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Transitions & Transformations:
Embracing Change

Spring 2011 Conference
May 12-13, 2011
At Harrison Resort and Spa, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

Our conference focuses on
- excellence in professional development;
- practitioner perspective in the design; and
- implementation of policy and programs.
# ABEABC Board of Directors

## Executive Officers

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# GROUNDWORK

Groundwork is published three times each year by the Adult Basic Education Association of British Columbia. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies of the ABEABC except where explicitly stated. We encourage participation from members and others. **Submissions are welcomed.**

Send manuscripts and accompanying photographs to Lyra Warkentin at Thompson Rivers University PO Box 3010, Kamloops BC V2C 5N3 or by email to: lyrastar@ocis.net

Any part of Groundwork may be copied or used by others, but we request that any use of Groundwork materials be attributed to the author and Groundwork.

**Many thanks to our contributors to this issue.** Editing, design and layout for this issue by Lyra Warkentin

For subscription information, see back cover. The ABEABC homepage can be found at: http://www.abeabc.ca/

This is part of the National Adult Literacy (NALD) Database’s home page at http://www.nald.ca
Greetings

The school year has been off to a busy start. Many agencies have been pleased to register a lot of new students in their various programs. It is always exciting to start a new year and to have new learners in our centers.

It is a rewarding but nostalgic time to say “Goodbye” to our graduating and other departing students in June when many programs have learners who have attained their goals.

We are feeling more comfortable with the Foundation levels now in school district programming, although work remains to be done on the course offerings and the entry testing for those programs.

This year Delta School District had an unusual circumstance. While Calsie Peterson was graduating from Delview Secondary School, her father Calvin was graduating from the Delview Adult Centre. You might have seen them featured in the Vancouver Sun.

Students will come and go but our work goes on. I have worked in adult education for more than thirty years, and if I was to start my work-life again I would make the same career choice. I imagine that many of you feel the same way.

My daughter once visited an adult ESL class with me. When we were driving home she said “The difference between your school and mine is that your students are there because they want to be there!”

Many of our ABEABC agencies have been busy writing proposals for their programs. It is unfortunate that so very much time is devoted to this “pastime” which is taking energy away from the programming that is already active. A more permanent type of funding would be a wonderful solution for many of our member organizations.

I came to Canada from Australia more than forty years ago. When I first came I thought the Vancouver weather was cold. Now that I’ve had so many years here, and so many July’s going back to winter to visit my family, I’ve adapted to the climate. The changing seasons in BC are very evident and exciting, and a wonderful part of life here. I think these early days of autumn are one of my favorite times, with misty mornings, rustling leaves and fresh cool air. I now associate returning to school with the fall weather. I hope that all of our member organizations have a wonderful school year 2010-2011.

Attention: Kootenay Region & North Central Region – regional reps needed.

We are looking for volunteers to be regional representatives in the Kootenays and the North Central area. The position would be for about 6 months, as both of those positions are re-elected in 2011. If no-one in the region is available, we will consider someone who lives outside the region who is willing to make contact with educators in those areas. If you are interested in joining the Board in one of these positions, please contact Yvonne Chard at ychard@deltasd.bc.ca

The membership of the ABEABC is very diverse, fostering and promoting excellence in instruction and programming in a very wide array of programs.

We are the only BC organization which embraces all forms of adult education from basic literacy and English language training to graduation and college entry level.
In August, the School of Access welcomed our new Associate Dean, Sarah Loewen. Sarah grew up on Haida Gwaii and so her personal experience has inspired her passion for reaching out to under-served communities who may be isolated by social, cultural or economic circumstances. We are excited that she brings her leadership skills and an effervescent, hard-working character to the college and community.

Congratulations to Jill Auchinachie who has taken the reins as Chair of Academic and Career Foundations (ACF) for a three year term. Jill has a wealth of experience in ABE including a stint as ABEABC’s Vancouver Island representative. We are fortunate to have Jill in a leadership role! Thank you to outgoing chair, Faith Shields, for her extraordinary 3 year term! Jennifer Bennett is the new chair of our Community Learning Partnerships. Jennifer’s enthusiastic devotion to providing positive learning environments is truly valuable. Thank you to Mark Bissley for his successful 6 year term.

In all areas of Academic Upgrading, Employment Training and Career Preparation (BEST Program), enrollment is high. The student body includes a significantly large number of aboriginal students. We are fortunate to have Aboriginal advisor, Suzanne Wilkinson relocated in the CBA building to be closer to our students.

ACF completed a year long Program Review on October 1st. As a result, a series of focus group sessions were conducted with extremely positive feedback from students feeling supported in their educational goals and upgrading experience. A final focus group with Aboriginal students will be conducted next.

In January 2011 the fundamental math courses will become six levels (Math 021 - 026) instead of two (Math 032 - 033) enabling learning outcomes to be separated into smaller, discreet courses.

The Women in Trades Training Initiative (WTTI) has funding for three years as of July 2010. New and continuing students in academic upgrading are encouraged to apply. Students receiving employment insurance (EI) are not eligible.

A longitudinal research project conducted by mathematics instructor Alison Bowe is being undertaken to track the progress of students beyond our academic upgrading programs.

The recipient of the 2010 ABEABC Achievement Award for Camosun College is Sharilyn Cadwallader.

Sharilyn’s return to school has been an unqualified success. Like many adult learners, she has to fit parenting, working, and studying into a busy life, demonstrating extraordinary time management skills. She has excelled in her studies at Camosun College, earning top grades in English 092 and 094 (Provincial level writing and literature courses.) Sharilyn shows a serious dedication to learning, turning in a consistently high level of work and inspiring her classmates with her commitment and class participation. She is always willing to help others in the class, and her maturity and desire for excellence stirs others in the class (instructor included!) to do their best. There is no doubt that Sharilyn is deserving of this award, and I wish her the very best as she continues to pursue her academic aspirations and her career.

(Continued on page 5)
We’ve Moved! The Reading and Writing Centre, Literacy Program of Vancouver Island University (VIU) formerly Malaspina University College, has moved from its downtown Duncan storefront location to VIU’s Cowichan Campus at 222 Cowichan Way in Duncan, BC. We will be moving again in February 2011 when the new Cowichan Place campus of VIU is completed on the old exhibition grounds in Duncan. Students are especially looking forward to having a kitchen again next door to our classroom like we did in the old storefront location. Last spring students worked on a book project called, “The Voices of the Reading and Writing Centre”. The book was a result of the hard work and vision of many people. The idea for the book project came out of a discussion at our weekly Monday meetings of students and teachers as a way of celebrating our last term in the downtown storefront location. Over many weeks and months students participated in writing activities in their English classes. The stories and poems in the book were chosen by the student writers themselves and represent their best work. Each student wrote and edited their story, and most students also typed their own piece of writing. Some students added pictures and art to accompany their writing. In June students planned a book launch and invited their families, the community and the media. This September students have found their way to our new location and our classes are full. On October 5th we attended a special screening of “Cedar and Bamboo”. This film explores the unique relationships shared by early Chinese immigrants and Indigenous peoples on Canada’s West Coast. Students were interested in both the film and the panel discussion that followed. We would like to acknowledge and thank Literacy BC and the Paul Gallagher Community Access Fund that we applied for and received last year and this year. This grant provides much needed support in assisting students with emergency needs.

North Island College—Submitted by Sandy Faust.

The ABE department at North Island College recently welcomed Tony Bellavia as the new Dean of Developmental and Access. Tony has been visiting the campuses and getting a sense of how things work in our classes. One thing that everyone has noticed is that enrolment is up! It appears that the hard work we put into balancing our scheduled and flexible offerings this year has paid off. In addition to having more students, our department also includes more courses. Due to a college-wide restructuring, our department now includes Advanced and Provincial levels of both English and math.

In keeping with our goal to meet students in their communities, ABE at North Island College now includes two new off-site upgrading programs. In Fort Rupert, our department is offering upgrading to students entering a First Nations Language Instructors’ program. In Gold River, we are offering English upgrading to students preparing for an NIC Cultural Resources Management program.

The recipient of the 2010 ABEABC Achievement Award from North Island College is Eric Kavaliunas.

Photo: Vivian Hermansen, Dean, Developmental and Aboriginal Education, presenting the ABEABC Achievement Award to Eric Kavaliunas

Submitted by Colleen Ferguson, Campbell River Campus.

Eric started out in my Eng. 027 scheduled class about six years ago. In the following semester, he progressed to Eng. 032/033/034 and then on to Eng. 052 and Eng. 098. His effort was tireless and he never missed a class - no excuses here. After completing Eng. 098, Eric took a three-year break and went to work in a tire shop in the BC Interior. He began to think to himself that he did not want to do this type of work for the rest of his life, so he decided to return to NIC for further education. His goal is the Electronics program. When Eric re-applied in September 09, he realized that he had to upgrade his math

(Continued from page 4)

(Continued on page 6)
in order to meet the program prerequisites. He has completed math 02, math 033 and 034. In addition to his math, Eric also, and not because it was required but just for his personal development, completed Eng. 115. It is important to note that Eric has a documented learning disability and with the help of NIC’s access for students with disabilities department and the ABE department, Eric has now entered the NIC electronics program in September 2010. Eric has come a long way since he first set foot in my Eng. 027 class, and NIC with its upgrading courses and accommodations for students with disabilities, can be proud of the way it has assisted this young man work towards his goals.

Cariboo/Okanagan Regional Report
Submitted by Tacey Ruffner

Tonia Gillespie of Street School in Kamloops reports:

There are 175 students in morning and afternoon sessions. Street School welcomed its new teacher, Robbert (Robb) Dolson at the beginning of the school year. Mother Goose will begin at the end of October, running 6-8 weeks every Wednesday. There will be 90 minutes of childcare afterwards. There is a new teacher in charge of Art 12, as well as two additional art volunteers daily for an hour and 25 minutes. Three new courses are being offered: Geography 12, Biology 12, and Math 11 Principles. About 90% of the students have a basic level of literacy. There are two M.A. students who are volunteering this fall. The wonderful relationship with the Anglican Church continues.

Thompson Rivers University (TRU)—University and Career Preparation—submitted by Lee Emery

Due to the realignment of faculties, schools and departments at TRU we now find ourselves in the Faculty of Human, Social and Educational Development. This faculty includes ESL, UPrep, the School of Education, the School of Social Work and Human Service programs. Our Department now, in addition to Fundamental to Provincial ABE programming includes the Education and Skills Training Certificate Program (ESTR) and the Career Orientation and Preparation Empowerment/Men's Education and Career Alternatives programs (COPE/MECA). The new dean of this Faculty is Dr. Charles Weber, formerly of the University of Calgary. His field of research is in Education.

Our department is involved in two new aboriginal programs. One program is the aboriginal pre-health program where First Nations students, as a cohort, take the ABE courses required to enter the School of Nursing. This program is referred to as Aboriginal Pathways to Health Careers. The other program is called the Pathways to Dogwood Program. Here First Nations students take courses necessary for them to earn the BC Adult Graduation Diploma (Adult Dogwood) which then enables them to be employed at the Highland Valley copper mine and a new gold/copper mine also near Kamloops. This program is offered in conjunction with the BC Aboriginal Mine Training Association.

TRU recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary with gala festivities. This gave us a chance to reflect on the evolution of adult basic education programming in our institution. From the early days as one of Cariboo College's signature programs to now being a part of a university, we have much to be proud of. Like all ABE programs, we have helped countless numbers of students find more satisfying and rewarding lives.

On a sadder note, Jim Bray, one of our longest serving faculty members and former president of the Adult Basic Education Association of BC, passed away on October 6th after fighting a courageous battle with melanoma. At his funeral many colleagues and former students attested to the positive impact Jim had on their lives.

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT)—ABEABC Scholarship Recipient Barbara Ann Nippi

The recipient of this years’ ABEABC award was Barbara Ann Nippi. In addition to her ABE achievements, she was also recognized with an NVIT distinguished award. She was unable to receive the awards in person, but she sent this letter of thank you to NVIT and ABEABC:

(Continued on page 7)
I feel as if the mad rush and busyness of the Fall term has finally calmed down. I find myself enjoying the routine my class and I have settled into and the feeling of calm that it brings. I hope only that you are experiencing a similar feeling. I bring you the news from your fellow educators in our region.

**University of the Fraser Valley – Upgrading and University Preparation (UUP)**

The Fall semester has been extremely busy, with an increase in enrolment over previous semesters. We have had some moves and changes in staff and faculty, retirements, marriages, and several student accomplishments and achievements. The Upgrading department also offered our first online course in English. New courses are also underway, adding to the options available to our upgrading students.

Our former Department Head, Dr. Sue Brigden, has moved into a new position as the Dean of Access and Continuing Studies, which oversees our Department. Trudy Archie, former UUP instructor, has taken her place as Department Head. Instructor Janet Gibson has retired and moved on to bigger and better adventures in life.

New students to the UUP department have a more streamlined route on the path to registering for our courses. They are asked to complete an application for admission to UFV prior to being assessed. This in turn allows for a more expedient method of giving students permission to register as they meet with our Instructional Assistants for their assessment results.

Computers 062, Navigating the Digital World, and English 081 Online, Advanced English, are two new courses now being offered. Computers 062 offers an exciting look into current computer technology and online resources. Facebook, Skype, internet services, and the basics of file management and security are covered in this course. As a result of the implementation of a new math program in the public school system, our math working group is taking a proactive approach by rewriting our math program to keep up with the changes.

We were also fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in a Harrison River Boat Tour. Our department members were able to connect, socialize, and network not only with our own department members, but with other members of the community. UFV President Mark Evered and his wife joined us on the boat tour, and spoke with each of us about our courses, students and related interests. This was an educational tour allowing us to learn more about the history of the Harrison River Region through the eyes of a very knowledgeable Aboriginal guide.

We are in the process of finalizing our Winter 2011 timetable. Students are being advised to keep a close eye on their upcoming registration dates to ensure placement in our classes. It looks like it will be another busy semester.

Submitted by Kulwant Gill and Linda Yamaguchi, UUP instructional assistants

**Kwantlen University**

The Academic and Career Prep Dep't at Kwantlen Polytechnic University is now housed within the Faculty of Academic and Career Advancement. The department continues to offer Adult Basic Education in English, Math and Sci-
ence as mandated by the Amended University Act. In addition to ABE, the department also offers University Qualify-
ing Studies in keeping with its new university status and strategic academic planning.

In the Spring of 2009, Kwantlen’s Faculty of Academic and Career Advancement received an endowment of 2.5 mil-
lion from Irving K. Barber. The Irving K. Barber Endowment will provide support that undergraduate students tradition-
ally do not receive. From academic assessment upon entering Kwantlen, to monitoring and follow-up assess-
ments, tutoring, supplementary instruction and seminars, Kwantlen students will greatly benefit from such a rich re-
source.

The Faculty also welcomes Dr. Christine Crowe as its newly appointed Dean. Dr. Crowe began her appointment on
Oct. 4. In keeping with Kwantlen’s core mission of providing post secondary access in the South Fraser region, the
Academic and Career Prep Dep’t will continue to play a key role as a vital access point for students.

DIVERSEcity
Sheryl Jenner, coordinator of the ELSA program, is excited to report that DIVERSEcity will be running the pilot class
ELSA for Youth, age 17-24. Their Pre-Literacy class that began in the spring of 2010 has been a great success:
Sheryl points out that it’s great to have an ELSA level that specifically meets the unique needs of students who are
not literate in either English or their mother tongue and who have had very little exposure to formal education. DI-
VERSEcity now offers ELSA classes in three sites: Newton, Fleetwood and Surrey Central. They offer ELSA Pre-
Literacy and Literacy classes and ELSA levels 1-5 at a variety of times in the morning, afternoon and evening. Free
daytime child minding is available for the children of ELSA students in Newton and Fleetwood.

New Directions
Linda Davies is the ELSA Coordinator and an instructor at New Directions. New Directions has expanded over the
summer to include morning and evening Level 4 and Level 5 classes, which have quickly filled up with new students,
as well as returning students. New Directions offers ELSA day classes ELSA Literacy and levels 1-5; afternoon
classes for ELSA Pre-Literacy and ELSA Literacy; and evening classes for ELSA levels 1-5.

Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS)
Devinder Chattha is the Director of Language and Settlement Services at PICS. PICS offers a Literacy class to early
beginner ESL students who are immigrants. They also offer high intermediate English Instruction to immigrants
through 8 ELSA Level 4 and 5 classes; both full time and part time. PICS also provides Enhanced Child minding for
their students to help them with their child care needs. PICS is located at #205-12725-80th Avenue in Surrey on the
second floor of the Punjab Cloth House. PICS has added another location to its current program on King George
Boulevard in the Dell Shopping Plaza on 105A Avenue. They offer Level 4 and 5 classes at this location in the morn-
ing and in the evening.

PICS offers another ESL program called, “English for the Workplace” in partnership with Simon Fraser University to
help immigrant professionals with their advanced level of English needs. This initiative helps students to find jobs in
their fields of expertise and to update their professional skills. To inquire
about ESL services call 604-596-7722 or visit their website at
www.pics.bc.ca.

SUCCESS Surrey
The new Pre-Literacy class started in July. It quickly reached capacity and
has maintained that level ever since. The Pre-Literacy class is offered three
evenings per week from 6:30-9:30 on Mon, Wed & Thur. SUCCESS contin-
ues to offer 8 daytime ELSA classes and 7 evening classes.
In Memoriam...

Jim Bray (1946-2010)

A former president of the ABE Association of BC, Jim Bray, passed away peacefully, October 6, 2010, in Kamloops, after a lengthy bout with melanoma. He is survived by his wife, Lesley, son Steen, daughter Elise and their families, including two grandchildren, and extended family.

Born in Saskatoon, SK in 1946, Jim taught school in Senlac, SK, then in Boston Bar, BC, finally moving to Kamloops with his wife in 1972 to begin a career in Adult Education at Cariboo College (Thompson Rivers University). From that time forward, Jim has been an energetic and enthusiastic instructor and colleague, first in the BTSD program (Basic Training for Skill Development) and later teaching Intermediate level ABE in the University Prep department.

In the late 70’s, Jim served as chair of the College Foundations department while teaching Level II and III BTSD. In the 80’s he taught a combination of 14 different courses in a self-paced setting and gained an appreciation for working with students at the Fundamentals and Intermediate levels—many years Jim represented Cariboo College at the provincial Fundamentals articulation. Jim was also one of the original MILE (Mobile Independent Learning Experience) van drivers who took Cariboo College to the region. In the early 90’s, he co-authored (with Reg McNamara) a life-skills course designed to be used around the province.

In the mid-90’s, in addition to his teaching load, Jim served one term as president of the ABEABC; he also completed a Masters of Theology degree at the U of A. These experiences led him to follow his passion for helping others and he became active in Bible study groups, working at RIH, officiating at weddings and funerals and leading a church congregation. He served meals at the Men’s Hostel regularly. Also, for many years, Jim was the literacy rep for Cariboo, UCC and TRU on the local scene.

Jim has left a legacy of “caring for others” and is sadly missed by us all.

Submitted by Fred Cunningham

Horizons & Counterpoints, 1st editions: We need your surplus copies


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Council of the Federation Literacy Award Recipients

2010 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Recipient - Pete Grinberg

Pete Grinberg began his career as a high school teacher in Ontario 25 years ago. He later taught at the Kamloops Christian School, where he developed an alternate, self-paced program for struggling students. Since 2003, he has taught at the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre (KRCC).

During his time at the KRCC, he has developed and continues to coordinate Street School, a community literacy program for adults who have learning difficulties and a vital link between the corrections system and the community. Pete actively promotes the Street School and solicits volunteers to support this unique program which helps inmates transition from custody into the community. The program has proven to be successful as enrolment in the program has risen from five students to 170, and this year 19 students will graduate with a grade 12 diploma, whereas only one received a Dogwood certificate in the program's first year.

As an Adult Continuing Education teacher with School District 73 - Kamloops-Thompson, Pete continues to work tirelessly, helping learners reach their individual literacy goals. He also significantly contributes to literacy at a provincial level and within his community, by:

- Participating in the development of the Orientation Guide for Corrections Educators;
- Contributing to the development of the Literacy Foundations Curriculum;
- Acting as a board member of Literacy in Kamloops (L.I.N.K.);
- Speaking at educators' conferences and Boards of Education meetings;
- Initiating community connections with Partner Assisted Literacy (PAL) in Kamloops;
- Starting a Mother Goose program to help meet the early literacy needs of children of Street School students;
- Coaching community sports teams.

Congratulations, Pete!

THE ADDICTION GUIDE

Submitted by Stan Karbowiak, Author and CEO The Addiction Guide

2011 British Columbia Edition

The Addiction Guide is the most concise information source in British Columbia. I have worked in the field of addictions and social services for 20 years with The Salvation Army, and the Provincial Government of British Columbia. I would like the chance to share my knowledge with everyone. I have recently worked in the field of addictions as a Detox Centre Social Worker where I had the opportunity to interview and assess and refer over 6,000 individuals addicted to alcohol and drugs. The guide will assist a professional in the field to anyone who may be inflicted with the problems of addictions. The guide contains information on residential treatment, day programs, outpatient counselling, support groups, and many community organizations that help individuals dealing with the effects of addictions.

If you would like a copy of the The Addiction Guide 2011 British Columbia Edition please contact me at (604) 803-2712
or by email addictionguide@gmail.com.
Please feel free to browse the website for further information at http://www.addictionguide.org

The cost of the printed guide is $40.00 and a CD version, which contains the 2007-08 Metro Vancouver Community Resource Database and the British Columbia Community Resources Directory, $25.00.
"From Across the Oceans: Diversity in Local Art" is the newest exhibit at the Langley Centennial Museum in Fort Langley. The organizer, Inta Schorcht, past instructor and coordinator at New Directions, is very excited about this opportunity to show-case the work of several Lower Mainland artists who have chosen to live, work and raise their families in Canada.

This multi-faceted presentation includes the work of Jong-Jin Lee, Chih-Hsiung (Jackson) Chien, Elena Sambuev, Iris Chen, Lily Ao, Valéry Sokolovski, En-Wei (Michael) Jao, Kosheng Ko, Shu-Chen Huang, Juma Wu, Baljit Kaur, Seonok Lee, Sandra Lin, and Jarnail Singh. Approximately half of these artists were students at New Directions; all of them have crossed an ocean in coming to Canada. Their homelands are diverse, ranging from Taiwan to Estonia, and their chosen art medium is also diverse including oil paints, water colours and sculptures.

Although some of the artists are newer, others have been creating art for years. “The caliber of artist represented here is very high,” reports Inta. Many awards and recognition have been received by all of the artists. Both contemporary and traditional art forms are featured in this exhibit, which is the first of its kind not only at this museum, but in the Lower Mainland. The exhibit runs until January 9th, except for the museum closure, December 24th to January 2nd. More information can be found at www.langleymuseum.org, by contacting the museum at 604-888-3922, or emailing the museum curator, Kobi Howard at khoward@tol.ca.

Did You Know...

...Organizations that are supportive of adult education can have their website linked from the ABEABC website.

Please check your current listing on that page, http://www.abeabc.ca/orga.htm and send any changes or additions to Yvonne Chard, ychard@deltasd.bc.ca.
“Off to the races” sums up this fall for me since I’m busy with new courses to teach. So my first recommendations are lesson-plan driven. I’ve appropriated a couple of good ideas from these sites so far, but I’ve yet to explore them exhaustively. Hotchalk is a colourful and interesting site that is easy to navigate. There are plenty of ways to search: by subject area, recent additions, seasonal lessons and more.

http://www.lessonplanspage.com/index.html

The Imaginative Education Research Group has a “Teacher Resources” section that is rich, practical and accessible, with a good scope across the curriculum for kids to adults.

http://www.ierg.net/

dmoz Open Directory Project is a different animal altogether. It proclaims itself “the largest, most comprehensive human-edited directory of the Web. It is constructed and maintained by a vast, global community of volunteer editors.” Type in ‘education’ in the search window. You’ll have a lot of interesting hits that cover a broad spectrum of knowledge from around the globe.

http://www.dmoz.org/

If you love music, LitTunes is worth knowing about. They have a collection of songs linked to appreciating literature and developing writing skills.

http://www.corndancer.com/tunes/tunes_main.html

Have fun out there! - WIR

You’re invited to use the Provincial Literacy Resource Centre at Literacy BC. We loan books and audiovisual materials to any adult in BC by mail, free of charge. Browse our catalogue at http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/catalogue/. We have materials for teachers, tutors, students, researchers, and program developers – anyone interested in adult literacy. Our collection covers a variety of topics including workplace literacy, Essential Skills, health literacy, Aboriginal literacy, adult learning disabilities, English as a Second Language, and family literacy. We also have reading material for adult learners.

To borrow or ask a question, email us at library@literacy.bc.ca or call us at 604-684-0624 or 1-888-732-3234. The loan period is 4 weeks. Return postage is covered on print materials; borrowers are responsible for return postage on audiovisual materials. If you want to arrange an in-person visit, please call ahead. The Literacy BC Resource Centre is a library that’s available to all. We have resources that many ABE teachers could use. Check out http://www.literacybc.ca/ for a host of resources and links. Our online catalogue is a good place to browse http://www.literacybc.ca/PLRC/ResourceCentre.php Also, our blog is now up and running http://readlit.literacybc.ca/ so most of the new materials are listed there.
Heading west from the City of Terrace, British Columbia, the majestic Skeena River on the left, travelers will come across the small First Nations community of Kitsumkalum (pronounced Kits-um-kay-lum). Known as the People of the Robin, the Kitsumkalum peoples follow the time-honoured tradition of passing cultural traditions, property and status to their children through the mother's side of the family. There's no question women play a central role in Kitsumkalum society, linking each generation to the past.

For some women, like Charlotte Guno, Principal of the 'Na aksa Gila Kyew Learning Centre and Education Coordinator for the Kitsumkalum First Nation, keeping her culture and her community connected is more than a personal priority — it's one of the main reasons she started the 'Na aksa Gila Kyew Learning Centre (pronounced "Ena-axa-Gila-Geeo"), Kitsumkalum's adult education program.

On the surface, the Learning Centre is like any other adult education program, offering courses in English, Science and Math so that students can build a foundation for future study. What sets it apart is its emphasis on teaching in a culturally relevant way.

A Culturally Respectful Learning Environment
Here at the 'Na aksa Gila Kyew Learning Centre, students study their local language, Sm'al-gyax, (pronounced "Sim-al-gee-ak") and learn about traditional foods in a nutrition class. The Centre has even produced a video for an intercultural exchange with an indigenous group in Bolivia. These seemingly small shifts in approach have made a big difference to students here, who benefit from an education that is culturally respectful and relevant to their lives.

Head instructor Colleen Austin is the driving force behind many of the school's unique programs and teaching methods. With a background in Aboriginal education, Austin knows that students learn best when they feel supported. So she pays attention to the needs of each and every student. “All of our students have a bad story about high school,” explained Austin. “My job is to change the perception they have about their own education.” Working closely with a small group of students means Austin can go beyond the conventional role of a teacher. Whether that means lending an ear or hand-stitching a family’s crest onto a graduation gown, Austin will go beyond the call of duty to help her students succeed.

Education Is Freedom
Guno and Austin see the potential in every student who walks through the Learning Centre's
doors. Some, like Annie Bolton, were reluctant to return to school but have since become educational role models in the Kitsumkalum community. Bolton was a busy mother, wife and community volunteer without the time or energy to attend classes. But her dream of one day going to college and her drive to succeed won out. The Learning Centre provided a welcoming and supportive environment for Bolton and she thrived there, inspiring others to reconsider their education goals, including two of her children, Kevin and Jenniefer.

It took determination and dedication, but this spring the family members graduated together at a heart-warming ceremony witnessed by family and friends.

Guno beams as she talks about her students. Two 2009 graduates plan to attend university, while several others will go on to train at the local college or trade schools. Ultimately, Guno's goal is to develop each student's lifelong learning potential. She teaches them to believe in themselves and stresses that making the commitment to complete high school is always worth it. “I always tell my students that education is freedom,” Guno said. “At the end of the day, education is the best way they can get the life that they deserve.”

The Bolton Clan on Graduation Day

It’s Your Turn!

Call for Submissions

Would you like to see your name in print???

Send your articles, ideas, lesson plans, pictures, and more to

Lyra Warkentin at lyrastar@ocis.net

The next issue of Groundwork will be printed in February or March
For educators, time is one consideration in education and does not always allow for the feminine or creative to have a role in the adult education participants and potentially the majority in the adult education classroom (Ferrer, Romero, & Abareda, 2005). but are more often excluded. Not honouring the feminine ignores the innate processes and capabilities of both male and female feminine processes of learning. Most modern day educational practices focus on the masculine activities of action such as reading and writing. In turn, this meaning now extends to both my personal and professional life. My goal now as an adult educator is to create such opportunities for my students. While I relied on many ways of learning, I have incorporated just some of what worked for me as a student into my teaching and course outlines.

As an adult student, I was able to use my innate way of knowing to find meaning in my studies through creative practices. In turn, this meaning now extends to both my personal and professional life. My goal now as an adult educator is to create such opportunities for my students. While I relied on many ways of learning, I have incorporated just some of what worked for me as a student into my teaching and course outlines.

I love to write and have for many years kept a journal. I have now incorporated a journal component into one of my courses. In the past, students who spent a bit of time on their journals were quite successful in the course. Some of them even continued in the subject and attained higher degrees. For two other very different styles of courses, I am requiring the students to complete a portfolio and a learning folder. At the end of the courses, the students will present either their portfolios or learning folders at an exit interview. Because of my own experiences as a student, and because I have seen other teachers successfully implement these assignments into their courses, I now think that there is use and meaning for incorporating such work into the courses I teach.

Certainly, I have given the students specific instructions on what to do and have assigned a percentage of the grade to these assignments. Even so, I hope that the students will take the time to do the work carefully and therefore, become cognizant of where they were at the beginning of the course and realize by the end of the course how far they have come and what they
have learned. I also hope that they will see beyond the instructions and the assignment to take ownership of whatever piece of work they complete to find meaning and to honour their own way of learning.

Adding portfolios and learning folders to my courses is an experiment for me as an adult educator. I am optimistic that the assignments will facilitate learning and recognition of learning in my students. Regardless of how it works or what the students get from the assignments, I know for sure that I will listen and learn from the experience and the students to improve the assignments and the possibilities for my future students.

References


For more information about the Master of Adult Education (M.Ad. Ed.) program at St FX, please visit [http://www.stfx.ca/academic/adulted/](http://www.stfx.ca/academic/adulted/).

I thought some of you might be interested in a series of research papers presented at METROPOLIS in Ottawa late last year on LANGUAGE MATTERS facing immigrants. The highlights include:

1. Saint-Germain on new CIC assessment pathways
2. Roddau on obstacles to re/employment of immigrant professionals (IETs)
3. Wernick on low literacy issues for immigrants
4. MacDougall on issues in accent and EAL

Follow the link below to find the all the papers:

[http://canada.metropolis.net/events/metropolis_presents/languagematters.html](http://canada.metropolis.net/events/metropolis_presents/languagematters.html)

Submitted by Seonaigh MacPherson, Ph.D., Instructional Resource Coordinator
smacpherson@elsanet.org
www.elsanet.org
T: (604) 639-2208
Research SIG
A Special Interest Group of BC TEAL

Coordinator: Eddy White, Ph.D.

I. Introduction

Are you engaged in research as part of a Masters program or other formal course work? Is there something going on in your classes that you would like to investigate? Are you considering doing research but are unsure how to proceed? Would you like to exercise your ‘research muscles’, and talk (in the flesh) with like-minded colleagues? Are you an experienced teacher-researcher interested in helping others hone their research skills? Can you participate in monthly meetings to discuss/report on research plans, or the status of current/completed research?

This special interest group seeks to encourage teachers to take an inquiry stance towards ESL teaching/learning, and actualize that stance by engaging in research. Monthly group meetings will provide teacher-researchers with a forum to discuss, report on, consider, develop, implement and help publish (e.g. journal articles, presentations) their research.

II. SIG Goals — This Research SIG aims to:

- create ‘a community of inquiry’ which promotes and makes public the systematic, intentional study by teachers of their own classrooms and work environments;
- provide an opportunity for teacher researchers to meet, discuss and report on upcoming, ongoing, or recently completed research projects;
- promote and support English language teaching/learning research, in particular classroom-based research;
- promote understanding and application of effective research design and methodology;
- promote publication of research (i.e. presentations and written accounts).

III. An Invitation

Investigate your classes/practices/English, join professional colleagues, meet, talk, interact, collaborate, report, present, get/give feedback, develop research skills, plan, design, implement, analyze, conclude, write, publish, disseminate. ‘Do’ research and communicate about it!

Whether you are new to conducting systematic inquiry or an experienced researcher, this Research SIG will provide a forum for teachers to regularly meet, discuss, and report on planned, ongoing or completed research projects. Come and join us!

Monthly meetings will be held at the downtown campus of the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). If you are interested in joining this Research SIG, contact Eddy White at ewhite88@gmail.com.
Project Update
Connecting Literacy and Employment through Essential Skills

The Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES) has funded Literacy Link South Central to conduct a two–year project (June 2009 to May 2011). The primary goal of this project is to develop seven workbooks that embed Essential Skill activities within employment-readiness tasks. With these workbooks, literacy programs and employment programs can provide clients with employability skills and literacy/Essential Skills simultaneously.

We are excited to announce that the initial drafts of the workbooks are almost done. The target skill level for all Essential Skill activities is level 2. The topic areas include:

I. Discovering your strengths and skills
II. Deciding on the best job for you
III. Researching your job
IV. Job search strategies
V. Marketing yourself--part one (cover letter and resumes)
VI. Marketing yourself--part two (interview skills)
VII. Maintaining your employability

Once complete, the workbooks will go through a comprehensive pilot phase where we will gather feedback from Essential Skills experts and those involved in employment agencies and literacy programs.

We look forward to using these workbooks to build on the partnerships that have been developed between employment agencies and literacy programs. Ultimately, the clients we both serve will benefit.

Our partners for this project include:

- Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford Local Training Board (EMOLTB)
- Goodwill Ontario Great Lakes
- Literacy London Inc.
- London Employment Help Centre (LEHC)
- Pathways Skill Development & Placement Centre

This project was funded in part by the Government of Canada's Office of Literacy and Essential Skills

Do you have suggestions for this project? Do you want to know more about what we are doing? Contact Us!

Literacy Link South Central
email: literacylink@bellnet.ca
phone: 519-681-7307
web: www.llsc.on.ca
Parent-child early literacy activities—Now in Burmese!

We have had many requests for parent-child literacy materials in Burmese, so we have added a Burmese language version of the "On-the-Go" infant and toddler materials. We also have "On-the-Go" materials posted in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Filipino, Somali, and Russian.

The development of these materials was supported in part by Grant H324M020084 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

**Infant-Toddler language and early literacy activities: Free and Reproducible**

*Developed by Angela Notari-Syverson, Ph.D, and Judy Challoner, M.S.*

*Illustrations: Don Syverson*

To download "On-the-Go" materials go to [http://www.walearning.com](http://www.walearning.com) and click "Literacy Resources" on the home page.

"On-the-Go" includes twenty home and community activities for adults and children birth to three that encourage early language and literacy development. They are appropriate for children with developmental delays as well as children who are developing typically.

Each of the twenty activities includes an activity description, and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate.

The materials are specifically designed to address:

- language development
- sounds and rhythms
- general book and print awareness.

The files are in PDF format to allow easy and secure downloading. You will be asked to register.

The materials are made available by Angela Notari-Syverson and colleagues, and may be copied and distributed as long as they are not sold.

For questions please contact:

**Mary Maddox**  
**Washington Learning Systems**  
**2212 Queen Anne Ave. No.  Ste. 726**  
**Seattle, WA 98109**  
**(206) 310-7401  FAX (206) 283-9243**
Two New Documents on Battered Women's Support Services Website

Events in Canada have shown the often overlooked realities for Aboriginal women and Non-status, Refugee and Immigrant women facing violence. Since 2003, we have been working to identify and address the impacts of historic, systemic, attitudinal and legislative changes have had on women and their families.

*Addressing Violence Against Aboriginal Women*, written by Jamie Cooper and Tanisha Salomons for Battered Women's Support Services, presents a review of selected literature including a comprehensive annotated bibliography of the structural and causative literature as well as police investigations.

This report outlines the historic context and current structures that contribute to violence against Aboriginal women. In Canada, Aboriginal women are five more times likely than other women to die as a result of violence and the numbers of Aboriginal women who are currently missing are staggering.

*Empowering Non-status, Refugee and Immigrant Women Who Experience Violence – A women-centred approach to managing the spectrum of needs from settlement to empowerment* written by Battered Women's Support Services attempts to raise awareness about the prevalence of violence against Non-status, Refugee and Immigrant women (NSRIW) and the damaging impact of intimate partner violence on the individual woman survivor, her children, the family and the community, attempts to identify the root causes of violence, identifies and details the areas of law navigated by NSRIW while providing strategies for engagement and law reform, identifies areas for leadership and strategies for advocacy.

Both documents seek to organize a cultural and social transformation emphasizing community accountability and establishing new social norms, essentially changing the status quo for the end of violence.

For more information, visit [www.bwss.org](http://www.bwss.org) or [www.theviolencestopshere.ca](http://www.theviolencestopshere.ca)

Or you can contact Angela at [strategicinterventions@bwss.org](mailto:strategicinterventions@bwss.org) or 604-687-1613.

Submitted by Angela Marie MacDougall, Executive Director Battered Women's Support Services

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Cool, easy-to-read books for older struggling readers

More NEW High-Interest, Low-Leveled Books from Nox Press...

NOX PRESS is pleased to announce the release of 5 new books:

- JUNKYARD DAN series: Book #13 - Taking Names and Kicking Assets
- JUNKYARD DAN series: Book #14 - Mercy
- The SMITH BROTHERS series: Book #5 - Master Plan
- PETE'S PLACE: Book #1 - On Ice **NEW SERIES**
- PETE'S PLACE: Book #2 - Coffee to Go **NEW SERIES**

Entertaining reads to engage your older struggling readers.

**ALL books are on an emergent reading level for older new and struggling readers.**

Each book is about 100 pages long.

These are NOT picture books!

Lots of white space for the needs of this reader.

All books come with complimentary downloadable standalone or AR-type teacher-input comprehension tests. Our materials at Nox Press are proven effective to increase reading skill levels and fluency for older struggling, emergent and ESL learners.

Testimonials and success stories can be seen at our website.

Thanks to everyone for sharing your spectacular success stories that our books are bringing about. It's exciting to hear that together we ARE bringing up the literacy rates of your struggling readers.

We hope your learners enjoy these new titles as much as they've enjoyed our other books!

And to your students we say...Happy Reading!

Submitted by The folks at Nox Press

NOX PRESS - cool, easy-to-read books for older struggling readers

"TRU" FALL " TRU" FRIENDS," TRU" FUN

We are students attending the Life Skills Reading Class at Thompson Rivers University.

We wish to share this attached picture with your readers.

VCC Student Thanks ABEABC

I write this letter to express my gratitude to you for giving me the Adult Basic Education Association of BC Award. As I received the award, I still wondered about how I was selected. It was an unexpected honor. However, your generosity means a lot to me. I am very pleased and honored to receive this award. It will encourage me to continue my education and try harder to achieve my goal.

I graduated B.A. Political Science from Thailand. I never dreamed of studying nursing, or becoming a nurse. Until last year several good things happened to me unexpectedly. They guided me to make decision to study LPN in VCC. This year is your award. It is a blessing, receiving good things continuously.

I would like to thank you for your generosity. I am grateful and thankful of your support. I promise that I will eventually give to others and give back to society.

Sincerely,

Sasinapa Prapakamol
The Kamloops Project

The photographs and written submissions on this site were contributed by the residents of Kamloops, who were asked to record what they were doing, thinking or feeling on Oct. 19, 2010, as a way of chronicling a day in the life of our community.

Editorial staff of The Daily News produced the photo slideshows and audio features. This website, as well as a commemorative printed publication, was created by a project team led by editor Mel Rothenburger. Team members were drawn from the editorial, advertising and marketing departments of The Daily News, as well as the website development division of Glacier Media, parent company of The Kamloops Daily News.

Here is a photo of Wendy Krauza and her TRU SERV 100 students of Fall '10,

Hello Kamloops! We are students of two communities: TRU's course called "Introduction to Community Service-Learning" and Kamloops. We were especially happy today as you can see in our photo because we can show you how we feel to be a part of these two communities as, both, International and Canadian students. Through this course we feel we belong, we give, and we receive. Here are our first names, country of origin, and where we volunteer. Our list does not follow the order in the picture.

1. Raman, India, Overlander Residential Care
2. Nicholas, France, Kamloops Food Bank
3. Thaib, Saudi Arabia, St. John Ambulance
4. Maryam, Tanzania, Desert Gardens
5. Anna, Russia, Kamloops Immigrant Services (not in photo)
6. Goodness, Nigeria, Big Brothers and Big Sisters
7. Sultan, Saudi Arabia, Kamloops Food Bank
8. Fraih, Saudi Arabia, Kamloops Food Bank
9. Hussain, Saudi Arabia, St. John Ambulance
10. Yousef, Saudi Arabia, The United Way
11. Azra, Canada, Desert Gardens (not in photo)
12. John, China, Kamloops Food Bank
13. Aziz, Saudi Arabia, Kamloops Food Bank
14. Meshal, Saudi Arabia, Kamloops Food Bank
15. Hiba, Jordan/Canada, Ponderosa

To see the full project, please go to kamloopsnews.ca
Transitions & Transformations: Embracing Change

May 12-13, 2011
Harrison Resort and Spa
Harrison Hot Springs, BC

Call for Presentations: carol.topalian@sd41.bc.ca

Our conference focuses on:
- Implementation of policy and programs
- Practitioner perspective in the design and implementation of policy and programs
- Excellence in professional development

www.harrisonresort.com
www.abeabc.ca
1-800-663-2266 (press 2)

ABEABC Conference

British Columbia Association of Education Adult Basic
What is ABEABC?
The Adult Basic Education Association of BC is:

- An association of people concerned about the provision of high quality learning opportunities for undereducated adults.
- The only association specially for adult basic educators in B.C.
- The first such provincial organization in Canada.
- Connected with other groups involved in adult education such as:
  - the Movement for Canadian Literacy BC
  - the Pacific Association for Continuing Education
  - the Teachers of English as an Additional Language, etc.
- An association which works to raise public and government awareness of the basic education needs of British Columbians
- The donor of an $100-$200 award to an outstanding student in each member institution

How do I join?
Fill out the membership application form and return it along with a cheque made out to the Association for your annual dues. Memberships expire 12 months following our receipt of your fee.

Membership in the ABEABC is open to you if you are involved in:
* basic literacy programs
* ABE
* native adult education programs
* literacy in libraries
* ESL programs for adults
* workplace literacy programs
* correctional institution programs
* GED and college-prep programs
* community-based programs

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Please indicate which fee fits your category:
* Individual and Groundwork subscription $40
* Individual outside Canada $50
* Organizations $175 (includes $100 bursary)
* Organizations $275 (includes $200 bursary)
* Organizations without bursary $75. Institutional memberships are due February 28 annually.
* Business and union $50
* Non-profit community groups $40

Membership fee includes a subscription to Groundwork. Invoices are available from our website.

Membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

Total amount enclosed $ ___________

Mail to: Membership Chair
The Adult Basic Education Association of British Columbia
5476- 45 Ave, Delta, BC V4K 1 L4

Website: http://www.abeabc.ca/