

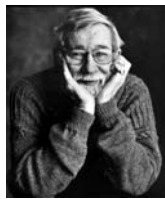
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“...the literacy resource for adult education teachers”

It's a fact

Of the 700,000 adult Quebecers aged fifteen to sixty-four with less than a grade nine education, only 1% of these adults have benefited from literacy classes in the last decade
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QELA Hosts the Peter Gzowski Invitational (PGI)



The PGI was founded by Peter Gzowski in 1986 to raise funds in support of adult literacy in Canada. Since that time, over \$9 million has been raised in various golf tournaments across the country. The PGIs operate as a division of ABC CANADA, with each PGI organized by a local committee. On September 15, 2006, for the first time, QELA will be hosting the event (the Quebec English Literacy Alliance is a provincial table of 11 English-speaking community-based groups and 11 school boards across the province).

Every dollar raised stays in the community to support local literacy programs. ABC CANADA provides administrative support and coordination of national sponsorships.

A Tournament Like No Other. What sets these tournaments apart is their commitment to fun. The PGIs possess a healthy aversion to formality and feature music and poetry, often heard on the greens. Each tournament features a Poet Laureate who writes a poem about the day and shares it with the golfers at the banquet.

Mark this date on your calendar, and see your local QLWG representative for details: **Friday September 15, 2006**
Château Bromont Golf Course
Bromont, Quebec

QLWG's Working for You:

The QLWG Distance Education Model

It can typically take adults with low literacy skills up to five years to make the decision to come to a literacy class and it can be frightening for them to walk back into a formal learning environment.

Despite the need for literacy services in adult education centres across the province, many adults cannot attend a regular literacy class and many of our boards simply don't have the numbers (12) for a regular literacy class. In addition, it can be a challenge for adults with jobs and families to find the time to come back to school.

The Quebec Literacy Working Group intends to find a solution for these adults with the *Distance Education Competency-Based Literacy* units which are currently being developed as part of our 2004-2006 QLWG concerted project. (continued on page 2)

QLWG: Contact Details

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SCHOOLSCAPES

Did you know that parents' level of schooling has a significant impact on the literacy scores of their children? Without books, newspapers or magazines in the home and a parent who reads to serve as a role model, many children will grow up to find themselves at a level 1 or 2 reading level

The Ministry publications *Schoolscapes* (in English) and *Virage* (in French) have articles on their recent conference on emergent literacy.



Emergent literacy is not just about making sure that the next generation grows up loving and reading books; it is about ensuring that their parents are equipped to help them do just that.

QLWG's Working for You ...continued

The QLWG Distance Education Model (continued)

While our support materials could eventually include e-learning, we first want to reach the many learners who do not have the economic resources (i.e. computer equipment) to learn from home.

We are also aware that this clientele needs a fair amount of direction; this model will not work with the level one student who needs constant support; students would have to be at a level where they would be capable of working independently, with some support. This support would come in two forms: students would have telephone access to a qualified literacy teacher, and they would also have access to a tutor from their community.

Our project writer, Ms. Vicki Hugli, has been developing learning units with the MELS curriculum reform in mind. Adults will be encouraged to think about their learning process and they will be honing their reading, writing and numeracy skills while focusing on topics which are pertinent to their everyday lives (managing money, smart shopping, employment skills, etc.). In 2006-2007, QLWG plans to field-test the projected 27 units and to develop diagnostic tools as well. We will also be looking at developing a registration and intake process to accommodate this unique clientele.

Want more information? Visit your local QLWG representative for a sneak peak at this exciting new initiative!

LITERACY LINGO—(Source; http://www.abc-canada.org/literacy_facts/)

- Use *"low literacy skills"* instead of *"illiterate."* The word *"illiterate"* is no longer used in literacy circles, as it represents only a small portion of the Canadian population (less than five percent).
- Use *"low literacy skills"* instead of *"lack of literacy skills."*
- *"Literacy"* = Grade 8 or under.
"Upgrading" = Grade 9 or over.
- Use *"adult basic education"* instead of *"adult education."*
- Refer to *"people with literacy needs"* or *"people with literacy challenges/ difficulties."*
- Refer to *"programs to improve reading, writing and math"* not *"literacy programs."*
- When speaking to potential learners, refer to *"reading, writing and math skills"* not *"literacy skills."*

Teaching Tips for Adult Literacy Learners

Source: <http://www.nald.ca/NALDNEWS/98winter/tips.htm>

These suggestions apply particularly to the student with learning disabilities:

- Break down tasks into a sequence of steps.
- Mark written work on content rather than on spelling.
- Provide opportunities for the student to be successful, and praise whenever possible.
- Teach memory enhancement strategies such as visualizing, associating, or categorizing.



Bottom Row: David Roberts, LSB; Dennis Murray, ESSB; Denise Llewellyn, LBPSB; Patti Moore, CQSB.

Top Row: Darlene Brown, SWLSB; Mario Pasteris, EMSB; Ilze Epnars, ETSB; Linda Martin, RSB; Maria Gudzio, NFSB; Warren Halligan, WQSB.

To get in touch with your local QLWG representative, contact Patti L. Moore, QLWG Coordinator at moorep@cqsb.qc.ca or log onto www.qela.qc.ca

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 Wilfred Laurier School Board
 Western Quebec School Board

(It's a Fact... continued)

- Today, more than 70% of new jobs require some form of post-secondary education.
- 50% of Canadian adults score low numeracy levels and are 2.5 times more likely to receive social assistance.
- 40% of working Canadians lack the necessary basic literacy skills required for successful participation in our rapidly changing labour market.
- 30 to 40% of employees in knowledge-intensive sectors have low document literacy levels.
- The fastest growing jobs include: computer and math scientists, technicians, and sales, marketing, administration and managerial positions.
- The slowest growing job categories include trades, jobs undergoing automation, biological sciences, secretarial, early childhood education and any low-tech field.

Sources; Adult Literacy and Life Skills survey (Statistics Canada and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and http://www.abc-canada.org/literacy_facts/

QLWG GRADUATION AWARDS

TEACHERS! Do you have a hard-working literacy student who deserves recognition? Each year, the Quebec Literacy Working Group offers an annual award to a deserving literacy student. This award, usually in the form of a book or a gift certificate, is given during the annual graduation ceremonies of your local adult education centres.



While the amount is minimal (\$50 per school board), we hope to be able to offer more in the coming year (*pending funding*). For more information, or to nominate a deserving student, contact your local QLWG representative.

IMPORTANT DATES*International Literacy Day**September 8, 2006**Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament**September 15, 2006***CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PRIOR LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

The Canadian Association of Prior Learning and Assessment (CAPLA) in partnership with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) will be hosting the Sixth International Forum on Prior Learning Assessment and Qualification Recognition.

October 15-18, 2006: Delta Fredericton Hotel,
Fredericton, New Brunswick.

http://capla.ca/2006_conference/e-index.php?page=intro

**Subsidy Directory 2006 (Legal Deposit-National-Library-Canada)**

The 2006 edition is now available. This guide contains more than 3100 programs from provincial governments, associations and foundations. It includes organization names, program names, general descriptions, addresses, telephones and URLs (web sites).

CD-Rom\$69.95 Printed... \$149.95 Call Toll Free: (866) 322-3376 or (819) 322-1308

Have Your Say

We would love to hear from you. Tell us what you think of the newsletter and articles you would like to see in the future! **Send your comments/submissions to;**

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TEACHERS! Want to access hundreds of printable and inter-active activities for adults with low literacy skills?

Visit the **Quebec English Literacy Alliance** Web site:
www.qela.qc.ca/Activities.htm

VOX**HAVE A GOOD SUMMER**

"...the literacy resource for School Board Personnel"