

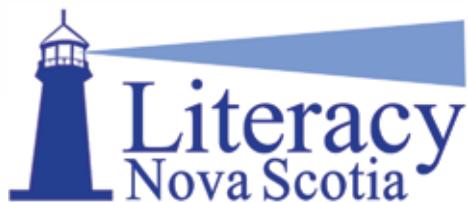
“Adult learning is so different from what I experienced at school as a child. Adult learning instructors listen to what I have to say and they respect my opinion.”

~ Debra Paris Perry



Debra Paris Perry had negative experiences in school and left the education system when she was 14. At age 58, she enrolled in the adult learning program at Kjipuktuk Aboriginal College in Halifax. “I come from a mixed cultural heritage of Black Nova Scotian and First Nations, and I felt comfortable at Kjipuktuk.” Debra went on to complete the Veterinary Administrative Assistant Program at Eastern College, and she works part-time providing at home pet care to seniors while she looks for full-time employment.

Debra has three grown children and 15 grandchildren. “I always encouraged my family members stay in school and receive the education and skills they needed to lead productive lives, and I want everyone to do the same. When I hear young women in my neighbourhood say ‘I can hardly wait to have a baby so I can get my own cheque’, it makes me want to cry. I want to hear them say this: ‘I can’t wait to get my diploma so I can get a job.’”



***Literacy and Essential Skills:
Making a Difference in the Lives
of Nova Scotians***

Literacy Nova Scotia works to ensure that literacy and essential skills learning opportunities are available wherever and whenever there is a need or interest.

Literacy and essential skills provide the foundation for learning all other skills. They enable us to succeed in our jobs and adapt to workplace change; they also enable us to evolve in our personal lives and contribute to our communities.

Nine Essential Skills are needed for work, learning and life.

Reading

- Read emails from coworkers
- Read a recipe; read letters from your doctor, landlord, friend
- Read newspapers, billboards, signs, menus

Reading Text is the ability to understand materials in the sentences or paragraphs. Use this skill to scan for information, skim

Document Use

- Fill out a job application
- Read nutritional labels on food packaging
- Read bus schedules



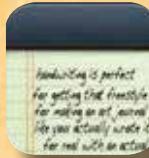
Numeracy

- Keep track of office expenses
- Make a household budget; create a plan to save money for your child's education
- Count out correct change when making a payment

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Writing

- Take notes at a meeting; send emails
- Write letters to friends, relatives, your child's teacher
- Share your opinion by writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper



Oral Communication

- Give directions to your customers
- Order items by phone
- Discuss health concerns with your doctor



Computer Use

- Send pdf files to a coworker via email
- Use the Internet to shop online
- Use an ATM machine



Working with Others

- Listen to and support your boss and coworkers; get your part of the job done
- Create a supportive home environment by listening and caring
- Become a community volunteer



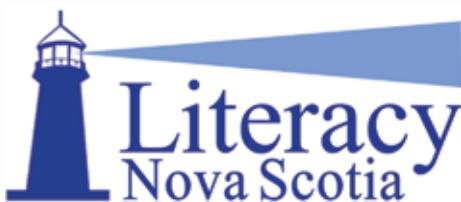
Thinking Skills

- Organize your weekly work schedule
- Plan a family reunion
- Plan a fundraising event at your local school or church



Continuous Learning

- Take an online course
- Learn how to use new tools for household repairs
- Learn how to play bridge or do yoga at your community recreation centre



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Become a member of Literacy Nova Scotia.
Add your voice to the wide membership calling for the advancement of all levels of adult literacy and essential skills in this province and beyond. Read more: www.literacyns.ca/membership.htm

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