

April 21, 2008

Volume 7, No. 14

Upcoming Deadlines

April 30, 2008

Make a Case Against
Racism Contest (See this
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May 16, 2008

Council of the
Federation Literacy
Award (See page 3
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Notable & Upcoming

May 2, 2008

[Pathways to Gold Teacher
Symposium](#)

May 23-26, 2008

[Coastal Zone Canada
Youth Forum](#)

May 30-31, 2008

[Mindscapes 2008](#)

2008 Student Congress

The second annual Student Congress
took place this past April 4 in



Vancouver. 130 students from across
B.C. joined B.C.'s Lieutenant Governor
Stephen Point, Education Minister
Shirley Bond, and distinguished
presenters. Sustainability was one of the
key issues being discussed. The
students listened to the views of Nobel
Prize winner Dr. John Robinson and then
presented a range of their own ideas to
Minister Bond.

One of the student delegates
summarized the inspirational tone of
the discussion when she suggested that
her generation needed to make it
unacceptable to be anything other than
green. Others pointed out that the same
fundamental shift in perspective had

been accomplished by their parents'
generation in terms of making smoking
uncool and seatbelt use part of people's
daily lives.

Make a Case Against Racism

Make A Case Against Racism is a
unique, youth-focused initiative that is
taking place now and is a proactive and
fun approach to addressing racism and
encouraging personal responsibility.

Teachers, go online and get your free
teachers' resource, [Make A Case Against
Racism: A Guide for Teachers of Grades
4 to 7](#) to help engage students in
classroom activities and discussions
around the issues of racism. Be sure
also to promote the [Make A Case
Against Racism Contest](#) to your
students.

Youth! Get involved! Suggest to your
teacher that your class take part. Help
select the music for a CD of fantastic
B.C. artists and get a copy of the CD by
submitting your own CD cover art in the
contest. Plus you could win an iPod! And
if your art wins, it will be used as the
cover for the CD. [Learn more.](#)

The contest entry deadline is April 30.
Get creating!



Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum

This past April 14 and 15, B.C. played a key part in the nation-wide, Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum. The forum was the first of its kind, using leading-edge, B.C.-proven webcasting technology, including real-time streaming video, to connect 3,500 learners, literacy experts and representatives from the education, non-profit, business and labour sectors. The technology will be used to leave a legacy of resources online, benefiting educators, learners, literacy providers, and all Canadians for years to come.

Concurrent forums took place in nine sites across the country, ranging from Arviat, Nunavut to Saint John, New Brunswick to Vancouver. Each site took on a specific theme associated with literacy. B.C.'s theme was "Communities Working Together for Literacy."

B.C. is the Pan-Canadian lead for literacy and worked with the [Council of Ministers of Education, Canada](#) (CMEC) and our colleagues in the other jurisdictions to organize the forum.

The forum is the first step in implementing CMEC's new literacy action plan, which aims to raise awareness and increase literacy rates from coast to coast to coast. The action plan includes sharing literacy policies among the provincial and territorial governments, creating networks of organizations and individuals to gather and share teaching resources for learners of all ages, and encouraging additional literacy research, statistic sharing, and the effective use of data.



Slam poet, Shane Koyczann, rocking the spoken word while Dan Mangan, guitarist, lays out the licks at the Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum

Reel Vue: Update

Eleven students from secondary schools across B.C. have just wrapped up a week as filmmakers for Reel Vue, the Province's first student film project and festival.

The students have spent the past week at the Gulf Island Film and Television School (GIFTS) on Galiano Island, where they worked in teams with the help of industry professionals. The films will be screened at a Reel Vue film festival in June.

Youth Dialogue on Climate Change

The Premier is hosting a Youth Dialogue on climate change at the Wosk Centre in Vancouver on Monday April 21. In addition to the Premier, Graham Whitmarsh, head of the Climate Action Secretariat, will be in attendance. The purpose of the day-long session is to have a facilitated dialogue about how government can work with youth to achieve climate change objectives. Up to 150 young people representing a mix of secondary, post-secondary and out-of-school youth from a variety of organizations will attend. The Ministry of Education is working closely with the Climate Action Secretariat and the Premier's

office to organize secondary student participation at the Youth Dialogue.

Looking for a Scholarship?

Scholarshipscanada.com is a privately owned and operated website that offers a free service which may be of value to some EdInfo readers. The website has a database of over 22,000 scholarships, student awards, bursaries and grants. Scholarshipscanada.com matches students to potential awards.

The Council of the Federation Literacy Award: Nominations Open

British Columbia is calling for nominations for the Council of the Federation Literacy Award. The award honours a person or group in each of Canada's 13 provinces and territories whose accomplishments have shaped the landscape of literacy.

This is the fourth year for the award, which was created by Canada's premiers on the initiative of Premier Campbell. The nominations are open to a deserving person or group from all areas of literacy, including early childhood, family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy.

The nomination deadline for the B.C. award is May 16. To be eligible, nominees must have lived in the province for at least two years and be a current or former student, literacy volunteer, practitioner, teacher, administrator, researcher, business or organization. For more information, please see the ReadNowBC website.

Anne of Green Gables Turns 100!

2008 marks the 100th anniversary since Anne (with an 'e') Shirley first charmed the world in the novels of L.M. Montgomery.

To celebrate the Province of Prince Edward Island and Penguin books are running a series of events and contests that include trips to P.E.I. and placing letters in a time capsule. To find out more, visit the government of P.E.I.'s website dedicated to celebrating Anne's 100th birthday.

See B.C. Through the Eyes of a Pen Pal

Join in the anniversary celebrations of B.C.'s 150 years by connecting your students with other B.C. students. An easy way to do this would be to make a connection with another school in the Province. Please visit the Schools and District Contact list to search for a school to partner with. You might want to consider connecting with a school with the same name as yours, or a school in another town where relatives of your students live, or a town that is "150" kilometres away from your school.

Coastal Zone Canada Youth Forum 2008

Passionate, curious, determined youth are invited to get involved! The Vancouver Aquarium working with 2008 Coastal Zone Canada Conference is hosting a 2 day Forum of workshops, career and science panels dedicated to youth between the ages of 14 - 29.



The Youth Forum 2008 will focus on information, action and outcomes examining what specific contribution

youth — by virtue of who they are, their culture, their lifestyles and age — can make toward solving some of our most pressing environmental

issues. Plan to be in Vancouver on May 23–26th for Panels, Sessions, Workshops, Field trips and fun at the Vancouver Aquarium! Check out www.vanagua.org/czcyouthforum for details on how to register.

Pathways to Gold: New Perspectives on B.C. History

Taking place May 2–3, 2008 in 100 Mile House, Pathways To Gold is a symposium for educators designed to bring new perspectives to teaching strategies and resources for B.C. history. It's geared toward school teachers, particularly those teaching grades 4 and 5, plus Social Studies 10 and 11. It's being hosted by the New Pathways To Gold Society and the District of 100 Mile House with support of the B.C. Social Studies Teachers Association and the Aboriginal Tourism Association of B.C.

The New Pathways To Gold Society is a community-based organization dedicated to continued reconciliation with First Nations, investment in B.C. heritage and economic development.

For more information, including symposium program, registration form and contact information please see the [New Pathways to Gold News Release](#).



More early learning in action! One young British Columbian puts her mind to some serious contemplation of a stuffed frog.

Multi-disciplinary Conference of Arts and Sciences Creative Expression, Communication and Dementia and Mindscapes 2008

From May 30–31 at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver the Creative Expression Communication and Dementia Conference will be held in conjunction with Mindscapes 2008.

This is an umbrella event that plays host to an exhibition of artwork produced by seniors with dementia. In the past, *Mindscapes* has hosted art exhibitions such as Les Impatients, a showing of art produced by people with psychiatric problems. The exhibit rejects the label of “patients” and embraces the title “impatients” as in “people anxious to create.” This art form was designed to provide a means of spontaneous expression that would stir the emotions, as artistic expression offers an outlet to people of all ages and all conditions.

The *Mindscapes 2008* exhibition will run between May 30 and June 23, 2008. It includes three other events built around the theme of celebrating the lives of seniors with dementia:

- *Mindscapes 2008*
- Short video and documentary festival
- A theatrical event
- The CECD Conference 2008

For more information, including a brochure, registration form and contact information, please see the [website](#).

Recognizing B.C.'s Outstanding Educators

Recently, the Government of British Columbia has recognized some of B.C.'s most dynamic educators. *EdInfo* would like to congratulate the following award recipients for their tremendous contributions to education in B.C.

Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence

Elizabeth Blake, Vancouver (Healthy Living/PE and Coaching)

Lyn Daniels, Burnaby (Aboriginal Learning)

M. Maye Davis, Courtenay (Environmental Awareness)

Joanne De Guevara, Westbank (Beginning Teacher)

Nellie Dionne, Fort St. James (Aboriginal Learning)

Linda Firbank, Squamish (Skills Training and Career Preparation)

John Douglas Harris, Langley (Distributed Learning)

Elaine Jaltema, Burnaby (Literacy)

Dale Kerr, Tatla Lake (Lifetime Achievement)

Deborah Koehn, Prince George (Literacy)

Denise Milne, Vanderhoof (Distributed Learning)

Nader A. (Nod) Mirhady, Vancouver (Lifetime Achievement)

Jennifer Murdie, West Vancouver (Community Engagement)

Margaret Penny, Victoria (School Leadership)

Sandra Santarossa, North Vancouver (Literacy)

Russ Stasiuk, Penticton (Lifetime Achievement)

Peter Vogel, Vancouver (Lifetime Achievement)

Garry Wall (Skills Training and Career Preparation)

Jeffery Weaver, Victoria (Beginning Teacher)

Damian Wilmann, Vancouver (Community Engagement)

Learning Partnerships Canada's Outstanding Principals 2008

David Betts, School District No. 62 (Sooke)

Carol MacWilliams, School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)

Tarjeet Mann, School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

Curtis Schreiber, School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)

Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History 2007

Rhonda Draper, School District No. 23. (Central Okanagan)

B.C. School Sports Provincial Coach of the Year Awards 2007-2008

Nicky Carroll, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

Mike Keenlyside, School District No. 39 (Vancouver)



Ministry of Education staff welcoming delegates at the recent Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum

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