

# L.I.N.C.s

Each One Teach One

*Literacy Information Network in our Communities*

## Newsletter of the Western Quebec Literacy Council

### Winter 2011

#### WQLC Tutor Training Workshop: June 17-18

A date has been set for our next Tutor Training Workshop: Friday evening, June 17 and Saturday, June 18. Note: The date was postponed from May 20-21.

The ten hour workshop will be presented by Kate Strickland. Kate was our tutor trainer in 2010. A former director of the Literacy Unlimited council on Montreal Island, Kate also does tutor training for councils in the Eastern Townships and in Nunavut. This workshop covers all aspects of working with an adult literacy student: adult learners compared to the youth sector, reading theory, reading and writing curriculums, numeracy, learning styles and lesson planning.

In order to make best use of classroom time WQLC now sends pre-reading resources to the participants before the workshop. This home study allows more time to be spent learning about working with an adult student.



Kate working with new tutors Mary, Linda, Lynda & Kim in 2010

Contact the WQLC office for more information and to pre-register (1-888-647-3112). Cost is \$5. Lunch and materials are included.

#### Coming Events

- International Adult Learners' Week 2011 ..... April 2-9
- Semaine quebecoise des adultes en formation 2011 ..... April 2-9
- Volunteer Appreciation Week ..... April 10-17
- Media Literacy for Community Groups ..... May d tbd
- WQLC Tutor Training Workshop ..... **June 17-18**
- WQLC Annual General Meeting ..... Sept. 17

The vision of the Western Quebec Literacy Council is to help and encourage members of our community to develop the skills needed for life long learning, enabling them to reach their full potential.

The mission of Western Quebec Literacy Council is to help English-speaking adults, families, and youth improve their reading, writing, listening, speaking, numeracy and other life skills through programs adapted to the needs of the individual.

As a charitable volunteer organization, Western Quebec Literacy Council recruits and trains committed volunteers as tutors and support personnel. We are dedicated to promoting community awareness with sensitivity throughout the region of West Quebec.

## How to reach us:

### Executive Director:

Marilee DeLombard

Western Quebec Literacy Council  
P.O. Box 266, 381 Route 148  
Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0

Phone : (819) 647-3112 or  
1-888-647-3112

Fax: (819) 647-3188

Website: [www.wq-literacy.org](http://www.wq-literacy.org)

E-mail: [info@wq-literacy.org](mailto:info@wq-literacy.org)

### Board of Directors

Chair: Norma DesRosiers  
Vice Chair: Michel Chabot  
Treasurer: Shirley Gauthier  
Secretary: Jenn Robert-Weese  
Member: Nancy Hunt  
Member: Monica Dodson  
Member: Peter Gauthier

### Tutor Trainers:

Beryl Kerrison (retired)  
Carol Pritchard (on sabbatical)

### LINC's Newsletter:

Writer: Marilee DeLombard  
Writer: Debbie Gauthier

*Reminder!*

## "Each one Teach One"

If you know an adult who would like to learn to read or read better, write or improve math skills tell them about the Western Quebec Literacy Council.

**Our lessons are One-to-One,  
Free and Confidential.**

### Note to Tutors:

Please take a few minutes during your next lesson to read this LINC's with your student.



This LINC's is available electronically. Please let us know and we will send you the link. You will get the newsletter in colour and we will save paper and postage.

## [ABC Life Literacy Canada](#)

### **Canada joins world to embrace lifelong learning**

*International Adult Learners' Week is being celebrated April 2 to 9*

**(Toronto, ON, March 14, 2011)** – International Adult Learners' Week (IALW), an initiative that celebrates adult learners and the joy of lifelong learning, will take place in Canada from April 2 to 9, 2011.

Officially launched in 2000 by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO alongside its partner organizations, IALW raises the profile of adult learners and highlights the learning opportunities available for those who want to improve their literacy skills. IALW provides adult learners with a chance to express their challenges and share their success stories, thereby encouraging Canadians to engage in learning opportunities with diverse community and partner organizations.

Four out of 10 adult Canadians, age 16 to 65 - representing 9 million Canadians - struggle with low literacy. Less than 10 per cent of Canadians who could benefit from literacy upgrading programs actually enroll. With this shocking statistic, continuous learning for adults serves as a powerful tool for change and is key to opening doors to new experiences.

"I haven't been in school for 20 years so I needed to upgrade," said Laleta, an adult learner taking part in Ontario's Second Career program. "I'm learning so much. My son is in grade 3 and I can now help him with his math homework."

Despite Laleta's fears about going back to school, a feeling that is commonly shared among many Canadian adults, her experience has dramatically improved her quality of life, that of her family, and her path to becoming a Personal Support Worker.

Many personal stories being celebrated during IALW prove that increasing literacy levels and embracing lifelong learning can improve employment experiences, self-confidence, engagement in communities, and the overall quality of life.

ABC Life Literacy Canada invites all Canadians to share their own personal stories.

Download a postcard at [http://www.abclifelifteracy.ca/en/system/files/IALW\\_postcard.pdf](http://www.abclifelifteracy.ca/en/system/files/IALW_postcard.pdf) and complete an answer to the question: How does learning inspire you to participate in your community?

If you or someone you know struggles with literacy, look under 'LEARN' in the Yellow Pages or visit [LookUnderLearn.ca](http://LookUnderLearn.ca) to find your local literacy helpline.



"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."

John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) 6th President of U.S.A.

## Modern Communications

WQLC is working to keep up with developments in modern communications. Our website ([www.wq-literacy.org](http://www.wq-literacy.org)) is currently being renovated to allow us to update it more easily. Our goal is to have the website be an active resource for members, in addition to being a source of information for the world.

The new website will also allow visitors to use assistive devices, such as a text reader and will have its own search function. In the near future we will add a "members only" section that will contain tutor training material and other tools for the use of WQLC members.

Please share with us your impressions of the website. We are glad to hear your suggestions.

Marilee DeLombard and Jen Robert Weese

## Christmas Open House

Here are some pictures from our holiday open house on December 5, 2010.

Beryl & Harry Kerrison



**L-R:**  
Venetia Crawford, Kelsey and Deborah Gauthier, Peter Gauthier, Norma DesRosiers, Marilee DeLombard and Monica Dodson

**It was a lovely way to kick off the winter!**

## Capital, Social Media & Adult Literacy Education

In a recent column on the NALD (National Adult Literacy Database) website, Tom Sticht explored the relationship between social capital and adult literacy education, and how social media tools can help both learners and educators improve their skills.

Sticht defined social capital as “the social connections and understandings between people that enable them to work together, live together and learn from each other” (based on the definition in the Centre for Literacy report, *Social Capital Outcomes of Adult Learning and Literacy Initiatives: How Do We Measure Them?*).

He offered some tips for how literacy programs and digital social media tools can increase learners’ social capital:

Literacy programs can help form social capital by having peer learning, team activities and small group instruction in which members of the group support each other’s efforts. They can also host social occasions such as parties, where community members and learners come together, encouraging social interaction and communication.

Today, social media using digital technologies offer additional opportunities for both teachers and learners to obtain and provide social capital to help them sustain and advance in their teaching and learning activities. Numerous discussion groups for adult literacy educators can be found using the Internet and provide opportunities for teachers to learn from each other and obtain motivation for their daily work. Additionally, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and other social media sites serve to provide social capital.

Numerous Internet-based resources are available for adult learners to pursue study on their own, and many programs are now offering distance learning opportunities as adjuncts to their classroom work or as stand-alone learning opportunities. Teachers can provide social capital through the use of cell phones, email or social network sites such as Twitter and Facebook, and learner to learner peer interactions can also be conducted using digital social media. (via [nald.ca](http://nald.ca))

Posted on March 3, 2011 by Quebec English literacy Alliance ([www.qela.qc.ca](http://www.qela.qc.ca))

## Astronaut advocates for literacy

Canadian astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk contacted NALD’s Honorary Chair Roch Carrier recently with an important notification.

The astronaut informed him that, while aboard the International Space Station for six months last year, he had with him a copy of Mr. Carrier’s book *Le Chandail de Hockey (The Hockey Sweater)*. Dr. Thirsk explained to Mr. Carrier that he was able to take a small number of personal objects with him in space.

## Easy to read sports:

We get many requests for easy-to-read material on sports - especially hockey. "Sports" by Joan Acosta, is a collection of sports stories. This e-book is part of a series called Best of The Reader. The stories are from *The Westcoast Reader*, a newspaper for adults who are improving their English reading skills. The stories are in 3 levels of reading difficulty. They have lots of pictures, word puzzles, information, questions and answers.

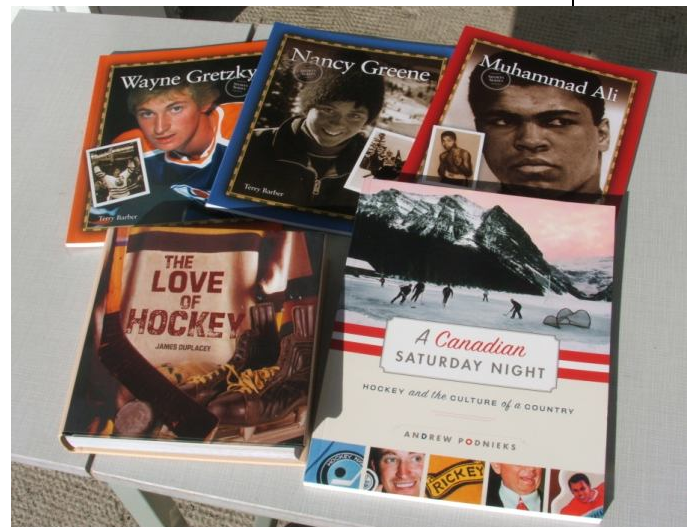
You can find it free online at:

[http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/best\\_reader/sports/sports.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/best_reader/sports/sports.pdf)

Or ask the WQLC office to print a copy for you.

WQLC also has new sports books in our library. They are from the "Easy Readers: Biographies" from Grass Roots Press. The "Sports Series" features 5 excellent athletes, including Wayne Gretzky, Nancy Green and Muhammad Ali.

The well-organized chapters, glossaries and discussion questions can be used to promote pre-, during, and post-reading strategies. The photographs, maps, and illustrations reflect the text, making the words easy to decode. The workbook contains dozens of activities that promote reading comprehension, word attack skills, and the writing process.



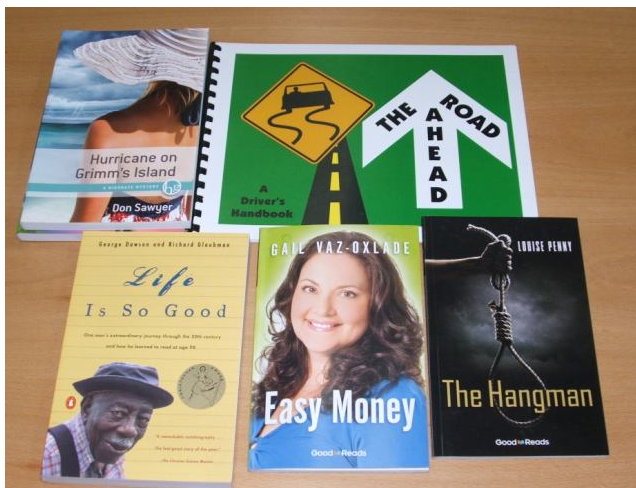
"The Love Of Hockey" and "A Canadian Saturday Night" are popular books that have also been added to the WQLC library this winter.

## Other high-interest/easy- to-read materials:

Learn to drive, manage your money, solve a mystery, become inspired!

These Good Reads come with online lesson notes and activities:  
[www.grassrootsbooks.net](http://www.grassrootsbooks.net)

Borrow any materials by calling the WQLC office 1-888-647-3112



## Media Literacy Workshop

Review by Robert Wills

On March 10, about a dozen Pontiacers took part in a workshop on Media Literacy in the St John's Community Learning Centre. Participants included artists, musicians, educators, municipal administrators. The workshop, arranged by the Western Quebec Literacy Council, CEDEC, QELA (Quebec English Literacy Alliance) and CitizenShift, was designed to show how modern media can be used to the advantage of citizen groups.

Workshop presenters Reisa Levine and Parker Mah began with an overview of resources available on the web, including the obvious FaceBook, Twitter, etc., plus unique sites which offer software and references for making presentations, downloading copyright-free images or soundfiles.

The workshop was then divided into three groups, and each produced a 30-second public service video spot, from conception to screening. More information about online resources for community development can be found at [www.citizenshift.org](http://www.citizenshift.org).



Reisa, Barry, and Lenny



Venetia, Prema, Tina, Ray, Jenn and Robert

## CEDEC's Outaouais Workers Survey

Please give your feed-back on a survey about dealing with working in West Quebec. The survey was created by CEDEC (Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation) in cooperation with Western Quebec Literacy Council, Emploi-Quebec and Club Recherche d'emploi du Pontiac. The survey is an opportunity for English-speakers to provide information about employment experience in West Quebec. The results of the survey will be used to gauge awareness of services offered in English in the region. Here is the link to the workers' survey:

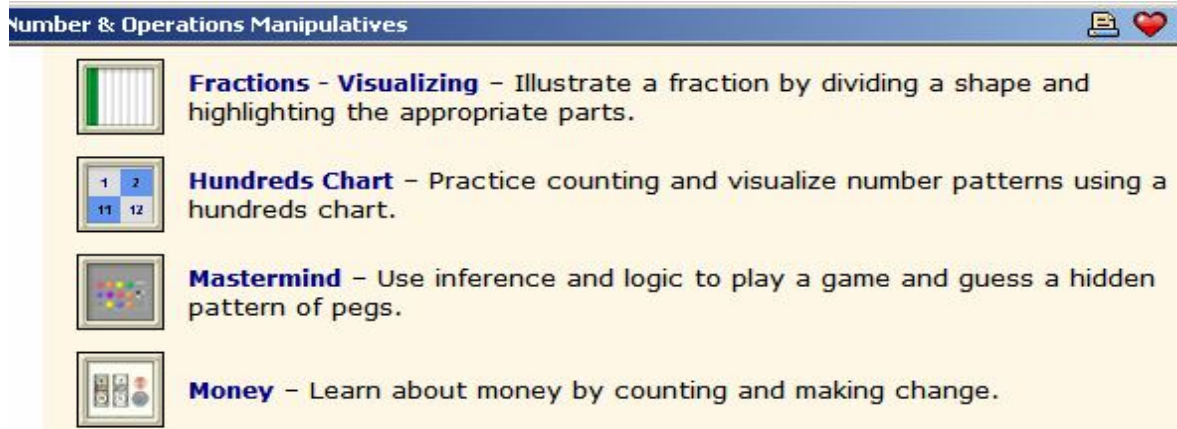
<http://blog.cedec.ca/>

Thank you for your participation.





## New ways of picturing and learning math!

Are you looking for a new approach for picturing math problems? Try this website:  
[http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/topic\\_t\\_1.html](http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/topic_t_1.html)

You will find visual representations of many math concepts arranged in 4 levels of proficiency. Here is a sample of the index for the Number & Operations section for the most basic level.



**Number & Operations Manipulatives**

-  **Fractions - Visualizing** – Illustrate a fraction by dividing a shape and highlighting the appropriate parts.
-  **Hundreds Chart** – Practice counting and visualize number patterns using a hundreds chart.
-  **Mastermind** – Use inference and logic to play a game and guess a hidden pattern of pegs.
-  **Money** – Learn about money by counting and making change.

The highest level of proficiency correlates to grades 9-12. The site is the National Library of Virtual Manipulatives by Utah State University.

## Word Games and Puzzles

by Joan Acosta , [www.bestofthereader.ca](http://www.bestofthereader.ca)

This is a good introduction to word games and puzzles. In 28 pages it gives you examples of word search and word play games. It has easy crosswords, tongue twisters and riddles. It even shows you how to do sudoku puzzles. It comes from The Reader and is free to download or request it from WQLC.

[http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/best\\_reader/word\\_games/word\\_games.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/best_reader/word_games/word_games.pdf)

## Stretch Your Dollars

This 36 page booklet by "Money Mentors" gives lots of ideas to help you manage money. In it you will learn to track where your money goes, how to spend it where you want to and tips for saving money. You can get a print copy from the WQLC office or read it online at:

[http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/money\\_mentors/stretch\\_your\\_dollars/stretch\\_your\\_dollars.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/money_mentors/stretch_your_dollars/stretch_your_dollars.pdf)

## Essential Skills Tips Sheets

This year WQLC has been looking for ways to incorporate essential skills development into our program. You remember the 9 Essential Skills: 1. Reading, 2. Document use, 3. Numeracy, 4. Writing, 5. Oral communication, 6. Working with others, 7. Thinking, 8. Computer use, 9. Continuous learning.

Fortunately, a wealth of material can be found through the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES). In fact, there is so much information that it can be overwhelming, but now they have come up with a series of Tips Sheets that are only 6 pages long. These activities could add spark to your regular lessons.

In each set the first two pages have general tips and higher level tips. The remaining four pages have practice and learning exercises (complete with answers). Most include a worksheet to chart progress.

Here are descriptions of some of the Tips Sheets:

+ Reading Tip Sheet: The tips range from general ones, like finding a quiet place to read, to more advanced ones that focus on improving comprehension.

+ Document Use Tip Sheet: At a general level, tips include using headings to find information quickly and looking for visual cues like text that has been highlighted for emphasis. Higher level tips include pointers for estimating distance on a map and suggestions for interpreting graphs. The authors have included practice exercises at each level.

+ Writing Tip Sheet: includes both general and higher level tips for improving writing skills. The authors have included a chart offering clear words or phrases as alternatives to wordy expressions. At a general level, practice exercises in this document focus on logical flow and transition words. Higher level exercises focus on effective writing and preparing memos.

+ Working with Others Tip Sheet: offers tips for improving the skills needed to work effectively with other people. The tips are divided into sections on working with a partner or a team; working independently; and working in a leadership role. The authors have also included practice exercises on getting and receiving feedback; and a discussion of different personality types.

+ Computer Use Tip Sheet: includes keyboard shortcuts, tips for dealing with computer problems, and advice on Internet security. The authors have included learning exercises at both basic and higher levels.

All the Tips Sheets and other materials can be downloaded from the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) Library at:  
<http://library.nald.ca/browse/series?name=Learning+Tools+-+HRSDC>

Or contact WQLC for a printed copy to use with your student.



## We Learn As We Play

“Recognizing Life’s Work” takes 12 leisure activities and shows the Essential Skills that are used for each one. These activities are: Computers for personal use, Crossword puzzles, Entertaining/ socializing, Fishing, Gardening, Housecleaning, Household Financial Management, Household Food Management, Household scheduling and Organizing, Pet care, Playing board games/cards, Reading for Pleasure.



Each of these activities is rated as to which of the nine Essential Skills are needed, how they are used and the level of complexity of the task. Occupations that require the same essential skills as the leisure activity are shown. And the job’s use of the Essential Skills is examined. Labour market information about each occupation is also shown.



This tool clearly demonstrates the relationship between work tasks and play skills. It can be very powerful for a person considering entering or re-entering the workforce to see that they already possess and use some of the necessary skills.



“Recognizing Life’s Work” was developed by QUILL (Quality in Lifelong Learning) Network of Walkerton, Ontario. It can be accessed for free at <http://quillnet.org/e-resources/r/w.htm>



## Canadians signal strong need for financial literacy education at all ages: CICA survey

TORONTO, Jan. 5 /CNW/ - A national survey conducted for the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) finds that many Canadians are in difficult financial circumstances or making financial decisions that threaten their long-term prosperity.

The survey by Harris Decima also finds the majority of respondents believe financial literacy education must start at an early age. More than eight of every ten (84 per cent) Canadians believe young people are ill-prepared to manage their finances when they enter the workforce and 85 per cent believe that financial management skills should be taught in schools to help solve this problem.

The CICA, which supports the efforts of the federal government's Task Force on Financial Literacy, conducted the survey to take the pulse of Canadians on the issue. "Clearly, Canadians want financial literacy education for our youth but rising debt and insufficient retirement savings highlight a need for help at all ages," says Kevin Dancy, FCA, president and CEO, CICA. "The good news is that Canadians see financial literacy as an essential life skill. Helping Canadians develop financial knowledge is critical to Canada's ongoing prosperity and growth."