



# The Centre for Family Literacy Centre Page

## WEATHER NOT A PROBLEM FOR GOLFERS

### Our Vision:

*A healthy,  
literate society  
where all  
are able to  
contribute and  
succeed.*

Another fun and fabulous Links for Literacy Golf Tournament was held on August 15 at The Links Golf Course. It looked like the apocalypse outside, as thick smoke darkened the sky, turning the light from orange to a dark yellow. The heat warning and air quality statement did not deter the 128 golfers who showed up ready to compete for the coveted green jackets.



Green jackets are awarded to the team with the lowest score. This year's winners were Kieran Bowes, Nick Burak, Rob Kinsey, and Don Barr. They came in at 52 which is 20 under par. How is that possible? Well, besides their skill as golfers, the use of string and mulligans played a big part in lowering team scores.

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## FAMILY LITERACY TRAINING GOES TO BC

Take a stand! What would your thoughts be on a broad statement such as "Poverty is the result of low literacy"? Would you agree, disagree, or perhaps sit on the fence until someone convinced you to choose a side?

This activity, part of the *Introduction to Family Literacy Train-the-Trainer* course the Centre offered in Vancouver, BC, quickly proved to be a favourite. Participants were challenged to think critically and discuss broad statements taken from media headlines. Aside from getting the creative juices flowing, it provided perspective on how the families we work with don't know they can speak up and question what they are hearing.

We were delighted when Decoda Literacy Solutions asked the Centre to come to Vancouver to do this training for Literacy Outreach Coordinators. Literacy Outreach Coordinators are part of a network that supports community literacy initiatives throughout BC. They attended the three-day interactive training to learn to deliver the *Introduction to Family Literacy* course in their communities.

By the end of the training, everyone was tired, but left knowing they had the tools and modelling to be able to bring the course to their region and build capacity in family literacy. One participant stated, "This will be useful in my role as an LOC (Literacy Outreach

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### Contact us

11642 142 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5M 1V4 T 780.421.READ (7323) Toll free 1.866.421.7323  
F 780.421.7324 E info@famlit.ca W www.famlit.ca

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## GOLFERS

*Continued*

The Links for Literacy Golf Tournament raises money in support of the Centre's Classroom on Wheels (C.O.W.) Bus program. The bus was parked between the 9th and 10th holes and golfers visited the bus to learn more about the program.



This year we added the challenge of putting together a puzzle made from craft sticks with a golf theme. Definitely a fun way to learn how puzzles build literacy and numeracy skills.

Thanks to our sponsors, donors, participants, volunteers, and staff for making this year's event so successful.

**Eagle Sponsor** PCL  
**Flag Sponsor** Qualico  
**Banquet Sponsor** Nearctic  
**Lunch Sponsor** Ledcor

For more photos and highlights, go to the Events page of our website!



## FAMILY LITERACY TRAINING

*Continued*

Coordinator) to offer training to those in the community with little or no knowledge of how to support family literacy." The Centre will continue to support the participants as they pilot the training throughout the fall. We look forward to their feedback and continued partnership in hopes of replicating this model in other areas of the country.



*Introduction to Family Literacy* is a two-day course originally developed in consultation with professionals across Canada in response to a need for a foundational understanding of the theory and philosophy of family literacy, as well as practical strategies to get people started. Revised and updated over the years, this course is still a starting point for those who work in the field, or others wanting to integrate family literacy strategies into their work.

We are also pleased to announce that as of this fall, the *Introduction to Family Literacy* course can be used as an admission requirement for the online program "Family Literacy Facilitation" through Conestoga College. Nicole Maxwell from Conestoga College said, "This new admission requirement is very exciting for us at Conestoga. We look forward to seeing more family literacy specialists register for our program."

## BUILDING MORE THAN WORKPLACE SKILLS

Imagine leading a life resigned to the idea that you do not have what it takes to work in your new country of residence. Although endowed with a sharp intellect and work experience from your country of origin, you feel helpless about venturing into the workforce.

For many of our English language learners, this is a reality.

The need to build skills for work (Workplace Literacy) was evident. So, in line with the Centre's vision of "a healthy literate society where all are able to contribute and succeed," we partnered with the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church to provide an opportunity for immigrant women to meet on a weekly basis to develop their competency in language, essential skills, and workplace culture.

The program captivated the interest of the participants; they were diligent and saw the value in going to each session. They were keenly interested in improving their skills so they could better integrate, and contribute to Canadian society.

At the end of the two 10-week sessions, the participants expressed appreciation for learning about Canadian workplace culture and expectations, and the soft employability skills such as attitude, motivation, accountability, and time management. While these skills may be taken for granted, and may not always be mentioned in job descriptions, our learners noted that they were critical to their success in not only the workplace setting, but also in their homes and communities.

Other skills learned included resume writing, cover letters, and interview skills. All these elements, as noted by one of the facilitators, helped the participants gain confidence in themselves while contributing to their personal growth. This is clearly evident in a comment from one of the participants:

*“ I always struggled to put in words what I had to offer to an employer. But now I know and I can describe the qualities, the skills, and accomplishments that I have when I go for a job interview... I now understand the Canadian resume and references. ”*

## IMPORTANT DATES

READ IN

**October 1 - 5**

*Theme: Bringing Stories to Life*

*Financial Literacy Month*

**November**

*Invest in Your Financial Well-Being*

*National Child Day*

**November 20**

*Giving Tuesday*

**November 27**

*Office Holiday Closure*

**December 24 - January 4**



Online donations to the Centre can be made through [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org)



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



## FALL PROGRAMMING AT CFL



After a short summer hiatus, the Centre's programs are back. There have been a few changes from the spring sessions, so please check our website at [famlit.ca](http://famlit.ca) for more details.

Books for Babies is offering a program for Dads at the Jasper Place Child & Family

Resource Centre and is piloting a 6-week program at several locations. The ever-popular Rhymes that Bind program has three new sites: Millbourne Family Futures Network, neighbourHouse Community Centre, and the Pride Centre.

The C.O.W. Bus will continue to make their weekly visits to 10 Edmonton neighbourhoods, but have changed locations on Fridays, with visits to the Evergreen and Montrose communities.

The Adult Learning Team have a variety of classes that support adult learners, including workshops that will build competence in language, essential skills, and workplace culture. Most of the programs remain in the same locations, the only change is Learning Together which has moved to the Jasper Place Wellness Centre.

### YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your support will help us make a difference in the lives of Alberta families! Together we can make Alberta a healthy, literate society where all are able to contribute and succeed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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### 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.

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