

# Literacy Partners of Manitoba May 2011 E-news

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**National Access Awareness Week**  
 May 29 - June 4

**June 1-3 CSTD National Symposium in Winnipeg** The Canadian Society for Training & Development symposium offers strategies for assessing performance needs and designing, facilitating and evaluating training.  
<http://www.cvent.com/events/2011-national-symposium/event-summary-254A3CCAD7E9477D9A74A8E-FAAFCD330.aspx>

**June 7 New Trends in Education: Formal, Non-Formal and Informal Learning - Implications for Evaluation and Assessment** with Dr. Sarah Eaton. [Ontario Literacy Coalition Hosting Free Webinars](#) provide opportunities for professional development. This session is about the differences between each type of learning and how to value and assess learning that happens in non-formal and informal contexts.

**Winnipeg Plain Language Training August 9 & 10**  
 Are you reaching all your readers? Is your writing clear and understandable to everyone? Plain Language enhances comprehension and increases your messages effectiveness. Learn the principles of Plain Language Day 1 and advanced skills Day 2. Both days include hands-on exercises. Please see our website for registration information, times and location. [www.mb.literacy.ca](http://www.mb.literacy.ca)



## Thank you Manitoba!

The Winnipeg Foundation's 90-Hour Giving Challenge a HUGE success! Winnipeggers rose to the challenge last month, contributing \$406,212 to 129 local charities. Along with the \$90,000 provided by The Foundation, almost half a million dollars was raised in only 90 hours. Literacy Partners of Manitoba received nine gifts totaling \$1331.10, and receives \$311.76 in matching funds from the Winnipeg Foundation. Thank you for supporting LPM and our work!

## A message from the Executive Director

For many Manitobans the month of May has been a challenge as they face flooded homes, fields, and have had their livelihood compromised. I saw how much water there really was when I flew to Saskatoon. Our thoughts are with those experiencing this and who are working to prevent more damage. Our trip to Saskatoon to dialogue with colleagues at Saskatchewan Literacy Network was an empowering opportunity. We spent a day and a half of great networking, learning and ideating with many of their team. Our thanks to the SLN staff for their willingness to share information on their programs with us. In addition, we had the opportunity to visit the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network – Carole Van Dale was happy to share the role that their organization plays in the province. Thanks Carole.

Earlier in the month, Jeremy Johnson and I increased our understanding of the role Workplace Education Manitoba fills in our province. Literacy and Essential Skills are an important piece to our overall strategy so the opportunity to meeting with them was most helpful. Thanks to Sandi Howell and her staff for their time and energy as well.

This month we reviewed Raise-a-Reader applications with our media partner, The Winnipeg Free Press, and close to \$40,000 grants will be given out to family literacy organizations across Manitoba! As we enter June we are working on our program plans for September and summarizing our achievements of the past year. We wish our volunteer resource coordinator Susan Hamilton all the best as she moves into retirement mode. Cheers, Wendy

## LITERACY AWARDS & CONTESTS

### The Jack London Short Fiction Contest

This contest is open to all, and the winning story will be published in the September 2011 issue of Up Here. Along with publication, first-place wins \$750, second-place wins \$250. The deadline is July 1, 2011. For more information see <http://uphere.ca/node/693>

**The Council of the Federation 2011 Literacy Award** nominations are now being sought for recognition in achievements in literacy. The award recognizes educators, volunteers and learners. The deadline is June 10. For more details please see [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/acl/all/awards/cof/pdf/call\\_nom.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/acl/all/awards/cof/pdf/call_nom.pdf)

**The 2011 Canada Post Community Literacy Awards** nominations are now being accepted. Entries must be received in Ottawa by Friday June 3, 2011. Mail submissions to 2011 CANADA POST COMMUNITY LITERACY AWARDS, 2701 RIVERSIDE DR, SUITE N0890, OTTAWA, ON K1A 0B1 For more information see <http://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/aboutus/community/literacy/awards/default.jsf>

### Dr. Alan Middleton Workplace Literacy and Learning Award

This award recognizes an individual for their outstanding achievement towards increasing workplace literacy and essential skills in their community and place of employment. For details see <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/dr-alan-middleton-workplace-literacy-and-learning-award> .



*Don't forget about the Literacy Partners of Manitoba Resource Library contest, available on-line or in person at our office! See our website for more details [www.mb.literacy.ca](http://www.mb.literacy.ca).*



## Top 5 NALD Downloads for April 2011

Each month NALD releases statistics about their top library downloads. The report examines the number of NALD documents viewed and downloaded by visitors to their websites. The resources come from different regions of Canada.

**Academic Studies English: Support Materials and Exercises for Grammar—Part I: Parts of Speech** <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/academic/english/grammar/speech/module5.pdf>

**Money Math - Everyday Math Skills** by NWT Literacy Council <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/nwt/mathskills/moneymath/moneymath.pdf>

**Bridging the Gap Between Literacy and Technology—Education Component—Evaluation Tools** <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/Btg/ed/evaluation/evaluation.pdf>

**Kitchen Math - Everyday Math Skills** by NWT Literacy Council <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/nwt/mathskills/kitchenmath/kitchenmath.pdf>

**Academic Studies English: Support Materials and Exercises for Writing Letters** <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/academic/english/writing/letters/module9.pdf>

## LITERACY RESEARCH

**ABC Life Literacy:** [Canadians admit to needing help with financial literacy skills](#)

**Becoming a Nation of Readers** Fulfilling a need for careful and thorough synthesis of an extensive body of findings on reading, this report presents leading experts' interpretations of both current knowledge of reading and the state and practice of teaching reading. [More...](#)

**Low Health Literacy May Have Deadly Consequences by J. Warner, WebMD Health News** Not knowing enough about basic health can be deadly for people, a new study finds. The study shows that nearly one in five people with heart failure have low health literacy, making them more than twice as likely to die as a result of their condition. [More...](#)

**Almost half of employers forced to teach teens basic literacy and numeracy skills.** More than 2/3 of employers surveyed said school and college grads lacked vital "employability skills." For more details see <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/jobs/8501339/Almost-half-of-employers-forced-to-teach-teenagers-basic-literacy-and-numeracy-skills.html>

**Canadian Council on Learning** CCL is 'Canada's Authoritative Voice on Learning'. Their website has an abundance of free learning information and tools for Canadians. As an independent, non-profit corporation that supplies evidence-based research intended to improve all aspects of learning, they provide relevant research and materials to a wide variety of organizations—including governments, employers, communities and individuals. [View research](#)

*There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.*

**Joseph Brodsky**

*To teach is to learn twice.*

**Joseph Joubert**

*Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension.*

**Kelly L. Briggs**

## Practitioner Resources

**Spin and Spell** [Fun Spelling Game](#)

**Sentence Clubhouse** [Have fun with sentences](#)

[A Quick Guide to Community Literacy Needs Assessments by Connie Jones \(PDF\)](#)

[Seniors Learning \[Video - 8:55\] by Adult Learning Knowledge Centre \(AdLKC\) \(2009\)](#)

[Plain Language: A guide to clear, effective communication - Participant workbook by Saskatchewan Literacy Network \(SLN\) \(2010\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Creating Authentic Materials and Activities for the Adult Literacy Classroom - A Handbook for Practitioners by Erik Jacobson, Sophie Degener and Victoria Purcell-Gates \(2003\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Aboriginal Literacy Fact Sheet by Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. \(SALN\), Saskatchewan Literacy Network \(SLN\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Assistive Technology Information: Guide for Literacy Practitioners by Literacy Nova Scotia \(2010\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Made in Canada: New adult literacy, ESL titles from Grass Roots Press \(PDF\)](#)

**Canadian Discovery Portal** is a free service that enables users to search diverse digital collections from libraries, museums, and archives. It is the best single source for Canadian books, journals, newspapers, photographs, maps, and more. [More...](#)

### ***Congratulations WEM, on 20 years of workplace essential skills in MB!***

Workplace Education Manitoba (WEM) began in 1991 when the government of Manitoba issued a report uncovering the critical need for the province to address workplace literacy as a means of economic growth. Leaders in labour and business took notice, and representatives from all three sectors came together to form the Workplace Education Manitoba Steering Committee (WEMSC). Twenty years later, with accessible online information, offices, and coordinators that have created a network of projects across the province, WEM has become the go-to for workplace learning & training.

When asked what has made WEM so incredibly successful, Sandi Howell, Manitoba's Coordinator for Essential Skills, says "Everything is from a functional perspective. We don't just teach writing. We ask, 'What is the writing used for in the workplace?'" Adding that it is the relevant application of each essential skill that is "highly motivating for learners".

WEM knows exactly what employers and workers are looking for. Its partnership model takes a systemic approach that begins by asking: what are the specific needs of both employers and workers? Lindsay Laidlaw, Special Projects Coordinator at WEM, says "Every part of the process is not only customized but is guided by an essential skills framework where the end goal is to support workers in becoming more effective, efficient and adaptable." For more information visit the [WEM website](#).

Excerpted from *The Essential Skills Bulletin* produced by the [Ontario Literacy Coalition](#)

## ***Literacy Partners of Manitoba ...***

- ***is your literacy link***
- ***helps adults access learning programs through our Learn Line***
- ***maintains a library of literacy resources, reports, and research materials***
- ***offers workshops & training in plain language and related topics***
- ***hosts literacy events and fundraisers***
- ***administers grants and bursaries for learners and practitioners***
- ***publishes learner & instructor writing in Write On! Magazine twice a year***
- ***empowers and engages adults in continuous learning through networks and strategic partnerships***



### **Contact Info**

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