



## *February 2016 Newsletter*

Hello everyone,

February has been quite a busy month for the Literacy Society so this newsletter will provide the opportunity to update you on some of our latest activities and achievements.



At the beginning of the month Executive Director Sonja Harkness and Lead Teacher Kara-lee MacDonald attended a two-day anti-racism workshop in Dawson Creek. The workshop, which took place February 3rd and 4th, was an emotionally-challenging, rewarding learning experience. Some of the topics covered included the history of racism in Canada, tips for how to evaluate and acknowledge personal privilege, and strategies for how to be an anti-racism ambassador and ally in your community.



Using practical skills gained in the workshop, the Literacy Society plans to work with other organizations in Fort St. John to raise awareness of the problem of racism in our community and the support services available to those who experience racial discrimination. Kara-lee has also introduced the topic in her beginner LINC class, where they have been learning about discrimination and how to identify it as well as practicing language skills relating to combating racism.

We have successfully matched 5 learners with new tutors as part of our Community Adult Literacy Program this month and are expecting some positive results from new learners as well as the volunteer tutors.

The LINC (Language and Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) Program has been successfully extended so we will be welcoming new students in both our beginner and intermediate English classes in April.

Just a reminder—the class schedule is as follows:

Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
<b>Beginner Class</b> 8:45-11:45 am	<b>Beginner Class</b> 8:45-11:45 am	<b>Beginner Class</b> 8:45-11:45 am	<b>Beginner Class</b> 8:45-11:45 am
		<b>Intermediate Class</b> 1:00-4:00 pm	
	<b>Intermediate Class</b> 6:00-8:30 pm	<b>Intermediate Class</b> 6:00-8:30 pm	

In March, the Fort St. John Literacy Society will be participating in a few events:

**The Settlement Fair** on March the 12<sup>th</sup> is an event funded by Government of Canada, helping Newcomer Families in Fort St. John. Topics that will be covered include: The Canada Tax System, Labour Market Demands in Northern B.C., Overview of Distance Education Opportunities and many more. If you want to learn more, come and join us between 10- 3pm at School District 60 office on Saturday March 12.

We will also be at the **Jobseeker Forum for Women** at the Community Bridge Building on following dates: February 26<sup>th</sup> 13.00-16.00, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 16.00-19.00, March 5<sup>th</sup> 13.00-16.00. By bringing community stakeholders together this is an opportunity to support jobseekers with tips, tricks and expectations in order to find successful employment.

*Your FSJ Literacy Society Team*

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