANADA website at www.abc-canada.org.

The contest is judged, not a random draw, and judgement will be based solely on the originality of ideas. Contestant should feel free to explore any literacy-related ideas that they think would make a super FLD party. They can also visit the FLD web site at www.abc-canada.org for ideas.

One of Canada's best-selling and most beloved children's authors, Robert Munsch is Honorary Chair of ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day™. He has written 47 children's books, including *The Paper Bag Princess*, *Mortimer* and *Love You Forever*, which have sold over 18 million copies in North America. Munsch's latest book, *I'm so Embarrassed*, will be published this fall by Scholastic Canada Ltd.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day™ on January 27 is a national initiative of ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation to create public awareness of family literacy issues. ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day™ is supported by major media and other partners, including founding sponsor Honda Canada Inc. ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation is a national charity committed to promoting adult and family literacy to the general public and to the private sector. ABC CANADA's focus is on public awareness programs, providing promotional support to local literacy groups, and conducting research to further the development of a fully literate Canadian population.

Contact: Elizabeth Fawcett, Communications Manager,
ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation
1.800.303.1004 email: efawcett@abc-canada.org

Learner's Section

Hi, my name is Carole. I came from an extremely dysfunctional home. That made things a lot worse for my schooling. I didn't do much work in school. I didn't know how. I needed help but basically they would not help me at all whatsoever. I felt like I wasn't worth much at all. Some of my teachers and principle were very angry and frustrated with me. That made me jumpy of them. One time in class this one teacher all of sudden really blew up in anger and frustrations at me. I had very long hair at the time. She was putting her hands all over my hair and was pulling and pulling my hair very hared while screaming of frustrations and anger. I was extremely sad, that one teacher would usually show a lot of anger towards me. I was very afraid of her. At parent and teacher nights my teachers would talk to my mother about problems I had. I felt awful bad about myself. I failed grade two then after that they said they just passed me from grade to grade because I was too old to stay in the same grade. I hardly learned or did anything. I was very bored. I felt very ignored and hurt.

I would forget awful lot. When I was 15 years old, I was in C.A.S. for a while. Then one day they took me to this place where they did E.E.G. (Electro Encephalo Graph). Then everyone started treating me like I didn't have much of a brain at all and ignored me. That's how I found out that C.A.S. had told my family and my school the results from the machine that I was stupid and everyone was telling everyone else that I was stupid. And everyone believed it. That dug an awfully painful deep hole in me. Something was telling me that the results were wrong. I wanted to cry and scream so bad that I am smart and that I do exist. But I had been brought up to swallow all my feelings or that I don't have any. All my life I had found that extremely hard to do. When the pressure could not take it anymore, I would blow up in tears. It went down in my school records as me having emotional problems. Eventually I quite school.

After that I kept on struggling awful lot in life. As I have been learning differently, my true self has been coming out. I don't feel bad about myself anymore. Then one day I ended up coming to the A.S.D.P. (Anishnawbe Skills Development Program, at Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Center). I am not pushed around here whatsoever. Instead I have gotten a lot of help in a lot of ways and improved a lot in a lot of different ways, like my self esteem. I have improved a lot in my math and English. I really like it here.

--I am a proud learner
Carole Landry

Special Thoughts Of You

**When two friends meet
On sunny days
Or stormy nights,
It's just the knowing
Someone cares.**

**Along the road,
The highs and lows,
Each can know
The other will be there.**

**One heart alone
Is like a song designed
Without the melody
Or rhyming verse.**

**When two hearts meet
Love is the light
That brightens every corner
Of the universe.**

Written By: Sheila Howe

Native Women's Resource Centre
Literacy program



Hindu and Nishnawbe Culture Night

Rita, the coordinator of the A.S.D.P., and Peter, the Instructor, invited me to a supper and entertainment at the Italian Cultural Centre, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005. The room where everything was happening is huge. It was all filled up with people. I found everything to be beautiful. It was classy and we would get served at our tables. The bar looked very fancy with fancy drinks. On the menu was Indian food. For appetizers, it was Samosa and Pakora served with sweet and sour tamarind sauce and hot mint chutney. The main course was Chicken Makhani (boneless chicken with curry and sour cream), chicken Tandoori, Lamb Curry. The food was fabulous. The dessert was succulent – the Indian word is gulabjamun, or “milk product”.

There was this one Indian cultural group in their traditional clothes who were making marvellous, classical music; this man was a master with his hands, with a Medangam. It's a type of drum. It was amazing. A woman was singing beautifully, with a beautiful voice. Dr. Inder Nirdosh is the president of Raag Rung. He is a very friendly and warm person.

There were also these native dancers called the Wanuskewin International Dance Troupe dressed in their traditional very gorgeous shiny dancing clothes and also very beautifully made. They put on a bit of a different dancing show than usual Nishnab dancing. The very

young man's dancing was especially full of life and had very energetic dancing. It was dynamic dancing.

There was an arrangement of peacock feathers on each table. We were allowed a feather to take home. Everyone was welcome to come to the lobby to pick up various foods from the night's menu. I very much appreciated the invitation to go to the concert.

Carole Landry

Anishnawbe Skills Development Program
Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Center



In The Eyes of Heaven

I am sitting in the sun.
and at once begin to feel hopeful.
All the sorrow and sadness
leaves my body and joy takes place.
I can feel the warmth upon my face
on my hair, then my eyes;
But I don't mind until the clouds come
back to the chilling reality
I know that I will come back
to the time when I can sit in the sun
once more

By Sheila Howe

Native Women's Resource Centre
Literacy program

PRACTITIONER SHARING AREA

Our thanks to **Theresa Sims** from the BEST Program, Windsor Can Am Indian Friendship Centre, for this article.

I was at the Indigenous Education Coalition community based Curriculum development in London. ShkiMawtch Taw-Win En Mook curriculum project was developed for elementary and secondary First nation schools. Dr Pamela Toulouse and Bonnie Depencier presented the history, overview and interactive CD's and books available.

I found it refreshing, and open for adaptation and modifications for adult literacy. One of the main themes I have heard, "I want to know my culture, my language, my history and my stories." This project is Natives teaching about Natives, rather than having a university, college or ministry or mainstream organization telling us what they learned about our culture.

I would definitely recommend this project to be part of future conferences, workshops or gatherings.

To view the website go to:

<http://www.thenewpath.ca>

When you go to the virtual resource menu there are Native Search Engines, Native Bibliography, Online Encyclopedia, Internet Links, and more.

Just thought I would share this program. In October they will have teaching kits for teaching treaties in the classroom.

The following is a brief outline of this workshop and a book review that Theresa also sent in.

Shki mawtch law-win en-mook

The Path to New Beginnings

Teachings stay with you when they are told in a beautiful and meaningful way.
Advisory Council.

Community Based Curriculum

For the Indigenous Education coalition by Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse (Sagamok Anishnawbek)

Community Based Curriculum

- It is a creative process (linear method)
- It is never finished. Do not lock your units
- It is rewarding
- It is very time consuming (writing / drafts)
- There is no one way to go about it
- It requires a team that is committed
- It needs to begin with your own teachings

Curriculum Process

- Circle of Elders
- Cultural People
- Catalogue your resources
- Establish a Writing team
- Setting the Course
- Drafts and the Communal process
- Professional package and celebration
- Begin the process again

Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse walked through the process for the development of Shki Mawtch Taw-win En-mook Division of units of study.

Themes

Units:

Legends

Plant world

Animal world

Anishinabe Expressions

Seven Grandfathers

Mother Earth

Bimaadziwin (Good Life Teachings)

Other units using the thirteen moons

Big Sprit Moon (Gchi-Minid-oo Gil-zis)

January

Bear Moon (Mkwa Gii-zis) February
Sugar Moon (Zis-baak-do-ke Gii-zis) March
Sucker Moon (Name-bin Gii-zis) April
Flower Moon (Waa-waa-skone Gii-zis) May
Strawberry Moon (Ode-mini Gii-zis) June
Berry Moon (Miin Gii-zis) July
Grain Moon (Mnoomin Gii-zis) August
Autumn Moon (Mdaa-mini Gii-zis) September
Falling Leaves Moon (Bin-aak-wil Gii-zis) October
Freezing Moon (Baash-kaa-kodin Gii-zis) November
Little Spirit Moon (Mnid-ooGii-zoons) December

The CD's are being developed on dance styles.

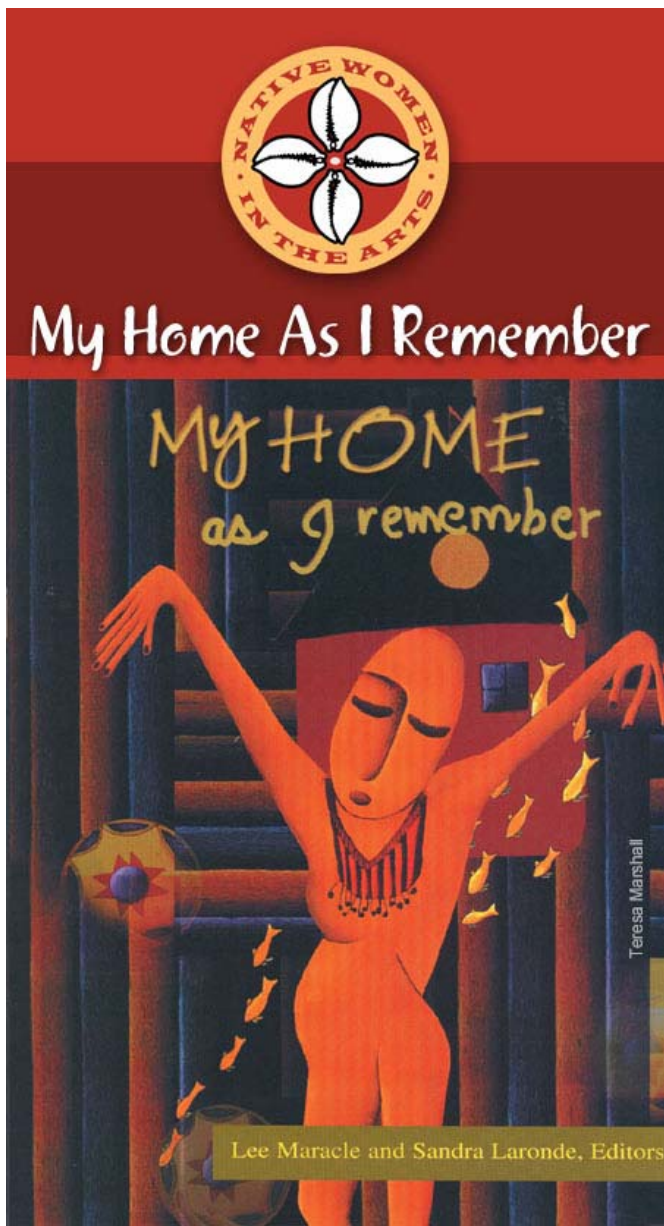
Each level of study has books, stories, games and was developed with the curriculum development standards of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

It was a very positive experience learning about the curriculum that we all have thought about but never had enough time, resources and support to develop.

Yours in Unity,
Theresa Sims

BEST Program
Windsor Can Am Indian Friendship Centre





Limited Copies Available

We hear from different generations of women speak from the heart on identity and place at the turn of the century. We are guided to homes as they remember in varying landscapes: deep woods, reservations, border towns and bustling urban neighbourhoods.

Over 60 writers and visual artists are represented by nearly 25 nations, including writers such as **Chrystos, Lee Maracle, Louise B. Halfe,** and **Kim Anderson,** and visual artists **Joane Cardinal-Schubert, Kenojuak Ashevak, Doreen Jensen, Teresa Marshall** and **Shelley Niro.**

Other contributors include: Sharon L. White, Susan Beaver, MariJo Moore, Charlotte Kayenderes Green, Deborah Ramos, Sharron Proulx-Turner, D. Mahealani Dudoit, Dawn Dumont, Kimberly Blaeser, April E. Lindala, Linda LeGarde Grover, Sharon Syrette, Vera Wabegijig, Melvina Watts, Tina Goerz, Pearl Rose Greene, Karenne Wood, April White, OvilooTunnillie, Napatchie Pootoogook, Mary Pudlat, Melanie Printup Hope, Maurcia de la Torre Garcia, Dozay (Arlene Christmas), Cat Cayuga, Cheryl Savageau, Darmody Mumford, Edna H. King, Carol Snow Moon Bachofner, Mary Lou Cecile Debassige, Michelle Richmond, Lucie Idlout, Cynthia Lickers, Sandra Abena Songbird-Naylor, Jillian Tipene, Rosemary White Shield, Marion W. Macdonald, Kate Berne Miller, Dolly Peltier, Merlin Homer, LauraLee K. Harris, Sondra Cross, Heather J. Henry, Maria Hupfield, Ann Wesley, Murielle Borst, Marie Pruitt, Madeline Katt Theriault, Frances Beaulieu, Abby Cote, Jan Bourdeau Waboose, and Gloria May Eshkibok.

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www.nativewomeninthearts.com

Thanks again to Theresa for providing this information for our fall Newsletter

NATIVE RESOURCES

available for loan through
the AlphaPlus Library

We are very pleased that Michelle Corneau, the new Aboriginal Field Consultant with AlphaPlus, will be attending each of our fall Regional Training Events in order to get to know the practitioners in our programs.

The AlphaPlus Centre Library is a source for any practitioner wanting to borrow books, software, videos, etc.

Once you are registered with AlphaPlus (www.alphaplus.ca) they will loan you materials for a period of 4 months and they cover the costs of both shipping and returning them.

You can go online and check out their catalogue to find resources but if you are unsure of what you need, or what they have, Michelle or one of the AlphaPlus librarians will be happy to help you find exactly what you need.

The following two new resources have recently been added to the AlphaPlus Centre library, Native Stream section.

Aboriginal Culture

Secwepemc nation.

<http://www.secwepemc.org/main.html>

Learn about the life and culture of the Secwepemc People (Shuswap) of south-central BC. Also includes information about the First Nations Adult Education Programs offered by the Secwepemc Education Institute.

The grand entry.

<http://www.nald.ca/STORY/archive/1999/99may31/grand/page1.htm>

A learner written article about powwows, which includes photographs of various dancers and links to other sites of interest.

Native circle: words of wisdom.

<http://www.nativecircle.com/wisdom.html>

A series of quotes, many from Native peoples, that may be used to facilitate classroom discussion.

Health literacy

Aboriginal peoples.

[http://www.canadian-health-network.ca/servlet/ContentServer?cid=1044475860190&pagename=CHN-](http://www.canadian-health-network.ca/servlet/ContentServer?cid=1044475860190&pagename=CHN-RCS%2FPPage%2FGTPageTemplate&c=Page&lang=En)

[RCS%2FPPage%2FGTPageTemplate&c=Page&lang=En](http://www.canadian-health-network.ca/servlet/ContentServer?cid=1044475860190&pagename=CHN-RCS%2FPPage%2FGTPageTemplate&c=Page&lang=En)

Contains health information on a variety of topics for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Learner Collection

First contact

Cornelius J. Jaenen.

Richly illustrated with maps, historical graphics, documents, paintings and portraits, First Contact examines the history of Aboriginal peoples in Canada from its beginnings to the present day.

Native Learners Collection 971.01 J11

Audiovisual Collection

Atanarjuat, the fast runner

Writer, Paul Apak Angilirq ; director, Zaharias Kunuk ; producers, Paul Apak Angilirq, Norman Cohn, Zacharias Kunuk ; executive producer (NFB), Sally Bochner ; producer (NFB), Germaine Ying Gee Wong ; produced by Igloodik Isuma Productions, Inc in association with National Film Board of Canada.

Montréal, Québec: Alliance Atlantis, c2000.

A retelling of an Inuit legend of love, jealousy, murder and revenge in the Igloodik brothers Atanarjuat and Amaqjuaq.

Native Audiovisual Collection 791.4372 A74

The long walk

A Bibby Productions Ltd. and National Film Board of Canada co-production; directed by Alan Bibby.

Montréal, Québec: National Film Board of Canada, 1998.

This film follows Ken Ward, the first Native Canadian to go public with his HIV diagnosis, as he visits jails, schools and communities across the Prairies promoting prevention and treatment. He works mainly among First Nations people, where the epidemic is often

compounded by isolation and poverty, and where he hopes to enable communities to accept and help their members with the disease.

Native Audiovisual Collection 616.9792 T34 W13

General Collection

Anti-racism, feminism, and critical approaches to education

Edited by Roxana Ng, Pat Staton, and Joyce Scane. Toronto, Ont.: OISE Press, 1995.

"This book maintains that there has not been sufficient dialogue and cross-fertilization between various forms of critical approaches to education, notably multicultural/anti-racist education, feminist pedagogy, and critical pedagogy. Contributors from Canada and the United States address educational issues relevant to Aboriginal peoples, people of colour, and people of religious minorities in light of feminist and critical pedagogical theory" -- back cover.

Native General Collection 370.115 A56

The best I can be: living with fetal alcohol syndrome/effects

By Liz Kulp; co-written by Jodee Kulp. Brooklyn Park, Minn.: Better Endings New Beginnings, c2000.

Native General Collection 618.3268 K78 K78

Research methods

Decolonizing methodologies: research and indigenous peoples

Linda Tuhiwai Smith.

London, U.K. : Zed Books, c1999.

"From the vantage point of the colonized, the term 'research' is inextricably linked with European colonialists; the way in which scientific research has been implicated in the worst excesses of imperialism remains a powerful remembered history for many of the world's colonized peoples. Here, an indigenous researcher issues a clarion call for the decolonization of research methods" -- back cover.

Native General Collection 305.80072 S51

To view all the resources in the AlphaPlus Index to Web Resources please visit <http://alphaplus.ca/opnhs/english/subjAuth.asp>

Grass Roots Press

New Release information from Pat Campbell

Living with Stress

By Judy Murphy

Readability: Grades 4-5

Living with Stress is the first of four books in the Easy-to-Read Health Series. The first two chapters provide interactive activities for identifying the stressors in our lives and the ways we respond to stress. The next three chapters deal with strategies for calming our minds, bodies, and breath. The author also discusses how to identify and deal with panic anxiety, burnout, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Parents will appreciate the final chapter, which is "Helping Our Children Deal with Stress". This easy-to-read book contains over 40 illustrations by Val Lawton. The remaining three titles in this series will be published over the course of the next two years. (96 pp)



Our next newsletter will come out this winter so please send us articles of interest, resources you wish to share with your peers and, of course, more stories and poems from your learners.

The board and staff of the ONLC wish you a wonderful fall.