



The Learning Centre
LITERACY ASSOCIATION

2010

Annual Report

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Mission Statement:

The Learning Centre Literacy Association engages people in community-based learning and literacy development that further enables them to make positive changes for themselves and their communities.

Vision Statement:

The Learning Centre Literacy Association: A vibrant, diverse community confidently exploring and using literacy.

From the Board

In November 2010, the Learning Centre hosted its first ever major fundraising event. This new endeavour was initiated by our Coordinator Denis Lapierre with the help of a dedicated fundraising committee. The featured speaker was Andrew Nikiforuk. Andrew helped us understand the many problems of living in Alberta's "petro economy" – an economy in which the interests of businesses and industries often appear to be more important than the wellbeing of people. His words demanded that we ask ourselves the question: "Do we always agree with the priorities and decisions of our government?"

We all know that literacy – the ability to understand, interpret and create printed and written materials in order to participate fully in society (UNESCO) – is a pretty important skill for everyone.

Yet, according to the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey, about 9 million Canadian adults aged 16 to 65 scored below the desired threshold for coping with the increasing skill demands of a knowledge society. That's 42% of adult Canadians without the reading and writing skills that many of us take for granted. What's worse, this picture has not changed since the previous survey conducted in 1994, a full decade earlier.

Low literacy, poverty and exclusion are all part of the same problem. People from poor families, as well as seniors, Aboriginal people, prisoners, people with disabilities, and racial and cultural minorities all have higher rates of both illiteracy and poverty. As the Canadian Literacy and Learning Network reminds us, “Canada’s high rate of illiteracy/under-education is not simply an education problem. It is a symptom of deep and widespread social inequality.”

The Learning Centre and other literacy programs in Edmonton do their level best to turn this situation around. In the past year, we have witnessed an increase in numbers of adults who enrol in classes at our Abbotsfield Mall location and who drop in to use computers and open learning spaces at our campus in Boyle Street Community Services Centre. Continuing with our outreach approach, we extended literacy services to citizens in the west end of Edmonton. In addition to our ongoing partnership with Boyle Street Community Services Centre, we’ve expanded our collaborations with the University through research projects, community service-learning and the non-profit board internship program.

However, we are doing this good work in an increasingly difficult funding climate at both the national and provincial levels. The most recent examples in Alberta include the abrupt termination of funding for the *English Express*, a monthly easy reading newspaper that, with the help of volunteers from the Heritage Club, was

sent out to over 60,000 Albertans. This resource was regularly used by literacy and ESL learners, tutors and teachers throughout the province. As well, Albertans saw the discontinuation of the part time study bursaries that had previously supported many learners at the Learning Centre.

Do we, as citizens, agree with these kinds of funding decisions? Do we agree with decisions that make it harder for motivated adults to reach their personal, social and economic learning goals? Do we agree with decisions that make it more difficult for our already under-funded community-based agencies to support adults to achieve their learning goals?

The Learning Centre's mission is to engage people in community-based learning and literacy development that further enables them to make positive changes for themselves and their communities. In 2010, The Learning Centre intensified its efforts for our learners and learners throughout the province to have a voice in their future. The future will require that we and all other educational, social, labour and human services organizations continue to challenge the systemic shortfalls that prevent many citizens from making positive changes in their lives and the lives of their communities.

In solidarity,
Donna M. Chovanec
Chair

Community Partners

“In union there is strength.”

-- Aesop

The Centre is fortunate to have the support of the following groups and organizations. They contribute so much to the quality of our services and the success of our learners.

Abbotsfield Library

Abbotsfield Youth Project

AEI

Audreys Books

Ben Calf Robe Society

Bissell Centre

Boyle McCauley News

Boyle Street Community Services

Bredin Institute

Candora Society

Capital Health Surplus

Centre for Family Literacy

Clareview Headstart

Clareview Community Builders

Community Services - City of Edmonton

Community Service Learning Program -
University of Alberta

DECSA

Department of English and Film Studies –
University of Alberta
ECALA
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
Edmonton Public Library
Faculty of Native Studies – University of Alberta
Fort Saskatchewan Literacy
Greater Edmonton Library Association (GELA)
Greenwoods' Bookshoppe
Greystone Books
Heritage Club
Hosanna Lutheran Church
Herb Jamieson Centre
Hope Mission
Hope Mission Wellspring Program
John Howard Society: Adult Transition Learning
Literacy Alberta
NAIT – RIEL Institute for Education & Learning
Norquest College
PALS
Partners for Kids and Youth
Partners for Youth East End
Strathcona Literacy
Wecan Co-op
WEICOP –West End Interdenominational
Coalition on Poverty
Windsound Learning Society

Spotlight: Downtown

The expertise and enthusiasm of facilitators and tutors at the Downtown Learning Centre campus made a critical difference in the learning and lives of learners who participated in the many diverse programs in 2010.

Learners had opportunities to select from a wide array of learning activities, ranging from basic reading and writing classes to the more sophisticated art of digital community mapping which was provided in the Humanities 101 winter session. At various times during 2010, learners were also provided with opportunities to learn more about computers and the impact of social media as well as to benefit from art instruction that was provided by local artists on a weekly basis.

From budding poets in our creative writing circle class to aspiring social policy critics in our Urban Issues forums, everywhere learners were actively engaged in their learning; making positive contributions to their lives and the communities in which they daily participated.

While helping adults develop literacy skills is at the heart of the Association's work, the many contributions of all of our volunteers, tutors and facilitators makes this work all the more worthwhile and interesting. We remain deeply indebted to everyone who contributes in any measure to the improvement of our learners'

lives and the success of their learning experiences.

Margaret Mead once stated that; *“Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

In 2010, the Downtown Learning Centre community was indeed privileged to have had so many people contribute and share so many talents and skills for the collective wellbeing of all those who participated in the life of the community.

This remains the highlight of 2010 for both campuses and the single most important aspect that underscores the success of our learning programs.

Spotlight: Abbottsfield

TLCLA’s Abbottsfield site had an exciting 2010. While we had many new events and partnerships this year, the heart of the program remains the work of the learners, tutors, and facilitators in their literacy classes. We are grateful for the strong sense of community and the safe environment for learning.

The Abbottsfield site started in 2006 with the Widening Access for Adult Literacies Project and 2010, with thanks to Mary Norton, we completed a website about the project. This site

shares information with our community about literacy and literacy programming.

One of the key results of the Widening Access project was the Northeast Edmonton Literacy Network. This network continues to be very active in Northeast Edmonton, and has now opened its doors to the entire city's communities.

In 2010, the Network gave presentations at conferences about creating literacy-friendly environments, as well as about the network's origins.

We developed a Terms of Reference to guide our work, and we continue to conduct Literacy Walkabouts at community agencies to ensure their friendliness to people with low literacy skills.

In further pursuit of that goal, we launched the Clear Language Policy Template for agencies to use as a framework for designing their in-house publications. The template is available for download at the Network's new blog: <http://literacyfriendly.wordpress.com/>

Thank you to the many partnering agencies who make up the Literacy Network. This network is unique and a model for other communities!

The Numbers

Registered learners who attended:

The Learning Centre Downtown: **42**

The Learning Centre Abbotsfield: **108**

Average downtown drop-in learners per day: **14**

Tutors who volunteered:

The Learning Centre Downtown: **19**

The Learning Centre Abbotsfield: **44**

Other volunteers: **45**

Registered learners attended The Learning Centre for **5,909** hours.

Funding

Grants, contract income, fees, and donations fund the Association's work. The Association received grants from:

Alberta Advanced Education,
Community Programs Branch

Edmonton Community Adult Learning
Association (ECALA)

Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, HRSDC

City of Edmonton,
Community Investment Operating Grant

The Association also processed and mailed *English Express* until it ceased production in fall 2010. *EE* provided reading material for literacy and ESL programs across Alberta. The proceeds from this contract helped cover expenses not funded by grants.

Financial Statement

THE LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
REVENUE:		
Restricted:		
Grants - federal government.....	\$ -	\$ 56,280
- provincial government	188,064	163,637
Casino	<u>26,028</u>	<u>21,441</u>
Total restricted revenue.....	<u>214,092</u>	<u>241,358</u>
Unrestricted:		
Grants.....	19,250	19,250
Contract services.....	8,872	19,032
Donations	12,486	2,977
Fundraising.....	2,892	193
Interest	2,728	4,792
Sales - books.....	841	1,174
Student fees	<u>3,870</u>	<u>3,060</u>
Total unrestricted revenue.....	<u>50,939</u>	<u>50,478</u>
Total revenue.....	<u>265,031</u>	<u>291,836</u>
EXPENSES:		
General and administrative (Schedule 1)	97,509	101,887
Program (Schedule 2)	118,329	147,697
Volunteer management and fundraising (Schedule 3)	<u>26,734</u>	<u>26,625</u>
Total expenses	<u>242,572</u>	<u>276,209</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS.....	22,459	15,627
OTHER EXPENSE - amortization	<u>1,590</u>	<u>1,844</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE FOR THE YEAR	\$ <u>20,869</u>	\$ <u>13,783</u>

We are happy to provide the complete financial report upon request.

Board of Directors

Our Board includes learners, tutors, and other volunteers who bring a range of experiences and perspectives. Board members meet people, share skills and laughter, and learn more about community-based literacy and education.

Donna Chovanec, Chair
Elsie Johnson, Vice-Chair
Jocelyn King, Treasurer
Mack Male, Secretary
Stewart Bruce
Laval Carson
Johanna Haley
Sheldon Haynes
Lawrence Hazlett
Helen Herbert
Kim Wilson
Marie Woolgar

Staff

Denis Lapierre, Coordinator
Susan Skaret, Abbottsfield Animator
Cynthia Bale, Program Assistant
Colette Lauer, Bookkeeper (January – June)
Marguerite Folk, Bookkeeper (June – December)
Laval Carson, Information Technologist
Theresa Varty, Abbottsfield Custodian

Volunteers

*“When you do things from your soul,
you feel a river moving in you, a joy.”*
-- Rumi

Volunteers are the backbone of The Learning Centre Literacy Association’s many programs and activities. They help to enhance services provided to adult learners; they ensure that learners are provided with timely assistance and enriched learning experiences, and they help out with many of the other services offered by the Association.

The Association could not possibly carry out all of its day-to-day agency responsibilities and pursue new initiatives without the help of all of those who care passionately about the Association’s mission and vision, who love the important work of the Centre, and who are willing to volunteer time and energy in a spirit of cooperation.

In 2010, The Learning Centre benefited from:

- **63** tutors who volunteered a total of **1,970** hours of their invaluable time to work with adult learners
- **45** citizens who donated **450** hours of their time in assisting the Association with special events and fundraising projects
- **12** board members who donated **154** hours of their time guiding the Association

2010 Facilitators

“I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.”
-- Albert Einstein

Cynthia Bale

Downtown Math

Mary-Ann DeVries

*Abbotsfield Math, Computers,
Everyday Literacies*

Barb Harvey

Abbotsfield/Downtown Reading/Writing

Sheldon Haynes

Downtown Computers, Drop-In Learning

Daniel Johnson

Downtown Urban Social Issues

Lesley King

Abbotsfield Everyday Literacies

Judy Murphy

Abbotsfield Yoga

Monica Pazdziorko

Abbotsfield Learner's Licence Class

Rebecca Schellenberg

*Downtown Writing Circle,
Literacy West End*

Dyan Semple

Women's Creative Writing Circle

Anna Marie Sewell

Abbotsfield Writers' Circle

Marg Swytink

Abbotsfield Reading/Writing

Programs

“You should keep on learning as long as there is something you do not know.”

-- Lucius Annaeus Seneca

The Association offers a range of regular part-time opportunities for adults who want to develop their reading, writing and math skills. The Association's group programming receives funding from the Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association (ECALA). The Community Programs Branch of Alberta Advanced Education supports the tutoring part of the Centre's programs. Groups met for five 5-8 week cycles, from January to June and September to December. Learners could join a group at any time. Following are some highlights and descriptions of the Association's literacy programming in 2010.

Reading and Writing Downtown

“This was our second year of being located in the basement of the co-op. Everyone has adjusted well. Because the space was less open than the previous one, the noise level seemed to be higher as participants interacted while learning. This did not inhibit the desire to learn. All students showed great interest and desire to increase their literacy skills.

“Students continued to work as a group exploring Social Studies topics one day a week, while on the other day they did individual work. Some worked independently, while others worked with tutors. Each student seemed to have an ever-increasing level of motivation and self-direction in reaching their literacy goals. In June, we visited the Royal Alberta Museum and shared pizzas at the Centre.”

-- Barb Harvey, facilitator

Reading and Writing Abbottsfield

“A wonderful addition to our Tuesday morning Reading and Writing class in the fall 2010 was an hour of yoga before we began our reading and writing class. Judy Murphy very kindly and respectfully invited us all to breathe, be curious, and not to judge ourselves when we are doing body work. It was an excellent way to take us from our morning start at home to a time of study and learning at the Centre.

“The students, a volunteer and the instructor all took advantage of this approach to improve, and heighten our learning experience. It worked! We felt grounded and energized. Some of our class time involved routine and repetition, giving us a feeling of expectation and preparedness. The learners improved in their reading and writing abilities and speed. They were encouraged to use strategies that work for them. This led to greater independence and confidence.

“Of course, our faithful volunteer tutors provided a wonderful support and assistance to the learners. Some learners expressed a desire to learn some driver education, and so we addressed that by providing materials with signs and symbols (and accompanying vocabulary) that are essential to safe driving. Again, the learners felt more confident and were very observant in their daily travels.

“It continues to be a pleasure to work with such dedicated and motivated learners and watch them grow in support of each other’s learning.”

-- Marg Swytink, facilitator

“In 2010, I facilitated reading and writing classes on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings, and Thursday evenings. As in the year before, there continued to be many enthusiastic men and women coming to increase their literacy skills. Fortunately, in 2010 we had more tutors to assist participants in their learning. We were glad to see avid learners working well together with dedicated tutors. Another class of four to six students worked to prepare for the GED.

“It was exciting to participate in helping others to actually gain more knowledge in literacy and computer skills, driving education, or whatever subject may apply, but most rewarding was seeing students’ increased confidence and self-esteem from having been successful in their endeavours.”

-- Barb Harvey, facilitator

Writing Circle Downtown

“The Writing Circle met on Tuesday afternoons at The Learning Centre. Attendance varied from eight to twelve learners, with an average of two tutors per session. We met in the Learning Centre classroom for the first few months, then when students requested a quieter environment, we transferred to the boardroom.

“Learners continued in their study of writing— learning to write details, improve their sentences, and make their stories come alive for readers. The goal was always to write creatively, and to write well. Students studied various structures: poetry, stories, humor, biography, letter writing.

“We worked with prompts of pictures, short stories, and newspaper articles. At times we wrote together, creating group poems; other times we worked in small groups, or individually. On a few sunny autumn days, we wrote at Churchill Square, and at City Hall.

“Learners were encouraged to read their work aloud. Some students read selections of poetry at the Christmas party. Tutors, as well, were invited to read their work to the class. Tutors were valuable in these classes, providing help with spelling and grammar, as well as giving encouragement.”

-- Rebecca Schellenberg, facilitator

Literacy West End

“In September 2010, a second Writing Circle was started in the West End, hosted by Hosanna Lutheran Church. Learners there focused on many of the same goals as their downtown counterparts, as well as numeracy and essay writing. Five enthusiastic tutors helped out in that location.”

-- Rebecca Schellenberg, facilitator

Writers' Circle Abbottsfield

“This has been a very busy year for the Writers' Circle. We have seen our group grow in size to nine writers; and at members' request, we began meeting twice weekly. With the additional time, we have been able to expand our work, and have experienced significant benefits.

“First of all, we set up a blog (<http://tlclawriterscircle.wordpress.com/>) – thanks to Cynthia Bale for technical support. We started

posting in September, and will be having an official launch for the site on April 12th, celebrating with member readings.

“We also began learning the process of peer editing, to further develop skills in reading, comprehension, diction, and artistry, not to mention the interpersonal skills of supportive critique. We have been active in the community, including readings at Beacon Heights School, in the Stroll of Poets’ Haven series, and at Homefest (one member). We have also welcomed guest presenters from the larger artistic community, Linda Goyette and Gerry Potter.

“A particular highlight, which exemplifies the remarkable spirit of this group, came when member Pat Cole sponsored member Debbie Lathlin to take courses at Women’s Words (UofA Faculty of Extension) in June. Debbie has bloomed as a writer and as a leader, bringing the gift of what she learned back to the group, to the benefit of us all. We look forward to a fruitful 2011.”

-- Anna Marie Sewell, facilitator

Women’s Creative Writing Circle

“From mid-October to mid-December 2010, I facilitated a Women’s Creative Writing Circle at Wellspring Recovery. This was a joint pilot program between the Learning Centre Literacy Association and the Hope Mission. The program consisted of one hour a week of creative writing, literary analysis, and discussion for a circle of 11-14 residents of Wellspring Recovery. By working in concert with the Wellspring Recovery program, I was able to coordinate themes and discussions to mesh with the rest of the program.

“Working with members of the Creative Writing Circle was challenging due to different levels of interest in the program. In addition, the members had widely different levels of reading ability and comfort, which required a balanced choice of materials. Typically, the selections for each week included both a relatively easier read and a more difficult one. The most successful session featured a variety of modern folk music, covering personal and political topics. Building on this success, the last session prior to Christmas focussed on Christmas carols as creative literature and cultural influence.

“Most of the members indicated that they had enjoyed the Creative Writing Circle, and that they hoped the program continued. From a facilitator’s perspective, the program was successful in gradually increasing levels of participation and getting the members to read and write critically with more confidence and enjoyment.”

-- Dyan Semple, facilitator

Everyday Literacies Abbottsfield

“The Wednesday afternoon Everyday Literacies program has also been a good time of learning for all of us. Our goal with this program was to help connect clients with their community and create units for future students. With Susan Skaret as our guide and Mary Norton as evaluator, Lesley King and I facilitated units on Goal Setting, Anxiety and Stress Management, and Healthy Eating; Nutrition and Diabetes.

“Lesley created easy and intermediate reading units on each of the sessions, which the clients reviewed and gave feedback on. Those units are being used in

TLCLA's reading and writing programs and have been well-received. We were also pleased to see all of the networking that the clients have been doing with the community as a result of this program."

-- Mary-Ann DeVries, facilitator

Art Space Downtown

"Art Space enjoyed a successful year in 2010. The art program is offered Thursday afternoons from 1-3pm and is open to anyone who hears about it and comes through the door. While most of the participants are involved in the Learning Centre courses there are others who are community members, staff and volunteers from the various services in the Boyle Street building. We consider it a success because all those who participated were satisfied with what they produced, and they were actively engaged, enthusiastic and creatively inspired when they were working on the various projects.

"Under the direction of several volunteer artists participants worked with acrylic paints, collage, papier mache, wire sculpture and plain old paper and pencil. Aaron led in some drawing and wire sculpting; Danielle led a Christmas card project; Inger Marie directed the papier mache mask making and picture frames and the painting on glass. Frank did mainly the collage and picture painting in acrylics. Decorations for Christmas and Valentines were made to decorate the Centre (time to take them down now that the snow is finally going). One highlight was a field trip to the new Art gallery of Alberta. We look forward to additional artists coming in and also to trying some previous projects again now that we've honed our skills.

“Over the year we have become socially closer and have also met many interesting new people. We are thankful for the good spirit of creativity, sharing and helpfulness among all, the continual learning about each other and the world of art. We have a lot to celebrate.”

-- Frank van Veen, facilitator

Math/Numeracy Downtown

“I’m really proud of the progress that math learners downtown have made this year. Our fabulous tutors provide top-notch support for all the students’ hard work. Moving to individualized goals benefited everyone; people are doing things they never thought they could. Full speed ahead to 2011!”

-- Cynthia Bale, facilitator

Math/Numeracy Abbottsfield

“Our math classes went very well in 2010. Our Wednesday morning and Thursday evening classes were always bursting at the seams with eager students that came with a variety of skill levels ranging from adding and subtracting to Math 10. We were also thrilled to be able to help a student pass her entrance exam for Women Building Futures. Our four volunteer tutors (two on Wednesday mornings and 2 on Thursday evenings) have been wonderful and were so able to take on whatever came their way!

“Another addition to our Math program was that we offered a very successful 7 week Financial Literacy course. Eight attended the program and 7 received their certificate. All gained valuable knowledge. Comments from learners included ‘now I know where my money's going’, ‘Now I know who to talk to about debt’, ‘I learned about how to deal

with credit cards’, ‘now I know how interest works’, and ‘I learned about needs and wants’.”
-- Mary-Ann DeVries, facilitator

Other Activities

Learners throughout Edmonton’s inner city and our homeless citizens were also provided with *evening computer instruction* as well as opportunities to come to the Centre and participate in a range of learning opportunities. These activities were ECALA funded and part of the Learning Centre/ Boyle Street Community Services collaborative project entitled *ELL (Extending Learning and Literacy Opportunities to Homeless Citizens)*. This was further complemented by volunteer Laura Servage’s computer tutoring on Wednesday afternoons.

The Learning Centre and Boyle Street Community Services also undertook a *community wide poetry* contest in the spring of 2010. In 2011, the winning poems will be compiled into a publication named *Shadows in the Streets*, available to the public.

Daniel Johnson, sessional lecturer at the U of A and longtime Learning Centre friend and volunteer along with the assistance of Michelle Holubisky, a social work student from the University of Calgary, facilitated a weekly discussion forum, “*Inner City Issues*,” leading up to the Edmonton civic election in October.

During the month of September, informal discussions were held in the Boyle Street drop-in, at which time community members had the opportunity to voice concerns, raise issues, ask questions, and contribute to discussions of civic issues that affect themselves

and their communities. They generated an impressive and lengthy list of questions and suggestions for local candidates with concerns focusing on poverty, housing, the allocation of public funds for homelessness issues, the proposed downtown arena, the need for a safe injection site, and access to public transportation (especially downtown).

Candidates for mayor and the Ward 6 councillor position were invited to visit The Learning Centre to discuss these and other issues with community members. On September 30, mayoral candidate Daryl Bonar visited along with Ward 6 candidates Jane Batty and Brian Kapitza. The Centre hosted Stephen Mandel on October 7. Both forums were well attended, and included a great deal of lively discussion. Candidates indeed learned about how city policies affect citizens in the inner-city. Notably, Mr. Kapitza's inner-city platform, issued after visiting The Learning Centre, included many of the suggestions and requests made by community members, illustrating inner-city citizens' ability to influence political discourse. Participants respectfully challenged Mr. Mandel on a number of his policies, and asked him to spend a weekend living on the streets (as Mr. Bonar had done after his visit). Mandel stated that he would consider doing so.

Leading up to election day, information on local candidates was collected and displayed in the Boyle Street drop-in, along with information on the inner-city polling stations and the city's voter eligibility requirements. On election day, Boyle Street staff set up an identification clinic in The Learning Centre to provide ID for citizens wanting to vote. Throughout the day, Boyle Street staff member Carol Olson helped run a shuttle periodically between Boyle Street and Ward 6 polls. Each bus ride allowed for

more lively discussion about election issues and the candidates' positions. Volunteers and staff from TLCLA and Boyle Street accompanied voters to the polls to provide support and advocacy as required. In all, approximately 25 inner-city citizens voted, many for the first time in their lives.

The *West End Outreach literacy program* was initiated to serve citizens who live in west Edmonton and who have traditionally been underserved by literacy organizations. The Association partnered with approximately 15 West End religious organizations that form the West End Interdenominational Coalition on Poverty (WEICOP). Hosanna Lutheran Church provided space and resources, and the Association began to provide literacy classes in September of 2010.

Inspired by the idea that the humanities provide essential intellectual skills that promote more active participation in public life, *Humanities 101* offers free, non-credit, university-level courses to adult learners who face social and economic barriers to education. The program is supported by the Community Service-Learning Program at the University of Alberta. Courses are team-taught at The Learning Centre Literacy Association by faculty and graduate students from the university.

In the fall 2010 course, learners worked on creating an inner-city guide to Edmonton. We asked learners: "If a visitor to Edmonton said that they wanted an alternative tour of the city – one not prescribed by the City of Edmonton or the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation – what would you have this visitor see and do?" They responded by producing a map of safe spaces and Aboriginal heritage and cultural markers and resources in the

city. The course included a tour of Inuit history in Edmonton's downtown core, led by UofA anthropologist Dr. Chris Fletcher.

In the winter of 2010, the University offered learners a course which involved mapping the community and city in times of change. From keeping a diary of their daily walking-about experiences to utilizing high tech computer programs, the learners created layered and rich personal histories depicting their understanding of the changing cityscapes. For more information about past Humanities 101 courses, see www.csl.ualberta.ca.

In keeping with its organizational mandate to provide quality community based literacy experiences, the Association continues in its efforts to respond to adult learners' needs in a flexible and open manner.

Year in Review

January 2010

Partnerships with Windsound Learning brought yoga classes and New Pathways to Learning sessions to the Abbotsfield Learning Centre.

February 2010

Learners Debbie Lathlin and Kevin Samson were featured at the Poet's Haven at the Upper Crust Café. Other members of the Abbotsfield Writers' Circle came along to support them.

Four volunteer tutors from TLCLA attended the extensive tutor training sessions provided by the Centre for Family Literacy.

March 2010

Seven learners from TLCLA attended the Celebration of Learning at Woodcroft Library in recognition of International Adult Learners Week. Literacy Works inspired the event.

The Northeast Edmonton Literacy Network held a workshop to launch the Clear Print Policy Template. 38 representatives from approximately 20 agencies attended.

On March 22, TLCLA staff and facilitators attended a professional development session led by Flo Brokop at NorQuest College. Her presentation focused on instructional strategies and assistive technologies.

April 2010

50 members and friends of the Association attended the Annual General Meeting and Open House hosted by the Downtown Learning Centre. Students read early versions of their pieces for the June edition of *The Writer*, TLCLA's literary magazine.

The Northeast Edmonton Literacy Network hosted a workshop on Learning in Two Cultures, attended by 42 staff members from various Northeast Edmonton agencies.

May 2010

The Association participated in both the May and October Homeless Connect events at the Shaw Conference Centre. Homeless Connect brings together agencies, businesses and volunteers, on one day and at one location, to provide a range of services that can help people out of homelessness.

The Abbottsfield site held a Learners Licence study group. Thirteen would-be drivers took part in these sessions; eight wrote the test and four passed!

TLCLA staff submitted a nomination for outstanding volunteers for the Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Rather than choosing one of our exceptional volunteers, we nominated the full team at TLCLA (with the support of the COF selection committee).

June 2010

Learners, tutors, and staff from the Downtown Learning Centre participated in a morning trip to the

Royal Alberta Museum. The trip capped the students' study of Canadian history. Boyle Street Community Services provided free transportation.

The Abbotsfield Learning Centre celebrated their year-end with a BBQ at the Abbotsfield Recreation Centre on June 10. Some learners shared their writing, and others shared their musical talents.

August 2010

Colette Lauer, the Association's bookkeeper for six years, resigned. We wished her all the best at a farewell lunch.

TLCLA then hired Marguerite Folk as the new bookkeeper. Colette kindly provided Marguerite with a thorough orientation.

September 2010

The Association works with other agencies offering literacy supports in a group called Literacy Works. This group hosted an awareness-raising event for International Literacy Day. This year, Literacy Works held a book giveaway at the Clareview LRT station during the morning rush hour. Staff handed out donated novels, Literacy Alberta's book *The Way In*, and bookmarks promoting all of the participating agencies.

At the Abbotsfield site, several new programs debuted: Everyday Literacies, a financial literacy series in the math classes, and a class introducing learners to beginning computer skills.

October 2010

Learners from the Downtown and Abbottsfield sites attended Literacy Alberta's Literacy and Learning Symposium. The event inspired students to organize a learner-directed adult literacy conference. A committee of 10 learners and volunteers formed to prepare the first annual Never Ending Learning Conference, scheduled for April 2011.

The Association's board of directors reviewed the 2007 strategic plan. TLCLA has met or exceeded the goals set out in that document.

The Literacy Network hosted a workshop on the new *Health Literacy Curriculum for Low-Literacy Immigrant Women*. One of TLCLA's learners addressed the 27 attendees.

November 2011

Andrew Nikiforuk and Imre Szeman spoke at TLCLA's fundraiser at the Myer Horowitz Theatre. Paula Simons of the *Edmonton Journal* moderated the lively forum following their presentations.

Denis Lapierre, Susan Skaret, and board chair Donna Chovanec attended the CBC Community Conversation on Literacy at City Hall, addressing the importance of adult literacy and the need for collaboration among various agencies.

Denis Lapierre compiled and edited the 2010 Annual Report, with editing and layout assistance from Cynthia Bale, and with writing and other contributions from:

Cynthia Bale
Donna Chovanec
Mary-Ann DeVries
Barb Harvey
Rebecca Schellenberg
Dyan Semple
Anna Marie Sewell
Susan Skaret
Marg Swytink
Frank van Veen

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