



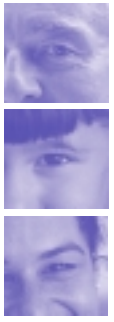
Literacy Partners of Manitoba

WRITE ON!

Volume 11 No. 4

November 2001

ISSN 1481-5117



LPM wins Canada Post Award for Community Leadership



Marg Rose accepts Community Leadership award from Roy Nias of Canada Post

The prestigious Canada Post award for Community Leadership in Literacy was presented this year to Literacy Partners of Manitoba (LPM) at a special ceremony held on September 28 at the Delta Hotel in Winnipeg.

This award honours non-profit, volunteer and labour organizations that have demonstrated long-term achievement, innovation, leadership and organizational excellence in furthering the cause of literacy. Twelve are chosen across Canada.

Executive Director **Marg Rose** accepted the award on behalf of LPM. She emphasized that all the provincial “partners” need to be recognized: board, staff, literacy instructors, tutors, learners, business supporters, government. “Low literacy is a pressing social and economic issue that affects us all. It is too great for any one sector to tackle alone. We all need to be part of the solution. We need all hands on deck,” she said.

She asked the audience to imagine themselves as frustrated learners. “Imagine if your employer required you to be an expert on

PowerPoint within a week. Imagine if you had to work your way through a five-page legal document before being accepted for vital surgery.”

“Many people with low literacy skills feel this kind of fear and insecurity,” she said. They may be afraid their boss will ask them to write a memo. They may be unable to read a bedtime

story to their children. Or they may have to upgrade their skills to a grade 12 level by the end of the year to keep their job. These are the people we serve.”

Marg informed the audience that 107,000 adult Manitobans have less than a grade nine education. “This is unacceptable in a modern democracy. We must continue to work together to offer people a second chance at an education.”

Individual Achievement Award

Donna Arce-Black was one of those adults to take advantage of a second chance. Starting with less than a grade nine education, she achieved her goals, a GED and a good job, in the space of two years. Donna was presented with the Canada Post learner award for Individual Achievement.

This award celebrates the achievements of learners who have successfully overcome social or economic barriers by improving their literacy skills.

Donna now works as a teacher’s assistant for behaviorally challenged children. She

is planning to continue her studies at Red River Community College.

She spoke eloquently of how her dream of finishing school had become a reality. “When I got frustrated,” she said, “and thought of quitting, I looked at the angelic face of my little girl and thought, ‘I’ve got to do it for her.’”

Donna will be an excellent role model for her daughter. Already, she has inspired her husband and her brothers to go back to school.

She paid special tribute to her mentor and teacher, **Emily Johnson**, who had encouraged her to keep going.

National Educator award

Another teacher, **Elma Gerwin**, accepted the Educator award. This award honours five Canadian educators, tutors and advocates who have demonstrated a commitment to the cause of literacy.

She thanked all her former students without whom, she said, she wouldn’t be receiving this honour. “You have given me more than I have given you.”

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President's Report

by Sylvia Provenski

"Shift Happens", was the title used by **Dr. Kathleen Taylor**, keynote speaker at ASEC's Fourth Annual Conference. Dr. Taylor was referring to the shift, or change, that occurs in adults through learning. No matter what our background, we have all experienced the excitement of growing and changing as the result of a good learning experience.

Most practitioners spend countless hours finding a way to present new and interesting lessons to their learners, yet seldom have the time or opportunity to indulge in the same kind of learning themselves. Therefore, it is important that practitioners also take advantage of opportunities for learning and growth when they arise.

You will soon have an opportunity to learn from others who work in some aspect of the literacy field. Whether you are a learner, teacher, tutor, or supporter, the LPM conference, *Improving the Effectiveness of Adult Learning*, will provide topics of interest to all. Ellen Long, researcher and author, will share her research on why so many adults try to enter literacy or upgrading programs yet never get there. She will also provide some strategies for recruiting and retaining learners. David Sherwood, author of *Certified Literate Communities*, will illustrate how the community-building model is a strong force for making "shift happen". There are also many exciting workshops on family literacy, ESL, Aboriginal perspectives on the language of literacy, On-Site Analysis, Plain Language, the Learner Speakers' Bureau, FirstClass electronic conferencing, research, financial planning, funding, and resources.

Immediately following the conference on Saturday, LPM will host its AGM. As an LPM member, this is your opportunity to have a direct say in what you would like this organization to do for you, and how you would like us to do it. Would you like to make "shift happen"? We need your feedback on changes to the Constitution, and other important matters. The proposed changes to the constitution were included in the last issue of *Write On!*, and can also be found on the Literacy Partners web site.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the conference and hearing your input at the AGM.

Sylvia

Beausejour Receives Literacy Grant

Literacy Partners of Manitoba has received a \$43,575 grant towards a project to have Beausejour recognised as a Certified Literate Community. The grant is funded as part of the Canadian Rural Partnerships program of Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, a program which supports projects which seek to improve the quality of life in a rural community.

The first of its kind in Manitoba, this project is inspired by and adapted from similar ones in Georgia, U.S.A., and Cornwall, Ontario, where communities accepted that whatever the causes of low literacy, only by having all the community leaders working together, could its devastating effects be overcome.

Leading business and social partners will commit themselves to working together to remove the stigma of low literacy and promote lifelong learning. By meeting various criteria of community involvement and increased enrolment in literacy programs, Beausejour will be recognized as a Certified Literate Community and serve as a model for others to follow.

LPM is sponsoring the project. "We chose Beausejour," said Executive Director **Marg Rose**, "because it has a lower literacy and higher unemployment rate than the provincial average. At the same time, with its mixed agricultural base and the beginnings of a light industrial economy, it resembles many similar rural centres that are struggling to move ahead in difficult economic times."

The goals of the project are threefold:
a. to increase public awareness of the problem of low literacy

b. to raise literacy levels generally, through promoting the importance of reading in the family, encouraging people to stay at school, and bringing adults who dropped out, back to lifelong learning programs,

c. to encourage the use of plain language by organizations who deal with low literacy people.

Leading the project is local adult literacy instructor **Lee Tavares-Jackubec**. She spoke enthusiastically about the benefits of the project to Beausejour and the neighbouring community. "Not only will the community benefit from higher literacy and employment levels," she said, "but it will be able to market itself as a progressive learning community, a model for others to follow."

One of the first tasks of the steering committee will be to review and endorse the criteria for Certified Literate Community status. These criteria, originally set by the state of Georgia, USA, are the outcomes to be achieved by a community if it is to be recognized as a Certified Literate Community.

Many local leaders are already committed to the project. Letters of support were sent from **Fred Kazina**, Mayor of Beausejour; **Al Tymko**, Reeve of Brokenhead; and **Barry Vokey**, Chair of the Eastman Regional Assessment Committee representing 25 regional organizations.

"We proudly support the efforts of the Literacy Partners of Manitoba and believe that the Beausejour area can meet the criteria to be recognized as a model Certified Literate Community," said Mayor Fred Kazina.

David Sherwood, leader of the model project in Cornwall, will be speaking at the LPM conference on November 16.

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News from the Regions



From the West

by Alanna Hillis

Fall is definitely here and with it come all of the activities offered for everyone involved in the literacy field.

On September 27, 2001, I attended a Family Literacy Planning Meeting in Winnipeg along with many of the province's leaders in the field. It was very rewarding to be able to listen to and share ideas with these people. A general theme for the province has been set: "Everybody Read a Book". All persons involved with a family literacy event on January 27, 2002, are encouraged to share and use the theme.

On Saturday, September 29, I attended a day-long workshop, "Measuring Outcomes", hosted by the United Way Agency. WOW! We were shown how to measure our organizations for success. For many of us it was a real eye-opener. If anyone would like further information about this workshop, please give me a call at 727-6017.

Another session of "Mother Goose Parent Child Training" was presented in the region. Once again there was a very good turnout for this event. Thanks to **Terri Moar** for taking time from her busy schedule to do this two-day training for our region. Practitioners were present from several of the literacy programs in the region.

I have just received the monthly report from **Holly Asham**, who was hired by the coalition to research several funding related topics in the province of Manitoba. Holly will be posting the report to the listserv as well as emailing members of the original committee who attended the meeting in Winnipeg on March 5, 2001.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the upcoming Literacy Partners' Conference on November 16-17. There are an excellent keynote speaker and many great sessions to choose from this year. A big round of applause goes out to **Marg Rose** and her dedicated staff at the Literacy Partners office for all the time and effort dedicated to this conference.

See you in November.



From the Interlake

by Rob Sarginson

This year sees the largest turnover of staff and the extension of service in the Interlake in recent memory.

Altogether, **Margaret Chambers** of the **Interlake Adult Learning Association** has hired staff for a dozen classes in the upper Interlake. This is a major accomplishment. The programs are reaching more adults in more communities than ever before.

In **Ashern** and **Stonewall**, dynamic community support committees have created the foundations for new programs. The boards have hired **Marcey Cherniak** at Stonewall and **Delight Knapp** at Ashern.

At **Fisher Branch**, **David Smith**, who has done excellent work with the GED and basic computer programs, has moved on and has been replaced by **Barbara Payment**.

In **Arborg**, **Carol Goossen**, our Jill of all trades, will devote her energies to the **Gimli Family Literacy program**. **Laureen Paulson** will be teaching the Arborg basic literacy and GED programs.

At **Okno**, **Siggi Heibert** has moved over to the beginner workplace program and handed the basic literacy class to **Juanita Wevurskey**. **Carlin Kilbrei** will guide the advanced workplace literacy class.

Dorrie Kiesman and his crew of volunteers continue to deliver excellent programming at **Lundar** and **Eriksdale**.

Margaret has also arranged for the "Intro to Teaching Adult Literacy" training to be offered in Arborg. The new literacy workers will be learning from a master because the instructor is Barbara Wynes of AL&L.

Meanwhile at **Selkirk**, **Shirley Skogan** has been busy with her classes for weeks. Shirley and several tutors and learners visited with Premier Doer when he attended the International Literacy Day celebrations at the Selkirk St. Andrews Library on September 7. The subsequent story in the local newspaper had a positive impact on program registrations.

Selkirk's evening classes have begun with **Karen Lafrenais** again doing the ba-

sic adult literacy program and **Gerri Foster** returning to do GED.

In **Beausejour**, **Lee Tavares-Jacobek's** day and evening classes are in full swing. When I last saw Lee's group I attempted to scribe for one of her students as I had in the past. But he shooed me away, wrote a paragraph, and looked at me as if I'd come from Mars. I'd forgotten what progress people make when they have great instructors like Lee and her provincial colleagues!

Welcome aboard to all the new instructors! Literacy Partners will help you in any way they can to make your teaching career a rewarding experience. Call me for resources or assistance at 482-6248.



From the North

by Margaret Allan

Recently I took part in **Charles Moody's** workshop on Plain Language Writing. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, looking at how we write, what we write and how we often get caught up in what Charles calls "woolly phrases". Charles gave an excellent presentation and I hope I can keep reminding myself of brevity and clarity every time I write.

While in Winnipeg for Charles' workshop, I also took part in the Winnipeg Public Library's afternoon discussions on Family Literacy Day 2002 and Beyond. We only have one Family Literacy program in the north. But I know that family literacy is becoming more well known and understood and promoted in many programs for children. Several northern libraries, day care centres and Head Start staff have taken part in National Family Literacy activities since they were begun and I look forward to sharing new ideas with them.

As in the past, we have some money in our budget to help subsidize the travel and accommodation costs for northern members who want to attend the Literacy Partners of Manitoba Annual General Meeting. If you're interested in going to the AGM in November, please contact me for more information. My phone number is 677 2872 or you can e-mail me at ncls@NorCom.mb.ca.

Help LPM Fine-Tune its Vision!

by Marg Rose

LPM has engaged the services of a professional communications and marketing company to help us focus our efforts as a coalition in the coming three years. After the social marketing campaign of 2001 produced a new brand (Lifelong Learning and new logo), we wanted to make a systematic plan to continue the momentum we had created through the radio, billboard and mail-out campaign.

We need to identify and measure new key target markets, since the corporate world told us that they thought literacy should be paid out of government dollars rather than private sources. Most business contacts wanted to support literacy through playing golf at the PGI. A few stellar champions emerged (such as **Assante Asset Management Ltd.**, **Global TV**, **Manitoba Lotteries Corporation**, **Boeing Canada**, and several foundations). Connections are still reaping benefits.

It is a long process of building relationships and heightened awareness. How can the organization best support the field, mobilize more learners, and meet our mission which reaches out into the greater community? LPM managed 16 projects last year, in our busiest output ever. That pace is not sustainable with a core staff of two full-time people, and varying numbers of part-time consultants. So, it was time to set priorities. This is a summary of Board discussions of the communications audit.

1. Target Audiences

Who are the **key target audiences** for the adult and family literacy-positive messages? Here are possible choices. Each one requires different tactics, and core messages:

Internal Audiences:

- Members and potential members
- Board leaders
- learners,
- staff and consultants,
- volunteers.

All of us in the organization need to know what is going on and what we do.

External Audiences:

All Manitobans, but specifically:

- Potential learners not yet in programs. The Learner Speakers' Bureau, displays, Word Monster, and LEARN line promotion are LPM methods used to reach out to unattached learners, for example.

- Volunteer organizations. (Sister groups that can help the field have greater impact, such as the Social Planning Council, Partners for Careers, Taking Charge!, MAWEC, ASEC, etc.)
- Libraries and educational institutions (Family Literacy day, and Sept 8th events to herald lifelong learning are common causes for all of us in adult education and outreach)
- Business partners (the PGI, Learner Bursary fund, social and economic issues affecting the labour shortage, compel us to join the Manitoba and Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce on your behalf)
- Funding organizations/ Foundations. Without resources, no program has legs. The average community grant does not cover all the needs and cash required to make a program survive. Partnerships are vital.
- Government liaison. (Through the Movement for Canadian Literacy, we have a day on Parliament Hill to meet with MPs and federal links; through our interactions with provincial policy makers, we try to give encouragement that investing in literacy is a wise decision)

Are there other audiences for the LPM efforts? How much time should be devoted to each market? What tactics work best? How many people does it take to build capacity in these areas? What role can you play, from your vantage point?

2. Core services

Presently, we deliver all of the following services at LPM, and solicit grants to keep them going. We want to provide solutions and services, not just decry the problem on an ongoing basis! *What should we do most? best? Rank your top three choices.*

- Act as a government liaison to give informed advice and information to the largest funding body of programs on their behalf
- Increase public awareness of the importance of adult foundational literacy skills as an economic and social issue, and the continuum of skills that we all possess, and to publicize how to get involved, e.g., Certified Literate Communities model template and pilot.

- Provide an alternative to program enrolment through a Tele-Learning project (more on this in the next issue!)
- Offer professional development (largely led by the Adult Literacy and Learning staff, but supplemented by our conference and workshops)
- Hold special events (Activities to mark Sept 8th World Literacy Day, Jan 27 Family Literacy Day, Manitoba Book Week, Canada Book Day, the Manitoba PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy founded by Peter Gzowski , displays etc)
- Offer Literacy Audits and Clear Writing workshops (we have to walk the talk and show others how to make information accessible to all)
- Operate the lending library and resource centre
- Communicate with the media relations (to keep literacy on the radar screen of ordinary Manitobans and potential partners)
- Offer the Learner Speakers' Bureau (to give learners a voice and have a recruitment tool)
- Operate the LEARN line to refer callers for help or to help with support functions in programs, volunteer coordinator
- Secure resources for programs (fundraising for learner bursaries, channelling national program donations such as the Honda Canada/ABC CANADA Car Play Kit promotion, Canada Post awards out to members)

We examined the strengths, weaknesses and actions possible for each of the above services. To operate them all fully, we really need a full time person in each area. That luxury does not exist. New funding sources have to be solicited yearly to keep this level of service going.

Your Feedback

Where would you suggest we focus for the coming year? Send in your feedback to literacyteach@yahoo.com, or by adding to the visioning folder on First Class so you can see what others think. Talk to Sylvia Provovski to get a First Class electronic account. Join us as we shape our vision for the future!

Skills and Learning Agenda – Startling Stats.

by Marg Rose



David MacDonald speaking at the Essential Skills Symposium in Winnipeg on September 21.

David McDonald, former Director General of the Skills and Learning Agenda of HRDC, outlined pressing demographic trends that are driving the Skills and Learning consultations across Canada. The knowledge economy, mature worker adjustments and skills gaps are critical. We need to develop an adult learning SYSTEM. Here is a sampling of some of his startling statistics:

- By 2031, the net growth of our population will be due to immigration only
- Older workers dominate the labour force. IALS tells us there are 8 million adult workers at Literacy Levels 1 and 2.
- At least 10 skilled trades have an average worker age of 45; succession planning is needed for plumbers, etc.
- The loss of an experienced workforce will heighten the crisis. Low-skilled men who are falling out of the labour force are a concern. There will be a million skills shortages by 2010, the Conference Board of Canada predicts.
- 70% of all new jobs require PSE (Post Secondary Education).
- Only 21% of Canadians are in job-related formal training.
- Fewer than 6% of jobs today require less than high school graduation. People with low education are virtually unemployable if they leave their present positions. If they don't have the skills now, they can't easily get them later.
- Fewer classrooms are available for adult learners due to provincial de-investments in adult education across Canada,

when the federal government withdrew from direct training.

- Prior learning Assessment is not being implemented by colleges and universities fast enough to assist the skills shortage.
- The private sector commitment to job training is still low.
- As many as 18% of Canadian children don't come to school ready to learn. The federal government has an interest in ECE (Early Childhood Education) as one way to break the cycle of low literacy.
- Drop out rates are huge and primarily males (63%). The average high school non-completion rate is now 12%.
- The K to 12 system for First Nations communities needs improvement.
- Rates of participating in university are stagnating in Canada, versus a 600% increase in private sector educational providers. 68% of students default in private school completion.

National Challenges

In the face of these alarming statistics, Mr McDonald outlined some of the challenges facing the federal government.

- Reducing the barriers for those excluded from the labour force
- Helping immigrants obtain meaningful credentials and PSE
- Assisting youth and employers with a smooth school to work transition
- Facilitating access to learning opportunities for the mature worker
- Finding ways to increase the number of HQP (Highly qualified professionals) to drive the innovation economy
- Working collaboratively to develop an adult learning regime for Canada, involving SME (small and medium enterprises), PLA (Prior Learning Assessment), addressing the Labour market demands, including E Learning for continuous improvement and aboriginal learners

Canada Post Awards

(Continued from page 1)

The **Business Leadership Canada** award was presented to **Boeing Canada Technology Canada** in recognition of their innovative basic literacy skills program. This program contains modules designed specifically for

deaf learners, ESL learners, and workers who are struggling with re-certification.

Partners with **Canada Post** in presenting the 2001 Awards were the **Scotiabank Group, Health Canada, National Literacy Secretariat, the Lowe-Martin Group, the National Post, Maclean's Magazine, Les Affaires** and **EDS Canada Inc.**

Grammatically Wondering: To Split or Not to Split?

by Charles Moody

Alas, in his new streamlined version of the newsletter the editor has banished the grammarian to little filler spots. No more space for sweeping articles; only half a column for the occasional grammatical tidbit.

Some old grammatical notions never die. They don't even fade away; they linger on forever, rather like the little word "antidisestablishmentarianism", which lost its meaning a hundred years ago, but is still remembered by some as the longest word in the English language. A similar anachronism is the split infinitive.

Never split an infinitive, says the rule. Why not? Perhaps because infinitives are single words in Latin and therefore can't be split. What's an infinitive? It's the non-conjugated, general rather than particular, form of a verb. *He runs* is specific, finite; *to run* is the infinitive.

The consensus among grammarians is that it's better to say, "To run really well..." rather than "To really run well..."

Sometimes, however, to say what you really mean, you just have to split your infinitive. In fact, that old grammarian and lexicographer, H.W. Fowler, whose name crops up more frequently than "antidisestablishmentarianism", gave a couple of examples in back in 1928, where you can't help but split the infinitive. "To really solve the problem, you need to know calculus." "The president visited Russia to further cement relations." See if you can avoid splitting the infinitive in Fowler's examples. Difficult, isn't it. The adverb will modify the verb only if placed in front of it.

So, here's a new rule. *If you have to, split an infinitive to say what you really want to say.* And please, send in your comments and examples of unavoidably split infinitives.

From the Library

by Linda Dubasov

What a wonderful summer we had! Along with enjoying the fabulous weather and long, lazy evenings, I found this summer at work, challenging, busy and extremely productive! It was really fun to get involved with the Global commercial production and preparations for International Literacy Day in addition to my regular duties in the library. Working with learners directly is always a good reminder of why we are all here!

Summer Cataloguing

A great deal of time this summer was spent cataloguing. Thanks to the Winnipeg Foundation grant, which you have read about before in this column, we were able to add a wide variety of job-search, employability and workplace-related materials to our library collection. These include books from the Manitoba Association of Workplace Educators (MAWEC), the Work Education Manitoba Steering Committee (WEMSC) and Employment Projects of Winnipeg (EPW). I am including a listing of sample materials from this "collection", to give you a sense of the type of resources that are available.

Samplers

I am also in the process of putting together two sampler sets of these materials to circulate to interested programs. These may be kept for a period of two months. If you would like to see one of these please contact me and I will be happy to send one out to you. I will be sending a listing of the contents of these to the listserv when I've put these samplers together, so look for more information there at LPM-L@nald.ca

Library Hours

This year I will be in the library from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday. Of course, you are welcome to come in, browse and borrow materials at any time during regular office hours, which are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. As most of you know, we have extended the loan period on all materials to two months, with a further two-month renewal if required.

Kudos to the UFCW for their contribution of acquisitions dollars to the library (See page 7). It's fabulous to be getting this kind

of support from the union community, and I wish to personally thank **Susan Jones** and **Graham Dowdell** of the UFCW for their generous promotion of our cause. I would also like to thank **Marg Rose**, **Bunny Cobb** and **Susanne Magyar-Chapiel** for so kindly taking over my role of manning the display — I was on holidays during this event!

I will be ordering materials using this unexpected windfall in the near future. Look for titles on the listserv and in a future issue of *Write On!*

Speaking of unions, we recently received a complimentary copy of *Seeds for Change: A Curriculum Guide for Worker-Centred Literacy*, hot off the press from the Canadian Labour Conference. Written by adult educator **Jean Connon-Unda**, this guide brings a union approach to the content and process of worker-centred learning. It uses practical examples to demonstrate how to integrate literacy into a problem-posing curriculum, encouraging critical reflection and action in and beyond the workplace. Please contact me if you are interested in seeing this.

Online Catalogue

Good news about the online catalogue! All of the materials in the library are now included in the catalogue at the website, thanks to the tireless efforts of **Trevor Price** at NALD. Some clean-up of records and general reorganization is still required. This will be done on an ongoing basis over the coming months. Please be patient during this period of construction. Still, bearing this qualification in mind, I am most pleased to be able to let you know that our entire collection can now be accessed online. Please visit us at <http://www.mb.literacy.ca/> and click on [Online Catalogue](#)

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year and to seeing many of you at the Conference next month.

Job Search, Employability and Workplace Resources

Basic Skill Profile of Machine Operators in the Manufacturing Sector presents a summary of the findings of a study of nine manufacturing firms in Manitoba and identifies the basic literacy and numeracy skills required by machine operators.

Non-Technical Essential Skills Handbook for Apparel Industry Supervisors: Interpersonal Communications Decision-Making and Problem-Solving Reading, Writing, Calculating deals with human resource management, interpersonal communication, decision making, problem solving and job skills.

Workplace Oral Communication Curriculum is a useful tool for instructors wishing to conduct a general course on oral communication in the workplace.

101 Great Answers to the Toughest Interview Questions presents a preview of questions most likely to be asked during a job interview and provides tips on how to prepare good answers.

Blue Collar & Beyond: Resumes for Skills Trades and Services provides over a hundred examples of resumes for skills trade and services, such as automotive and heavy equipment, construction and hotel, restaurant and food services.

Get Ahead! Stay Ahead!: Learn the 70 Most Important Career Skills, Traits and Attitudes to Stay Employed! Get Promoted! Get a Better Job! Includes information on marketable skills and aptitudes; personal skills, attitudes and values; formulating a self-development plan; writing resumes.

400 Words that Work: A Life Skills Vocabulary Program introduces students to new words in meaningful contexts. Activities encourage students to expand their vocabulary with related words and synonyms and antonyms.

Best of Problem Solving contains exercises and activities to help adult learners improve problem-solving skills and achieve speaking, thinking and memory goals.

Better Writing for Better Jobs: Real-life Practice and Assessment is a workbook that progresses from simple to complex concepts. Exercises incorporate a variety of writing and business communication principles. Includes quizzes and post-tests.

Literacy News in Brief

Share the Music – and the prizes

LPM has at its disposal a number of concert tickets provided free by the WSO to non-profit organizations. We would like to offer some of these to literacy workers, tutors or learners who send in a contribution to the newsletter. We would welcome

- a letter to the editor
- an item for Literacy News in Brief
- a teaching idea to share
- an article about your program or literacy experience
- a question or comment for Grammatically Speaking

AL&L Website Launched

The site features an online version of the directory with direct links to literacy programs and ALC email and web site addresses. The site also includes a publications page where people can download popular publications including the revised Stages. Older documents will also be posted as they are converted to electronic format. Another page has the accountability timetable for both literacy and ALC with links to the documents that need to be submitted. Finally there is an events & training page where upcoming AL&L events will be posted. Manitoba Adult Educators will also be able to access our online and correspondence courses from that page. Visit the site at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/tce/edutrnl/adultlearning/>

Literacy at UFCW Convention

At the September national convention of the UFCW, literacy was in the spotlight, thanks to efforts of **Susan Jones** and LPM, from a referral from **Graham Dowdell**. A huge "Literacy Information Booth" was mounted at the conference. Pictures of learners in union-sponsored programs, hundreds of handouts and sample materials were on display. This literacy campaign was intended to reach out to the membership, to inform them that literacy is a union issue and how the union is addressing this issue with its membership, i.e. by working in partnership with community literacy organizations, and in learning centres such as the Winnipeg

one. A quiz was given to booth visitors, and donations were solicited for the LPM lending library to send to programs across Manitoba. A grand total of \$377 was received. "We will use this money to buy some of the books chosen by visitors to the convention," said **Linda Dubasov**, LPM Resource Coordinator.

Workplace Essential Skills Offered on PBS

Beginning November 1, 2001, at 10:30 a.m. Prairie Public Television is offering a 24-part workshop which shows how adults can use basic skills to find a job and workplace success. **Workplace Essential Skills**, is a resource of PBS LiteracyLink. Accompanying workbooks and online components are designed to teach and strengthen critical skills presented in the tapes and to give learners a chance to practice and apply what they have learned. Learn more at the education section of prairiepublic.org.

How Do Your Skills Measure Up?

A dozen adult and workplace educators attended a focus group at Journeys Adult Education Centre on October 17 to test-drive the new "How Do Your Skills Measure Up" program on the TOWES website at <http://216.21.145.152>. From this and other focus groups, facilitator **Donna Palmer** is hoping to learn how this site may be used in K-12, Adult Ed, and Literacy programs.

Attention...all Storysackers!

If you have a storysack that you would like to display at our annual conference on November 16 and 17, please contact **Susanne Magyar-Chapiel** at the LPM office. The national project will start up again on November 14 under Jan Greer at NALD

Return of the Word Monster

LPM's new mascot, the Word Monster, will be appearing in this year's Festival of Lights Parade, on Saturday, November 17th. Anyone interested in volunteering with him, should contact the office as soon as possible. We are looking for volunteers to hand out LPM bookmarks along the parade route which starts at Portage and Main at 6:00

and goes to Portage and Broadway by 8:00 p.m. Volunteers will be needed at future events as well, to be the mascot himself, or his escorts. Call Susanne at 947-5757.

Family Literacy Day Volunteers Needed!

Planning has begun for next year's National Family Literacy Day activities....if you are interested in volunteering at the LPM event on Saturday, January 26 at the Garden City Shopping Centre, please contact Susanne at LPM. We are looking for volunteers to help hand out promotional materials from ABC Canada (buttons, bookmarks, brochures etc.) as well as to help with arts and crafts (eg. making books), sing-a-longs, rhyme times, storytelling and so on! We have specifically chosen Garden City Shopping Centre in Winnipeg north end to reach out to families who might not be frequent visitors at bookstores or libraries.

Also, if you are organizing an event, please remember to contact Susanne with details of your event so that it can be publicized along with all of the events taking place around Manitoba. These events will be included in a news release to all Manitoba media, as well as on the LPM Website and ABC Canada website listing family literacy day events across the country. Help us spread the word about the importance of family literacy by getting involved!

Launch of the Facilitator Guidelines for ESL Benchmarks

LPM congratulates the Manitoba team on the launch of the useful guidebook that assists ESL teachers with actual activities at the various ESL benchmark levels in various domains: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Up to half of the Manitoban adults with low literacy do not speak English as their first language, through a lack of an opportunity to obtain formal schooling in refugee camps or in their home countries. Our own Learner Speakers' Bureau members **Jake Knelson** and **Fereba** talk about this experience in their speeches. This tool will be an invaluable resource for adults and educators alike. A copy is in our lending library. To purchase your copy, please email: jpettis@gov.mb.ca for information.

Upcoming Events

5 November, 2001. Effective Board Meetings. Workshop at Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg, 410-5 Donald Street, Winnipeg, R3L 2T4. FFI, call Del at 477-5180.

14-15 November, 13-14 December, 2001, January 14, 2002. Practitioner Leadership Training in Prior Learning Assessment, Instructor, Lois Morin. Brandon. FFI, call 945-3556 or 1-800-282-8069.

16-17 November, 2001. Improving the Effectiveness of Adult Learning, LPM Conference, William and Catherine Booth College, 447 Webb Place, Winnipeg. See below.

21-22 November, 2001, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Parent Child Mother Goose Program Teacher Certification. Bookmates, St John's Library, 500 Salter Street, Winnipeg. FFI, call Colleen at 582-1804.

22-23 November, 2001. Prior Learning Assessment Two-Day Training Event. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Keewatin Community College, The Pas, Manitoba. FFI, call instructor Lois Morin at 945-3556 or 1-800-282-8069.

29 November, 2001, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Storysacks “hands-on” workshop. Bookmates, St John's Library, 500 Salter Street, Winnipeg. FFI, call Colleen at 582-1804.

30 November, 2001. Success with learning Stages. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Provincial Building, Brandon. This one-day workshop will orient practitioners and tutors to a new curriculum resource. Participants will have a hands-on opportunity to become familiar with the Adult Literacy Stages curriculum and develop strategies to promote and deliver this curriculum resource in their program. FFI, call Marie Matheson at 726-6027 or 1-800-262-3930, or Barbara Wynes 945-1053.

14 December, 2001. Deadline for nominations for the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Literacy. Award ceremony will be held at Government House on February 22, 2002. FFI, call Judy Baker at 945-8142.



President:	Sylvia Provenski
Executive Director:	Marg Rose
Administrative Assistant:	Tara Dufresne
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West Region Coordinator:	Alanna Hillis
Manitoba Learner Representative to MCL:	Joe Dutra

**Literacy Partners of Manitoba,
998-167 Lombard Avenue,
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Phone: 947-5757 Fax 956-9315
Email: literacy@magic.mb.ca**

Learner Speakers' Bureau Training

LPM is looking for learners to participate in the **2002 speaker training program**. Build self-confidence. Learn how to speak effectively to a group of people. Have fun and meet other learners. Help others learn about your program.

When: Saturdays from 9:30 to 3:30 on January 5 & 19 and February 2 & 16

Where: LPM office at 998-167 Lombard Avenue

How to register: Call Lynda at 291-1270 or ask at your literacy program for the application form.

LPM Literacy Conference

William and Catherine Booth College 16-17 November, 2001

Improving the Effectiveness of Adult Literacy

Outside experts, family literacy stream, Certified Literate Communities, provocative research and hard questions answered. Come and network with your colleagues. Meet with Word Monster mascot and book him for your home events. Book display and much more. \$75 for two days includes membership renewal. Contact info@oarstraining.com for your brochure, or call 947-5757 to register.

*We have had two further Board nominations, bringing the total to seven. **Emily Johnson's** bio was unavailable; **Liz Merrick's** appears below.*

Liz Merrick

I would like to serve on the LPM board because I am interested in learning more about literacy and how we, as First Nations' people, can use different techniques to raise our literacy levels.

I have over ten years of administration experience in the field of Education, as well as involvement in Adult Learner programs within my community. At this time I sit on the Portage Credit Union Board of Directors.

I am also involved in the Portage Toast Masters' Club. The work-related organizations that I am involved with are the Morris-Macdonald School Division, Literacy Partners of Manitoba and the Portage City Library.