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To: info@bccpac.bc.ca
Subject: CORRECTION: B.C. EDUCATOR RECEIVES NATIONAL LITERACY HONOURS
Date: August 4, 2010 8:55:35 AM

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2010PREM0146-000919
Aug. 4, 2010
Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

CORRECTION: B.C. EDUCATOR RECEIVES NATIONAL LITERACY HONOURS

WINNIPEG -Premier Gordon Campbell congratulated community literacy advocate Pete Grinberg today as a recipient of the 2010 Council of the Federation Literacy Award.

"As a champion of literacy Pete has helped improve literacy for many people in the Kamloops area who have benefitted from the Street School in Kamloops," said Premier Gordon Campbell. "His work, particularly in the corrections system, highlights the importance of bringing these crucial skills to all of our citizens. Literacy is a critical building block for success and Pete's program is helping to significantly improve the quality of life of many British Columbians."

Grinberg has been instrumental in the development and operation of Kamloops' Street School, a community literacy program for adults who have learning difficulties and a vital link between the corrections system and the community.

As an adult continuing education teacher with the Kamloops-Thompson school district, Pete helps learners at the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre reach their individual literacy goals.

The Council of the Federation, which comprises all 13 provincial and territorial premiers, created the literacy award on the initiative of Premier Campbell. Each province and territory chooses a group, individual or project that has made a significant contribution to literacy. Award recipients receive a medallion and a certificate signed by the premier of their province or territory.

"This award recognizes the efforts, innovations and achievements of those among us who are working to improve literacy in communities across B.C.," said Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid. "Literacy opens the door to information, opportunity and success, and gives individuals the skills and confidence to pursue their dreams."

This year, B.C. received several outstanding nominations. The Province would also like to acknowledge Annette Rogers, a speech/language pathologist in the Southeast Kootenay school district, by presenting her with an Honourable Mention for her work in creating Sound Connections, a multi-sensory literacy program for primary school-aged children.

The Council of the Federation Literacy Award selection committee considers nominees' history of commitment to excellence; community and peer recognition; leadership in the promotion of partnerships and public awareness; and the introduction of new ideas in promoting literacy. Nominees must have resided in B.C. for at least two years and consent to their nomination.

Since 2001, the Province has invested more than \$1 billion in literacy and literacy-related initiatives such as StrongStart BC early learning programs, almost \$18 million to operate the kindergarten readiness program Ready, Set, Learn, and \$2.7 million for the LEAP BC program that encourages literacy, physical activity and healthy eating in preschool-aged children.

For information on the Council of the Federation, visit www.councilofthefederation.ca.

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