

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



# The Centre for Family Literacy Centre Page

March 2007

“Children’s home environments – in particular the extent to which they acquire literacy skills and habits from the adults raising them – are the key to early childhood literacy.”

*State of Learning in Canada report 2007*



*Linn Pascal, winner of the Lois Hole Adult Learner Award*

## Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Award Winners

Over two hundred people attended the second annual Leading with Literacy Breakfast where the inaugural Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Awards were presented by Jim Hole.

The Lois Hole Adult Learner Award was presented to Linn Pascal for his outstanding commitment to his own learning. Linn was labeled “slow” while growing up in Dominica because of his inability to learn to read. Fifteen years ago he moved to Canada where his job prospects were limited to labour positions.

Eighteen months ago he decided to get help and joined the Centre’s Adult Tutor Program. This is where it was discovered Linn had dyslexia, which explains his learning troubles growing up. Working with his tutor, Linn is learning to read and write.

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## The State of Learning in Canada

The Canadian Council on Learning has released its first “State of Learning In Canada” report. Chapter Two is dedicated to preschool children and contains a survey of the research literature on early childhood learning and development. The research indicates that most Canadian children are born healthy and develop well, but disadvantaged Canadian children are falling significantly behind.

In fact, 1 in 4 Canadian children enters Grade 1 with learning or behavioural problems that could affect their future success in academics and life in general.

The report showed that 21% of four and five years olds from low income families show delayed development on a test involving copying and understanding symbols such as letters and words, compared to 13% of other children.

In a test of familiarity with numbers, 26% of kindergarten aged children from low-income families showed delayed development, compared to 14% of other children.

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## Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Award Winners *Continued from page 1*

Three months into his program, Linn applied for and got a new, higher paying job. He was able to complete the application form without any help. He has taken to reading the newspaper and has found a passion for search-a-word puzzles. Prior to starting his

studies with the Centre, Linn could not even read the grocery lists that his wife wrote for him. Now he can write them himself.

Upon receiving the award, Linn commented, "I appreciate the award and I think everyone who cannot read should not give up."

The Lois Hole Community Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Ruth Hayden for her outstanding and ongoing commitment to family literacy in Alberta. Dr. Hayden was instrumental in founding the Centre for Family Literacy and is an influential leader in the areas of emergent and family literacy.

Dr. Hayden has worked tirelessly to advance the cause of family literacy. Traveling throughout Alberta, she has provided a wide variety of training to front line workers, giving them the knowledge and tools to help them incorporate family literacy into the work they do.

Dr. Hayden has also helped the Centre develop numerous training manuals and workshops and has co-authored several of the Centre's resources for professionals across many sectors. Through her work with the Centre, Ruth has brought the joy and benefits of family literacy to hundreds of Albertans.

Honouring these two outstanding individuals was indeed the highlight of the many activities planned by the Centre in celebration of National Family Literacy Day.



*Dr. Ruth Hayden, winner of the Lois Hole Community Leadership Award, with Jim Hole*

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## The State of Learning in Canada

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More than 25% of four and five years olds from low income families have delayed receptive vocabulary development (the ability to understand spoken words), compared to 11% of other children.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth found that almost 90% of four and five years olds have average or better communication skills. The survey found that more boys (14%) than girls (8%) fell within the delayed range.

On a positive note, the survey discovered that a growing proportion of preschoolers are being read to daily by their parents or other adults (67% in 2002-2003, compared to 56% in 1994-95). However, only 58% of young children in low income families were read to regularly, compared to 69% of other children.

The report suggests that although Canada apparently has one of the most highly educated populations in the world, there are serious signs of trouble. It cites the 42% of Canadian adults with low literacy levels as

found by the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS), and suggests

**“There is no room for complacency with respect to Canada’s literacy challenges. The stakes – for this generation and the next – are simply too high.”**

Encouraging children’s emerging literacy skills, and the literacy development of their parents within disadvantaged families, is what family literacy is about, and is how the programs and services of the Centre directly address the literacy challenges facing our province and country.

View the complete report and findings at [www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/StateofLearning/SOLREarlyChildhood.htm](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/StateofLearning/SOLREarlyChildhood.htm)

## Adult Programs in the Community



*40% of adult Albertans lack the literacy skills for coping with everyday life and work.*

Did you know that fewer than 10% of people at the lowest literacy levels actually seek help? How do we reach the other 90%? Do adults know there are free programs that can help them? How can we advertise to those who have difficulty reading ads, posters, and other written publicity information?

To address this, the Centre attends community meetings and resource fairs to publicize its free services, provides program information to agencies working with families and adults for referral purposes, and seeks media coverage to build awareness of the issue.

Most of our adult learners meet with their volunteer tutors at the Centre and make use of the tutoring space and resources of our library, but not everyone wants to come downtown. In an effort to make our services more convenient for students, the Centre is partnering with the Millwoods Family Resource Centre in southeast Edmonton, and the Learning Connections project in northeast Edmonton to offer literacy services in these communities.

In Millwoods, we are offering meeting space for one to one tutoring as well as group learning opportunities. Learning Connections, located in the Abbotsfield Mall, is a project of the Learning Centre in partnership with several other agencies. We are collaborating in the project through assessing adult learners, recruiting volunteers in the North East, and offering participants our one to one tutoring program.

If you know of adults who could benefit from family or adult literacy programming, or who might wish to become a volunteer tutor in Millwoods or Abbotsfield, please contact the Centre.

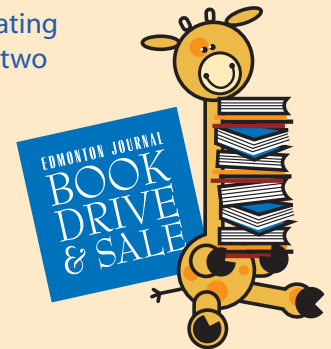
## 2007 Raise a Reader Book Drive and Sale

Mark your calendar for the annual book sale in support of children's literacy programs. The sale will take place April 20-22 at 11410 Kingsway Avenue (beside the Alberta Aviation Museum).

If you are interested in donating books to the sale, there are two opportunities:

**Sunday, March 11**  
from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
at J.H. Picard School  
(7055 99 St.)

**Sunday, March 18** from  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at  
Westmount School (11125 131 St.)



If you are interested in volunteering for the Book Drive or Sale, please call Jordan Wood at 421-7323.

## Volunteers Grow Community

### National Volunteer Week, April 15 – 21

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Centre's Adult Tutor Program. Last year, 130 volunteer tutors dedicated more than 10,000 hours to the cause of adult literacy.

Over 175 students, working with their tutors, faced the challenges of learning to read and write as an adult. The differences our volunteers make are felt in the lives of our students, their families and throughout the community.

Thank-you for making the difference!

The Centre for Family Literacy gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the following:



## The Dave Hancock Charity Golf Classic



*The Honourable Dave Hancock  
and Maureen Sanders, Centre for  
Family Literacy*

Since its inception six years ago, the golf classic has raised more than half a million dollars for Success by 6®, a community project managed by United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.

Success By 6® is a prevention initiative to ensure all preschool children in Edmonton have the necessary development and support for a lifetime of growth and achievement.

The Centre is delighted to be a recipient of the funds raised from the 2006 Dave Hancock Charity Golf Classic. At a reception held for volunteers at Government House on February 13, Maureen Sanders, Executive Director of the Centre accepted a cheque from The Honourable Dave Hancock and indicated this donation will be directed to our Edmonton Classroom on Wheels (C.O.W.) Bus program.

## What to Do with “Obsolete” Insurance

Do you have a life insurance policy you purchased years ago to provide financial protection and no longer need it? If so, it may be a great asset to name the Centre for Family Literacy as both the owner and beneficiary of the policy.

At the time of the donation, you receive a charitable tax receipt for the cash value of the policy. And if you cannot use the full credit in the first year, you can carry forward the unused portion up to five additional years.

There is also a significant tax savings to your estate as a donation receipt for the amount of the death benefit would be issued upon your death.

Many people wish to give more to charity, but are concerned about their cash flow and unforeseen emergencies. They are reluctant to reduce their investment assets. The donation of an insurance policy makes an ideal gift as it leaves your current income undisturbed.

If you are interested in exploring this option, please contact your life insurance professional.

*This article is intended to provide only information of a general character. For advice in specific cases, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained.*

**If you would prefer to receive the Centre Page newsletter via email rather than by mail, please send us an email at [info@famlit.ca](mailto:info@famlit.ca). Please reference Centre Page in the subject line.**

## 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

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