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**Quebec English Literacy Alliance Reveals Impact of Federal Budget Cuts**

The Quebec English Literacy Alliance, comprised of English school boards and community-based literacy groups across the province of Quebec, recently revealed the impact of the budget cuts made by the Harper government on literacy in Quebec. The cuts target both the French and English sectors; no one is spared. The lack of federal funding will greatly affect literacy services across the province and throughout Canada. Those organizations specializing in providing training and information-sharing activities as well as advocating for the advancement of literacy in the province have literally been dismissed as non-essential by the Conservative Government. “This is totally unacceptable”, stresses Carolyn Marsh, Coordinator of the Quebec English Literacy Alliance. “It is completely astounding that the government is telling 49% of the population that they don't matter.”

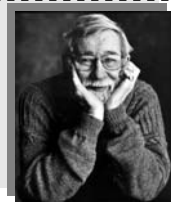
By cutting funding to the members of QELA (who are all literacy providers) they will no longer be able to provide training, literacy program development and the coordination of literacy programs. This will directly affect the learners.

*Excerpts from a Press Release issued by QELA at the end of October, 2006*

It's a fact

Often people with low literacy skills do not want anyone to know that they have a problem and have become very good at covering up and disguising their difficulty.

*(continued on page 3...)*



**QELA HOSTS THE 2006 PETER GZOWSKI INVITATIONAL (PGI)**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR LITERACY**

Full Story and pictures on pages 4 and 5.



**QLWG's Working for You:**

**QWLG Prepares to Test Distance Education Competency-Based Literacy Thematic Units**

Notice to all literacy teachers! QLWG is currently completing the development of 27 competency-based thematic units for literacy distance education. Funding willing, we will be testing the units with literacy teachers across the province as part of our 2006—2007 project.

As the project is paper based (and not on-line), it will be useful to teachers in regular literacy classrooms as well. Competency-based learning meets the needs of all learners. It is important to keep in mind, however, that all learners are different. In order to address the needs and interests of all learners, units have been divided by **Essential Life Skills** and **Individual Life Skills**.  
*(continued on page 2...)*

**QLWG: Contact Details**

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## QWLG's Working for You ...continued

### QLWG Prepares to Test Distance Education Competency-Based Literacy Thematic Units

**Essential Life Skills** are important for everyone, while *Individual Life Skills* will address the needs and interests of different learners. Once learners have completed the “Essential” units, they may choose a unit that is applicable to their interests and lifestyle.

Essential Life Skills Units	Individual Life Skills Units
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Orientation Unit</li> <li>2. Around the Home</li> <li>3. My Community</li> <li>4. Being a Canadian Citizen</li> <li>5. What's for Dinner</li> <li>6. Managing My Money</li> <li>7. Smart Shopping</li> <li>8. Employment Skills</li> <li>9. My Health</li> <li>10. All about Me</li> <li>11. Communication Skills</li> <li>12. Living in Quebec</li> <li>13. Strategies for Reading and Writing</li> <li>14. Understanding Numbers</li> <li>15. Adding and Subtracting</li> <li>16. Multiplying, Dividing and Fractions</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hobbies and Leisure Time</li> <li>2. Workplace Skills</li> <li>3. My Family</li> <li>4. Entertainment (music and film)</li> <li>5. Fitness and the Great Outdoors</li> <li>6. Getting Around (travel and transportation)</li> <li>7. Career Exploration</li> <li>8. Getting My Driver's License</li> <li>9. Learning in Quebec</li> <li>10. The Environment</li> <li>11. Handling Legal Concerns</li> <li>12. The Retirement Years</li> <li>13. My First Project/Starting My Own Business</li> </ol>

If you are interested in testing the units in your local area, please contact your local QLWG REP or Patti Moore, QLWG Coordinator, at moorep@cqsb.qc.ca or (418) 651-3022.

### QELA REPRESENTS ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUEBEC LITERACY PROVIDERS AT THE MOVEMENT FOR CANADIAN LITERACY TABLE



*Movement for Canadian Literacy* 

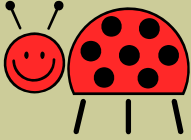
We are proud to announce that the **Quebec English Literacy Alliance** was recently nominated to represent **English-speaking literacy providers at the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) national literacy table.**

**MCL** is a national non-profit organization representing literacy coalitions (<http://www.literacy.ca/about/coal.htm>), organizations, and individuals from every province and territory across Canada.

MCL's mission is to be a national voice for literacy for every Canadian through networking, research, government liaison, learner development, communication, collaboration and building the capacity to support the people and organizations involved with adult literacy education.

As a founding member of the Quebec English Literacy Alliance, the member boards of QLWG are proud to be part of this exciting new phase in QELA's history.

Sorry—no QLWG photo for 2006—2007 yet. Funding willing, we will be meeting soon.



## QLWG Partner Boards

Central Québec School Board  
 Eastern Shores School Board  
 Eastern Townships School Board  
 English Montreal School Board  
 Kativik School Board  
 Littoral School Board  
 Lester B. Pearson School Board  
 New Frontiers School Board  
 Riverside School Board  
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board  
 Western Quebec School Board

To get in touch with your local QLWG representative, contact Patti L. Moore, QLWG Coordinator at [moorep@cqsbc.qc.ca](mailto:moorep@cqsbc.qc.ca) or log onto [www.qela.qc.ca](http://www.qela.qc.ca)

## QLWG IN DANGER OF CLOSING ITS DOORS

As an English-speaking Quebecer, I was very proud when I learned that Quebec would be hosting the October 28-31 International Literacy Seminar, and honoured to represent my organization, the Quebec Literacy Working Group, at this event.

The group that I coordinate questioned the pertinence of me representing them at this event when we have just learned that our organisation will have to close its doors, if not this year, then certainly next. After some discussion, they felt that it was important that I come and add my voice to the many other groups across Canada that have either already closed their doors or will be doing so in the coming weeks. "Tell the powers that be what this means to organisations like ours; to the adults in our communities"; they directed me. "Tell them what the teachers- and the adults - in our areas would be losing if we close our doors."

Our group planned to celebrate 30 years of existence in 2008. During those years (among other things); we have supported teachers and have developed teaching materials; we have played an active role in the development of the **Quebec English Literacy Alliance**, a coalition which was just recently named to represent English Quebec at the **Movement for Canadian Literacy** table.

We hope the federal government will read, and how fortunate for them that they can read—what the various literacy groups across the country have had to say about these cuts.

*Excerpt from Message delivered by Patti Moore at the October 28-31, 2006 International Literacy Seminar –Quebec City*

(It's a Fact... continued)

### How to spot a potential literacy student:

- Adults may request that tests and examinations be given orally, saying that they are more "comfortable" with this format.
- Adults may seem angry; embarrassed; ill at ease; frustrated; closed down when facing new learning situations
- Adults may be reluctant to tell you about themselves or avoid eye contact
- Adults may ask how to write simple words
- Adults may ask for help to complete forms or documents (or tell you they will "take it home and complete it there")
- Adults may have difficulty following directions

Source: **MELS** Session de perfectionnement sur l'accueil des adultes peu scolarisés

## QELA HOSTS THE 2006 PETER GZOWSKI INVITATIONAL (PGI) GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR LITERACY



On September 15, 2006 for the first time ever, QELA hosted this prestigious golf tournament in Bromont, Quebec. Founded by Peter Gzowski in 1986 to raise funds in support of adult literacy across Canada, over \$9 million has been raised to date. The PGIs operate as a division of ABC CANADA, with each PGI organized by a local committee. Every dollar raised stays in the community to support local literacy programs. ABC CANADA provides administrative support and coordination of national sponsorships.

The event officially began during the evening of September 14 with a fund-raising banquet that featured our very own **Denise Llewellyn** (Lester B. Pearson School Board) as **harpist** for the event and **Lorne Elliott**, who entertained the crowd with his hilarious anecdotes.

### Denise Llewellyn

Denise has been playing harp since 1980 and a concert harp since 1983. Her interest is in harp therapy and how the music of the harp affects healing and learning. She is enrolled in the International Harp Therapy Program to become a Certified Therapeutic Harp Practitioner and is a member of the World Harp Orchestra, the American Harp Society and Harpissimo Quebec. She is also a member of the Canadian Conference for the Arts and the Quebec English Language Arts Network (ELAN). Denise Llewellyn is presently the Adult Education Consultant at the Lester B. Pearson School Board in Montreal and is the Literacy Representative for adult education at the Board.

### Lorne Elliott

Canadian born, LORNE ELLIOTT has performed from Newfoundland to New York City, from Los Angeles to Australia and points in between. Lorne started performing in 1974 as a folk musician in East Coast Canada. At the same time he kept writing fiction as well as songs, monologues and one-liners. The outcome of such a training is a very special show of comedy and music, totally original, entertaining, up-lifting and foolish enough to make everybody laugh.

### The Peter Gzowski Award

**Mr. Richard Staples**, playing with the Townshippers Association, was the recipient of the coveted **Peter Gzowski Award**, which has been a feature of the PGI's since 1989. It was originally called the George Knudson Award and [it still goes to a participant who brings the most goodwill and cheer to the event](#) (mirroring Canadian golfing legend George Knudson's enthusiasm when he played the 1987 Briars PGI). Mr. Staples earned the award by demonstrating exemplary team spirit within his golf foursome and with his continuing cheerfulness and good spirit throughout the day.

### Co-operator's Student Achievement Award

One of the highlights of the Tournament was the presentation of the Co-operators Learners Award to a deserving literacy student. This year's recipient was **Jim Barrie**, a student from the Eastern Townships School Board's Literacy Program—CALL (Center for Adult Lifelong Learning).

A keen student, he is proud to have won this award. This has encouraged him to continue his studies and work even harder. His goal is to graduate high school and to continue on in the field of computers.

*The member school boards of the Quebec Literacy Working Group are proud to be active members of the Quebec English Literacy Alliance (QELA [www.qela.qc.ca](http://www.qela.qc.ca)), a partnership of English literacy providers, which is dedicated to networking, training and information-sharing activities, advocating for the advancement of literacy in the province.*



# Photo Album



**Patti Moore and Richard Staples**



**Julie Zachary and Jim Barrie**

## THANKS

The success of the PGI is thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors who believe in the cause of literacy.

We would like to publicly thank them and hope that they will continue to support this important event in future years.



**Denise Llewellyn**



**Lorne Elliott—Funny Man!**



**Andrew Carter—Poet Laureate**

## HELPING LITERACY STUDENTS REGISTER FOR CLASSES

For adults with low literacy skills, it takes a lot of courage to come back into a structured teaching environment. One negative experience may be enough for the adult to retreat again.

- ✓ Use simple words
- ✓ Avoid specialized terminology
- ✓ Reformulate your sentences if the person does not appear to understand
- ✓ Keep written material simple and light
- ✓ Use a larger font
- ✓ Have the adult mirror back what is expected of him/her
- ✓ Break up registration into manageable pieces
- ✓ Avoid giving too much information all at once
- ✓ Do not interrupt the adult when they are concentrating on a task

For more information, contact your local QLWG Rep. or Patti Moore, QLWG Coordinator, at [moorep@cqsbc.qc.ca](mailto:moorep@cqsbc.qc.ca) or (418) 651-3022

## AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS, LPQ CLOSES ITS DOORS



The members of the Quebec Literacy Working Group were sorry to learn that Literacy Partners of Quebec (LPQ) has closed its office in Montreal.

Incorporated in 1992, LPQ's original mandate was to develop projects, to gather and share information, to promote public awareness, and to support literacy providers in regions outside Montreal with limited access to training and resources.

After some changes in the landscape of English literacy in Quebec in September 1997, LPQ revised its direction. In November 1997 the organization moved to membership. LPQ also became the provincial representative at the national [Movement for Canadian Literacy](#) table.

Over the years, QWLG has collaborated with LPQ in numerous ways and has benefited from the many services which LPQ provided to the literacy community, notably: the LPQ *Literacy Clips* newsletter and the Montreal-area LEARN line for adult referrals (since 1994).






We will particularly miss Judy Brandeis, Executive Director of LPQ for many years and a passionate and dedicated supporter of all things literacy-related. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with Judy over the years. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Source: <http://www.nald.ca/lpq/>

## LITERACY PRIZES IN 2006-2007

Hear yea! Hear yea! Literacy students have many opportunities each year to be rewarded by the community for their efforts, but unfortunately, as the community always seems to grant these awards at the same time of the year, it can be difficult for our learners to find the time to fully participate. In order to help you avoid the “spring rush” the members of QLWG have compiled a list of upcoming awards in 2006-2007.

We do not have many exact dates, but we have given you an approximation based on the submission dates last year. Please let us know if we have missed any; we would be happy to highlight them in our next issue of *QLWG Vox* (Patti L. Moore, *QLWG Coordinator at [moorep@cqsbc.qc.ca](mailto:moorep@cqsbc.qc.ca)*)

Contest	Deadline (approx)	Details/ criteria	For whom	Work Involved
<p><b>MELS Prix du COF</b> (English and/or French)</p> 	<b>April or May 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ English literacy (<i>not</i> ESL)</li> <li>✓ Individual effort</li> <li>✓ Impact on personal and family life</li> <li>✓ Involvement with the community</li> </ul>	Adult learners	<p>Text to maximum of 3 pages</p> <p>2 letters of support</p>
<p><b>Canada Post Literacy Awards</b> (English and/or French)</p> 	<b>May 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ English literacy (<i>not</i> ESL)</li> <li>✓ Very detailed process – must be highly literate to read/submit an application</li> <li>✓ Criteria will depend on category. See: <a href="http://www.canadapost.ca">www.canadapost.ca</a></li> </ul>	<p>4 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual</li> <li>- Educator</li> <li>- Community</li> <li>- Business</li> </ul>	<p>Highly complicated criteria</p> <p>5 typed pages double-spaced</p>
<p><b>Recognition Awards for Adult Literacy</b> (English)</p> <p>The Centre for Literacy, QAAL LLC-Q/LVQ and QLWG</p>	<b>March 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ English literacy (<i>not</i> ESL)</li> <li>✓ To recognize the courage of adults</li> <li>✓ To recognize teachers and tutors</li> </ul>	<p>Adult learners</p> <p>Teachers and tutors</p>	<p>Entry must involve writing:</p> <p><i>Essay</i> <i>Poem comic strip</i> <i>Etc.</i></p> <p>Maximum 2 pages</p>
<p><b>Co-operators Learner Achievement Award</b> (English)</p> 	<p><b>QELA 2007 PGI</b> <b>April 2007</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ English literacy (<i>not</i> ESL)</li> <li>✓ Enrolled in basic education not exceeding a GED</li> <li>✓ Planning to continue</li> <li>✓ Excellent attendance and progress</li> </ul>	Adult learners	<p>Recommendation from a teacher</p> <p>Application: may require teacher help</p> <p>No specified text length</p>
<p><b>Literacy Foundation Contest personal Accounts</b> (English and/or French)</p> 	<b>Early April (date to be determined)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ English literacy (<i>not</i> ESL)</li> <li>✓ Trainers – recount your experiences</li> <li>✓ Learners – what made you register in a literacy class</li> <li>✓ Photo and extract of submission to be published on Web site and promotional tools</li> </ul>	<p>Adult learners</p> <p>Trainers</p>	Text to maximum of 1 page
<p><b>QLWG Local Graduation Awards</b> (English)</p> 	<b>June 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ For literacy student graduating from program</li> <li>✓ Or for a student who has shown most improvement</li> </ul>	<p>Adult Education Literacy Student</p>	Teacher observation

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can borrow resource trunks from The Centre for Literacy, Dawson College, by contacting their librarian at:

[lib\\_literacycntr@dawsoncollege.qc.ca](mailto:lib_literacycntr@dawsoncollege.qc.ca)

Go online for details:

<http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/Resources/trunk98/trunk98.htm>



**Teachers!**

Have you visited the Quebec English Literacy Alliance Web site lately?

Soon to come: Math-related literacy activities!

[www.qela.qc.ca/Activities.htm](http://www.qela.qc.ca/Activities.htm)

**TEACHING TIPS: HELPING ADULT LITERACY LEARNERS**

- ✓ Use clear and simple language (written and spoken)
- ✓ Regularly check to see if the adult understands
- ✓ Have the adult reformulate ideas in his/her own words
- ✓ Expect a certain amount of frustration (have you ever learned a second language?)
- ✓ Adults may need guidance (and "tricks") to follow directions; encourage them to reformulate directions and praise them when they do well
- ✓ Refer to concrete life situations the adult can relate to
- ✓ Find out what motivates the adult; incorporate this into his/her learning

*Source: MEQ Sessions de perfectionnement sur l'accueil des adultes peu scolarisés.*

**Have Your Say**

Send your comments/  
submissions to;

Patti L. Moore  
QLWG Coordinator  
Tel; (418) 651-3022  
Fax: (418) 651-3025

**"I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."**

**Albert Einstein**

**VOX**

