



Essential skills for an evolving world

October 30, 2015

I am writing on behalf of the Literacy Alberta Board of Directors. As of September 30, 2015, Literacy Alberta will cease to exist. The board and staff focused our wind down efforts to ensure literacy and essential skills programs benefit from the legacy of Literacy Alberta. All programs have been completed or transferred, all intellectual property assigned to appropriate agencies, and any residual funds have been reinvested in the field. Community Learning Network has been identified by the province as the lead agency for the ongoing regional service delivery model and have been the recipient of the majority of Literacy Alberta's intellectual capital. They will continue to make these materials available to the community.

Literacy Alberta's staff, volunteers and agencies have had the privilege of delivering essential skills programs over the past 12 years. We have been regarded as the anchor for training resources at the grass root level - regional representatives, staff and volunteer tutors. In a province as large as Alberta, we have achieved success in being able to reach the needs of adults from High Level to Milk River.

This Board would like to go on record that we are supportive of the government, through Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE), continuing to fund and mentor the new regional service delivery mechanism for literacy and essential skills within the Province of Alberta. Without the supportive drive to find innovative ways of reaching this vulnerable population, Alberta is likely to remain with a dismal record of 45% of adults with below functional literacy skills.

IAE have demonstrated exceptional leadership in both identifying and targeting vulnerable populations. We concur that there is benefit to be gained by consolidation of small agencies and organizations into a larger provincial service delivery mechanism. However, we identify a risk in that the grass roots nature of literacy and essential skills service delivery requires a great deal of support through the transformation process. We urge the field to support the work of IAE to ensure that the voice of the community is heard.

Our thanks to the Community Learning Network for sharing this notice to the literacy community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Andrews".

Don Andrews
Chair, Literacy Alberta