

The Spider's Web

ONTARIO NATIVE LITERACY COALITION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009

Building Capacity for Excellence Project Phase II (Centra Project Update)

It's hard to believe our 7 sessions on Centra have already been completed as of the publication of this newsletter. That seems unbelievable to me as just a short time ago Linda Wright, our Tech Support Person and I were brainstorming the proposal ideas to see what would work and when we could do it. As the lead on the Centra training this time around I looked for teachers within Native literacy who would bring us their expertise and encouragement through the virtual classroom. I sincerely enjoyed working with all three presenters: Karen McClain, who works with me in Peterborough; Michelle Eady who is one of the Co-ordinators of the Sioux Hudson Literacy Council Native literacy program, currently in Australia furthering her own education; and Kirk Fournier who coordinates the great work of the literacy program within the Timmins Native Friendship Centre.

5 great teaching sessions were offered.

Karen brought us truly useful information about training an individual with Level 2 Numeracy skills and tracking his progress. Her sessions were offered in December. Michelle helped us understand the way we learn and how literacy skill acquisition and learning are linked.

She also brought forward some teaching ideas to help our adults who missed out as kids, so they can get some of the gaps filled while they're with us. She taught these sessions in January and February. Kirk also taught us in February bringing us information about 3 key areas of learning disabilities that we are quite likely to encounter when working with our adult learners. He offered some strategies to keep in mind when working with learners who have barriers of all kinds. On March 3rd we wrapped up what all three teachers had shown us and checked out the companion website for this training series.



"What an eye opener"
Comment from a Centra partici-

At the beginning of this training series which, as you can guess by now, was focused on the teaching part of what we do, we provided lots of time in a Centra Session called the Overview, offered in early November. The purpose of this session was to get the participants used to using the

features of Centra as it had changed a lot—definitely for the better. For those brand new to Centra, using the tools and actively participating was a piece of cake. All the newbies were dazzled by what could happen in a live online session supported by the amazing

Linda Wright. We also talked quite a bit about Moodle at the first session, as this platform has been used in concert with the Centra sessions to allow participants to pick up resources, revisit slides and recorded sessions, and access websites recommended by the trainers.

The Moodle website is active and available for those who wish to check it out. If you want to do so just email Bryant at info@pnlp.org and he'll assign login information. The Moodle website is just that—a website, where you can click on various parts, print them off, just browse around, whatever. What's cool about it, I think, is that you don't have to schedule anything around when it's available. Because it's a website you just need the url NOTE : please use Internet Explorer because Firefox does not like Moodle all that much. Here's the URL: <http://72.38.56.89/moodle>. Every time you visit and do some exploring within the website we will see that you've been in there and we will—are you ready for this—place your name in a draw for a 4 gig memory stick!! The draw takes place on March 31st so get in there soon and get in there often!

The sessions have been recorded and once you access the Moodle site all the links to the recordings are there with explanations of what you can expect when you tune into those sessions.

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As I close I'd like to thank Pam Linklater of the ONLC for the project management portion of this training series. She did all the behind the scenes work that is necessary for this training to happen. And thanks very much to all of you who took time out of your crazy schedules to participate. You enriched the sessions greatly by getting involved!

Submitted by: Pat Powell Owen



News from Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre

Critical Carpentry

The Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship Program is at the half way mark, and it is time to reflect on what has engaged the students, what left them cold, and where we will be going in our final weeks.

With such a diverse and enthusiastic bunch, it seemed that broadening the spectrum of the curriculum was an immediate need to keep our student's enthusiastic about improving their English and communication skills. Using only conventional approaches to education, which sometimes overlooks



the skill of critical thinking, would have been a disservice to the class. With this in mind, we delved into some interesting issues such as the environment, the economy, and continuing challenges that Aboriginal peoples continue to face in and outside of their communities. Through our rousing discussions, we have questioned the mainstream, and continue to look for alternative ways of learning and reaching our goals, whether personal, academic, or professional.

It has been a fulfilling and wonder-

ful experience where both teacher and students continue to challenge and engage each other in their goal toward life long learning.

Diane Simone is an English and Communications instructor for the 12 week Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship Program through Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre that prepares students for college studies and career in carpentry.

Submitted by Diane Simone.

Self-management, Self-direction Skills: Going Back to the Basics

The ONLC SM/SD Advisory Group has selected six Native LBS programs to pilot the SM/SD manual the ONLC would like to collect feedback and information from the rest of the Native LBS field.

The SM/SD draft Facilitator manual and Draft Student workbook were introduced at the ONLC 2008 Fall conference in the plenary session presented by Katherine Shine.



Attending programs were encouraged to use the manual and to track any comments or feedback.

The ONLC wishes to improve the SM/SD manual and workbook from the feedback received from the pilot

sites as well as with the feedback from the field so that this resource is the best it can be.

If you have started to or plan to start using this resource please contact Pam at the ONLC office to receive a copy of the Feedback form.

Who's in Ontario Native LBS

Clara Corbiere is the literacy practitioner at M'Chigeeng Adult and Continuing Education Program.

Welcome to Goodie Dockstader who is the new literacy practitioner at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre.

Darlene Elm joins the CanAm Indian Friendship Centre in Windsor as their literacy practitioner.

Marie Belliveau has just been hired as the literacy practitioner at the Niagara Regional Native Centre, St. Catharines.

The ONLC would like to extend their welcome to these new practitioners.

The ONLC is here to provide information, support and training to Native literacy practitioners in Ontario, so please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions.

Please note that an updated program contact list has been sent out to programs via email with these changes.



Good Learning Anywhere –Sioux Hudson Literacy Council Spring Course Schedule



D A Y T I M E	English Upgrading	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30am - noon ET	Starts April 28th for 8 weeks	Do you want to feel more confident in your writing at work or at home? This course will review the basics and work to improve your grammar.
	PreGED Math	Monday and Wednesdays 10:30 - noon ET	Starts April 27th for 8 weeks	Operations, fractions, and problem solving will be covered in this course to strengthen your math skills or prepare for a GED preparation course.
	PreGED Science	Mondays and Wednesdays 2 - 3:30 pm ET	Starts May 11th for 6 weeks	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Life Sciences - these topics will be introduced to anyone with an interest in the Sciences or to prepare for a GED preparation course.
	PreGED Reading	Tuesday and Thursdays 2 - 3:30 pm ET	Starts May 12th for 6 weeks	Poetry, Fiction and Non-fiction will be explored as we look at works of writing by Native authors and examples of the type of questions asked on the GED.
	PreGED Math	Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 - 3:30 pm	Starts June 23rd for 8 weeks	Operations, fractions, and problem solving will be covered in this course to strengthen your math skills or prepare for a GED preparation course.
	English Upgrading	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 - noon	Starts June 23rd for 8 weeks	Do you want to feel more confident in your writing at work or at home? This course will review the basics and work to improve your grammar.
E V E N I N G	English Upgrading	Mondays and Wednesdays 7:30 - 9pm ET	Starts April 27th for 8 weeks	Do you want to feel more confident in your writing at work or at home? This course will review the basics and work to improve your grammar.
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Registration deadline is **ONE WEEK** before the start date of the course.

SHLC offers a variety of live time as well as independent learning online courses check out their website at www.sioxhudsonliteracy.com for more courses and information

What's New @ N.A.L.D. (National Adult Literacy Database Inc.)

Choose to Change—Booklet illustrating AA's Twelve Steps to Sobriety



The publication *Choose to Change* was the brainchild of inmates in the Literacy Program at Brandon Correctional institution in Brandon Manitoba.

In following the Twelve Steps to Sobriety program through Alcoholics

Anonymous, the inmates wanted to produce a booklet that was meaningful to themselves and to others who have a problem with alcohol and/or drugs.

After many discussions it was decided that the Twelve Steps to Sobriety would be illustrated in a manner that would reflect the Aboriginal culture and would

be appropriate for youth.

This printing of *Choose to Change* was made possible by a grant from the Retail Technology Team of CIBC.

Cost:

- Within Canada—\$5.00 per copy, delivered
- Outside Canada—\$5.00 per copy in U.S. funds, plus a nominal postage fee

Note: \$4.00 from each sale goes to the Inmates Fund at the Brandon Correctional Institution and \$1.00 is retained by NALD for future reproduction costs of the booklet.

To order copies, please contact:

National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) at:

Tel: 506-457-6900

In Canada: Toll Free: 1-800-720-6253

Fax: 506-457-6910

E-mail: ContactNALD@nald.ca

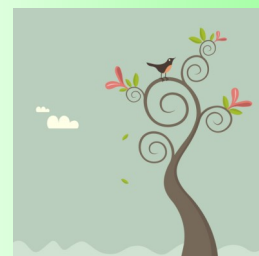
You may also write to:

National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) Inc.

Sterling House, 767 Brunswick Street

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Canada E3B 1H8



New Publication—Beyond the Book: Learning From Our History

Article Source: Ontario Literacy Coalition December 8, 2008.

Welcome to the past, present and future of lifelong learning. This publication is essential for anyone (especially new staff in literacy and other social service organizations) wishing to understand literacy's history and the variety of programs in Ontario today. Ontario literacy Coalition (OLC) saw a gap in the history books. There were none

written about literacy's long and varied history.

Beyond the Book: Learning From Our History is Canada's first documentation of literacy as a historical movement. It takes a critical look at literacy from the 19th century and continues its storytelling to include present-day programming in Ontario. The OLC hopes this publication will build a stronger sense of pride in the literacy field as well

as establish a base from which to research and inform adult literacy into the future.

Complete with discussion points at the end of each historical vignette, this document is ideal for practitioners of literacy and education, or for any lover of lifelong learning.



To order this publication, contact olc@on.literacy.ca

The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge

Are you a young Aboriginal writer with a story to tell? Are you between the ages of 14-18 or 19-29? Showcase your creative writing and win great prizes!

The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge is fun and easy and there is no charge to enter. Simply choose a moment in Aboriginal history and explore it through a piece of creative writ-



Classes & groups are eligible for additional prizes!

ing.

The event selected should be tied to Canada's past and/or your ancestral history. It can date as far back as a traditional legend or as recently as the June 2008 apology for residential schools. You are encouraged to be creative in your choice of writing styles.

Win cash prizes and have your

story published in "The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine".

For contest guidelines, call 1-866-538-4704 or visit

www.GoToInfo.ca/Writing

Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2009

First Nations Stories & Teachings

Dancers

They are beautiful to behold
 Strong and graceful
 The radiance of their regalia outshone only
 By the sheer joy of the dance
 Lost in the moment
 Living in two worlds at once
 They conjure images of days long ago
 Of a way of life, that exists now, only in
 moments such as these
 They bring the past to life if only momentarily
 They touch the heart, tug at the soul
 They are keepers of the past
 A proud reminder of days gone by
 They give us a glimpse of yesterday and hope for tomorrow



Ontario
 Native
 Literacy
 Coalition

*"Empowering the Spirit,
 Ensuring Survival"*

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ONLC Membership Renewals



Another year has gone by and the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition (ONLC) would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and wish you and your family a prosperous and happy 2009.

As spring approaches, our thoughts naturally turn to new beginnings and planning for the future.

It is also the time to think about renewing your annual membership with the ONLC.

We hope that you have found your membership with the ONLC

worthwhile over the past year and that you will consider renewing your membership with us.

The fee for an "Individual" membership is \$10.00 and the fee for an "Organization" membership is \$25.00.

We look forward to receiving your membership renewals and encourage you to contact our office if you have any questions.

Benefits of Membership

- ⊕ Members receive regular updates related to Native Literacy issues
- ⊕ Members are notified of all upcoming events and training conferences
- ⊕ Members have the opportunity to attend the Annual General Meeting
- ⊕ Members receive a discount on all training events and conference put on by the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition
- ⊕ Members may cast one vote at the Annual General Meeting
- ⊕ Members in good standing can put their names forward for election to the ONLC Board of Directors

You can become a member of ONLC, or renew your membership, by going to our website at www.onlc.ca.
 We look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Wishing everyone a safe and pleasant
 Spring Season!**

Ontario Native Literacy Coalition Board of Directors

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 Alesia Boyer – Vice President
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