

Nova Scotia Adult Learners Week 2013
"Learning makes a world of difference!"

February 6, 2013 (Halifax, Nova Scotia) Plans are underway for ***Nova Scotia Adult Learners Week 2013*** April 6-14, 2013. So mark your calendars! Learners and organizations from across the province are coming together to celebrate UNESCO's International Adult Learners Week 2013. Special events including panel discussions, interactive workshops and arts events will offer learning opportunities for all, showcasing the diversity of ways adults learn. Activities taking place in the Annapolis Valley, Antigonish, Truro and Halifax regions, to name a few, highlight how learning makes a difference in everyone's life and how all of us are learners in various ways.

Long-time educator Jim Sharpe chairs the Nova Scotia Adult Learners Week 2013 Committee. He is passionate about "helping others to discover their ways of understanding the world, their ways of learning, their ways of finding their own life story, even when obstacles get in the way. It is not just about learning new things but understanding one's learning, one's own frameworks, one's own values and how difficult it is to change their world."

Organizations throughout Nova Scotia, including community learning organizations, universities and community colleges are opening their doors to anyone interested in formal and informal lifelong learning! Whether it's reading and writing skills, music, yoga, community engagement, health, wellness or just learning how to do things better, there's something for everyone. For more information and a list of the organizations involved check out our website at "nsalw.ca". Event listings will be updated soon!

In his own life, Sharpe, who works in the Faculty of Education at Mount Saint Vincent University, talks about how his ongoing learning as an avid gardener makes a difference in other parts of his life:

"I'm very interested in gardening, where you learn by looking at the plants and seeing how the plants respond to what you do. I think it is the same in life. If you want to work with others you need to plant a seed, propose an idea, and then take some action. You need to respond to how others engage with a proposal and where they take things, rather than being tied to what you put forward. You need to be open to new types of learning, the ideas of others and making changes along the way, if you are going to create a beautiful garden."

For more information, please contact nsalw@msvu.ca or visit www.nsalw.ca

Nova Scotia Adult Learners Week 2013 Provincial Planning Committee

Background

The Nova Scotia Adult Learners Week Committee 2013 is building on national celebrations in Canada since 2002, and events observed in Nova Scotia since 2006. The Nova Scotia Adult Learners Week Committee is comprised of organizations throughout the province. This includes organizations such as Nova Scotia Universities, community colleges, literacy organizations, Association of Nova Scotia Community Learning Organizations, seniors learning organizations, African Canadian learning organizations, Mi'kmaw learning organizations, immigrant learning organizations, Nova Scotia libraries and museums and many more.

The UNESCO International Adult Learners Week (www.unesco.ca/en/home-accueil/ialw-siaa.aspx) celebrates adult learners and the programs and organizations that support adult learning. For the past five years Literacy Nova Scotia has sponsored a writing contest (see <http://www.ns.literacy.ca/alw.htm>) highlighted by an awards ceremony held during Adult Learners Week. At the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFITEA VI), in Belém, Brazil, 2009, the adoption of the Belém Framework for Action was a defining moment

of the conference. The Belém Framework of Action highlighted in particular that *"Inclusive education is fundamental to the achievement of human, social and economic development"*.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO, together with its partners, considers International Adult Learners' Week as an opportunity to raise the awareness of a broader public about lifelong learning and the need to adapt programmes to different needs. Better synergy among stakeholders facilitates the sharing of lessons learned, as well as it giving greater visibility to learners across the country.

For further information contact (902)457-5528 or (902)457-5535.

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