

**“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 Kijipuktuk Aboriginal College in Halifax. “I come from a mixed cultural heritage of Black Nova Scotian and First Nations, and I felt comfortable at Kijipuktuk.” 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***

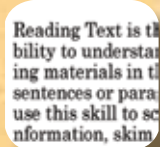
# Literacy Nova Scotia works to ensure that literacy and essential skills learning opportunities are available wherever and whenever there is a need or interest.

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



### 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



### 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



### Document Use

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



### Oral Communication

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



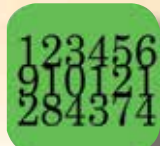
### Thinking Skills

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



### 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



### Computer Use

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



### 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](http://www.literacyns.ca/membership.htm)

**Membership Fees:**  
**Individual \$10/year | Organizational \$75/year**

Send your cheque with your name, complete mailing address, phone number and email to:  
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