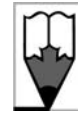


Learners

in ACTION

Seventh Issue
Autumn 2001



Learners in ACTION is a publication of the Movement for Canadian Literacy

Movement for Canadian Literacy's Learners Advisory Network

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Learners: *a time to remember, a time to act!*

THIS NEWSLETTER is dedicated to the life of Joy Coldwell, MCL Learner Representative from the Yukon. Joy died in March, after living for many years with cancer. She was a model of courage, dedication and joyfulness.

This quote is from the tribute to her.

"We know Joy respected all and embraced all. We saw her as the perfect connection between grass-roots literacy and policy maker, between learner and volunteer, between the literate and the not so literate."

*Liesel Briggs,
Yukon Learn*



Just as we remember Joy's good work we have a responsibility to continue it. The time is right for your action.

Please support learners and literacy programs in your regions, your literacy Coalitions and the following [MCL/Learners Advisory Network](#) Projects.

- ① Our survey: Thanks to many of you who answered our survey, the government is getting your message. It is still not too late to lend your voice to theirs.
- ② Our 'Book of Changes': learner's stories, learner's lives. This is an on-going project too.
- ③ Learners Week: a UNESCO initiative designed to promote literacy and honour Canadian learners.

You can make a difference! Visit our web site to find out what you can do.

What's Inside

- 2 [Welcome from the Chair](#)
- 3 [What you had to say to the government](#)
- 5 [Learners Answer the Call!](#)
- 6 [Tribute to Joy Coldwell](#)
- 7 [Computer Corner \(insert\)](#)
- 12 [Reports from Across Canada](#)
- 16 [Canada Post Awards](#)

Welcome from the Chair

It is my pleasure, as chair of the [Learners Advisory Network](#), to welcome you to this issue of Learners in ACTION.

The terrible events of September 11 have made it difficult to think about anything else, but unless we carry on, we hand terrorism a victory. As learners we know all too well the importance of going on in spite of set-backs. It is a quality that will serve us well in these dark days and beyond.

This tragedy has highlighted the best and the worst of humankind. We should remember that it is possible to find greater honour as human beings as a result of horrible events. Hopefully our leaders are willing to be learners in their search for ways to make that happen.

Our sympathies to those of you who lost friends, family or co-workers. We too have

suffered the loss of dear ones during this year and in their names we have pushed on.

This issue is dedicated to the life and spirit of Joy Coldwell, Yukon Learner representative to the Movement for Canadian Literacy who died of cancer last March.

I hope that as you read you find the power that exists in these individual voices. Alone, I bleat like a lamb, but all together we become a deafening roar. I would ask that every one of us find a way to bring our messages home to those who most need to hear them.

To our editor, Arlene MacLowick, and to all the staff at the Movement for Canadian Literacy, a big, heartfelt thanks. There is so much we could not have done without you.

— Janet MacLeod, LAN Chair

Editorial Policy

The editor is responsible for the content of this newsletter and must make sure that there are a variety of viewpoints, ideas and opinions on controversial topics.

The editor, with the advice of the LAN Editorial Committee, reserves the right to edit material to make it shorter and clearer. Material that is not suitable (e.g. bad language, slander) will not be published.

Learners in ACTION

"If you assume that there's no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, there's a chance you may contribute to making a better world. That's your choice."

— Noam Chomsky

"What you had to say to the government!"

Hello Learners!

Last issue we asked you to help us tell the government your concerns about a national learning plan.

Our thanks to the more than 100 learners who took the time to write. We, at MCL, are grateful for your thoughtful and honest answers.

As well, we appreciate the work of the tutors / teachers who helped some of you get your thoughts down on paper.

Here is a summary of the report:

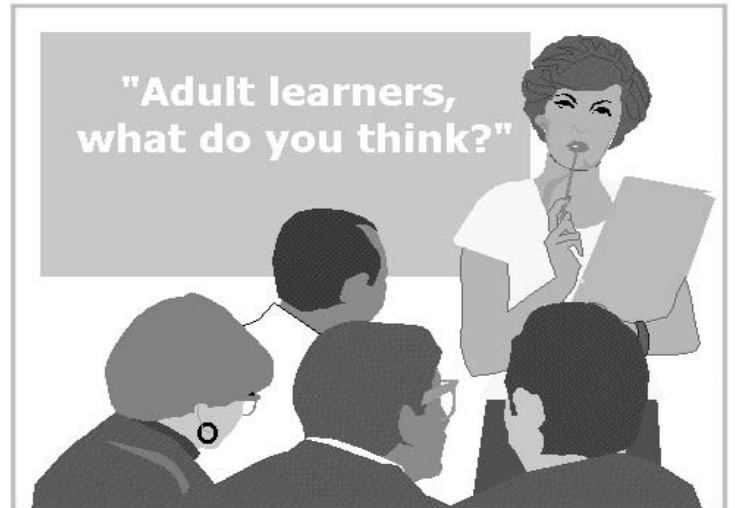
Adult learners, what do you think?

Learner survey results:

Learners from across Canada responded to our questions. We hope that what they say can help the federal government design an effective learning agenda. If you have other points to include, please send us your answers. (See bottom of Page 4.)

1. Why did you return to school or training?

Although 15% of the learners who answered just wanted to focus on basic reading and writing, the other 85% gave different answers. 33% said they wanted an education (high school diploma) and a career, 25% wanted to improve their literacy for family and personal reasons, 18% wanted to get a better job and 16% wanted a higher education for a better job choice and more secure future. 8% of the learners were in programs to learn English.



2. Has anything made it hard for you to go to school or stay in school?

Most learners mention problems with money that made it hard for them to start school or stay in school. Many have to take on jobs while going to school to pay for school costs: childcare, transportation, supplies and so on. Others talked about family responsibilities such as children's health / child care costs affecting their attendance (especially for women). Other problems learners listed were with transportation, the location of the program and waiting lists to get in. Often learners said their own health, the stress of their lives and negative learning experiences in the past has made it harder for them to succeed.

3. What has helped you to go to school?

Most learners recognized their family and friends as the support system they need to succeed in school. Next they acknowledged the work of patient and committed tutors and teachers, who are sensitive to the real learning needs of adults.

Successful literacy programs were most often described as safe places that treated the learner as a unique person and respected both their learning style and learning speed.

Most felt they learned best in small groups with some one to one tutoring. As well, many listed fellow students as supporters.

Learners who had financial support for their studies said this was the main reason they could attend school.

4. How has your life changed since you have been going to school?

We wanted to find out what changes the learners noticed in themselves since going to school. Although they mention improved reading and writing levels or computer and other skills; many of the changes cannot be measured by tests. Learners described their increased self-esteem, confidence, hope and the ability to speak out for themselves. They often talked of gains in independence and the desire to help others.

5. What are your future literacy and life goals?

The answers that learners gave to this question about their future goals were as varied and unique as the learners themselves. Many beginning learners recognize a long road ahead and want to take things step by step. Other learners have dreams of their life's work as professionals, life-long learners, role models for their family and working for others.

6. What would you say are the most important points to include in a national plan for adult literacy?

Learners made the following suggestions for a national learning plan. Although some of these points may not be under federal jurisdiction, they do reflect the challenges that must be taken into consideration in a comprehensive national plan.

Learners recognized the need for:

- funding for new and existing literacy programs
- voluntary attendance in programs, and allowing learners to attend for a variety of learning goals (i.e., not just employment goals)
- access to literacy programs for all in need of literacy training
- supports while attending school: books/supplies, childcare, living allowances and transportation
- talking with learners and including them in decision-making on issues affecting their learning
- learners valued and respected for the life experience and skills they already have
- recognize that literacy is a right of all Canadians (should be written into the Charter of Rights)
- encourage effective literacy programs and well-trained teachers
- promote learning and literacy as a value to society

This summary is missing the learners' real voices. You can read the full report on MCL's website at:

www.literacy.ca/lan/youthink/report.htm

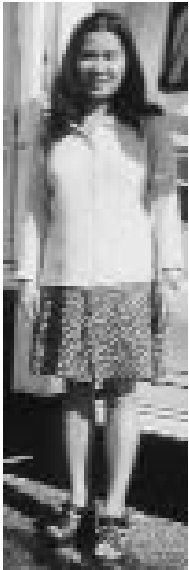
and the survey at:

www.literacy.ca/lan/youthink/youthink.htm



Newsletter Design: **The Right Type** 2263 Princess St., Kingston, Ont., K7M 3G1
Tel: (613) 531-9700 • Fax: (613) 531-9004 • righttype@kos.net
Newsletter Lay-out: **ib&etc Creative Services** ibetc@magma.ca (Ottawa)

Learners answer the call!



We asked Yukon Learn, Joy's program, to suggest someone for our learner profile this issue.

We were lucky to hear from Ponsawan (Bee) McDiarmid.

She won the Yukon's Canada Post Individual Achievement Award for 2001.

This is part of her award-winning story.

Bee's Story

For me, being a Canadian wasn't important at first. Coming to Canada was only an adventure. After all my life in Thailand had been good, surrounded by my family and friends. I knew I could return when I wanted.

The first two years in my new home in Mayo, Yukon were lonely because I did not know enough English to communicate with others. As I learned to speak the language, I was able to move about more in the community. It was then that I began to see Canada for what it was; a most beautiful country with lots of opportunities and good people.

It was not long before I realized that I wanted to become a Canadian but more than anything else I wanted to do things on my own. This meant that I had to learn to read and write English but there was no such opportunity in Mayo. Then I got lucky. Sister Angela

called and offered to teach me to read and write through the Mayo Community Literacy Program.

Being involved in Yukon Learn has made a world of difference in my life. I can now get involved in activities and make friends on my own. I have been successful in writing my citizenship test and I am very proud to be a Canadian.

Not long ago, I thought about dropping out but my teacher wouldn't hear of it. She said "When there is so much to learn, you don't give up, Bee. You do more!" I am thankful because now I know I want to continue learning. I would like meaningful and gainful employment.

By doing book reports on the computer, I learned this skill. I know it is a tool for the future. In the program I use various office equipment and some day hope to become a clerical assistant and work in an office.

I am babysitting several pre-school children for working mums. I can read simple stories to them which entertains them and is helpful for me. I have gotten my driver's license and have become more independent.

All these experiences make me feel better about myself and have given me a real feeling of belonging to the community.

— *Ponsawan (Bee) McDiarmid.*

We'd like to hear from you! If you have any questions, comments, story ideas or creative writing that you would like to submit, please get in touch. Our mailing address is:

**180 Metcalfe St.
Suite 300
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 1P5**

If you would like to call us, our phone number is:



(613) 563-2464.

Our fax number is:
(613) 563-2504.

You could also send us an e-mail. Our e-mail address is:

network@literacy.ca

Tribute:



We mourn the passing of Joy Coldwell:

Learner, Yukon Learner Representative to *MCL*, Yukon Learn Board Member and friend

A table was set as a tribute to Joy during MCL's March meetings in Ottawa. Her candle shone through the days as she smiled on us. We knew Joy was there in spirit.

A book was created for her family. It contains messages, cards and emails from everyone who knew her. Joy's work with MCL is there in articles and photographs too.

Liesel Briggs

Executive Director, Yukon Learn writes:

When I began as a tutor at Yukon Learn in 1989 I met a shining star. That star was Joy Coldwell. Now, she has lost her fragile hold on life and left us. Joy passed away March 19 at the Whitehorse General Hospital. She had cancer.

To Yukon Learn, Joy has been the glowing example of a dedicated learner, an exemplary volunteer and a committed worker for literacy both in the Yukon and across Canada.

Joy began as a learner in the late eighties. It took a lot of gumption for her to walk in our doors. Too many times learning had been negative. After two months of fretting Joy walked in to Yukon Learn.

Joy, being Joy, threw herself into learning fully and totally. First, she worked on her basic skills. Next, she learned how to use email, took a computer course, and worked on presentation skills. In 1998, Joy became a Yukon Learn Board member and was appointed the Yukon learner representative to the Learners Advisory Network (LAN) of the

Movement for Canadian Literacy. Twice a year, she met with other learner representatives and literacy coalition Executive Directors to discuss national learner issues, plan projects, review pamphlets and brochures for readability, and meet with Members of Parliament on literacy issues at Parliament Hill during Literacy Action Day in Ottawa.

Joy believed that the literacy community should be part of literacy planning teams in government so that the needs and the issues from the "trenches" got through to the policy makers. She could sit down with anyone – senator, street person, bureaucrat, beginning literacy learner, or tutor – and talk about learning and the needs of the less literate community in Canada. She was able to say to the Yukon government leader or the Minister of Education – "What about literacy?"

Health was a personal issue for her. She assisted in developing and was one of the presenter / performers in a role-play on plain oral language and health. This was presented to the Canadian Public Health Association Conference in Ottawa May 2000 and the Whitehorse Medical community February 2001 (even though she was already feeling quite ill). ...→



Computer Corner



*Math sites, Viruses and hoaxes,
our improved LAN site*

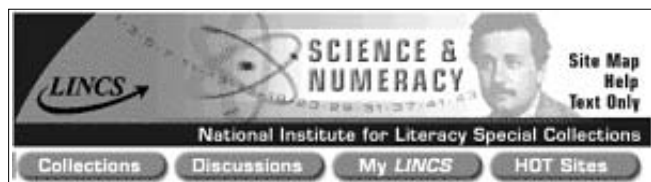
As a feature of our newsletter, we want to help Learners across Canada use computers and the Internet.

This issue we did some research on math resources on the Internet that would be interesting to learners and their tutors or teachers. Inside this insert, we talk about computer viruses and hoaxes that come through email. Finally, we take you through the menu for our improved [Learners Advisory Network](#) web site. All our LAN projects are linked to this menu.

Math sites:

1

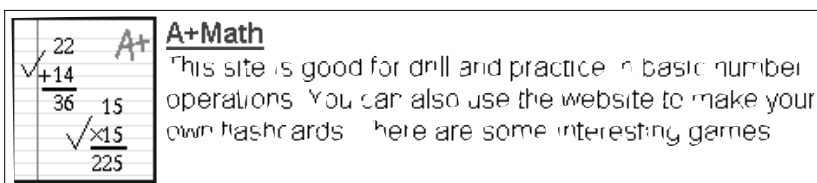
<http://literacynet.org/sciencelincs/studentlearner-num.html>



Of all the sites we explored, this one has the most math resources. It is well organized and has something for all levels.

2

<http://literacynet.org/sciencelincs/slnum-number.html>



One example of the kind of math links you find at this link.

3

<http://www.schoolnet.ca/home/e/>



This Canadian site has a lot of resources but many of them are found on the American sites listed above.

4



These two sites might be helpful to tutors and teachers: both the have lesson plans and the second is a Collaborative Lesson Archive web site <http://www.edhelper.com/> and <http://faldo.atmos.uiuc.edu/CLA/>

Computer Viruses: tips to avoid catching one!

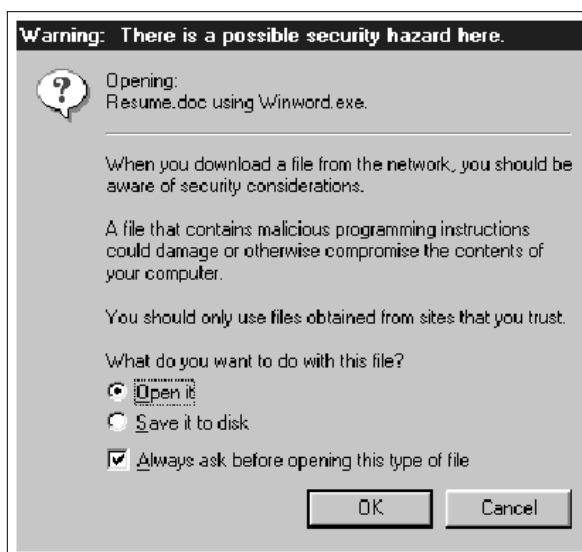
Last issue we talked about attachments. Thanks to Thomas Quigley of the Vancouver Public Library who emailed a reminder that many attachments have viruses. We want to make sure that you know what to look for so that you can protect your computer.

Remember that viruses are often sent to everyone in the address book of the computer they have infected. That means a virus can be attached to a message from a friend!

Protect against viruses with a few simple steps:

1

DO NOT OPEN an attachment with these endings: exe, com, vbs. A file with these endings is called an “executable” file. It can do a lot of damage to your computer. Once you open it, it runs a program on your computer that can do just about anything.



◀ You will see this box when you click on the attachment.

This is a warning message. It asks whether you want to open the attachment or save it.

If you are not sure,

- ▶ you can cancel or delete the message or
- ▶ you can save it to a particular folder and open it later when you are certain it is safe or delete it.

2

DELETE ANY UNSIGNED MESSAGE with an attachment that reads “I need your advice on this” or “look at this”. Some people delete any unexpected email. It’s the ultimate protection.

3

INSTALL A VIRUS DETECTOR on your computer and keep it up-dated. Remember you should still decide if a message looks suspicious. New viruses can go around more quickly than the updates to your virus program.

4

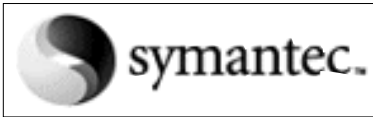
SHOW CONSIDERATION WHEN SENDING ATTACHMENTS:

- ▶ avoid sending messages that sound like # 2 above
- ▶ always sign your email.
- ▶ avoid sending unexpected attachments

5

WARN YOUR FRIENDS: Tell others the name and ending of any virus you receive. If you discover a virus in a friend’s email, let them know they have a virus in their computer. The virus could do other damage.

More on Viruses:



Here's a great site where you can check out the latest viruses and lists of email hoaxes. You will learn a lot here!

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/>

top virus threats		
Risk	Threat	Discovered
4	W32.Nimda.A@mm	9/18/2001
4	W32.Sircam.Worm@mm	7/17/2001
4	VBS.Haptime.A@mm	4/29/2001
4	W32.Magistr.24876@mm	3/13/2001

On this site you can find a good deal of current information on viruses and hoaxes. It offers information at many levels of reading and understanding. The technical part is for computer wizards but there is good information for everyone concerned about identifying viruses.

Bring in some email titles (subject lines) and have a classroom virus or hoax hunt!

Technical description:
W32.Vote.A@mm is a mass-mailing worm written in the Visual Basic language. When executed, the worm will attempt to email itself to all contacts in the Microsoft Outlook address book. The email will appear as follows.
Subject: Fwd: Peace Between America and Islam!
Message:
Hi Let's Vote To Live in Peace!
Attachment: WTC.EXE

You can identify the virus by the message subject line and the ending (extension) here.

Hoaxes on email: <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

hoaxes
These hoaxes usually arrive in the form of an email. Please disregard the hoax emails - they contain bogus warnings usually intent only on frightening or misleading users. **Just delete these emails!**

A sample of hoax email titles:

\$800 from Microsoft	Blue Mountain Virus	Discount Virus	Work Virus
AIDS	California IBM	E-Flu	World Domination
Antichrist	California Virus	Win a Holiday	Yellow Teletubbies
Bad Times	Dear Friends	Wooden Horse	
Big Brother	Despite Virus	WordScribe Virus	

People often waste time on activities that lead to disappointment (money hoaxes) or continue spreading groundless fear. You can check out warnings and deals that may be hoaxes here. Hoax messages, like virus messages, should just be deleted.

Chain letters, petitions or jokes:

These other types of messages are usually unwelcome in the email of people working from their computers. They are often reading up to 50 emails a day! Please, make sure your friends and others on your email list appreciate these before you send them.

Our new LAN menu on MCL's Web site: <http://www.literacy.ca>

Many of the articles in this issue talk about our Learners Advisory Network projects. Project details can be found through the new LAN menu.

- 1 Click on the MCL web address to get to the front page:
<http://www.literacy.ca>

- 2 Then choose the LAN link from the menu:

Learners Advisory Network

That will take you to the LAN page.

- 3 This link will take you to the full tribute to Joy Coldwell.



Learners Advisory Network

The Literacy Community mourns the passing of Joy Coldwell -
Learner, Yukon Learn Board Member, Learners Advisory Network
Representative and Friend

- 4 This link takes you to the Learner Representative page described in the last issue.



Who we are
Learners Advisory Network
Representatives

- 5 You can find the survey and read the full report on the survey results here.



What learners had to say to the government
The Learners' survey and a summary of the report "Adult Learners, what do you think?"

- 6 Details about the book of changes project can be found at this link.



Book of Changes

Learners, tutors, teachers and administrators:
we need your help!

- 7 You will find a copy of the LAN brochure here.



Brochure

The Learners Advisory Network (LAN)
"What Adult Literacy Learners
Would Like YOU to Know".

- 8 Although this was developed for International Literacy Day, there are exciting links to UNESCO resources. We will be updating this part of the site soon with information about International Learners Week. Keep watching!



**Learners and Tutors, do you need some help
planning your literacy celebrations?**

- 9 This link leads to back issues of our newsletter. Look for this issue on the web in early November.

**Learners
in ACTION**

Welcome to the
Learners in Action newsletter!

The information at any of these links can be printed and used by learners and their programs. We hope you enjoy our web site. Email network@literacy.ca to let us know what you think.

Joy was a Yukon Learn presenter at writing workshops and tutor training. She inspired everyone she touched. She was positive, she never stopped fighting for her life and for literacy. She always believed that if you want to do something you can – and she did.

She'd talk to all, encouraging, cajoling and inviting them into Yukon Learn. She would approach them in person on the street or by phone with pen in hand and coffee not too far away.

Every time she entered Yukon Learn, her cheery voice would ask with a chuckle, "Miss me?"

Joy had a zest for learning and for life that few of us do. We could all take a chapter out of her book.

Yes, Joy, we miss you.



Editor's note: You can read the whole tribute on MCL's website by clicking on The [Learners Advisory Network](#) link.

Remembering and learning...

When others spoke of Joy, they would often talk about what she taught them. I asked people to tell me what they had learned from Joy and three former [LAN](#) members replied:

Gordon Christiansen, Alberta:

"I talked to her a lot and she always treated me with respect. Before I met her, I didn't know people had trouble telling one letter from another because of learning disabilities. She talked about how hard it was for people to get the help they need up north in the Yukon. Lots of learners in the Yukon talked to Joy. I was amazed that she would get calls from learners when she was at the hotel in Ottawa.

One thing I will always remember is her saying "Keep it plain and simple". After she died I got in touch with her family to ask them if I could use her words and keep on the tradition. They said "yes".

She brought energy to everybody. Yet, you knew she was hurting but she didn't show it. Joy was a helper mother. She was a teacher, friend and mother all in one."

Lynda Magerl, Saskatchewan:

"She was honest and direct. With Joy, what you see is what you get, no hidden agenda. Joy treated everyone the same.

She had to be in a lot of pain (I know), but she never complained. I'll always remember her for KISS: "Keep it simple, stupid". That was Joy!"

Wendy Koivisto, British Columbia:

"I learned a lot from Joy. First, she taught me to be up front about not reading and writing. Joy was honest. I learned the meaning of dedication in the way she worked for people in the Yukon. Joy was a true learner. If she didn't understand something at the meetings, she'd come and ask me about it later. She needed to know.

People thought because she fooled around that she wasn't serious but she was very serious underneath. Everyone underestimated Joy. Guess she taught us about prejudging too.

Reports from across Canada

The MCL Learner Representatives prepare these reports, often with the support of their Coalitions. We have printed the information available by our publication date.

Literacy British Columbia (LBC)



Ellen Szita

We welcome the new British Columbia Learner Representative to MCL, Ellen Szita. ([Read Ellen's bio on the LAN web site.](#))

Project Literacy Victoria, had a team of ten learners and a coordinator. They collected 260 books for those in need. Nineteen schools responded. They also collected \$100 to buy some books as well.

On September 8, they campaigned to march in hope of making a greater awareness. Thirty people participated. The books have not been distributed yet as they are in the process of being sorted out. The learners worked hard to get this project of the ground.

— *Ellen Szita*



Leonard Duby

Alberta Association for Adult Literacy (AAAL)

This fall has been a very busy time for AAAL and Student Involvement.

International Literacy Day Celebrations:

AAAL participated in an awareness campaign in Bow Valley College. A display booth was set up and students were asked to write: 'What Literacy Means to Me?'. Approximately 135 students wrote a response and these were given to MCL to include in "The Book of Changes".

Word on the Street:

AAAL organized Enbridge Literacy Lane. There were 15 literacy organizations participating this year. It was estimated that 50,000 people attended this event.

SNAP Project (Student Needs Assessment Project):

This project is very exciting as it is asking the AAAL Student Members - What do you want AAAL to do for you? The project will use Student Focus Groups to build survey questions that will be sent to all student members. The results of this survey will guide AAAL in the

development of future student projects. This started mid October.

Development of a Students' Speaker's Team:

AAAL is applying for funding to have an Alberta Student Speaker's Team. This will be a special project based on the results of the Manitoba's Adult Literacy Learners' Speakers' Bureau.

Peer Support Group Development:

The AAAL Regional Representative Team is working with Bow Valley College to develop a pilot project to build a peer support group within the college. The results of this pilot project will help build peer support groups across the province.

2001: A Literacy Odyssey, Provincial Literacy Conference:

The AAAL Provincial Council Team will be presenting "It's My Life: Students Speak Out". This session will offer conference delegates an opportunity to hear what it is like to live a day as a student.

The AAAL Student Network continues to provide initiatives that touch one person who then tells another person and so on.... The message continues.

— *Leonard Duby*



Lynda Richards

Saskatchewan Literacy Network (SLN)

The Learners' Focus Group has made a lot of progress over the last year. Our group has met a number of times and there are more and more learners getting involved in it. At our last meeting on June 23, we answered questions on the MCL survey called, "Adult Learners, what do you think?"

The Group is sponsored by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network (SLN) and is a provincial connection for all learners to have an active voice in literacy issues. At our October 11 meeting we made plans for the next year and also nominated two learners to be our representatives on the SLN board.

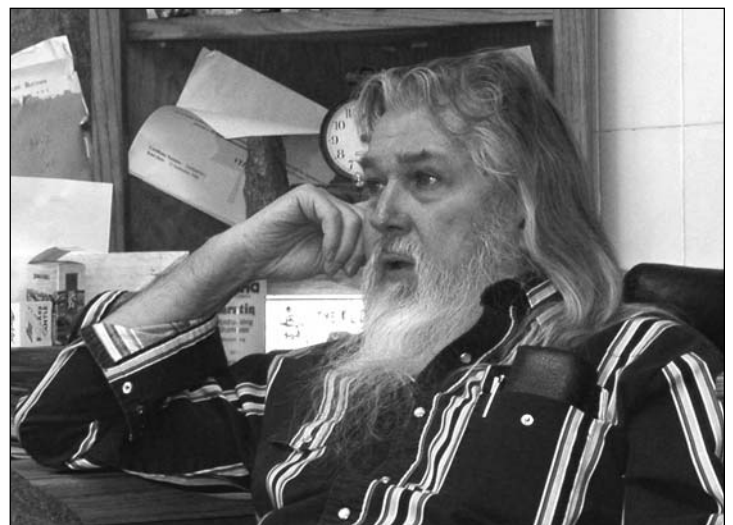
Another learner and I are the learner representatives on the Provincial Literacy Steering Committee. The steering committee is doing consultations with different groups across the province about the vision and strategy for literacy in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network has hired a Learner Support Coordinator and her name is Donna Zaleschuk. She will be working closely with the Learners' Focus Group and helping to set up local support groups for adult learners across Saskatchewan.

— *Donna Zaleschuk for Lynda Richards*

Yukon Learn (YL)

We welcome Murd Nicholson, the new Yukon Learner Representative to MCL. ([Read Murd's bio on the Lan web site.](#))





Reports from across Canada

Literacy Partners of Manitoba (LPM)



Joe Dutra

On September 8, 2001 we held World Literacy Day at the Forks. It was a great turnout. We let people know about Literacy problems.

The Speakers Bureau is having another training event in 2002.

We did a lot of things over the summer for Literacy and more in the fall. We have the following upcoming events:

- Oct 1, 2001 Practitioner Leadership Training
- Oct 3rd and 4th we have Bookmates Rock and Read Certification
- Oct 17th Adult Secondary Education Council
- Oct 19th Teacher Talk – Building on Experience
- Oct 19th and 20th Learning Together – Working Together Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development
- Nov 1st and 3rd Improving the Effectiveness of Adult Learning

I am very happy to be part of the great group of people who help people with literacy problems.

— Joe Dutra Joe22@mts.net

Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC)



Sandy Johnston

We would like to welcome the new Ontario Learner Representative to MCL, Sandy Johnston from Niagara Falls. *(Look for Sandy's bio on the LAN web site soon.)*

The Ontario Literacy Coalition is changing their Learners Council into a Learners Network. Each region in the network will have their own representative. This means sixteen learners will be involved in the work of the OLC (twice the current number). The Coalition is actively working to get more learner participation and this is a great start!

— Sandy Johnston



Janet MacLeod

Prince Edward Island Literacy Association (PEILA)

Prince Edward Island learners are busy, as always. A new school year began September 24 for Adult Learners at Holland College and I wish them, and students everywhere, the best in the exciting world opening to them.

I did not take part in any of the public events on Literacy Day, instead, I spent a couple of hours reading to three children I know. Their parents cannot read to them and I wanted to give them a special gift.

Again I want to tell you about Storysacks. They are a wonderful tool to help those with low literacy read to their children. They were demonstrated at the annual general meeting (AGM) of the PEI Literacy Alliance.

It was amazing to watch as three people, who had never seen the story before, kept us amused and entertained with the story of a cat who wore pink. If you have not heard of Storysacks, get in touch with the Alliance at (902) 368-3620 and bring one home.

The Literacy Alliance's AGM is a chance to celebrate the year's accomplishments and have a voice in the election of a new board. The celebration included acknowledging the winners of the Canada Post awards and a sharing a wonderful meal. This year's winners were:

Individual achievement awards went to - Anne Christopher, Summerside and Leona Bernard, St-Raphael. The Community Leadership award was given to Learning & Reading Partners Adult Learning System. Congratulations to the winners and to all those who offered themselves and their stories for consideration.

— Janet MacLeod janetm@isn.net

Nova Scotia Provincial Literacy Coalition (NSPLC)



Gordon DeWolfe

Greetings once again from the East Coast. This has been an exciting year for learners in Nova Scotia with the upcoming year promising to be even more exciting.

The new Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning is now underway offering tuition-free education to many adult Nova Scotians through a variety of programs. Graduates will be presented with the new Nova Scotia High School Diploma for Adults. Congratulations to Minister Purves and the Department of Education for their tremendous support of adult literacy.

A huge congratulations and heartfelt thank you goes out to the Nova Scotia Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament Committee. This year's Nova Scotia PGI Tournament was the most successful in the history of Nova Scotia PGI Tournaments, raising in excess of \$130,000. The funds will allow the NSPLC to increase its support to Nova Scotia adult learners.

The International Literacy Day celebration in Nova Scotia was truly an exciting and successful day. One of the highlights was the presentation of the Canada Post Literacy Awards in the Individual Literacy Achievement. It was given to Paul DuLong of Meteghan River, Nova Scotia. Congratulations to Paul and all the other award recipients at this year's International Literacy Day celebrations.

The NSPLC is pleased once again to offer its annual Scholarships and Bursaries to successful Nova Scotia applicants who are enrolled in an adult upgrading or post-secondary program. Three bursaries and three scholarships will be awarded during the NSPLC's Literacy Action Week celebrations in November. Choosing the recipients is an extremely difficult task, as all those who apply are so worthy.

— Gordon DeWolfe

The Book of Changes: Learners quotes

"If I hadn't learned to read and write, I don't think my life would ever have had a sense of direction."

"Being literate means that I am able to communicate what I am thinking and feeling...to express myself"

**THE 2001 CANADA POST
LITERACY AWARDS**

Canada Post 2001 Literacy Award Winners

Often on International Literacy Day, Canada Post presents their awards to educators, community groups, businesses and individuals (learners) for their work on behalf of literacy across the country.

The Individual Achievement Award is one way to recognize the enormous efforts learners have made to educate themselves and to work for others.

They are all our heroes! We congratulate them and name the English winners for each Province or Territory:

Alberta: *Sharon Szott*

British Columbia: *Larry Loyie*

Manitoba: *Donna Arce-Black*

New Brunswick: *Robin LaPointe*

Newfoundland: *Richard Shoal*

Northwest Territories: *Mabel English*

Nova Scotia: *Paul Dulong*

Ontario: *Ed Thomas*

Prince Edward Island: *Anne Christopher*

Quebec: *Simon Leduc*

Saskatchewan: *Carey Rigby*

Yukon: *Ponsawan (Bee) McDiarmid*



Note: Read a the story titled: "The Envelope Please ..." to find why some of these adult learners chose to go back to school and what they are doing now. The rest of the winners are named there too.

<http://www.canadapost.ca/corporate/about/newsroom/pr/default-e.asp?prid=500>

Our best wishes for future success go to all who won the Canada Post Literacy Award for Individual Achievement!

Editor of Learners in ACTION:

Arlene MacLowick

**Editorial Committee,
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Pat Hardisty,
Northwest Territories

Janet MacLeod,
Prince Edward Island

ISSN 1486-3669

Watch for or Spring issue!

We will feature...



▶ Literacy Action Day on
Parliament Hill

▶ The Book of Changes

▶ UNESCO's Learners Week

▶ Computer Corner
and much, much, more ...

Please let us know what you'd like to see in
future issues.