

# E-Bits

February 2011

[www.abeabc.ca](http://www.abeabc.ca)



Hi everyone,

- This E-Bits contains a lot of preliminary information for the **annual ABEABC conference**. Due to the popularity of our location last year, we decided that we would return to Harrison Hot Springs. The setting there is truly beautiful in spring, with the glistening water, the blossom, the extensive gardens at the side of the resort, the walking trails, and the hummingbirds. Some people chose to stay on and enjoy the weekend there last year. Our conference planner, Carol Topalian, is busy organizing workshops presenters, and taking care of the many aspects of planning a worthwhile event for educators and learners. I look forward to seeing many old friends in Harrison.
- Our **AGM and elections** will take place during the conference, so you might consider becoming one of the volunteer board members.
- We will be **publishing a Groundwork magazine** in early-mid March. If you would like to **contribute** photos or articles for the magazine, the deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>. Lyra Warkentin would be pleased to accept your contributions. She can be reached at [lyratar@ocis.net](mailto:lyratar@ocis.net) or 250-679-3262. Members receive complimentary copies of the magazine.
- I've sent out a reminder to organizations about joining the ABEABC for 2011. Our **bursaries** are not big, but they are definitely valued by the learners who receive them. Organizational members receive bursaries.
- **Membership** is automatically included in the price of conference registration. For others it is \$40 for individual memberships.
- Please check our **website** for updates to the conference plans. The website also includes our past Groundwork magazines, contact information for board members, and a little history of the organization. Any educational institution which wants a link to our site should contact me. We are grateful to have our website hosted by NALD.

Please feel free to contribute ideas to the magazine, or to your regional, aboriginal or government representative. I hope to see you in May.

*Yvonne Chard* – ABEABC President.

# ABEABC CONFERENCE

Transitions & Transformations: Embracing Change

**Harrison Hot Springs Resort  
Thursday and Friday May 12-13, 2011**

*Adult Basic Education Association of British Columbia*

Dear Colleagues,

The ABEABC promotes accessible, relevant, high quality education for adults in British Columbia. Aspects include policy, delivery, and evaluation. The ABEABC is the only professional provincial Adult Basic Education association that includes members from secondary, post-secondary, community and Corrections ABE/ESL programs.

As a voluntary, not-for-profit, professional association, the ABEABC fosters and promotes excellence in Adult Basic Education instruction and programming in BC. Its scope of interest includes recognition of:

- \* Excellence in professional development
- \* The unique perspective of the practitioner
- \* Practitioner expertise in teaching and curriculum creation
- \* Successful design and implementation in policy and programming

The ongoing development of a network among ABE programs is critical for the development of consistent programming and ease of transfer for students within the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Practitioners, students, researchers, and others involved in the field of Adult Basic Education are invited to attend the annual ABEABC conference by participating in the Conference's program of speakers, panels, and presentations. Those working with First Language and First Nations ABE learners as well as ESL learners are welcome to offer their ideas at practical and interactive presentations.

We request that participants also register for accommodations at the Harrison Resort and Spa

We greatly look forward to welcoming you to our transformational conference in May!

Sincerely,

Carol Topalian  
**Conference Organizer and Chair**

email : [carol.topalian@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:carol.topalian@sd41.bc.ca)

**ABEABC CONFERENCE**  
**Transitions & Transformations Embracing Change**  
**Harrison Hot Springs Resort**  
**Thursday and Friday May 12-13, 2011**

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION      Please print clearly:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Home or Work): \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your choice(s) and the appropriate fee.

	Early Bird Registration <i>Closes MARCH 11th</i>	Regular Registration <i>Closes APRIL 8<sup>th</sup></i>	Total
Full conference <i>includes a 12 month membership</i>	\$250	\$275	
Thursday or Friday only (circle day) No banquet inc.	\$100	\$150	
Extra Banquet Tickets	\$50	\$50	

*Make cheques payable to:*  
*Burnaby School District*

**Mail To:**

Attention: ABEABC Conference 2011  
 Burnaby Community & Continuing Education  
 5325 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1W2

Fax: 604-664-8448

Credit Card Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type (Visa, MC) \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Is a vegetarian meal required for the banquet?      Yes      No

I plan to attend the banquet      Yes      No

**PLEASE NOTE THESE DEADLINES:**

- **March 11th – Early Bird Registration Deadline:** please register early if possible.
- **APRIL 8th – Registration Deadline:** For room bookings and catering, we need to know numbers for the conference by April 8<sup>th</sup>. (Late registrants contact ychard@deltasd.bc.ca)
- **APRIL 8<sup>th</sup> – Accommodation Block Booking Deadline:** (Independent of conference registration) - please reserve your own accommodation at the Harrison Resort and Spa by April 8<sup>th</sup>. Please check out the Harrison Hotel and Spa at [www.harrisonresort.com](http://www.harrisonresort.com). Call 1-800-663-2266 (press 2) to make your own reservations. Be sure to ask for the ABEABC Conference Block Booking prices.



**ADULT BASIC  
EDUCATION**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# ABEABC's 31<sup>st</sup> CONFERENCE

## **Transitions & Transformations: Embracing Change**

**Thursday May 12th - Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Harrison Resort and Spa, Harrison Hot Springs, BC, Canada**

## **CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Practitioners, researchers, and others involved in the field of Adult Basic Education are invited to submit proposals for 90-minute presentations reflecting the 2011 Conference theme “**Transitions & Transformations: Embracing Change**”.

Topics applicable to working with ABE, First Nations and/or ESL learners are invited. Practical and interactive workshops are very popular with participants.

- **Please include in your proposal outline:**

1. Name of Presenter with a short biography and contact information
2. Title of Workshop and short description of workshop
3. Target audience: (subject, instructors, students, etc)
4. Audio-Visual Equipment requirements
5. Computer needs: please be prepared to bring your own laptop computer and cables;  
supply any relevant information that will help us help you meet your needs  
i.e. whether yours is a PC or Mac.

**An honorarium of \$50 will be given for each 90 minute workshop.**

Presenters are encouraged to register for the conference and attend other conference presentations and activities. There are one day rates and meal rates available.

- **Please forward proposals before MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> to Carol Topalian:**

For information about the presentations and/or conference, please contact

**Carol Topalian**

**E-mail: [carol.topalian@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:carol.topalian@sd41.bc.ca)**



"This schedule is a work in progress. Check our website <http://www.abeabc.ca/> and watch for our next *Groundwork* for updates."

**TRANSITIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS: EMBRACING CHANGE** Conference schedule – *first draft*

**THURSDAY MAY 12 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

7.45am-9	Registration/breakfast		
9-9:30	Opening ceremonies		
9.30-10.30	Keynote speaker	Dr. Deborah Butler	
10.45-12.15	Workshop #1		
12.30-2	Lunch	Salon Lunch Shirley Hardman "Storytelling"	
2-3.30	Workshop #2		
3.30-3.45	JUICE Break		
3.45-5.30		<i>free time</i>	<i>Spa, hiking, socializing</i>
5.30-9 (Cocktail reception)	Cash bar		
6-7.15pm 7:15-9pm	Dinner + entertainment – Spanish guitar	JOHN GILLIAT	

**FRIDAY MAY 13 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

8am-9:15am	Reg/breakfast		
9:15-9:30	announcements +	Jody Paterson, Writer, Victoria Times Colonist	
9.30-10.30	Keynote speaker		
10:30-10:45	JUICE Break		
10.45-12.15	Workshop #1		
12.30-2:00	Lunch Annual General Meeting	Collaboration time	
2:00-3:30	Workshop #2		
3:30-4:15	ABE executive meeting	and adjournment	

# NOTES on KEYNOTES

## Dr. Deborah L. Butler Thursday keynote

Professor, Faculty of Education  
University of British Columbia

“Learning and Transformation: Empowering Teachers and Students”

In her keynote presentation, Dr. Butler will build from 20 years of research and practice to stimulate thinking about ways in which teachers and students can be empowered to navigate, embrace and influence change. She will offer a powerful conceptual framework for understanding how students and teachers can take and feel in control over their own learning and development (as students and practitioners) within the environments in which they find themselves. She will also highlight concrete ways in which students and teachers can be supported to feel and take ownership over learning/practice, and to experience agency and control through personal, contextual, professional and/or systems change.

## Shirley Swelchalot Shxwha:yathel Hardman

### *Storytelling*

Shirley Hardman currently holds the position of Vice President Academic Office, University of the Fraser Valley, where she is also **Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs**.

Enrolled in a PhD in Educational Studies (UBC) with a focus on Aboriginal post secondary education policy, she continues to engage in on-going personal and professional development. She possesses a commitment to cultural safety, integrating Aboriginal worldviews in curriculum and pedagogies, Aboriginal student success, & building partnerships. She has over 25 years experience working with Aboriginal organizations, government agencies and education institutes. She has been a sessional instructor in graduate education programs at the Lower Mainlands foremost universities. “Teachers as Agents of Change” is but one of myriad themes in her cadre of teaching. Shirley has authored many publications and has spoken at conferences across North America for over a decade. She is the Chair of the Skemcis Medicine Lodge Society and a member of the Sto:lo Community Futures Board of Directors.

We are delighted to have Shirley share with us at our Thursday, May 12 Salon Lunch at ABEABC Harrison 2011.

## Jody Paterson Friday keynote

Jody is an award-winning journalist who has been writing for B.C. newspapers and magazines for 25 years. In her 15 years working at the Victoria Times-

Colonist, she held virtually every newsroom job - from beat reporter to managing editor - and has been a columnist for the paper since 1996. She left her full-time job in 2004 to become executive director of the Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society (PEERS), but continued to write a weekly opinion column.

There aren't many topics that Paterson hasn't written about at one point or another in her career, but social issues - particularly homelessness, addiction and sex work - have been her passion for the last decade. Her three years at PEERS gave her a front-line view of the challenges, and in the summer of 2007 she was selected to be on the steering committee of the Mayor's Task Force on Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness and Addiction. Paterson hopes to play an ongoing role in finding solutions for the 1,500 people living on or near the streets in Victoria.

Paterson is now self-employed as a writer, communications strategist and event planner. Read her column every Friday on the TC opinion pages for a thoughtful but passionate look at the issues that matter in our community.



Harrison Resort and Spa ✧ Harrison Hot Springs, BC  
[www.harrisonresort.com](http://www.harrisonresort.com)



## ABEABC Conference

May 12-13, 2011

### Transitions & Transformations: Embracing Change

Our conference focuses on  
- excellence in professional development  
- practitioner perspective in the design and implementation of policy and programs



call for presentations: [carol.topalian@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:carol.topalian@sd41.bc.ca)

updates: [www.abeabc.ca](http://www.abeabc.ca)

accommodations: 1-800-663-2266 (press 2)

*Keep watching the website for the latest news. [www.abeabc.ca](http://www.abeabc.ca)*