



The Learning Centre  
LITERACY ASSOCIATION

2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Strengthening the  
Weave*

780-429-0675



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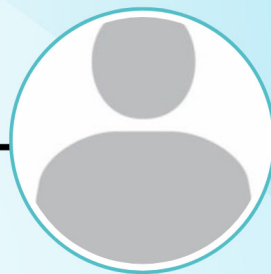
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**EKENE NWAMORDI**  
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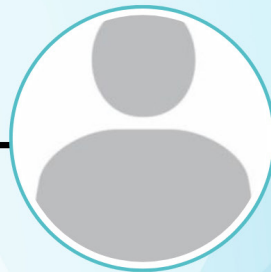
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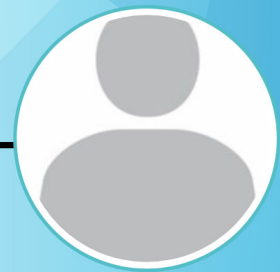
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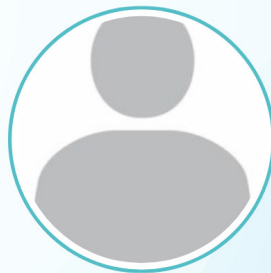
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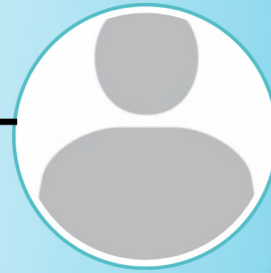
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Tutor Representative



**ESLI NAVAS**  
Student Representative



**ANNE NEPTHALIE GILLES**  
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# Board Chair & Executive Director Message



Trevor J. Phillips  
Board Chair



Denis Lapierre  
Executive Director/Directeur General

Strengthening the Weave was at the heart of The Learning Centre Literacy Association's work in 2025. Every day, we saw learners, staff, volunteers, and partners connect threads of language, numeracy, digital skills, and community to improve their lives. Our mission is always to engage people in community-based learning that enables them to make positive changes for themselves and their communities, and this year we saw that mission come alive in classrooms, conversations, and community events.

The demand for adult learning in Edmonton remains strong. In Canada, many adults who grew up as native English speakers still face significant gaps in reading, writing, numeracy, and digital skills, which community-based literacy classes help address with practical skills, confidence, and dignity. Our English language and foundational programs continued to grow in both reach and impact with beginner and intermediate English Language Learning (ELL) classes consistently full.

As well, Francophone foundational programs deepened this weave by meeting the needs of francophone newcomers and adults with a wide range of educational backgrounds.

Many of TLCLA's adult learners strengthened their essential skills for daily life in Canada—completing forms, speaking with service providers, navigating immigration processes, and solving real-world challenges—while also building confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging. Instructors adapted lessons based on learner feedback and emerging needs, showing how responsive teaching can weave individual goals into shared learning journeys. We added additional summer and evening classes throughout the learning year to remain as accessible to learners as possible.

In 2025, TLCLA served 524 unique learners from dozens of language backgrounds, most of whom were women and about half of whom were newcomers to Canada. The learners bring rich experiences and aspirations. TLCLA's role is to provide the foundational learning that helps all adult learners move into employment, return to school, and participate more fully in community life.

Our story in numbers shows just how strong this weave has become. Student satisfaction is incredibly high. Among the learners surveyed, students consistently report nearly 100% satisfaction with their instructor and their selected programs. All learners reported feeling safe and welcomed at the Centre.

At the same time, like many community organizations, TLCLA is facing rising demand and rising costs, which is why we launched a campaign in 2026 to raise \$70,000 to cover the 2026/2027 rent and keep this welcoming, community space open for learners and the many community groups who share it.

This work is only possible because of the commitment of our staff, instructors, volunteers, and the steadfast support of our funders, donors, and community partners, whose investment in foundational learning strengthens the whole fabric of our Edmonton community.

Trevor Phillips, TLCLA Chairperson and Denis Lapierre, Executive Director

## Tribute



Priscilla was an instructor at the Learning Centre from 2023-2025. Deeply respected by her colleagues and adored by her students for her dedication, thoughtful mentorship, and commitment. Her intellectual curiosity, gentle spirit, and generosity of heart touched everyone who knew her. Priscilla will be remembered as a kind, humble, and empathetic soul with many talents.

# Programming Initiatives

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In 2025, TLCLA continued to grow in both reach and impact, strengthening its role as a hub for learning, community, and personal growth.

## Literacy, Numeracy, and Digital Skills:

With the programming changes from the previous year the Learning Centre was able to strengthen the very fabric of our learning opportunities. Knowing better - we were able to do better in meeting the learning needs of our students.

Several **programs expanded to meet learner demand**. A second **Phonemic Awareness** class and a second **Grammar and Writing** class were added. While digital literacy offerings grew to three weekly sessions with a new instructor, actual participation in digital learning continued to remain a challenge. Instructors continued to explore ways to support learners in realizing the potential and growing importance for daily life, work, and community engagement.

Learning for Academic Goals continued to see strong engagement. **By years end, four of the Centre's students were on the cusp of completing their CAEC credentials.**

- Numeracy for Academic Goals covered measurement, geometry, and introductory statistics alongside digital skills
- Reading and Writing for Academic Goals fostered discussion and critical reflection on Canadian topics.

## English Language Learning (ELL):

The demand for ELL opportunities remained strong throughout the year. Beginner and intermediate classes were consistently full, with **waitlists continuing through December**. The **addition of evening classes**, offered three nights a week, provided an important option for learners unable to attend daytime sessions.

Students focused on skills essential for everyday life in Canada, including completing forms, communicating with service providers, navigating immigration processes, and solving other real-world challenges. **Learners continue to report with satisfaction, how they have steadily built their confidence and independence in using English.** Many students moved from Beginner ELL classes to confidently participating in more complex discussions, showing the tangible impact of sustained engagement and practice.

What continues to draw new learners and sustain their engagement in the Learning Centre's ELL classes is **the responsiveness and the commitment of all the instructors** to continuously adapt lessons based on learner feedback and emerging needs, creating a space where structure meets flexibility.

# Programming Initiatives

## Programmes Francophone:

L'année 2025 a été marquée par la poursuite et le renforcement des activités du Learning Centre, visant à soutenir les adultes francophones dans le développement de leurs compétences essentielles. Dans un contexte où le nombre de francophones augmente en Alberta, notre mission demeure d'accompagner les apprenants vers une meilleure intégration sociale, éducative et professionnelle dans une langue qui leur est familière. Les programmes offerts ont été conçus pour répondre aux besoins spécifiques d'un groupe majoritairement composé de nouveaux arrivants souhaitant :

- retourner aux études ;
- intégrer ou réintégrer le marché du travail canadien ;
- améliorer leurs compétences de base.

Les objectifs principaux étaient :

- renforcer l'employabilité par des formations axées sur les compétences essentielles ;
- améliorer les compétences linguistiques en français ;
- développer les compétences numériques et technologiques ;
- offrir un accompagnement adapté aux apprenant.e.s ayant des difficultés avec les outils informatiques ;
- préparer les apprenant.e.s au CCEA( Certificat canadien d'éducation des adultes) ;
- favoriser le développement personnel et l'autonomie.

En 2025, le Learning Centre a poursuivi ses cours d'alphabétisation en français, en mathématiques et en informatique. Les formations ont été offertes en formats flexibles, incluant des approches hybrides, afin de mieux répondre aux réalités des apprenant.e.s francophones et non natifs. Au cours de l'année, le centre a accueilli **36 participants francophones**, majoritairement des nouveaux arrivants (résidents permanents et réfugiés).

Les participants provenaient de diverses régions du monde :

- Afrique ;
- Caraïbes (principalement Haïti) ;
- Mexique ;
- Europe ;
- Asie.

# Programming Initiatives

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Cette diversité a contribué à créer un environnement inclusif et enrichissant.

Au-delà des apprentissages, le Learning Centre a favorisé la création d'une communauté solidaire où les participants peuvent échanger, se soutenir et partager leurs expériences. Nous remercions sincèrement nos partenaires pour leur engagement, leur collaboration et leur soutien continu. Nous remercions particulièrement les étudiants de l'université de l'Alberta qui à travers le programme CSL (community service Learning) ont bénévolement soutenus ces adultes partageant leur expérience, leur astuces avec le centre et nos apprenant.e.s.

***Nous demeurons déterminés à contribuer au développement d'une communauté francophone forte, inclusive et résiliente.***

In 2025, the Learning Centre continued and strengthened its French-language programs to support adult francophone—mainly newcomers—in developing essential skills and integrating socially, educationally, and professionally in Alberta. The flexible courses, including hybrid formats, focused on language, basic skills, digital literacy, and preparation for the Canadian Adult Education Certificate, while also fostering autonomy and personal growth.

The Centre welcomed 36 francophone participants from Africa, the Caribbean (notably Haiti), Mexico, Europe, and Asia, creating an inclusive and culturally rich learning environment. Outcomes were strong: 60% of participants gained employment and 20% returned to studies, alongside clear improvements in language, professional skills, and understanding of Canadian culture and available resources.

In total, 36 participants received 384 hours of training in language, digital literacy, and computer skills, helping them clarify their life paths and build confidence. These activities were made possible through strong partnerships, including volunteer support from University of Alberta students in the CSL program, and the Centre is committed to expanding its services and partnerships to promote the inclusion and autonomy of francophones and to strengthen a resilient, inclusive francophone community.

# Programming Initiatives

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## Indigenous Programming:

In 2025 , the Learning Centre Literacy Association saw the end of funding for Indigenous Led Programming. The Association is deeply grateful for the generosity, guidance and leadership that has been extended over the last four years. Particularly, this past year, we reflect on the relationships and projects we have been privileged to be a part of.

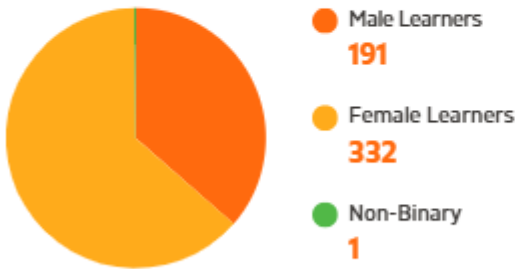


*Adrian Lachance supporting staff in the honouring of Kathy Hamlin*

# Learners Served

**Total Learners** **524**

## Unique Learners



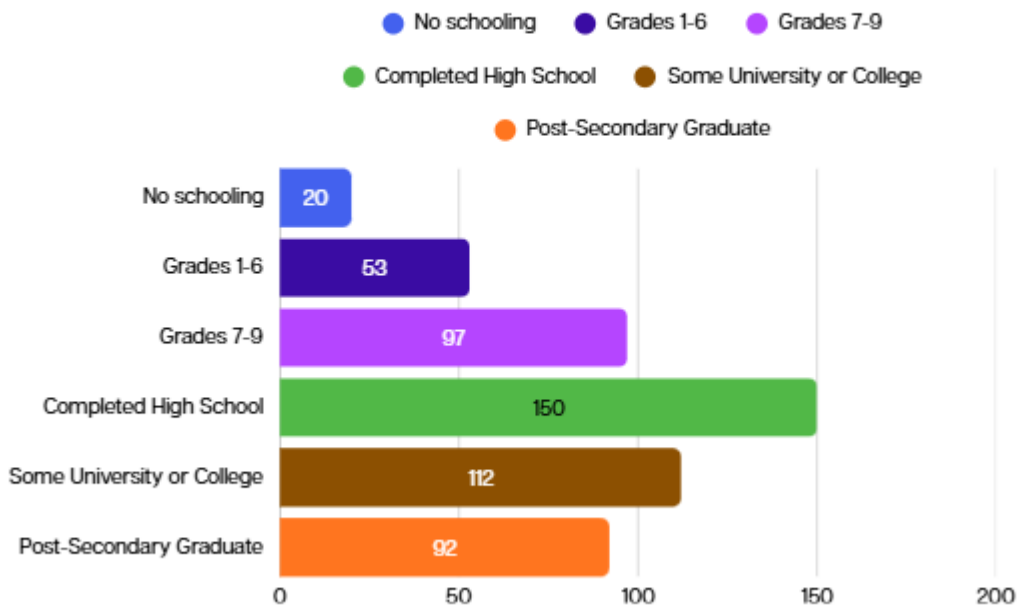
Over 60% of TLCLA students are women, most with school-aged children; therefore, programs run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to align with their schedules.

## Age Range of Learners



About 15% of TLCLA students are seniors

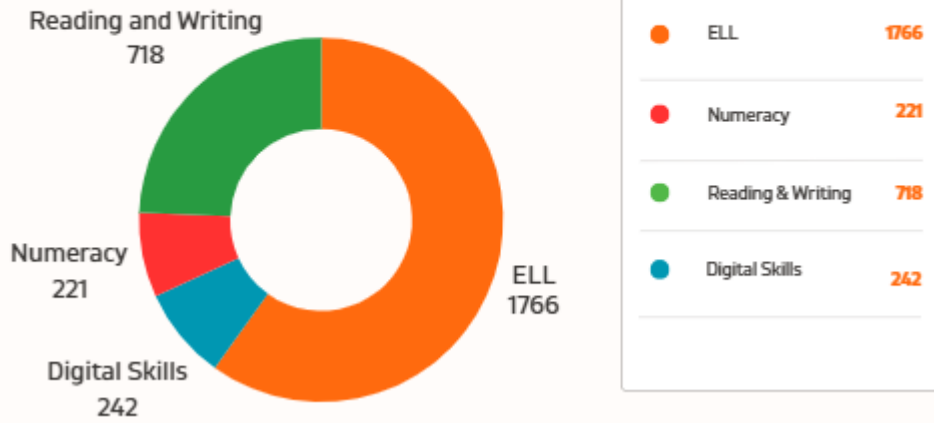
## Highest level of education achieved upon entering The Learning Centre



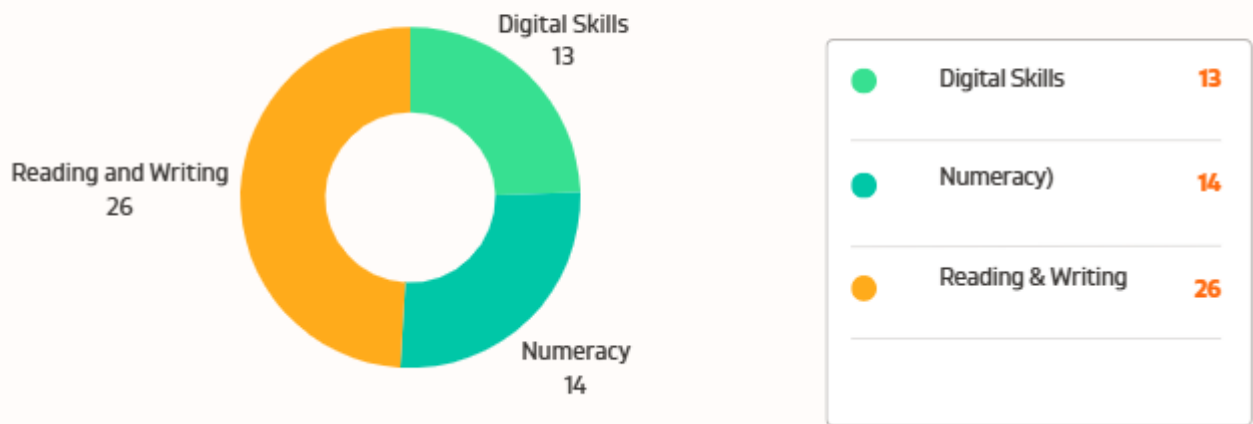
TLCLA served marginalized learners from diverse educational backgrounds, ranging from individuals with no formal literacy skills to those holding post-secondary degrees. Approximately 30% of TLCLA students enter programs with a Grade 9 education or lower.

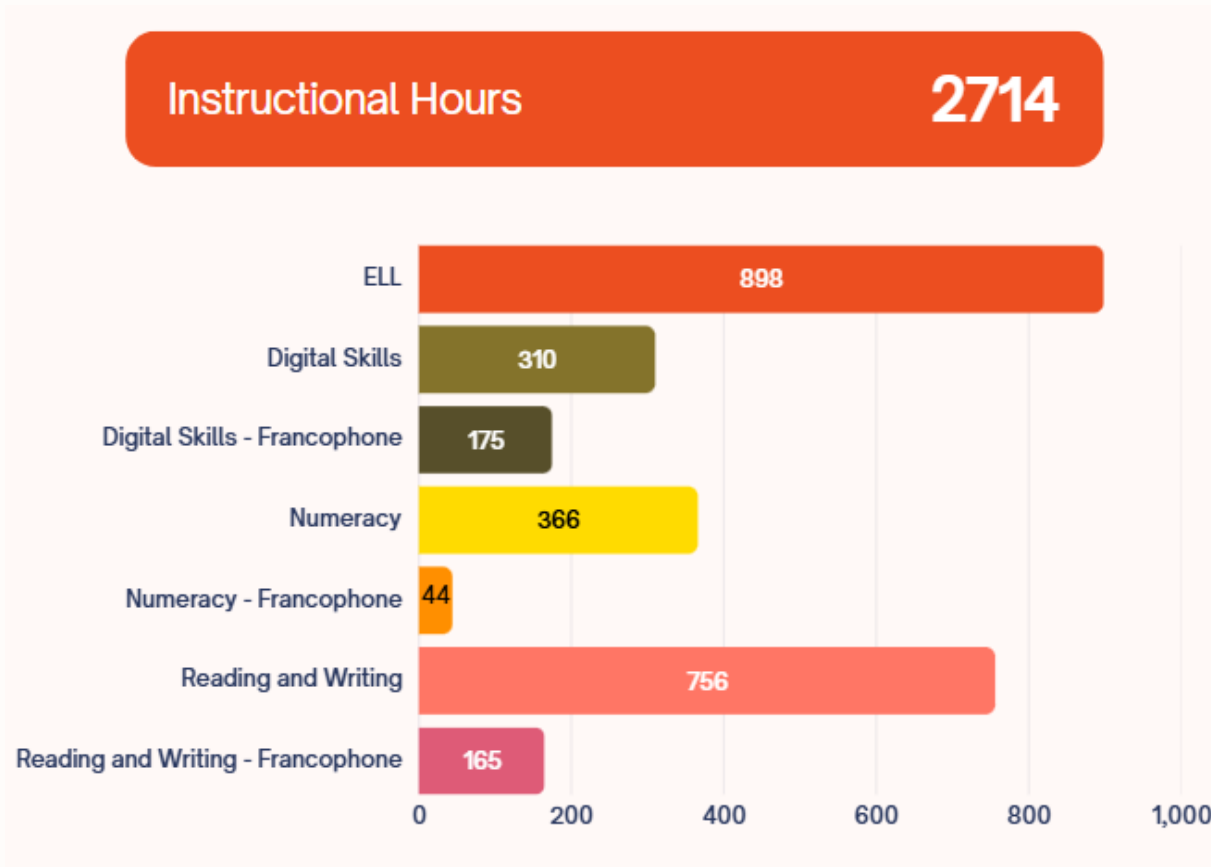
# Learners Served

**Number of Registered Learners in Classes** **2947**



**Registered Francophone Learners** **53**





265 individuals joined the waitlist for English Language Learning Classes. An average of 22 persons were added to the waitlist every month. At the end of 2025 there were still over 50 individuals waiting to be invited to attend ELL classes.

*99% of our students reported good to great program satisfaction, reporting increased self-confidence in addition to the learning of new things.*

# Volunteer Stories

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**Kundy Bekmukhanbet**

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## From STUDENT To VOLUNTEER

I came to Canada in 2024, and through friends I learned about the Learning Centre Literacy Association. The Centre has played a very important role in my personal growth, language development, and integration into Canadian society. As a student I have significantly improved my English skills and gained confidence in communicating.

***As a volunteer during the 2025 Spring and Winter Markets, I had the opportunity to gain valuable experience in event organization. I helped recruit sponsors and vendors, communicated with participants, supported event setup and coordination, and assisted visitors during the events. This experience allowed me to develop my organizational, communication, and teamwork skills.***

I have made wonderful friends from diverse backgrounds, which has enriched my life and helped me feel more connected to the community. I enjoyed having the history lessons, where I learned about history of First Nations and their culture. I gained a general understanding of Canada, including its provinces and the structure of its government. I deeply appreciate the Centre's work in sharing with newcomers the history and values of Canada.

The Centre also provides valuable opportunities to explore the city and better understand Canadian life. Through organized field trips in different seasons, we visited places such as the public library, where we were guided on how to access services, the Legislative Assembly, and the University of Alberta.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to The Learning Centre Literacy Association for the incredible support and opportunities, I have received as both a student and a volunteer. The Centre has truly changed my life, and I am very grateful that such free and supportive programs exist for newcomers.

### From VOLUNTEER To INSTRUCTOR

Growing up in an immigrant household, I often reflect on how my parents might have benefited from programs like those offered at the Learning Centre Literacy Association. Watching them navigate language barriers, unfamiliar systems, and the challenges of building a life in a new country shaped my appreciation for the importance of accessible education and community support.

Working with beginner learners also pushed me to develop new ways of communicating. When words were limited, I relied on gestures, drawings, facial expressions, and examples from everyday life. Through this process I learned the importance of nonverbal communication and how connection can still occur even when language barriers exist. I saw firsthand how meaningful learning happens when patience and encouragement come first.

***Volunteering at the Learning Centre reminded me that teaching and learning grow together when we listen, adapt, and support one another. Each student brought with them a unique story, culture, and perspective. What began as an opportunity to support others quickly became a deeply reciprocal learning experience.***



**Eva Dhupia**

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**Cathie Heslinga**

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### From TEACHER To VOLUNTEER

***Every day I volunteer, I learn and experience something new. Sometimes it is related to the lessons being taught, other times it is in conversations at break time around a cup of coffee, and still others it is observing the friendships and connections being made. It is a magical place for me and I feel so at home here.***

This past year I have been volunteering at TLCLA, in the MWF morning reading and writing classes. My background is in teaching elementary children with diverse learning challenges. I was very fortunate to have an excellent Educational Assistant working alongside me and I came to support the learning here at TLCLA in a similar capacity.

## ***What keeps me coming back is so much more!***

Everyone is welcomed, treated with dignity and respect. Students find integrity and caring which is vital for a safe and caring learning environment. Student needs are valued and taken seriously, even when a solution is beyond the capacity of those trying to help. Landlord and tenant issues, help with all kinds of forms and bureaucracy, finding volunteer opportunities leading to employment, celebrating successes and providing compassion for road blocks, are just part of what can happen in a day.

The depth of knowledge and experiences around me in the teaching staff, students and other volunteers widens my perspective, challenges my preconceived notions and deepens my sense of privilege. The struggle, tenacity and bravery of the students who arrive is inspiring, even though, or perhaps because the stories can be heart breaking. The geopolitical world becomes tangible and personal in the many people who find their way to TLCLA.

## **Volunteers - The Fabric of TLCLA**

In 2025, TLCLA was supported by 71 dedicated volunteers who contributed a total of 2,585 hours.

### **Who are they?**

The 2025 team included community members, organizational partners, and current and former learners. We were also proud to host 20 University of Alberta medical students as academic tutors.

### **What do they do?**

- **Governance:** Supporting the Association's leadership and strategic direction.
- **Instructional Support:** Assisting instructors and learners in the classroom with literacy, numeracy, and digital skills.
- **Academic Tutoring:** Preparing learners for CAEC exams and CELPIP testing.
- **Holistic Support:** Assisting with resumes, dental plan applications, and navigating complex systems (including accompanying learners to appointments)

# Learner Stories

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My name is Esmeralda Hernandez, I'm from Mexico, during the period from September 2024 to June 2025 I attended the Learning Centre Literacy Association to receive classes in learning the English language.

During this period, I joined the beginner's group, by the end of my first year I started the intensive summer course at the intermediate level, which ended on August 15. in Canada and at TLCLA served as a tool that boosted my professional life in my country. Today, I am grateful for the knowledge provided, as without a doubt, it is a resource that, together with my academic preparation, could allow me to obtain a job as an English teacher, achieving the opportunity to work with elementary school children.

Speaking of my experience at this beautiful center, I emphasize that I met wonderful people, teachers with a lot of patience and a desire to contribute to anyone who approaches with the curiosity to learn the language.

From my perspective and testimony, I offer gratitude for all that I have learned. It was necessary to return to my country of origin, and I can state that the learning I acquired during my stay in Canada and at TLCLA served as a tool that boosted my professional life upon my return. Today, I am grateful for the knowledge and confidence gained, as without a doubt, it is a resource that, together with my academic preparation, allowed me to obtain a job as an English teacher, achieving the opportunity to work with elementary school children in my home country.



**Esmeralda Hernandez**

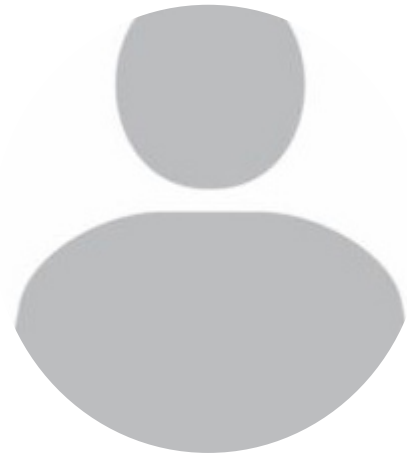
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## Témoignages d'apprenant.e.s

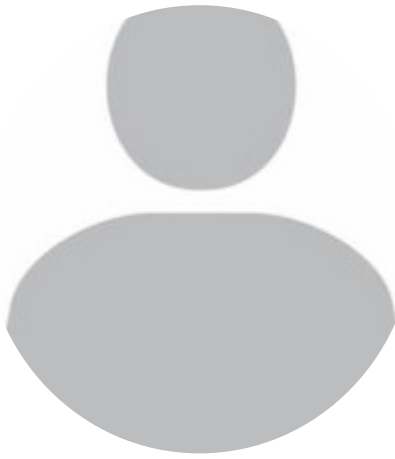
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"Je suis une apprenante à la retraite et je suis passionnée de la langue française. Les cours au Learning Centre ont amélioré mon niveau en français. Je suis particulièrement satisfaite de ma grammaire et de la rédaction. Merci!"



**Lucy Moore**

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**Naoual Azri**

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"Je remercie énormément le Learning Centre pour son soutien dans ma préparation du certificat canadien du niveau des adultes. Je ne savais pas comment commencer et il n'existait pas vraiment de centres de préparation en français pour ce certificat. Mais grâce aux cours avec le Learning Centre, j'ai pu préparer et même passer mes examens dans le même centre et gratuitement. Merci beaucoup à tout le staff."

## Learner Quotes

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*“The Learning Centre is a wonderful place for continuing education or preparing to enter secondary education.”*

*“The teachers have deep knowledge and patience, and [are] always there to help students.*

*The facility is clean and spacious.”*

*“Gratitude, appreciation, respect.”*

*“I like the school because of the teachers. The teachers have patience when teaching us. The classroom is very clean.”*

*“I’m here to learn English and about Canada as a newcomer. I’ve learned a lot and made friends as well.”*

*“Many people from different countries could share their own stories and cultures at the Learning Centre.”*

*“All teachers are passionate and prepare their classes well.”*

*“I really love to be here and take classes.”*

*“I personally want a class for English Exams like CELPIP or IELTS.”*

*“I would like to learn more living skills and get more information about our city. For example, news, recent events, policy changes in the city or province, etc.”*

*“Some special topics are brought up in the class for group discussion. It helps to improve skills and update some specific information.”*

*“Personally, I think your educational program is very good. Thank you all.”*

*“I like to come to the Learning Centre.”*

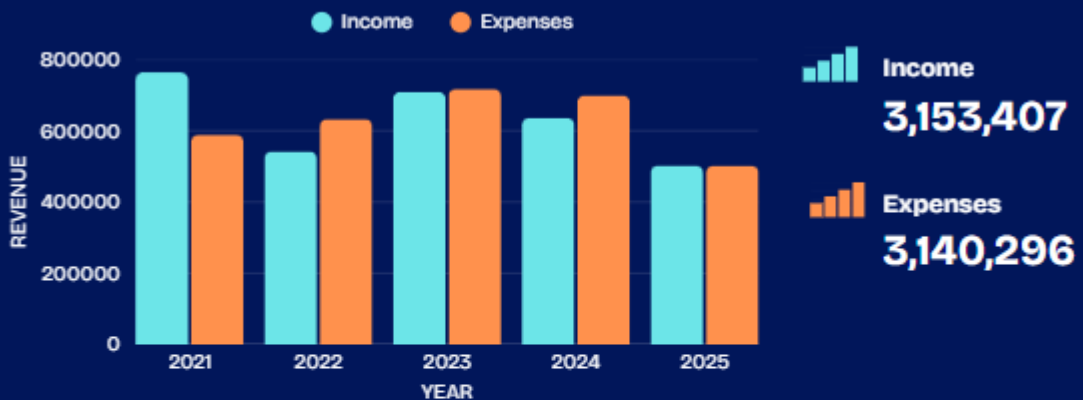
*“I like all my teacher’s, they teach us very good.”*

*“I come to [the] Learning Centre, I make friends, they tell me about their own culture.”*

# Financial Report

In 2025, The Learning Centre maintained a balanced budget despite a reduction in programming, which meant tightening expenses, adjusting program offerings, and gaining clearer insight into both current and future adult education needs. The Board and staff focused on creating a realistic budget rather than expecting programs to operate within revenue that no longer reflected their true costs, recognizing that healthy nonprofits need flexibility to fully cover program and operating expenses over time. This approach helped ensure that the Learning Centre remained stable and responsive as community needs continue to evolve.

## TLCLA Finances 2021 - 2025



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Income	763,842	541,939	709,014	636,059	502,553
Expenses	588,679	632,679	717,389	699,393	502,156

Overall, 2025 demonstrated TLCLA's commitment to holistic learning. The Centre provides more than skills in English, French, literacy, numeracy, and digital technologies. It offers a space where learners develop confidence, independence, and belonging. Every class, visit, and event contributes to personal growth and the community connections that sustain it.

## Celebrations

Gatherings, potlucks, and celebrations continued to spring up during the year, serving to strengthen connections, and providing learners opportunities to share culture, stories, and community in meaningful ways.

## Experiential Learning

TLCLA maintained its focus on linking classroom learning to real-life experiences. Learners visited Fire-hall #4, toured Jasper Place Public Library, attended presentations from 211 Navigation Services, and explored the Legislative Assembly. These experiences provided practical insight while reinforcing communication, observation, and problem-solving skills.

## Markets

With two very successful student led community markets in 2024, TLCLA Coordinators secured a micro grant from the Stony Plain Road Business Association to participate in the WE BELONG IN JASPER PLACE project with another Spring and Fall Market. This funding supported the development of resources that will support this event into the future.

The 2025 markets welcomed more than 200 attendees each and showcased cultural diversity through food, performances, and activities for families. Learners organized vendors, arranged performances, and managed logistics with the facilitation of Centre volunteer Cathie Heslinga.

## Edmonton Literacy Coalition

As a member of the Edmonton Literacy Coalition, TLCLA is participating in a research project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. In partnership with the University of Alberta, with Dr. Sara C. Carpenter, of the Faculty of Education, as the lead, this work will be exploring the Development of a Justice-Based Approach to Foundational Adult Education. Ultimately, working together as a community serving marginalized adult learnings to influence policy and stimulate a change towards the prioritization of the right to education.

# Gallery

## Celebrations



## Experiential Learning



## Indigenous Day



## Markets





TLCLA's Test Centre really came into its own in **2025** as a vital, community based space for adults to write credentialing exams for the **Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC)** helping adults move toward a high school–equivalency credential and **Pearson Vue** offerings such as **Amazon Web Services, Cisco Systems, Microsoft, and the Real Estate Council of Alberta's realtor certification** that can open doors to better jobs and further training.

The move to expand this service to both Learning Centre learners and to the broader community, with the potential of creating a social enterprise was facilitated in September when staff got together to rethink how testing was offered so that people would have more choice and flexibility when booking.

The plan was to build a schedule that fit real lives, not just office hours. To make this happen, TLCLA certified several staff as test administrators and was fortunate to have committed volunteers step up and complete the same training. Their support meant the TLCLA Test Centre could open more often, including extra weekday sessions and Saturdays. For many adults juggling work, family, and other responsibilities, these added options made it much easier to find a time that worked.

These services are turning the TLCLA Test Centre into an important part of Edmonton's adult learning landscape. Looking ahead, TLCLA hopes to keep building on this progress—exploring increased offerings and sustainability —so that even more adults can take their next step toward work, education, and long term stability.

In 2025, TLCLA Test Centre delivered: 251 Pearson VUE exams in high demand areas.

178 Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) sittings.

# Raise the Roof

## Raise the Roof Campaign

2025 saw the beginning of a funding raising campaign to support the Association with the cost of rent during a 'non' casino year. Inviting the Centre's Friends in Solidarity to the table, the Executive Director outlined the goal to raise **\$70,000** for 2026 lease costs for the Learning Centre at the Orange Hub.


Traditionally, casino funds covered 1.5 years of rent however the costs have risen and the funds from casinos have diminished. The Centre has also had rent subsidized by grants that no longer exists. Therefore, The Learning Centre requested that the organizations that share space with us support this venture by bringing the energy and soul of their organizations to helping with this goal.

Meeting since November 2025 - **Migrante Alberta, Royal Stuart Foundation, Filipino Women's Association, Kayanou Edmonton, CIVTP, Filipino Support Services Society, Yoruba Cultural Association of Edmonton, Dakota House Foundation, Amateur Athletic Union Canada, Ancient Norse Healing Foundation** – representatives have been meeting regularly, well on the way to achieving these three outcomes

**Raising Money for Rent – Raising the Messaging of our Mission – Raising Community Connections and Collaboration.**



Learning Centre Rent Drive 2026

# RAISE THE ROOF ON LITERACY



Help keep the Centre open and ensure a welcoming space for adults to learn. Donate today!

Visit [gofund.me/9db91bc55](https://gofund.me/9db91bc55) or scan the QR code below



The Learning Centre  
LITERACY ASSOCIATION

## TLCLA Friends in Solidarity

Being an ally means being willing to act with and for others in pursuit of ending oppression and creating equality. Tenzin Gyatso, the fourteenth Dalai Lama, said, "It is not enough to be compassionate. You must act."



Canadian Academic Athletic Development Academy Foundation (CAADAF) meets weekly at the Learning Centre to provide young disadvantaged student athletes with academic support.



Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). This volunteer group provides free CRA approved income tax filing services on Saturdays in the months of March and April



Filipino Women's Association of Alberta (FWAA) meets weekly at the Learning Centre for dance lessons, teaching & meetings.



Kayanou preserving Black Francophone history, KAYANOU educates, inspires, and encourages shared learning, empowering communities while promoting cultural diversity and inclusion in Alberta.



Royal Stuart Foundation meets weekly at the Learning Centre to provide free Gaelic classes to interested Edmonton citizens.



Red Road Healing Society and the Learning Centre work together for transformative reconciliation through shared events, space and learning opportunities.



Migrante Alberta gathers weekly at the Centre to deliver the CELPIP preparation classes.



Yoruba Cultural Association of Edmonton promotes Yoruba culture and language in the Greater Edmonton Area and Canada.



Ancient Norse Healing Foundation offers seminars on ancient Norse traditions/history as well as workshops for body, mind and soul in Norse tradition.



Dakota House Foundation offers a men's group held at Rm 295, Orange Hub imbedding the 7 Grandfather Teachings through all of their programming

## TLCLA Program Funders / Bailleurs de fonds



## TLCLA Program Partners/partenaires de programme



# ABOUT US

As a membership-driven organization with learners and volunteers constituting its voting members, it has always strived to ensure that staff and leadership respected the reality of its diverse membership.

- **The Association's membership, of learners and volunteers, seeks to provide diverse co-learning environments where each participants' unique life experiences and knowledge are shared and celebrated.**

## Mission

The Learning Centre Literacy Association's (TLCLA) 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.

## Core Mandate

- The core mandate of TLCLA is the delivery of high relevance and interest educational opportunities for marginalized adults in the Edmonton community to pursue their right to life-long education.
- The Association offers free adult learning opportunities in both English, French, and Cree. Primary programming includes adult literacy, numeracy, digital skills classes, and one-on-one tutoring.
- All programming is learner-centered, with differentiated foci for developing skills for employment, academic or life goals.

**The foundational ethos of the Learning Centre is that education is a human right and is indispensable for the exercise of other human rights.**

TLCLA serves a broad population, many of whom face intersectional racialized, economic, ability, and gender diversity barriers when accessing basic needs and educational opportunities.

The communities we serve are marginalized citizens that have faced systemic barriers to education - people of color, newcomers to Canada, non-English speaking citizens.

Citizens facing poverty and housing and food insecurity, joblessness, systemic barriers to long term and meaningful employment.

Citizens who have been pushed out and who slipped through the cracks of mainstream education institutions, and those who have experienced previous education trauma or did not have access to complete high school.

*“A word after a word after a word is power.”*

*Margaret Atwood*

*“In these times ..... literacy and ongoing education for adults is an urgent necessity that has everything to do with the future that we will collectively make happen. We have no other choice but to keep on learning to save this planet from destruction.”*

*Rinaldo Walcott 2019*



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