



Saturday, September 6, 2014
For Immediate Release

LITERACY LEVER FOR CHANGE, EMPOWERMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
It is the lens through which we see and experience the world

(Dartmouth, NS) –On September 8th 2014 countries around the world will join together to celebrate UNESCO’s 48th International Literacy Day. The day is designed to help raise awareness that **education is a human right essential for individual development and empowerment, and in turn for the development of families, communities and nations.**¹

Why is literacy important?

- It is a fundamental right guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- It is the key to reducing poverty
- It is key to the development of critical thinking skills vital for the transition from school to the labour market
- It is key to the development of sustainable communities, environments and economic growth

Literacies needed in the 21st Century go beyond the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic to acknowledge the many developing applications of literacy in a world of rapidly changing technology.

“Literacy is a powerful tool helping people to achieve their goals and explore their potential. It builds skills and knowledge leading to sustainable employment that pays a living wage. It allows people to fully participate in their community and society. It is a great equalizer. It is the best tool for sustainable economic and social development” says Lesley Dunn, Executive Director of the Dartmouth Learning Network.

The Dartmouth Learning Network International Literacy Day activities:

- Sept. 7th - In partnership with First Book Canada, Book Owls will be hiding new books through Halifax Regional Municipality
- Sept. 8th - In partnership with First Book Canada and Metro Transit new books will be handed out at the Dartmouth Bus Terminal on Nantucket 7am- 9am
- Sept. 8th - In partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia a Flag Raising ceremony will be held on the lawns of the Legislative Assembly at 11 am. All Welcome
- Sept. 9th - In partnership with the City of Halifax a Flag Raising Ceremony will be held at Grand Parade at 11 am. All welcome.
- Sept. 10th - In partnership with First Book Canada and the Canada Post Community Foundation with support from MSVU Bachelor of Education Program we will be hosting Literacy is Life Luncheon to launch Raising Readers and Math Thinkers

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For more information contact

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ABOUT

Dartmouth Learning Network

www.DartmouthLearning.net

First Book Canada

www.FirstBookCanada.org

Canada Post Community Foundation

www.canadapost.ca/foundation

Mount Saint Vincent University

www.msvu.ca

¹ The Global Thematic Consultation on Education in the post-2015 Development Agenda, Executive Summary – Revised, May 2013