

Aliant Pioneer volunteers set out to raise literacy levels

Michael Sears and Joe Rowledge of the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers are getting ready for Power up to Read! today, 2-4 p.m., at the Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities.

This session will be held in the Main Building at the University of Prince Edward Island and is free and open to the public.

Increasing awareness of literacy levels in Atlantic Canada is a priority for the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers, so they have partnered with the Atlantic Summer Institute to offer this session.

Power up to Read! will be a fun, educational and interactive presentation and is offered as part of Atlantic Day, a celebration and showcasing of programs and practices from around Atlantic Canada that serve to advance the health and safety of the community and link it to literacy, the theme for the Institute this year.

"Technology is playing such a big role in the lives of our youth today," says Michael Sears, Atlantic Canadian manager of Aliant Pioneer Volunteers.

"This program works with technology yet is based on folk tales. It really does make the best of both worlds of integrating the old and the new."

Power up to Read! has a

framework and foundation in Universal Design for Learning and provides multiple pathways so that each student can gain knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for learning. On a parallel to this, the Atlantic Summer Institute is also about gaining knowledge and skills by providing workshops within a quality curriculum that participants attend for four days.

Power up to Read! is offered in French and English and is offered without charge to interested schools, libraries and community groups. The program was developed through fundraising efforts on behalf of the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers, the largest corporate-based volunteer organization in Atlantic Canada. With a focus on education and technology related projects, they are committed to helping communities.

The theme for the 2008 Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities is Reading Between the Lines: Health, Safety and Literacy.

The institute is taking place for its fifth year in Charlottetown at UPEI until August 22.

Anyone who would like more information should contact Patsy Beattie-Hugan, co-ordinator, 902-894-3399 or e-mail

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