



## The Update

September 2012

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### Dates to Remember

- September 19 – Family Literacy Committee Meeting, Heartwood House, 153 Chapel Street
- September 21 – [Essential Skills Day](#)
- September 25 - ALSO presents *An Evening with Frances Itani*
- October 10 – LPCC meeting – Heartwood House, 153 Chapel Street
- October 19 – [Friends of Literacy Luncheon](#), Restaurant International, Algonquin College
- November 14 – LPCC meeting, CNIB, 101-1355 Bank Street
- November 21 – Workshop – A Day in the Life of OALCF  
(Y Employment Access Centre, 1642 Merivale Road)
- December 12 – Board & LPCC meetings - Heartwood House, 153 Chapel Street

## In the News

### Friends of Literacy Luncheon – Friday, October 19

Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy is delighted to announce that the keynote speaker for the 2012 [Friends of Literacy Luncheon](#) is popular mystery writer, [Barbara Fradkin](#), a member of the Ladies Killing Circle (those ladies have murder on their minds!).

The luncheon will take place at **Restaurant International, Algonquin College** where the students of Algonquin's Hospitality Program will prepare and serve a delicious gourmet meal. We encourage you to reserve soon as this is a popular event and tends to fill up quickly.

### Senator Joyce Fairbairn

For a long time there was almost no awareness of the fact that thousands of adult Canadians have challenges with the basics of reading, writing and math. That began to change when Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, appointed **Senator Joyce Fairbairn** to cabinet in 1993 as Government House Leader in the Senate and Minister with Special Responsibility for Literacy (the first and to date, the last person to hold this responsibility). She served in this capacity until June 10, 1997.

But that sounds so dry. That doesn't convey the gracious, determined woman who turned up pretty much whenever and wherever she was asked to speak about literacy. Dressed in one of her trademark red jackets she would march to the front of the room and give a barn burner of a speech as she fired up the literacy troops, reached out to an unknowing public and pressed politicians to take action.

I came to know her as Joyce, a down-to-earth woman who came to events hosted by the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy without fanfare or entourage. She always sought out learners at events and made a special point of talking to them and listening to them.

Joyce was recognized several times for her contributions. In 2000, the Ottawa Citizen presented her with a special lifetime achievement award for her efforts in the literacy field. In her acceptance speech she said:

*“(The learners) have become the most potent teachers for those of us who are in the literacy movement today. Our world is far too precious to become simply a place where people cope. It must become a place where every individual has their chance to contribute.”*

That pretty much sums up the essence of Joyce Fairbairn. She was passionate, energetic and at times downright feisty when it came to shining a light on literacy in Canada in support of the thousands of adults who would benefit from help to increase their skills.

Sadly Joyce has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The irony is painful to realize. In addition to her tireless work on behalf of adult literacy learners, she was a determined advocate for people with disabilities. She is now disabled herself and her own accomplishments are lost to her. But thanks to the lasting printed word (Joyce, after all, began her working life as a journalist) her passion lives on:

*I have moved from earlier days of fighting for this cause on the basis of social justice or economic necessity, to a very stubborn insistence that literacy is a right and a responsibility of citizenship in this country for every individual wherever they live, whatever their age or circumstance. This is not about special treatment. It is not about privilege. It is about glorying in acquiring knowledge that not only puts bread on the table, but entertains and comforts and enhances the soul. - Senator Joyce Fairbairn (2002)*

### **Thank you Joyce, for everything**

*Mary Wiggin*

You can also read a [reflection](#) of Senator Fairbairn's impact on literacy written by Margaret Eaton, President and CEO, ABC Life Literacy Canada.

### **Life Literacy Month**

ABC Life Literacy Canada has declared September as the month to celebrate literacy and lifelong learning. You can read more about [Life Literacy Month](#) on their website.

### **2012 Council of Federation Literacy Award**

Congratulations to [Community Literacy of Ontario](#) (CLO), the winner of Ontario's 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award.

In July, Premier Dalton McGuinty honoured the Barrie-based organization for its continued support and training to more than 100 community-based literacy agencies across the province. Community Literacy of Ontario is well-known for its leadership in online training including [Literacy Basics](#), a self-directed online toolkit for literacy educators.

Recognizing literacy champions and helping people learn new skills are part of the McGuinty government's plan to help every Ontarian succeed and grow our economy.

## Did you know?

- In 2011/2012, [Ontario's Literacy and Basic Skills Program](#), helped over 60,000 learners, with 71 per cent of exiting learners going on to further education and employment.

## Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

ABC Life Literacy Canada is one of several not-for-profit organizations across Canada that has been chosen to nominate up to 30 individuals for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. They are currently seeking nominations of individuals who have made a contribution to improve literacy and skills levels of adult Canadians or raise awareness of the adult literacy and skills cause.

If you know anyone that is deserving of this award, please nominate them by **October 15**. For more information, visit: [www.abclifelifiteracy.ca/DiamondJubilee](http://www.abclifelifiteracy.ca/DiamondJubilee).

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## Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF)

### Independence Curricula Development Project

Community Literacy Ontario (CLO) will use their OALCF expertise to develop curricula for the independence goal path in four broad areas. A brief report on the project entitled **Project Summary-OALCF** is attached.



Ontario Adult  
Literacy  
Curriculum  
Framework

### Replacement of E-Mail Bulletins with the EOPG RSS Feed

As of **November 30**, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) will no longer send email bulletins to Literacy and Basic Skills organizations regarding new postings on the EOPG website. After that date agencies will only find out about new postings by using the EOPG RSS feed or by checking the EOPG site. Visit the [EOPG RSS Page](#) for information on how it works and how to subscribe.

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## Local Programs

St. Nicholas Adult High School – Ottawa

West: 893 Admiral Avenue Phone: 613-228-8888

Central: 20 Graham Avenue Phone: 613-234-2768

Adult students (18+) at St. Nicholas can:

- Complete high school or earn college and university prerequisites
- Choose from 90 daytime credit courses for adults (18+)
- Choose from over 20 online credit courses
- Earn credits while working with [Credits@Work](#)
- Take credit and non-credit courses through **Essential Skills Training and Employment Preparation Programs**

St. Nicholas has:

- Two locations, one centrally located and one in the west
- Individualized student learning plans
- Mature Student Evaluations (MSE)
- Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
- Childcare for Ontario Works recipients (West Campus only)
- Clothing and food cupboards
- On-site counselors to provide academic and career planning

### **A Literary 'Fun' Fundraising Evening for ALSO with Frances Itani**

Frances will read from her new novel *Listen!* which is part of the Good Reads series and from *Requeim* which is now available in paperback. Frances will take questions during an open discussion.

**Cost:** \$10 per person. All proceeds will go to **also** (*Alternative Learning Styles & Outlooks*)

**Where:** Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Street (*corner of MacKay and Dufferin in New Edinburgh*)

**When:** Tuesday, September 25, 2011 7 P.M.

ASL interpreters will be available for this event.

If you plan to attend, please email [kim@also-ottawa.org](mailto:kim@also-ottawa.org)

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## Ottawa Public Library

### New Partnership with People, Words & Change!

People, Words & Change (PWC) and the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) are hosting sessions on **the Golden Oak Book Club** at the Carlingwood Branch, 281 Woodroffe Avenue. These sessions will give adult literacy and ESL learners the opportunity to share the enjoyment of good books in a relaxed atmosphere. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss books selected by the Ontario Library Association's Golden Oak Award for adult learners. The sessions will take place:

Wednesday, September 26	-	2:30 – 3:30 pm
Wednesday, October 31	-	2:30 – 3:30 pm
Wednesday, November 28	-	2:30 – 3:30 pm

For more information call the Carlingwood branch at 613-725-2449.

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## e-Channel – Ontario's online literacy classroom and meeting place

Are you looking for information to help you refer clients to e-Channel?

Have a look at [An Information and Referral Guide to Ontario's e-Channel Programs](#)

To learn more about e-Channel, you can take an online tour in [English](#) or [French](#).

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## Resources for LBS Coordinators and Practitioners

### Risk Management

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will be conducting risk management assessments of Literacy and Basic Skills organizations this fall. There will soon be some new resources to help programs manage this new initiative. Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) is conducting a project called *Reducing Risk / Protecting People: Resources and Tools to Build Risk Management Capacity in Your LBS Agency*. A copy of the project summary is attached. We'll let you know when the resources become available.

## Other Resources from Community Literacy of Ontario

To celebrate International Literacy Day 2012, CLO created an updated version of the document, [Literacy: Why It Matters](#). It outlines 20 reasons why literacy is a critical issue in Ontario and provides an overview of the Literacy and Basic Skills Program.

CLO also has two resources available for practitioners about online training and learning:

### *Digital Discoveries: Guide to Online Learning for Adult Literacy Learners*

This guide provides an extensive overview of promising practices and strategies for online learning in the classroom and an extensive annotated list of popular and useful digital learning resources. Cost: \$25 plus shipping

### *Guide to Effective Technologies for Providing Online Training*

This guide offers a practical and user-friendly overview of the common technologies used for providing online training, including social media, blogs, e-books, online videos, podcasting and more. It shares examples of these technologies in action. Cost: \$15 plus shipping

Both publications can be ordered through: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/CLOResourceOrderForm](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CLOResourceOrderForm)

CLO's latest newsletter, [Our Voice](#), contains a lot of information about e-Channel and Blended Learning. You might want to download copies for your staff and volunteers.

## Essential Skills Ontario

In August, Essential Skills Ontario released an updated version of their 2009 report, *Literacy in Ontario*. This report incorporates the most recent information available on literacy and essential skills programming trends in Ontario. The new version, available online, is called [Literacy and Essential Skills Ontario](#)

## Literacy Blog

Kate Nonesuch has started a blog for literacy instructors called *Working in Adult Literacy*. Kate has more than 20 years experience, mostly Vancouver Island University. Although she is no longer in the classroom, her goal is to share everything she knows about teaching before she retires. You can check out the blog at: <http://katenonesuch.com/>

## Good Reads

Grass Roots Press, in partnership with ABC Life Literacy Canada, is delighted to announce the September release of [four new titles](#) in the popular adult literacy Good Reads book series.

## The Whole Life Project

The [Whole Life Project](#) was a professional development and training initiative to support adult literacy educators to address learning disabilities (LD) in their practice settings. In the course of the project, many literacy groups developed tools to help others with this goal. You can access many of the tools online.

## Unemployment in a Struggling Economy

In June, Statistics Canada released a fact sheet that examines unemployment levels during the 2008/2009 recession. The findings demonstrate that employment losses were more severe for those without a high school diploma. The 12-page document, which is available online, is called [Economic Downturn and Educational Attainment](#).

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## Workshops & Training

### A Day in the Life of the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF)

Mark your calendars! The Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy will host this full-day workshop on **November 21** at the **YMCA-YWCA Employment Access Centre** at 1642 Merivale Road. Once the details have been finalized we'll send out a flyer with a description of the training and registration information.

### Introduction to Moodle

Moodle is an open source (free) learning management system and online content management system. It's a virtual learning environment that enables educators to develop and deliver content online. AlphaPlus is offering free online training from **October 8 to November 20** for LBS practitioners/coordinators. To find out more about the training and how to sign up visit: <http://alphaplus.ca/en/training/moodle/training-schedule.html>

### Getting Comfortable with Technology

Are you struggling to integrate technology into program design and delivery? Need help using digital technologies in your practice? Or do you just want to get more comfortable

with technology and upgrade or develop new skills? Join **AlphaPlus** for, *Moodle Mondays*, *Tech Tuesdays* and *Digital Competency Wednesdays*. A wide choice of [free webinars](#) is available.

## Family Literacy Certificate Program - Online

Conestoga College is offering an online Family Literacy Program. To register visit: <http://www.conestogac.on.ca/ce/courses/coursesearch.jsp> (key word search "family literacy")

The Foundations in Family Literacy Program is offered in partnership with the Centre for Family Literacy in Edmonton, Vancouver Community College, and Conestoga College. It is designed to promote a broad understanding of the inter-related issues involved in working with families to support literacy. Together the six courses reflect the complex range of knowledge and skills required by adult educators, early childhood educators, educational assistants, teachers, health care practitioners, social service providers, library staff, and others who work with families experiencing literacy challenges.

For more information contact Samantha Burns at [sburns@conestogac.on.ca](mailto:sburns@conestogac.on.ca)

## The Centre for Literacy

*Fall Institute 2012:*

Social Finance and Innovation for Adult Basic Learning: Opportunities and Challenges  
October 14-16, Saint John, New Brunswick

A “primer” on social innovation and social finance for literacy and essential skills educators and policy-makers will be presented in draft form at the Institute and revised after the event.

For more information and/or to register visit [Social Finance for Adult Basic Learning](#)

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## Thank you, Wendy!

In June, the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy (OCCL) held our Annual General Meeting as we do every year. The business of the meeting went smoothly enough and the group sailed through the agenda in good time. But this year we could have been forgiven for wanting to slow down just a little as our last order of business was to say goodbye to **Wendy Siebrasse**. Wendy was retiring both from the Board of Directors and from her position as Chair of the Board.

Wendy is an amazing person and she was an outstanding member of the Board for more than a decade. She is blessed with a ready smile, a healthy dose of common sense and a willingness to serve. Wendy supported the staff and Board at OCCL in every endeavour and brought us back to sanity when life seemed too overwhelming.

Times are changing as they always do and organizations like OCCL must adapt. Wendy encouraged the Board to look ahead and she accepted the lead role in preparing a succession plan. In addition, she contributed to the development of numerous policies and procedures and had a keen eye for making them as readable as possible for the public. She was always quick to volunteer at the annual Friends of Literacy Luncheon, welcoming and guiding guests to their tables, introducing and thanking keynote speakers and keeping the conversation going at the speaker's table.

And no non-profit organization will ever say no to a donation. Each year she was on the Board, Wendy, who was retired from Bell, was able to secure a contribution of \$500 for OCCL from the *Employee Giving Program* which supports organizations where Bell employees and retirees volunteer.

All that is left to say is that we miss you, Wendy. Thanks again for all that you did for OCCL. We wish you all the best and hope that our paths will cross again.

*Mary Wiggin*

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OCCL welcomes submissions that may be of interest to our members. If you have material to submit, please contact Maureen at [abcline@occl.ca](mailto:abcline@occl.ca). You can also contact her if you would prefer to receive **The Update** by regular mail.

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