

Fax Trax

April 2009



www.abeabc.ca

Greetings to all association members, and ABE supporters.

I hope to see many friends and adult educators at the conference in May. I regret that there is a conflict of time with the TEAL conference. It is difficult to find time and accommodation that suits everyone.

This year the association will be looking for a new president and vice president, and several other Board positions will be renewed.

Prince George in the spring will be enjoyable, and we appreciate the opportunity of renewing close ties with the College of New Caledonia and the Prince George Native Friendship Centre. We strongly appreciate their extensive contributions to the association.

NITA JACOB

President, ABEABC hog.hollow@hotmail.com

The 2009 ABEABC Conference and AGM

Registration, workshops and daytime activities will take place at the College of New Caledonia. The Thursday night banquet will be held at the Prince George Native Friendship Centre.

- The ABEABC Conference is only *one month away*. – **May 7 and 8.**
- The conference schedule is being organized and speakers are being confirmed. When the details are finalized they will be posted on the website.
- A lot of information on the conference and registration forms can be found on our website: www.abeabc.ca
- We hope you will join us in **Prince George**.
- Remember that college and university students are welcome to attend the conference at a reduced rate.**
- Several workshop slots are still open. If you would like to present, please contact August Horning at literacy@pgnfc.com or 1-250-564-3568**

College of New Caledonia, Prince George

http://www.cnc.bc.ca/Campuses/Prince_George_Campus.htm

Prince George Native Friendship Centre

<http://www.pgnfc.com/>

This year **Bill Chu** will be a keynote speaker. Below is some information about Bill:

"Bill Chu is a retired award winning Professional Engineer who has been an active community leader in the Lower Mainland. As founder of Canadians For Reconciliation, Multicultural Coalition Against Gambling Expansion and Faith Communities Called to Solidarity with the Poor, he has served the community well. Rooted in the biblical Jubilee vision, he has developed a growing relation with aboriginals in British Columbia for two decades. By relating to the common history of inequalities and racism experienced by both communities, he draws them together and helps the western culture to see its own bondage. Their common journey has grown through shared stories, parades, historic banquet and bus visits. His work culminated in a Proclamation by the City of Vancouver (Oct 23, 2004 proclaimed as Day of Reconciliation with the First Nations) and an Honorable Mention in CRRF's biannual Awards of Excellence in 2005. In BC, the sharing of hitherto unknown Chinese historical sites in the Fraser Corridor by aboriginal elders led Bill to embark on a major effort to preserve the sites and to recover missing pages of BC's history."

Workshop presenters will include:

- Lorette Melanson** from NALD - two literacy related workshops.
- Alice Stoddard** - topic will be "Accommodating Difference In The Classroom": Interactive workshop utilizing both Universal Design and Technology within both the development and delivery of curriculum in the classroom for students with learning disabilities.
- Linda Grant** - Making Traditional Bentwood Boxes with Adult Learners
- Deb Monkman** - Literacy BC -A Panoply of Resources for the Diverse Classroom: Sharing Our Experience
- Lillian Prince**, NEC - Using E-Portfolios in a Culturally Appropriate Learning Environment
- Jean Samis** - Get a Grip on Grammar
- Karen Simon** - Creating an ABE equivalent for Aboriginal English 12
- Leonne Beebe** - a mathematics workshop.
- Bill Chu** - keynote speaker additional topic

Conference 2010

We move our event around each year, and for 2010 we hope to be in the Lower Mainland area.

If you would like to host our ABE conference next year, please contact our secretary.

Joanne McLeod

jamcleod@vsb.bc.ca

604-713-5802

Aboriginal Adult Literacy Institute and Conference

The National Indigenous Literacy Association (NILA) is hosting the Aboriginal Adult Literacy Institute & Conference during the week of April 13, 2009 through to April 17, 2009. The tuition cost is **\$850.00**.

To register before **April 6, 2009** contact:
Serena Hickes
Tel: (204) 927-1920
Fax: (204) 927-1922
Email: shickes@nila.ca

Update from VCC Fundamental Programs

The Basic Education Department is the Adult Literacy Fundamental Level program at Vancouver Community College. We offer both group-based and self-paced continuous intake math and English classes at our two main campuses, and also have well-established adult learning centres at First United Mission in the Downtown Eastside and at Vancouver Public Library's Downtown Branch. In addition, we are in our second year working with our community partner, the Salvation Army, in offering a self-paced English and Math class at Harbour Light which is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in the Downtown Eastside. Here are a few other activities we have been involved in this year:

- We have worked on community literacy planning task forces for Mount Pleasant and Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhoods, and we're looking forward to contributing to the process in the Marpole neighbourhood.
- We continued our participation in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Roundtable, a gathering of people from groups that offer literacy related instruction or support in the inner city.
- Basic Education's class in the First United Mission, which is located in the DTES, has been in operation since 1980 and, we are proud to report, received the 2008 Program Excellence Award from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges in the spring. Linda Rider, who has taught the First United class for many years, was on hand to accept the award on the Department's behalf at the ACCC conference in Prince George and also gave a well-received presentation about the First United and our long history with its community of learners.
- The Vancouver Sun visited our Department this September and featured one of our classes in its first article in the Raise-A-Reader Series.
- In late August, our assessment person, Laurie Gould travelled to Toronto to represent VCC on the advisory board of a federally funded reading assessment project. Our department will be one of the field testing sites for this new assessment toolkit.
- Our students and instructors enjoyed several stimulating

- performances/workshops by Vancouver poet, Barbara Adler.
- Three classes are planning field trips this month: one group will be attending a performance of Bashir Lazhar, a Pi Theatre production at Granville Island, and two will be visiting the Vancouver Aquarium.
 - Rene Merkel and Laurie Gould are excited to be attending the Pan African Reading For All conference in Tanzania from August 10-14, 2009. They plan to showcase VCC and other Canadian literacy materials at a display table.

Jan Weiten
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Online Pro.D. at projectread.ca

The following information was sent by Linda Parker linda@projectread.ca

Dear Education Colleague,

I wanted to let you know about a new online professional development (PD) program for Adult Literacy Educators. This program was developed specifically for new and experienced practitioners in the literacy field. It was an initiative of practitioners working in college, school board and community-based literacy agencies. I have attached a copy of the information brochure – one for current practitioners or others considering the program and one for supervisors looking for PD opportunities for their staff.

The program consists of 5 core courses, a fieldwork placement, and a choice of four electives. The courses were developed in consultation with practitioners in the field based on real experiences and current adult education theories. While it was developed in Ontario, it is applicable to any outcomes-based, learner-centred program. The courses combine theory with practical application and personal reflection.

All the courses can be completed via distance through hard copy manuals and online discussions and activities. We invite you to read the brochures and visit the program website – www.nald.ca/literacyeducator

You will be receiving printed copies of the brochure in the mail. Please contact us if you wish additional copies for your staff or colleagues or you have any questions.

Anne Ramsay www.projectread.ca
Program Coordinator, Teacher of Adults: Literacy Educator Certificate
Program Coordinator, Conestoga College
And Executive Network Director, Project READ Literacy Network Waterloo-Wellington

Board Changes

If you would like to support adult education in BC by joining the ABEABC Board, there will be elections in May at the conference.

The role of the ABEABC is an important one. We need new members to carry on the work that has been done for many years. The amount of volunteer hours is not exorbitant, and this is a great way to make valuable contacts throughout the province.

We need members who will contribute time to our main activity – the provision of professional development to adult educators. Our pro-D events are popular, not only for the workshops, but also for the annual gathering together to ‘work and play’ with other educators.

Memberships due!

- Just a reminder to all our *ORGANISATIONAL* members that in order to receive a bursary for the 2008-2009 academic year, memberships must be paid for by April 10th, 2009. On occasion special arrangements can be made to accommodate variances in bursary award dates.
- Remember that bursaries can be in any multiple of \$100.
- For those who attend the conference, membership is included.
- Individual memberships are valid for 12 months from payment date.
- Contact information for membership, and application forms are on the website.

Membership Chair **Lindy Liu** 604-713-5774 lliu@vsb.bc.ca

Groundwork Magazine

The next edition of Groundwork will be published after the conference. If you wish to contribute to the magazine, please send your submissions to the Groundwork Chairperson.

Ruth.Vandenbor@ucfv.ca

1-604-795-2807