



“The Practitioner Training Program is well structured to allow participants to identify ways to improve their teaching delivery while being aware of each learner’s needs and unique learning style.” ~ Cavita Persad

Cavita Persad is an English language facilitator at Alderney Gate Library’s literacy program in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Her learners are mostly immigrants that have just arrived in Canada. The Dartmouth Learning Network was a major influence in her decision to enroll in Literacy Nova Scotia’s Practitioner Training Program. “After researching the PT program, I became curious about the many teaching techniques and strategies that I had not been aware of.”

As a result of completing PT, Cavita is able to address each learner’s unique and individual way of understanding. “I’ve learned



to set some time aside during class time to listen to the small things they many come to me with, like their challenges in understanding the bus schedule, or how to dress warmly enough for the constantly changing temperatures. My learners feel appreciated because we share this "catch up" time just to touch base and check in with everyone. By doing this, they bond with each other and feel more confident about speaking up in the classroom if there is something they don't understand."

"The PT program has helped me to create more of a dialogue in the classroom, where my learners offer suggestions about what they need to work on. This makes learning more engaging for everyone. I've recently noticed that the learners who understand the topic will explain it to the other learners, and then look to me for that *'yes, that's correct!'* confirmation on the explanation given. Being able to explain something you learned to others in your own words is a huge learning milestone."

"My approach to teaching has certainly changed as a result of the PT program," says Cavita. "I now incorporate a lot of techniques I learned, like marking for confidence. I have a better understanding of the learners' individual stories. This gives me a clear perspective of where they have started, where they are now, and what areas they would like to focus on. I feel it is important for the learner to identify what area they would like to focus on, because it means they are mentally prepared to give their very best."

"Beyond a doubt, I would recommend the Practitioner Training Program to anyone interested in adult literacy."