

## Executive Summary

- Almost 50% of Atlantic Canadians do not have the literacy and essential skills required to work and thrive in a knowledge-based, digital society.
- There has never been a more important time to support adult and family literacy programs and yet, Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador has already closed its doors, and the impending closure of the PEI Literacy Alliance leaves just Literacy Nova Scotia and the Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick to fill a void that is getting larger.
- For over 25 years, our organizations have provided literacy services, programs and supports to Atlantic Canadians with funding support from the Federal Government of Canada. In 2014, the federal government cut this funding, thereby dismantling a once vibrant and effective network of provincial, territorial and national literacy organizations. To date, only 8 of the original 15 remain in operation, most of them by a thread.
- In 2016, we formally requested that funding be re-instated by the federal government for literacy organizations in Atlantic Canada in the amount of \$600,000 per year over 4 years (\$150,000 per organization per year). This amount totals 0.00018% of the projected expenditures for the 2017 Federal Budget.
- Funding from the federal government, along with funds we currently receive from our provincial governments, donors and sponsors would strengthen partnerships between all sectors and all levels of government and enable us to continue to provide much needed literacy services and supports to Atlantic Canadians.
- Despite the federal government's pledge to improve funding delivery mechanisms to support the not-for-profit sector to achieve accountability, while at the same time providing adequate, predictable and stable funding, we were advised in August 2017 that federal funding for core programs would not be reinstated and will only be administered through project-based models.
- Project-based funding models do not account for the regional circumstances of Atlantic Canada given that there are smaller populations in rural areas and fewer organizations to support literacy and essential skills services.
- The loss of equitable and accessible literacy supports and services will have a significant impact on socio-economically vulnerable populations, Francophone and Indigenous populations, linguistic minorities and Newcomers to Canada.
- We are asking for your support on this issue to ensure that all stakeholders, including the federal government, are doing their part.
- This letter has been copied to all Atlantic Members of Parliament and Senators as this issue requires immediate action, and is focused on regional, Provincial and minority issues.

September 8, 2017

Dear Premier Ball, Premier Gallant, Premier MacLauchlan and Premier McNeil,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Atlantic Partnership for Literacy and Essential Skills, a collaboration of the PEI Literacy Alliance, Literacy Nova Scotia and the Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick, to address the need to re-instate adequate, predictable, and stable funding for literacy and essential skills development in Atlantic Canada.

Almost 50% of Atlantic Canadians do not have the literacy and essential skills required to work and thrive in a knowledge-based, digital society. There has never been a more important time to support adult and family literacy programs and yet, Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador has already closed its doors, and the impending closure of the PEI Literacy Alliance leaves just Literacy Nova Scotia and the Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick to fill a void that is getting larger.

For over 25 years, our organizations have provided literacy services, programs and supports to Atlantic Canadians. Until three years ago, the Federal Government of Canada supported our work through adequate, predictable, and stable funding, administered by the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills. This funding helped our organizations run in an administratively sound and accountable manner and enabled us to carry out ongoing activities in support of our mandates and the needs of the literacy and essential skills field. In 2014, the federal government cut funding and dismantled a once vibrant and effective network of provincial, territorial and national literacy organizations. To date, only 8 of the original 15 remain in operation, most of them by a thread.

In the Atlantic region, we have played an active role in addressing the need for federal support. In February 2015, we responded to the call for project proposals from the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES). We are still engaged in negotiations on the proposed project, over two years later, even though in 2015/2016 ESDC was underspent on literacy and essential skills projects by over \$13 million. In October 2016, we presented the attached statement to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance during pre-Budget consultations and recommended that funding be re-instated by the federal government in the amount of \$600,000 per year over 4 years (\$150,000 for each organization per year). This funding would provide us with the stability we need to:

- Develop a collaborative approach with all stakeholders to ensure quality and accessible programming is in place in our region, enabling Atlantic Canadians to have opportunities to participate fully at work, at home, and in their community;
- Sustain and grow our ability to identify needs and gaps in services and develop an effective strategy that responds to the needs of our communities; and

- Share knowledge and successful models of literacy training and support in areas such as workforce development, youth and early years, family and adult literacy in our region as well as other jurisdictions in Canada.

After more than two years of lobbying and meeting with federal officials, we were advised in August by Minister Patricia Hajdu's office, that funding for core programs from the federal government would not be reinstated. The lapse in response from the federal government, coupled with the lack of long term, stable financial support has decidedly reduced our capacity to ensure the success of projects, carry out our core literacy services and address emerging needs in our communities.

To simply cut funding off to literacy programs doesn't make economic or moral sense, but that is exactly what is happening. This is in sharp contrast to the following Liberal statements made in the attached letter dated September 30, 2015:

*Lifelong learning and literacy must become a Canada-wide priority to both enhance our standard of living and economic competitiveness in the years ahead because these skills are vital to ensuring employability and success in today's society. Harper government's decision to gut funding to organizations like the Canadian Council on Learning and abandon the federal role in lifelong learning has undermined both. The federal government has an important role to play, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, in supporting lifelong learning and adult literacy. Today, there are too many hard-working Canadians who are looking to upgrade their skills and find better jobs, but do not have access to the training that they require. A Liberal government will make it easier for adults to get the additional skills they need to acquire and retain good jobs throughout their working lives.*

*Liberals understand the fundamental role that the not-for-profit sector plays in both policy development and program delivery for Canadians. The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to renewing the federal government's partnership with civil society.*

*A Liberal government will work in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including adult education providers and researchers, to explore more effective ways to provide funding for the important work you do. Our party understands that we must improve funding delivery mechanisms to support the not-for-profit sector to achieve accountability, while at the same time providing adequate, predictable, and stable funding.*

While the federal government is interested in providing project-based funding for adult literacy, It's not enough. Project-based funding pays for valuable short-term initiatives, but it does not pay for the background work that keeps an organization healthy and able to meet the existing and emerging literacy needs of our communities. Without adequate, predictable, and stable funding, our organizational capacity continues to erode and our ability to leverage funds for important project work is significantly diminished.

We are efficient organizations who provide much needed literacy and essential skills services to Atlantic Canadians, especially to the most vulnerable populations. As workplaces require more and more technical and digital competency, and as we have less time for informal learning with our families because of work schedules, the importance of literacy and essential skill development becomes urgent.

We continue to receive some support from our provincial governments, our communities, and local businesses, however, we are facing complex challenges which require stronger partnerships between all sectors and all levels of government. A better alignment of federal and provincial policy objectives in critical areas including labour force development is necessary to build a strong economy in which education and training are vital to the long-term future of our region.

We need your support on this issue to ensure that all stakeholders, including the federal government, are doing their part. Literacy skills are essential and the foundation for all learning. Populations with high literacy skills are more likely to live in safe communities, enjoy better health outcomes and earn higher incomes, in other words, the kind of place we all want Atlantic Canada to be.

Sincerely,



Amanda Beazley  
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*PEI Literacy Alliance*  
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Cc: All Atlantic Members of Parliament, Senators and media outlets



## Liberal Party of Canada

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30 septembre 2015

GABRIELLE LOPEZ  
DIRECTRICE PAR INTÉRIM  
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205-235, CHEMIN MONTRÉAL  
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September 30 2015

GABRIELLE LOPEZ  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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Dear Ms. Lopez,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our policies online at [RealChange.ca](http://RealChange.ca). This site provides details on a Liberal government's policies, goals, and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Anna Gainey, President  
Liberal Party of Canada

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Chère Mme. Lopez,

Veuillez trouver ci-joint la réponse formelle du Parti libéral du Canada à votre questionnaire.

Pour en apprendre davantage au sujet de la vision que le Parti libéral a pour le Canada, prenez un moment pour consulter nos politiques en ligne à [ChangeRensemble.ca](http://ChangeRensemble.ca). Ce site présente des détails sur les politiques, les objectifs et les priorités d'un gouvernement libéral.

Au nom de notre chef, Justin Trudeau, et de son équipe toute entière, je tiens à vous remercier de nous avoir fait part des inquiétudes de vos membres.

Nous sommes reconnaissants de l'intérêt que vous portez aux politiques du Parti libéral du Canada, parce qu'elles concernent les questions qui vous touchent.

Bien cordialement,

Anna Gainey, Présidente  
Parti libéral du Canada

Liberal

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## RESDAC: Le Réseau pour le développement de l'alphabétisme et des compétences

### *1. What are your commitments with regard to adult literacy and skills development?*

It is critical that Canadians have the opportunity to improve their skills and work credentials, to help meet the needs of a modern economy and to ensure that Canadians have good-paying, middle class jobs. By investing in skills training for Canada's labour force, Liberals are not only correcting the mistakes of the Harper decade – we are building a country that gives everyone a real and fair chance to succeed. Canadians deserve the chance to build a better life for themselves and their families and a Liberal government will work with the provincial and territories to ensure they have the literacy and other basic skills needed to succeed.

A Liberal government will increase investment in skills training, through a \$750 million annual increase in funding for training programs delivered in partnership with the provinces and territories. This will include:

- A \$500 million annual increase in funding to the Labour Market Development Agreements with provinces and territories.
- A \$200 million annual increase in funding to be delivered by the provinces and territories and focused on training for workers who are not currently eligible for federal training investment. This will undo Stephen Harper's cuts in 2014 to the Labour Market Agreements, which help Canadians outside the labour market get the basic literacy and numeracy skills they need to find a decent job.
- Renewal and expansion of funding by \$50 million of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). This will be delivered on a Nation-to-Nation and distinctions-based approach, which respects the unique realities of First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation in the delivery of these programs and services to their communities.

In addition, we will invest \$25 million per year in training facilities, partnering with labour unions so that more facilities have the equipment they need to train workers across the country.

### *2. Will you commit to play a strong and positive leadership role in promoting literacy, according to federal jurisdiction? If so, how will this leadership be put into effect?*

Put simply, in the 21st century, literacy is the foundation of opportunity. That is why the federal government must adopt a leadership role in developing strategies to improve literacy rates. While local agencies and provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments are best placed to deliver programming in this area, a Liberal government will offer support. We will provide a \$200 million increase in annual federal funding to be delivered by the provinces and territories help Canadians outside the labour market get the basic literacy and numeracy skills they need to find a decent job. We will also reengage in areas on federal jurisdiction, such as education and literacy programs for Indigenous communities.

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*3. Will your party commit to adopt measures that comply with constitutional obligations regarding the linguistic rights of Francophone Canadians who live in a minority context? If so, please provide concrete illustrations of this commitment.*

Canada was built on the idea that Francophones should be able to feel at home in this country, regardless of the province in which they live. It is largely due to our duality that we have become a society in which people from diverse cultures, origins, and religions can come, live, and feel at home. A Liberal government will act to promote and safeguard our two official languages because they are the foundation of our identity. We strongly affirm Canadians' rights to use the official language of their choice. A Liberal government will make an iron-clad commitment that federal services will be delivered in full compliance with the Official Languages Act. We will also ensure judicial appointments to the Supreme Court are functionally bilingual.

Further, a Liberal government will look for opportunities to promote French language and culture, both in Québec and also for Francophones and francophone communities across the country. CBC/Radio-Canada is also a vital national institution that brings Canadians together, promotes and defends our two official languages, and supports our shared culture. Our public broadcaster reflects minority communities and is a vital voice throughout the country. The Harper government has cut \$115 million from CBC/Radio-Canada's annual budget, jeopardizing our public broadcaster's ability to fulfill its mandate. We will invest \$150 million in new annual funding for CBC/Radio-Canada, a commitment that reverses Harper's cuts and goes even further to ensure that our national broadcaster is able to prosper in today's media environment. We will work with CBC/Radio-Canada, and in consultation with the Canadian cultural community, on a new strategic plan that incorporates this renewed funding.

*4. Are you willing to fund a stable infrastructure that will allow for the fulfillment of multiple functions such as information, innovation, research and sharing of expertise in the field of literacy and skills development?*

Liberals understand the fundamental role that the not-for-profit sector plays in both policy development and program delivery for Canadians. The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to renewing the federal government's partnership with civil society.

A Liberal government will work in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including adult education providers and researchers, to explore more effective ways to provide funding for the important work you do. Our party understands that we must improve funding delivery mechanisms to support the not-for-profit sector to achieve accountability, while at the same time providing adequate, predictable, and stable funding.

Please keep an eye on [RealChange.ca](http://RealChange.ca) for more details in the days to come.

*5. Do you agree to integrate literacy and essential skills development into sectoral policies, where these aspects are relevant, such as, for example, employment policies, policies related to Aboriginal people, health, the environment, culture, and the promotion of official languages?*

The Liberal Party recognizes the vital importance of literacy skills in ensuring success in today's society. A Liberal government will work in partnership with provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments to integrate literacy and essential skills development into sectoral policies, where relevant. This will include specific commitments such as a \$200 million annual increase in funding to be delivered by the provinces and territories help Canadians outside the labour market get the basic literacy and numeracy skills they need, as well as significant new investments in Indigenous education and training initiatives.

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*6. Do you support the inclusion of literacy and skills development funding in the Employment Insurance Fund and the Canada Job Grant?*

Employment Insurance is a crucial social and economic policy – it must do a better job at both helping Canadians when they need it, and supporting a well-trained, highly skilled workforce. We will work with provinces and territories to ensure that these new funds support their training priorities, support initiatives that demonstrate real pathways to good quality jobs, and develop the skills that employers need to grow our economy.

A Liberal Government will provide a \$200 million annual increase in federal funding to be delivered by the provinces and territories focused on training for workers who are not currently eligible for federal training investment. This will undo Stephen Harper's cuts in 2014 to the Labour Market Agreements, which help Canadians outside the labour market get the basic literacy and numeracy skills they need to find a decent job.

*7. Will you implement Canada's commitments to UNESCO and on the international stage in the fields of literacy and adult education (UNESCO's Education 2030 Framework for Action (2015), Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education (2015), Bélem Framework for Action (2009) and Hamburg Declaration on Adult Education (1997))?*

Lifelong learning and literacy must become a Canada-wide priority to both enhance our standard of living and economic competitiveness in the years ahead because these skills are vital to ensuring employability and success in today's society. Harper government's decision to gut funding to organizations like the Canadian Council on Learning and abandon the federal role in lifelong learning has undermined both. The federal government has an important role to play, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, in supporting lifelong learning and adult literacy. Today, there are too many hard-working Canadians who are looking to upgrade their skills and find better jobs, but do not have access to the training that they require. A Liberal government will make it easier for adults to get the additional skills they need to acquire and retain good jobs throughout their working lives.

Moreover, for Canada to regain its leadership position on the world stage, we must live up to our international commitments and lead by example. Canada has been a leader in mobilizing support for adult education and learning since the First International Conference on Adult Education in 1949, however, in recent years the federal government has withdrawn from this critical area. The Liberal Party of Canada supports Canada's historic commitments to support literacy and adult education by signing on to UNESCO's Education 2030 Framework for Action (2015), the Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education (2015), the Bélem Framework for Action (2009) and the Hamburg Declaration on Adult Education (1997). While recognizing provincial and territorial jurisdiction in the area of education, we believe the federal government must do more to ensure implementation of these important accords. A Liberal government will work in partnership with other levels of government, including providing critical resources, to fulfill Canada's international commitments regarding literacy and adult education.

  
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## Atlantic Partnership for Literacy and Essential Skills

Opening Statement for Pre-Budget Consultations

October 18, 2016

In order to realize a stronger, more prosperous Canada, we need to strengthen the skills of Canadians across all regions. Literacy, along with the other essential skills, are the foundation for all learning, and involves not only reading, but interpreting information in all forms. Literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving skills are key to the ability of Canadians to fully participate in our society and to contribute to economic growth. However, 49% of the working-age population in Canada is ranked below Level 3, the level that workers in many Canadian occupations need to perform effectively<sup>1</sup>. The problem isn't necessarily about not being able to read. All but 15% of these workers can read, a skill that allows them to apply routine procedural knowledge. What these workers cannot do is read well enough to be efficient problem solvers and to apply their technical skill and knowledge in non-routine ways<sup>2</sup>.

Atlantic Canada has some of the lowest literacy and essential skills levels in the country. The percentages of working age adults in Atlantic Canada with low literacy are:

- 46% in PEI;
- 50% in Nova Scotia;
- 54% in New Brunswick; and
- 56% in Newfoundland and Labrador<sup>3</sup>.

Since people with low literacy skills are more than twice as likely to be unemployed, it's not surprising that Atlantic Canada also has some of the highest unemployment rates in the country.

As organizations who provide much needed literacy services, programs and supports, we see the difference that literacy makes in the lives of individuals and their families. We would like to tell you the story of Kimberly, a learner in one of our adult literacy programs. Kimberly began the program unable to read, due in part to a learning disability. Her early life in school was very challenging and despite her desire to learn and her best efforts, she believed herself to be inadequate. To put it in her terms, she felt "stupid and unable to learn". In grade 10, Kimberly dropped out of school and worked manual labor jobs for many years. After sustaining an injury that left her unable to continue working labor jobs and with no skills to secure another line of work, she had to rely on social assistance to provide for herself and her two children. Her confidence was shattered and she spiralled into a cycle of addictions, poverty and reliance on social assistance. When Kimberly decided that she wanted a better life for her and her family, she

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<sup>1</sup> ESDC - *UPSKILL: A Creditable Test of Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills Training*

<sup>2</sup> Scott Murray and Richard Shillington - *Understanding Literacy Markets in Canada: A Segmentation Analysis*

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada, ESDC and CMEC - *Skills in Canada: First Results from the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies*

sought treatment and joined adult literacy program. It was a big step toward her goal of independence. In less than one year and with the help of a literacy tutor, she is well on her way to achieving her goals. With her new skills, she is now helping her children with their reading for the first time since they began school. Kimberly no longer feels as though she is inadequate or worthless. She believes in herself. With the continued support of the program and her tutor, Kimberly wants to write her GED and pursue a college diploma that will enable her to gain steady employment.

Each of our literacy coalitions have stories of success like Kimberly's. Each story is unique, but given the statistics, Kimberly's is typical of a woman who has weak literacy skills who is more likely to be unemployed or employed in the lowest paying jobs and a single parent. Hers is an inspiring story of success and there are so many others like her that need access to support to be successful in contributing to growth in Atlantic Canada.

Overall, Canada's opportunity for economic growth is hindered by the fact that 51% of workers have literacy skill levels below those needed to do their jobs well, which directly affects businesses in lost productivity and profitability<sup>4</sup>. Not only is this lack of skills hindering our opportunity for economic growth, it is also costing our health, justice, political and social systems. It is estimated that the cost of low literacy in Canada is \$32.31 billion in US dollars<sup>5</sup>. The hidden costs of low literacy in Canada severely impact the following areas:

- **Healthcare** - In the workplace, employees with low literacy are more likely to have accidents because they cannot understand written health and safety regulations or instructions on how to safely operate machinery. They tend to be employed in primary, resource and construction industries – which report well above average accident rates<sup>6</sup>. This puts both themselves and their co-workers at risk, increases the need and cost of medical services, and leads to higher absenteeism and damage to long-term productivity<sup>7</sup>.
- **Justice** - Upon arrival at correctional institutions, approximately 65% of offenders test at a level lower than Grade 8, and 82% test lower than Grade 10<sup>8</sup>. Those with weak literacy skills upon release have a high probability of re-offending. This is a high cost to the economy in terms of maintaining prisons, administrating the courts and running the justice system<sup>9</sup>. Prison literacy programs can reduce recidivism by up to 30%, depending on the level of literacy the prisoner achieves<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Scott Murray and Richard Shillington - Understanding Literacy Markets in Canada: A Segmentation Analysis

<sup>5</sup> World Literacy Foundation – The Economic & Social Cost of Illiteracy – September 2015

<sup>6</sup> The Conference Board of Canada, 2008 - All Signs Point to Yes, Literacy's Impact on Workplace Health and Safety

<sup>7</sup> World Literacy Foundation – The Economic & Social Cost of Illiteracy – September 2015

<sup>8</sup> Correctional Services of Canada's website, "Overview of Education and Employment Programs"

<sup>9</sup> World Literacy Foundation – The Economic & Social Cost of Illiteracy – September 2015

<sup>10</sup> Literacy and Policing in Canada: Targeting Crime with Literacy

- **Civic Engagement** – Civic literacy is the knowledge and skills you need to participate in making change in your community. People with low literacy face more challenges to participating in their community. As an example, in Ontario 50% of people with the lowest levels of literacy volunteer or participate in community groups, compared with 78% of people at the highest levels<sup>11</sup>. People with low literacy also typically have very limited political awareness and are less likely to vote in elections given their lack of access to detailed and systematic information. In modern societies, literacy skills are fundamental to informed decision-making, to active and passive participation in local, national, and global social life. As individuals are engaged in political decisions, an intimate connection emerges between literacy and democracy.<sup>12</sup>
- **Social Assistance** - People with low literacy skills earn considerably less than those with high literacy skills and they are also more likely to receive social assistance from the government<sup>13</sup>. 47% of low-income Canadians have low literacy skills, as do 65% of social assistance recipients.

A highly skilled workforce may not be the only contributor to economic growth in Canada, but it certainly plays a very large role.

- An investment in human capital, that is, in education and skills-training, is three times as important to economic growth over the long term as investment in physical capital, such as machinery and equipment<sup>14</sup>.
- A 1% increase in literacy and essential skills in Canada would create a workforce that is 2.5% more productive and would increase Canada's GDP by 1.5%.<sup>15</sup>

All levels of governments would realize significant benefits from such an investment. For example, higher tax revenue, reduced income support payments on EI, Social Assistance and Workers Compensation totalling \$2.119 billion per year and health expenditures totalling \$688 million per year<sup>16</sup>.

An increasingly knowledge based economy demands that our population grow and adapt to an evolving society. In Atlantic Canada for example, because of the automation of traditional industries such as fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and agriculture, employers are facing labour shortages as they attempt to hire and retain employees with the appropriate skills. There are other groups of Atlantic Canadians such as First Nations and immigrants who are especially vulnerable to low literacy. Their needs must be met on an urgent basis because these two groups will account for much of the growth in the labour force

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<sup>11</sup> Literacy- Why it matters! Community Literacy of Ontario

<sup>12</sup> Unesco - The Political Benefits of Adult Literacy

<sup>13</sup> Statistics Canada, International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey, 2003

<sup>14</sup> Statistics Canada: The Contribution of Literacy to Economic Growth and Individual's Earnings

<sup>15</sup> Alexander, C & MacKenna, F of TD Bank Financial Group – Literacy Matters: A call for action

<sup>16</sup> Scott Murray and Richard Shillington - Understanding Literacy Markets in Canada: A Segmentation Analysis

in the next few decades.<sup>17</sup> It is also crucial to ensure that rural populations have access to literacy and essential skills supports.

There is clearly a need for literacy and essential skills services and supports in our country. To meet this need in Atlantic Canada, we must have the opportunity to leverage the strengths of our coalitions and community literacy organizations to grow supports for our residents. We are aligned with provincial and federal vision to form partnerships that will be more efficient and effective. We have the expertise to address the adverse impact that low literacy has on our communities, civic engagement, health, crime rates and economy. Each coalition plays a crucial role in our respective provinces and by working together, we will strengthen our region as a whole.

We require funding from our Federal Government as we collaborate to form the Atlantic Partnership for Literacy and Essential Skills in the amount of \$600,000 per year over 4 years. This funding will provide us with the stability we need to:

- Develop a collaborative approach with all stakeholders to ensure quality and accessible programming is in place in our region, enabling Atlantic Canadians to have opportunities to participate fully at work, at home, and in their community;
- Sustain and grow our ability to identify needs and gaps in services and develop an effective strategy that responds to the needs of our communities; and
- Share knowledge and successful models of literacy training and support in areas such as workforce development, youth and early years, family and adult literacy in our region as well as other jurisdictions in Canada.

A minimum investment in literacy and essential skills will allow us to make a broader impact in our region and to produce measurable outcomes that will have a positive and lasting impact in the lives of all Atlantic Canadians.

### Contact Information

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<sup>17</sup> National Strategy for Early Literacy – *Canada's Hidden Deficit: The Social Cost of Low Literacy*