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*"...the literacy resource for school board personnel and adult education teachers"*



## UNESCO International Literacy Day

September 8, 2010 was International Literacy Day

In New York, UNESCO's Director-General Irina Bokova gave a keynote address at the international conference "Literacy: an essential foundation for development" at the United Nations. The opening address was given by former First Lady of the United States Laura Bush, who is Honorary Ambassador for the UN Literacy Decade (UNLD).

Some 796 million adults still lack literacy skills. About two-thirds are women. The International Literacy Day global celebrations focused on the transformation literacy can bring to women's lives and those of their families, communities and societies.

The International Literacy Prizes were awarded by an international jury to innovative literacy programmes focusing on women's empowerment through literacy in Germany, Egypt, Nepal, Cape Verde, Malawi and Colombia.

The awards ceremony was followed by the launch of the Knowledge and Innovations Network for Literacy (KINL). Created with support from Verizon Foundation and Microsoft, the KINL will be a virtual workplace where literacy researchers and practitioners can share knowledge and debate literacy topics on online fora. The network is expected to improve advocacy, policy formulation and programme delivery, as well as strengthening North-South and South-South cooperation and partnerships. This project will be operational beginning 1 November, 2010.

### In Fact...

**According to Ipsos Reid poll this summer, 93% of Canadians agree "that governments need to support improving the literacy levels of Canadians."**

Source:

<http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=4913>

Important Dates:

October 18-20  
Ont. Literacy Coalition  
Conference Toronto

November 1-5  
Media Literacy Week

### QLWG Contact

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**QLWG: Supporting Your Commitment to Adult Learning!**

## QLWG - Working for You

- Over the past several months, QLWG has been busy preparing a series of training workshops for our teachers, staff and students on a variety of topics:**
- \* **Reception and Referral of Adults with Literacy Needs:** Great for frontline personnel who may have first contact interaction with potential students. Also suitable for administrators who will later deliver this training to frontline personnel.
  - \* **Student Study Skills:** one-day workshop for FG or Voc Ed students. *We also have a two-hour 'teacher' version!*
  - \* **Training for New Teachers:** this one-day workshop includes lots of key information and practical tips for the new adult literacy teacher.
  - \* **Family Literacy Series:** Great for literacy students who are also parents: learning styles & multiple intelligences: helping children with their homework and preparing children for Kindergarten.

**QLWG can help!** We are *the* experts of adult literacy in English school boards in Quebec. We have the expertise—and the programs—that adults need to build on their basic and essential skills. Contact us at <http://www.nald.ca/qlwg/> for more information!

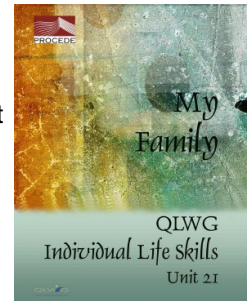
## Using skills for Life

### Skills for Life mapped to Common Core Basic Education curriculum

The list of units for each course represents suggestions for teachers on where to look within the SFL binders for materials to use with individual students and groups. The total curricular content of those courses does not correspond to the total content of the listed thematic units. Conversely, not all the content of a SFL unit may be appropriate for the corresponding course. The grid is meant to help teachers find materials within the SFL series to address the topics outlined in the course descriptions.

The PDF versions of all the units are available for download at: <http://www.nald.ca/qlwg/skills.htm>

14 E-learning units will be available on-line this winter. Stay tuned!



Courses English, Language of Instruction	Skills for Life Corresponding Units
<b>LITERACY &amp; PRE-SECONDARY</b>	
<b>B121-4 Discovering World of Print</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies for Reading (12)</li> <li>Learning in Quebec (27)</li> <li>Strategies for Writing (14)</li> <li>Strategies for Grammar (14)</li> </ul>
<b>B122-4 Building Foundations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation Unit (1)</li> <li>My Community (3)</li> </ul>
<b>B123-4 Satisfying Basic Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Around the Home (2)</li> <li>My Health (8)</li> <li>Smart Shopping (7)</li> <li>What's for Dinner (5)</li> </ul>
<b>B124-4 Accessing Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart Shopping (7)</li> <li>My Community (3)</li> <li>Career Exploration (25)</li> <li>Learning in Quebec (27)</li> <li>Handling Legal Concerns (29)</li> <li>Getting My Driver's License (26)</li> <li>Living in Quebec (11)</li> </ul>
<b>B125-4 Leisure and Personal Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fitness &amp; Great Outdoors (23)</li> <li>My Hobbies &amp; Leisure (18)</li> <li>Entertainment (22)</li> </ul>
<b>B126-4 Community Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My Community (3)</li> <li>Learning in Quebec (27)</li> <li>Getting Around (24)</li> <li>Living in Quebec (28)</li> </ul>
<b>P101-4 Opening Doors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment Skills (19)</li> <li>Managing My Money (6)</li> <li>Communication Skills (10)</li> <li>All About Me (9)</li> <li>What's for Dinner (5)</li> <li>Smart Shopping (7)</li> <li>Around the Home (2)</li> <li>Fitness and the Great Outdoors (23)</li> <li>On the Job (20)</li> <li>My Health (8)</li> <li>My Family (21)</li> </ul>
<b>P102-4 Everyday Living</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fitness and the Great Outdoors (23)</li> <li>Around the Home (2)</li> <li>Managing My Money (6)</li> <li>My Hobbies and Leisure Time (18)</li> <li>Entertainment (music and film) (22)</li> <li>All About Me (9)</li> <li>Handling Legal Concerns (29)</li> <li>The Retirement Years (30)</li> <li>Living Green (28)</li> <li>My Family (21)</li> <li>What's for Dinner (5)</li> </ul>
<b>P103-4 Taking Charge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All About Me (9)</li> <li>My Health (8)</li> <li>My Family (21)</li> <li>Communication Skills (10)</li> <li>The Retirement Years (30)</li> <li>My Community (3)</li> <li>Fitness and the Great Outdoors (23)</li> </ul>
<b>P104-4 Challenges and Discoveries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Skills (10)</li> <li>Living in Quebec (11)</li> <li>Being a Canadian Citizen (4)</li> <li>My Community (3)</li> <li>Learning in Quebec (27)</li> </ul>
<b>P105-4 Stepping Out</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My Community (3)</li> <li>Being a Canadian Citizen (4)</li> <li>Learning in Quebec (27)</li> <li>On the Job (20)</li> <li>Career Exploration (25)</li> <li>Getting My Driver's License (26)</li> <li>Employment Skills (19)</li> <li>Living in Quebec (11)</li> </ul>
<b>P106-4 Lifestyle Options</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All About Me (9)</li> <li>What's for Dinner (5)</li> <li>My Health (8)</li> <li>Fitness and the Great Outdoors (23)</li> <li>My Hobbies and Leisure Time (18)</li> <li>Managing My Money (6)</li> <li>Smart Shopping (7)</li> </ul>
<b>P107-4 Engagement and Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handling Legal Concerns (29)</li> <li>Being a Canadian Citizen (4)</li> <li>My Hobbies and Leisure Time (18)</li> <li>The Retirement Years (30)</li> <li>Living Green (28)</li> </ul>

## Who is the QLWG Rep in Your Board?

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## 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

## Making a Difference

### Spotlight on Learning:

#### *Becoming Agents of Change*

Ontario Literacy Coalition's Spotlight on Learning: Becoming Agents of Change conference is scheduled for October 18-20, 2010 at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in downtown Toronto. This is a Canada-East (Ontario to Newfoundland and Labrador) conference focusing on how literacy can be a tool for positive change at work, at home and in the community. Policy, research and practical tools are major components of this conference.

The keynote speaker will be Rahaf Harfoush, an expert on technology's impact on business, education, and government. In 2008, she was a part of the Obama campaign's social media team. Her book, *Yes We Did: An Inside Look at How Social Media Built the Obama Brand*, is based on her experiences and lessons learned from working to get Barack Obama the nomination and presidency. Hope. Action. Change. In her talk, Rahaf Harfoush provides

an insider's look at Barack Obama's all-encompassing -- and, yes, historic -- social media campaign to demonstrate ways social media can be used to promote a grassroots issue.

Also presenting at the conference will be Craig Alexander, the Senior Vice President & Chief Economist at TD Bank Financial Group. He will speak on the state of literacy in Canada, the economic costs being incurred by weak literacy, what governments should do about the challenges, and the role that businesses can play in improving literacy.

There will also be a special presentation by Dr. Rick Miner who has argued that Ontario is on the verge of an unemployment crisis due to a growing number of people who will be unemployable, due to insufficient levels of education and skills.

For more information and to register go to: <http://www.on.literacy.ca/spotlightonlearning>

### Worthwhile Reading

#### *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*

Maryanne Wolf

Wolf, a professor of child development at Tufts University, integrates psychology and archaeology, linguistics and education, history and neuroscience in a truly path-breaking look at the development of the reading brain—a complicated phenomenon that Wolf seeks to chronicle from both the early history of humanity and the early stages of an individual's development ("unlike its component parts such as vision and speech... reading has no direct genetic program passing it on to future generations").

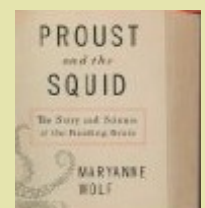
Though it could probably command a book of its own, the sizable third section of the book covers the complex topic of dyslexia, explaining clearly and expertly "what

happens when the brain can't learn to read."

One of those rare books that synthesizes cutting edge, interdisciplinary research with the inviting tone of a curious, erudite friend (think Malcolm Gladwell), Wolf's first book for a general audience is an eye-opening winner, and deserves a wide readership.

"The brain's design made reading possible, and reading's design changed the brain in multiple, critical, still evolving ways."

"Wolf's rhetorical questions are tackled with grace and one always feels richer for having spent time with her." From *California Literary Review*



## Useful Sites: *Evaluating Progress*

### ***Demonstrations for Literacy Practitioners***

We usually don't think of evaluation in terms of demonstrations but in this elaboration of the idea, demonstrations become competency markers. They provide a framework for evaluation as the performance of a structured, relevant, level-appropriate task. The demonstration model includes an assessment tool which clearly identifies and evaluates the primary and secondary learning outcomes.

<http://demonstrations.alphaplus.ca/#>

### ***National Institute for Literacy: Published Assessment tools Assessment Strategies and Reading Profiles (ASRP)***

ASRP provides research-based assessment strategies to improve reading instruction for Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Adult Secondary Education (ASE) learners. Below is a list of commercial assessment tools to evaluate Literacy Levels.

[http://www.nifl.gov/readingprofiles/MC\\_Test\\_Bank.htm](http://www.nifl.gov/readingprofiles/MC_Test_Bank.htm)



## From the Centre for Literacy

### ***Connecting the Dots: Improving Accountability in the Adult Literacy Field in Canada***

is a project that provided an opportunity for funders and practitioners to examine the impact of accountability on the adult literacy field across the country and explore new ways of approaching it. The Linkage Report weaves together the research and other findings that emerged from the Connecting the Dots project. From the report is a working definition of accountability and few "voices from the field" observations:

"Accountability is fulfilling obligations negotiated by all parties taking shared responsibility for performance and results."

"Accountability should enhance what I do instead of hinder or stifle it. It should not drain too much time away from what one is doing. [It] should be minimal rather than oppressive."

"Not everything that can be counted counts; not everything that counts can be counted."

[http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/acctblty/FINAL\\_Link\\_09\\_12.pdf](http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/acctblty/FINAL_Link_09_12.pdf)

### **Raise a Reader: Expressions of the Love of Reading**

"Children love being read to. It feeds their imagination, it builds vocabulary, it's nurturing time together. Reading together creates magical moments."

Heather Reisman, Founder and CEO of Indigo Books & Music

"There is something very intense and intimate in shared reading time when a child can interrupt at any time and it gives (you) a chance to elaborate on something from the book."

David Suzuki, Co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation, award-winning scientist, broadcaster and author of *Legacy*

*A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.*

~Chinese Proverb

花园

From Raise a Reader day September 29—  
Montreal Gazette  
Rachel Naud

VOX

*"...Supporting Your Commitment to Lifelong Learning!"*