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The Centre for Literacy

News from The Centre

May 2009

Goodbye and thanks to Dawson College

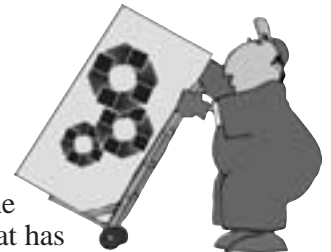
The Centre owes Dawson College a debt of gratitude, because without the College, we would not have existed or survived. The Centre grew out of a Literacy Across the Curriculum faculty development project at the College in the mid-1980s and evolved into an independent organization in 1989 through a partnership between Dawson and the Quebec Association for Adult Learning (QAAL). In 1991, we became an independent charitable organization but continued to be housed at the College which provided space and technical support.

Over time we won national and international recognition for our research, resources and professional development activities and services and for providing a neutral meeting ground where practitioners and policy-makers can talk about issues of literacy policy and accountability. In 2009, we celebrate our 20th year.

We will announce a continuing partnership with Dawson related to specific events and pedagogical consulting. In the meantime, Dawson will host the 2009 Summer Institute.

We have moved

On April 21, after being housed at Dawson College for twenty years, The Centre moved to a new location in the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex, a former hospital that has been converted to provide local health clinics and services and office space for non-profit organizations.



Please take note of our new address and contact information:

The Centre for Literacy of Quebec

2100 Marlowe Avenue, Suite 236

Montreal, Quebec, H4A 3L5

Telephone: 514-798-5601

Fax: 514-798-5602

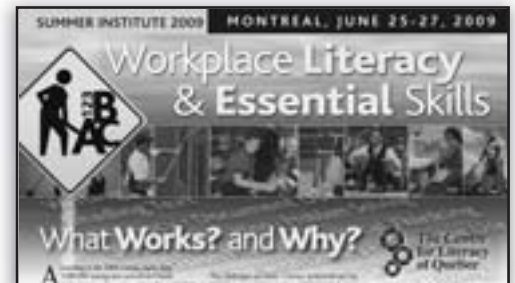
E-mail: info@centreforliteracy.qc.ca

Web site: unchanged at www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca

We will hold an open house in the early fall to showcase the inviting library and consultation space. For those outside Montreal, we offer our virtual presence.

Summer Institute 2009 approaches capacity

Our Summer Institute *Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills: What Works? and Why?* is fast approaching maximum capacity. We have in fact increased the numbers to accommodate the enormous interest in this year's theme. Among the invited presenters is Frances Graham, Head of Skills, Investors in People UK, and former CE of Workbase Training UK. In her current role, Frances directs the work plan agreed with the Skills for Life Strategy Unit of the Department of Innovation and Skills (DIUS) that demonstrates the commitment of Investors in People to engage employers and employees in developing literacy and numeracy. For more about contributions from our New Zealand invitees, John Benseman and Katherine Percy, and others from the across this country, see our web site.



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OUTCOMES FROM:

• Health and Literacy Curriculum Institute

Final discussions at the October 2008 Health Literacy Institute in Calgary included a recommendation to develop a working definition and set of principles that might serve as the foundation for health literacy curriculum and evaluation regardless of audience or purpose. Six participants have worked since then to draft The Calgary Charter on Health Literacy: Definition and Core Principles for the Development of Health Literacy Curricula. We have sent it for feedback to the institute participants and to the Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA) conference, and will share it more broadly in the coming weeks. We hope it leads to further discussion and helps move the health literacy agenda forward.

<http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/whatsnew/Healthlitinst/HLinstIndex.htm>

• Museums, arts, and literacy initiative

We have created an online portal that links museums, arts, and literacy initiatives following a research project and knowledge sharing video-conference in February, supported by funding from the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre, Canadian Council on Learning. The work was done in partnership with the Canadian Museums Association. <http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/museums.htm>

• Free assistive technology for people with learning disabilities

We have posted an annotated list of free assistive technology for people with learning disabilities, as an outcome of a project funded through Initiatives fédérales-provinciales conjointes en matière d'alphabétisation (IFPCA). The work was done in collaboration with LEARN Quebec, and the Community Learning Centres network. Workshops were offered in remote regions by videoconference in January and February. http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/courses/Free_AT_Wkshp.pdf

• HIPPY Montreal

Since 2007 The Centre has managed what has grown into the largest HIPPY program in Canada. It was generously supported by the Chagnon Foundation. However, our fiduciary role ends on May 31, and we are collaborating with local agencies, funders, and HIPPY Canada to help the program make a smooth transition to a new structure. The Centre will remain engaged with the program through curriculum, evaluation and capacity-building activities. We will also share a report from a three-year research study of the Montreal program to be available this summer.

Thanks to Friends 2008

A special thank you to those who responded to our request last year for funds to purchase new technology. Because of your generosity, we have new computers at our new site. We also thank those who suggested possible rental spaces, and our legal firm, Hanna, Glasz, Sher, for donations of furniture and equipment.



Filing cabinets needed

We still need some used filing cabinets in good condition. Please contact us if you have any to donate.

Friends Campaign 2009

- Help us celebrate 20 years!

This is our 20th year and we want to raise funds that will allow us to leave a tangible benefit to mark the occasion. We are enclosing a donation card with the print copies of News, or if you are on the e-list, you can download the card from the web site.

We also welcome suggestions to make a lasting contribution for the occasion. Send ideas to info@centreforliteracy.qc.ca. A board-staff committee will choose from the recommendations. We will announce the winning idea in the next issue of *News from The Centre*.

Accountability and Literacy

Connecting the Dots continues to work with its five action-research projects on innovative accountability practices across Canada and promises some compelling outcomes that will include diverse, regionally-appropriate models of collaboration between funders and providers.



Interim reports are posted at www.literacyandaccountability.ca. The project also posted provincial/territorial snapshots of literacy policy and practice that were gathered during a brief period in December 2008. As expected, they highlight the difficulty of comparisons without common definitions or frameworks of accountability. This and many intriguing issues that have arisen from the field and literature reviews will be analyzed in the final report later this year. Among the topics of interest: the connections between organizational governance and accountability in institutional and community-based settings.

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