

Christine Mowat, B.A.(Hons.), M.A. President, Wordsmith Associates



Before starting Wordsmith Associates in 1980, Christine Mowat taught English to adults for 13 years in England, Kenya, and Canada. Her Queen's University degree combined Philosophy and English. Her M.A. thesis, *Writing and the Inner Voice*, focussed on the writing process.

Since its inception, Wordsmith Associates has conducted plain-language writing workshops for over 30,000 participants with instructors in Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver.

Publications, course design, management focus

Christine has authored 30-some articles, co-edited a textbook, *Native Peoples in Canadian Literature*, and designed and instructed eight Wordsmith programs, including *Improving Legal Writing*. Carswell published Christine's book, *A Plain Language Handbook for Legal Writers*.

For years, Christine instructed at The University of Calgary's Faculty of Management Executive Development Program, the Banff Centre for Management, and the University of Alberta. In 2006, Christine began instructing a plain language decision writing course for the Alberta Foundation of Administrative Tribunals.

Client plain language writing projects of Christine's include:

- National Energy Board *Hearing Procedures and Application Form* (2002)
- Indian Residential School Resolution Canada *Alternative Dispute Resolution Application Form, Guide*, and project management letter templates (2004) (130 pages)
- Editing of *The Legal Writer* by Judge Mark Painter, 2004
- University of Alberta report for Health Canada, *Children's Environmental Health* (150 pages) (2006)

Leadership in literacy and plain language associations

Her leadership in the plain language international arena is well known. Christine has been on the Executive Committee of Plain Language Association International (PLAIN) for seven years. In 2007 she chaired PLAIN's first off the North American continent conference in Amsterdam. She was keynote speaker at New Zealand's first plain-language conference in 2006.