

The Centre for Family Literacy is dedicated to helping Alberta grow and prosper.



The Centre for Family Literacy Centre Page

August 2005, Volume 2, Issue 2

Celebration Time!

The Centre's Adult Tutoring program is 25 years old this year!

In 1980, a growing awareness of the significant number of adults in our community who had difficulty with reading and writing prompted the YWCA, Edmonton Public Library, Alberta Vocational College and Grant MacEwan College to launch a pilot project called the Adult Tutoring program.

The Adult Tutoring program provides one-on-one assistance to adults by using trained volunteers from the community. In its first year, the program had 21 tutor-student pairs. Last year, 275 adult students worked with volunteer tutors. Pairs generally meet for an hour or two a week. Over the years, the program has changed to meet students' needs but the use of volunteers has remained the key to its success.



Student and tutor, 1997

To provide additional learning opportunities to adult learners, small group workshops in writing, spelling, math and reader's theatre have been introduced since 1980. The Adult Tutoring program has also been adapted for adults with development disabilities, and these learners are offered group sessions as well.

The reach of our adult tutoring program expanded after tutors, students and staff at the Centre developed a tutor handbook and tutor training for in house use that began being used and accessed by literacy coordinators from across the province.

Continued on next page

"I learned that we can teach kids through playing and teach them in a natural way. Parents need to be a good model for their child. Reading for parents is very important too because when kids see you reading, they might copy you. They might be more curious about books."

Parent in 2005 Program

Adult Literacy and Life Skills (ALL) Survey

Results from the first round of a major new survey, released in May of this year, show that 42% of Canadians aged 16 to 65 lack the literacy skills needed to fully participate in today's society. The survey revealed that well over 3 million Canadians have difficulty reading basic printed material.

The ALL Survey tested more than 23,000 Canadians on their skills proficiency on four scales: prose, document, numeracy and problem solving. Skills were rated on the basis of levels one to five, that is, lowest to highest. Canada placed in the middle of the seven participating countries including Bermuda, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, the United States and the Mexican State of Nuevo Leon.

The survey also found that the average literacy score for Canadians had not changed significantly during the nine-year period since the last major survey was conducted in 1994.

Continued on page 3

Contact us

201 11456 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, AB Canada
T5K 0M1

T 780.421.READ (7323)

F 780.421.7324

cfla@eLit.ca

www.famlit.ca

Celebration

Continued from page 1



Challenges Workshop

As the adult tutoring program has grown, we have created a loaning library of learning materials that is an invaluable resource for staff, volunteers and students.

Recently, two new group learning opportunities have been introduced: Speakers' Club is a program to help students learn the art of public speaking, and Learning Styles is a workshop that helps students identify their preferred modes of learning. We are also piloting an offsite Adult Tutoring program at the Richfield Centre in response to the needs of our community.

Past and present tutors and students are being invited to attend a 25th Anniversary "pizza in the park" celebration on August 13th. Please call the Centre for more information.



Dave Brown, student, 2000
Prospects 20th Anniversary

Student Memory

"I can vividly remember the first day . . . I was eager to meet the person that would assist me in completing my hard fought goals . . . Throughout the following school year this place became a life jacket for me . . . So I'd like to thank . . . and Centre for Family Literacy without your guided support I might not have achieved another step into my goals."



Students and tutor using the library at former Prospects location



Tutor Training, 1999

Tutor Memories

"I took my tutor training in 1990 and my first student was . . . a wonderful 61 year old Italian lady who worked so hard at learning the alphabet and how to read and print."

"The experience I had with my first student had me hooked! . . . I wouldn't have believed that a person's self esteem could be so positively affected by learning to read. That was an exciting year for me and we both learned so much."

25th

Annual Family Literacy Training Institute



125 family literacy practitioners from across the province are registered for the Centre's annual provincial training institute being held in Edmonton, August 22 to 26. An additional 25 are on a wait list. Participants can take up to 3 trainings over the week including

Introduction to Family Literacy and programs such as Rhymes That Bind and Building Blocks.

To offer this range of training, the Centre brings in trainers from across the province and the country. The Institute is funded by Alberta Advanced Education's Parent-Child Literacy Strategy.

ALL Survey

Continued from page 1

In Canada and the U.S., people who scored at the lower levels, 1 and 2, are about two times more likely to be unemployed for six or more months than those who scored at Level 3 or higher.

Further, adjusting for gender, age and education level, people with numeracy Levels 1 and 2 are 2.5 times more likely to be recipients of social assistance than those with level 3 or more.

The level of engagement in literacy activities at home and at work has a significant impact on literacy scores. The magnitude of the association is similar across all age groups, with the strongest association among younger age groups.

Literacy and numeracy scores pertaining to various health classifications formed a pattern quite similar in all countries: those classified as being among the most healthy have the highest average literacy and numeracy scores while those classified as the least healthy have the lowest average proficiencies.

The ALL Survey highlights current literacy challenges facing Canada and links those challenges to some of our most critical social and economic issues. The survey is available online at the Statistics Canada website (www.statscan.ca).

Upcoming Literacy Events

International Literacy Day

Thursday, September 8

The Sacred Heart School gymnasium will be the location of "Stars of Literacy," an afternoon event of readings, book give-aways and a cake cutting ceremony. Six individuals including Olympic Gold Medal winner Ken Trahlberg and writer Linda Goyette will read from their favourite books.

On the same day, CBC Radio Active from 4-6 p.m. will include a segment on International Literacy Day featuring musicians, interviews with adult learners and a Rhymes That Bind program.

Raise-a-Reader Day

Thursday, September 29

Watch for volunteers and staff from the Edmonton Journal, Global Television, Centre for Family Literacy, Edmonton Public Library and Edmonton Oiler Foundation, as we will be out early in the morning hawking newspapers in exchange for a donation to Raise-a-Reader.

Raise-a-Reader Day is a national CanWest initiative that raises awareness and funds for children's literacy programs in our city and across Canada.

READ IN Week

October 3 – 7

In keeping with the province's 100th birthday, this year's READ IN week will recognize Alberta's past, present and future, and its diversity. The theme, *Stories That Live On*, celebrates the power and permanence of story in both the written and oral traditions.

READ IN will also pay tribute to the Honourable Lois Hole, a champion of literacy in Alberta, and past Honourary Patron of the Centre for Family Literacy.

Edmonton Community Foundation Legacy Partnership Program

The Centre for Family Literacy is delighted to be part of a pilot project developed by the Edmonton Community Foundation to support organizations in their efforts to build endowment funds.

The Centre is one of six nonprofits participating in the Legacy Partnership Program. We will be working with Charles Nunn of Endowment Horizons, Inc. and staff at the Edmonton Community Foundation on the initial phases of this long term project.

This new initiative will assist us in building the endowment fund we recently created at the Edmonton Community Foundation. The investment income from the fund will be used to meet ongoing expenses, cover capital expenditures, or fund special projects and programs.

For more information on the Legacy Partnership Program, please contact Donna Lemieux at the Centre for Family Literacy.

Board Member Appointed to Steering Committee

Randy Boissonnault, a member of the Centre's Board of Directors, has been appointed to Alberta Advanced Education's Steering Committee tasked with helping to create a vision for advanced learning in Alberta into the 21st century.

The Steering Committee will assist the government in a comprehensive review called A Learning Alberta: Framing the Challenge and will look at all aspects of Alberta's adult learning system.

A Minister's Forum will be held in the fall of 2005 where participants from across the province will review the steering committee's work and help set a vision and new ideas for the system.

To purchase a copy of this CD, go to our website at www.famlit.ca



Look What's New: Songs, Stories & Rhymes That Bind CD

This CD is a selection of traditional and modern songs, stories and rhymes. It is a resource for parents and early childhood/family literacy facilitators who wish to expand their repertoire. The CD includes a 12 page booklet of tickle, bouncing and action songs and rhymes.

Literacy Develops in Families First

The Centre for Family literacy is dedicated to helping Alberta grow and prosper. Our innovative programs, training and research help Alberta families achieve what they imagine - improved education, jobs and health.

Privacy Policy

If you do not wish to receive Centre Page or information about the Centre for Family Literacy, you may call, write or e-mail us. A copy of our privacy policy can be found on our website at www.famlit.ca

