

NAVIGATING OUR WORLD

CONTINUOUS LEARNING | THINKING SKILLS

READING

WORKING WITH OTHERS

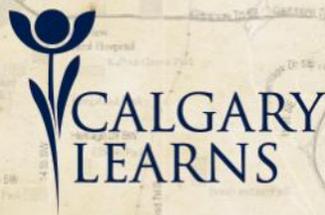
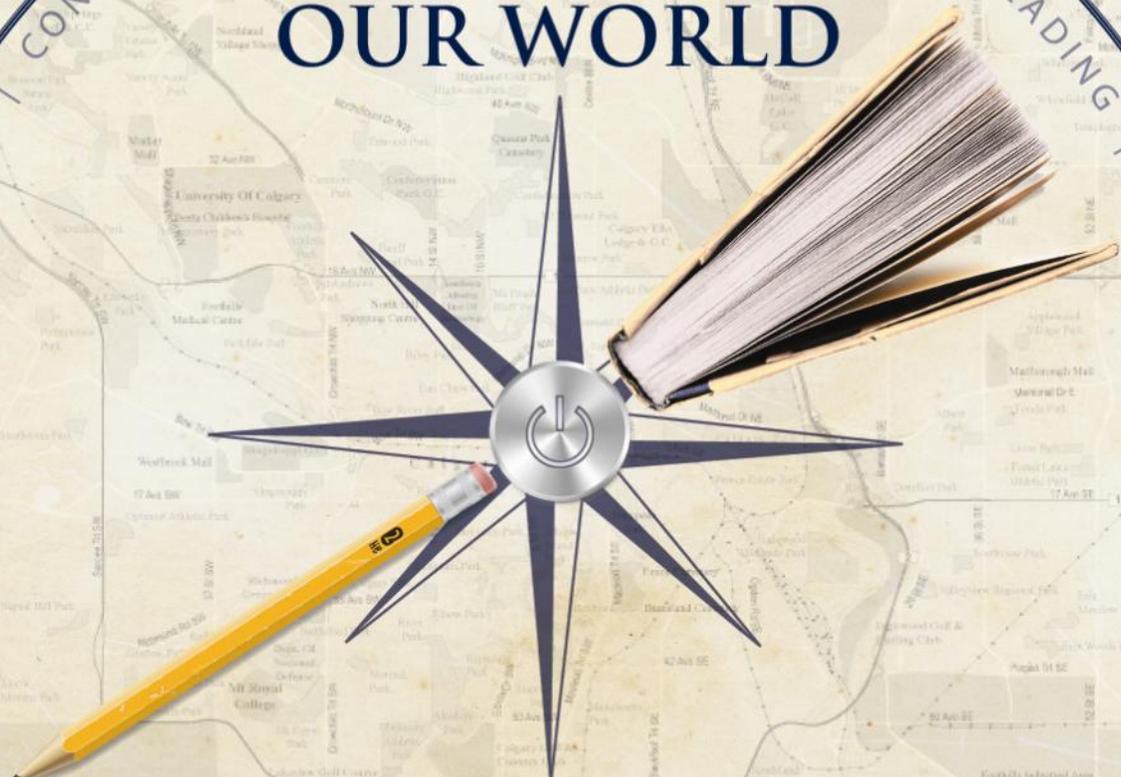
ORAL COMMUNICATION

WRITING

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

NUMERACY

DOCUMENT USE



Calgary Learns

Highlights of 2013

Calgary Learns is a granting agency that supports foundational learning* for adult Calgarians. Through community consultations, research and needs assessments, we help our members respond to current learning issues. We make community-based learning accessible, and promote the value of learning.

Purpose

Unlocking learning opportunities for adults to build foundations for success.

Mission

Calgary Learns supports and leads the Calgary community in providing accessible and innovative opportunities to meet the needs of adults at the foundational learning level.

Values

Relevance

We are responsive to the needs of adult learners and community organizations that support adult learning.

Inclusion and Community Participation

We believe that the community has a right to be part of decisions that affect them.

Collaboration

We will work with the community in a respectful and strategic way to achieve mutual goals.

Due Diligence

We will ensure that our Board and Staff will demonstrate transparency and accountability in the management of the affairs of the organization to ensure credibility in the community and with our funder.

* Foundational learning refers to the acquisition of the basic skills adults require to fully participate in life: the ability to participate as neighbours and citizens, have satisfying employment, and prepare to pursue further learning.



April 2013
LOLA award winner Roger Hendrickson
& keynote speaker Will Ferguson



April 2013
LOLA award winner Pam Boyd
& nominator Donna McBride



2013
Terri Peters presenting the
Integrating Foundational Learning project



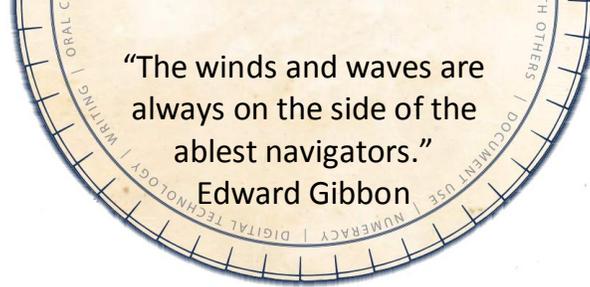
April 2013
LOLA award winner Nada Jerkovic &
nominators Megan Williams & Krista Poole



May 2013
Community Consultation
Needs Assessment



2013
Aboriginal Adult Learning Project
participants



2013 was quite a year for Calgary Learns! Wind was added to our sails in April when Nicky Peeters joined Nancy and Jeannie on our staff—just in time to help pull together our AGM and LOLA celebration and help with our move to our new Beltline location. By May 1st we had moved in, a full crew ready to face the winds and waves of change.

With funding from the Ministry of Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education, we proudly granted over \$1 million in 2013 to non-profit organizations for foundational adult learning programs. These grants helped adults in our community acquire literacy and essential skills to better navigate their lives. Funded agency staff and volunteers are the heart of these programs; their commitment to learner success truly helps to change lives! Our 2013 Life of Learning Award-winning learner, Roger Hendrickson, made this abundantly clear. One of the pivotal points in his life was meeting his literacy tutor Gail McDougall. His path forward was forever changed.

Of course, Calgary was thrown off course in 2013 with the devastating June floods. Some of our funded organizations were directly in the flood plain and needed to delay programs. Low enrollments forced a few other organizations to cancel classes. The ripple effects are still evident in our community, especially for the most vulnerable. Still, we saw incredible community building and camaraderie. The non-profit sector showed extraordinary spirit, coming together to share spaces and resources to ensure that people in our community were best served.

This past year, the Calgary Learns Board and staff looked at how we can best serve adult foundational learners with the renewal of our strategic plan. Over the summer and fall, we conducted a broad needs assessment and were grateful for the 159 people who generously shared their time and thoughts (see pages 2-3). This critical community input assisted Calgary Learns to set a course for our path forward. Building on our existing strengths, our priority is to build the capacity of learning organizations to meet the identified needs.

Calgary Learns continued to focus on collaborative foundational learning projects and creating venues for sharing useful resources. In 2013, adult education providers learned with and from each other through:

- Our annual Community Consultation
- Needs Assessment Round Table discussions
- The Adult Aboriginal Learning Project (see page 6)
- Integrating Foundational Learning (see page 6)
- New Calgary Learns Newsletters and Social Media

We thank the foundational adult learning community for their dedication to meeting the needs of learners. Together we were able to better serve thousands of adults in our community who learn at foundational levels and help them along their learning journey.

Mumtaz Ebrahim
Board President

Nancy Purdy
Executive Director

Adult Foundational Learning Needs Assessment

In order to inform our strategic planning process, Calgary Learns undertook a wide-ranging foundational learning needs assessment in 2013. We spoke with 159 people in 59 organizations through several modes of consultation: an advisory committee, our annual community consultation, stakeholder interviews, round table discussions and learner interviews. Participants' willingness to share their time and ideas reflected deep dedication to adult foundational learning in our community. We are grateful for your input. The Board and staff will consider the following identified themes and challenges as we chart future directions on behalf of our members.

What We Heard

Foundational learners exhibit complexities that add to their learning challenges.

Practitioners agreed that their learners now face multiple barriers and have increasingly divergent needs. Therefore, they identify added challenges in assessing learners, supporting them, setting reasonable goals and measuring individual progress.

Instruction needs to become more learner-centred.

In foundational programs, it is critical to understand how to facilitate learning so that adult learners' ideas are included and programs are not strictly content driven.

The interrelationship among the skills learners need adds complexity to the delivery of foundational programs.

Many practitioners noted that development of Essential Skills needs to be incorporated into programs. Often, practitioners noted that their learners had gaps in essential skills, which necessitated shifts in programming to address these learner needs.

“

Foundational learners often need more resources (e.g. increased volunteers, decreased teacher/student ratio) as their needs are more complex and they are experiencing more barriers.

”

Funding and resourcing foundational learning is a growing challenge.

Respondents see a prevalence of:

- Short term or one-time funding
- Required matching funding
- Funders mandating significant outcomes with inadequate timeframes and resources to accomplish them

Attitudes and environment can create barriers.

Many foundational learners face added external barriers such as stigma related to mental health issues, coming out of the correctional system, or challenging systems to navigate.

Programs need to take a more holistic approach.

To successfully remove barriers for learners, programs must address the personal stresses learners face, including issues with childcare, transportation and the balance between job and learning. Also, programs need to develop learners' self-confidence, self-esteem and enhance learners' own support systems.

“
Programs need to empower learners and build their capacity and resilience.
”

These complex themes connect to each other in various ways. We invite you to draw the lines you believe create meaningful intersections among these findings, and between them and your own work.

Many stakeholders told us that they want Calgary Learns to take a bigger role in areas like promoting collaborations, initiating more networking opportunities, facilitating program and professional development as well as continuing as a “model funder.” Watch for opportunities to come together as a foundational learning community to celebrate our successes and to address the challenges that face us, both big and small.

In 2014, look for...

- Increasing professional development/learning opportunities
- Collaborative projects such as the Literacy Directory on the Inform Alberta database
- Sharing of information and resources through our newsletter and social media

The full Needs Assessment report is available on our website:
www.calgarylearns.com/learning/resources

2013 Program Funding

In 2013, Calgary Learns' Program Grants supported:

- A total of \$1,025,575 in funding to 17 member organizations to provide a wide variety of foundational adult learning opportunities. Foundational learning helps adults acquire basic skills to fully participate in life, their families, community and work
- Over 21,000 hours of facilitated learning
- Classes in over 65 non-profit agencies and institutions across the city
- Enrollment of 9,900 adult learners

Adult Basic Literacy Grants

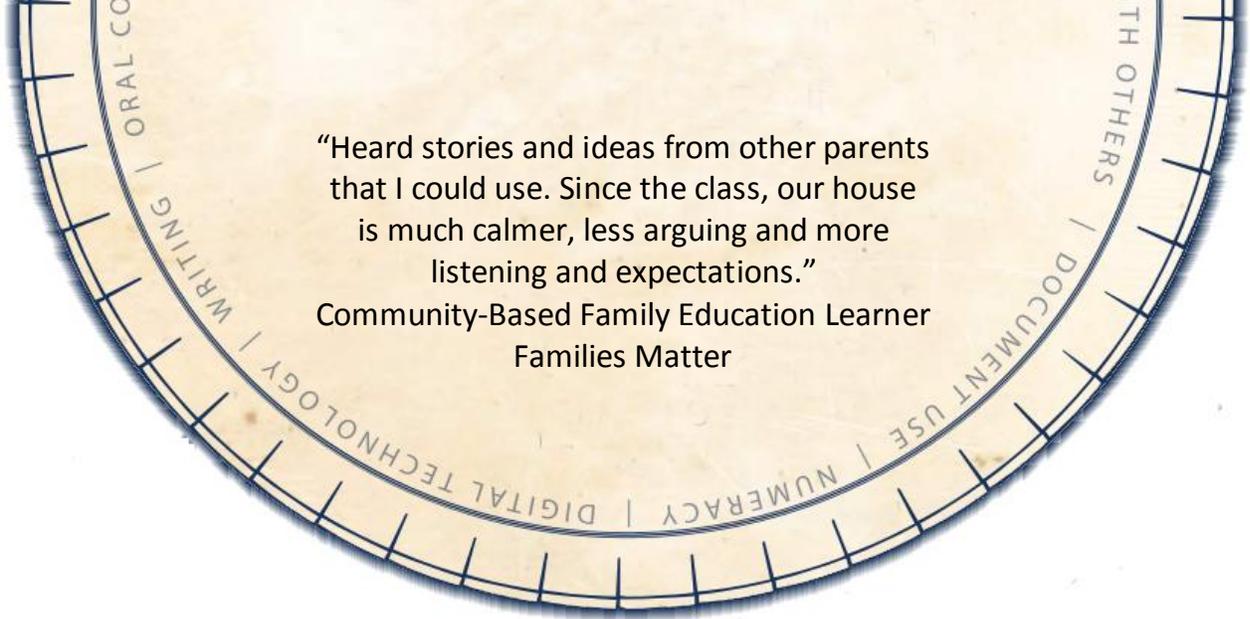
Bow Valley College	Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE)	\$7,420
Bow Valley College	Lifeline to Literacy	\$22,577
Bow Valley College	Speech-Assisted Reading and Writing	\$30,895
Calgary John Howard Society	Literacy Program	\$59,794
Calgary John Howard Society	Words to Success	\$29,035
Further Education Society	Family Literacy Program	\$91,800
Mount Royal University	Transitional Vocational Program, Adult Basic Education	\$40,800
	TOTAL	\$282,321

English Language Learning Grants

Bow Valley College	Computer Enhanced ESL Literacy	\$42,681
Bow Valley College	ESL Volunteer Tutor Program	\$29,314
Bow Valley College	Volunteer ESL Tutor Training Project	\$22,797
Calgary Community Chinese Service Association	Stepping Stones: Forward into the Community	\$55,060
Calgary Immigrant Women's Assoc.	Pebbles in the Sand	\$58,987
YWCA of Calgary	English for New Canadians	\$100,932
	TOTAL	\$309,771

"I think it was really helpful, it got me back into the swing of things. It got me learning again and I liked that."

Words to Success Learner
Calgary John Howard Society



“Heard stories and ideas from other parents that I could use. Since the class, our house is much calmer, less arguing and more listening and expectations.”
 Community-Based Family Education Learner Families Matter

Employability Enhancement Grants

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society	Computer Training for Employment	\$34,215
Calgary Immigrant Educational Soc.	Computer Combo Program	\$48,835
Calgary John Howard Society	Learning Education Enhancement Program	\$61,935
Calgary Public Library	Digital Literacy in the Library	\$25,395
Momentum	Business Development for Foundational Learners	\$60,914
	TOTAL	\$231,294

Community Issues Grants

Calgary SCOPE Society	Integrated Community Kitchen Program	\$14,994
Canadian Mental Health Association	Peer Options Workshops	\$25,000
Deaf and Hear Alberta	Family-Focused Sign Language Instruction	\$15,625
Families Matter Society	Community-Based Family Life Education	\$90,000
Immigrant Services Calgary	Citizenship Learning Project	\$31,570
Inside Out Integrated Theatre	Inside Out Integrated Theatre Program	\$25,000
	TOTAL	\$202,189



These grants were made possible with funding support from Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education.

Integrating Foundational Learning

Phase II of our Integrating Foundational Learning (IFL) activities wrapped up at the end of 2013. This project helped ten organizations to better integrate literacy and essential skills practices into their adult learning programs. As a result of training and extensive mentorship, IFL participants adapted their program delivery to be more accessible to adults learning at foundational levels. For some, this meant moving from a teacher-centred, lecture-driven structure to a more learner-centred approach. For others, it meant changing or augmenting course materials to better suit learners' goals or foundational learning needs. For all, being able to see their programs through an "essential skills lens" provided the impetus for improving program content, delivery and evaluation.

The full IFL project report will be available on our website: www.calgarylearns.com/learning/projects. It includes nine case studies with participants' reflections, and examples of their new materials and tools.

“

“We added more visual props to presentations and increased the number of check-ins with learners to ensure that they understood the subject matter.”

"The project has changed the way I approach my work. I look for ways to incorporate essential skill 'training' into both formal and informal learning opportunities and I try to write using clear language in my everyday communication.”

”

Aboriginal Adult Learning Project

In 2013, Calgary Learns partnered with Further Education Society (FESA) to work toward a joint vision: an urban learning landscape attuned to Aboriginal learners, with enhanced pathways and transitions to success. This vision and the resulting Aboriginal Adult Learning project were shaped by earlier consultations with Aboriginal leaders, educators and learners.

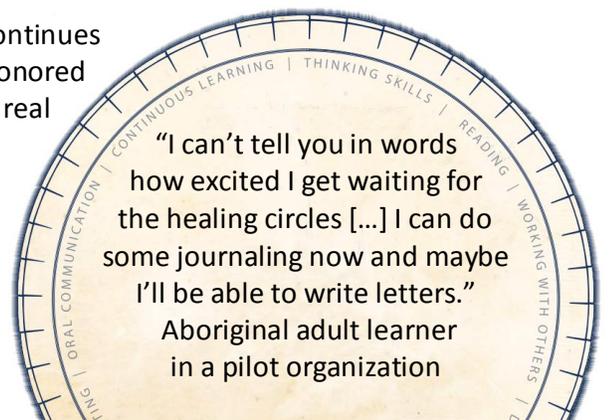
Alberta Human Services graciously provided funding for a rich, collaborative process. The project began with training by Ningwakwe George, an international leader in Aboriginal adult literacy and learning. These workshops were open to the community. Six diverse organizations then worked closely with Aboriginal advisors and learners, and incorporated their new learnings into sub-projects to better serve Aboriginal learners. FESA provided training and mentorship to address each pilot organization's needs.

This project has been extremely successful thanks to close involvement of the Aboriginal community and the diligent work of the pilot organizations. Project results included:

- Stronger connections to Aboriginal Elders and resources in the community
- Healing circles with journaling and traditional objects incorporated into programming
- Intentional creation of welcoming environments (Aboriginal art, dry smudging)
- Inclusive workplace policy and training that increased engagement of employees from First Nations
- Enhanced collaborations between organizations for referrals and information sharing

The exciting part is that the learning and dedication to change continues in these engaged organizations. Calgary Learns and FESA were honored to participate in this opportunity to leverage valuable insight for real change in Calgary's urban Aboriginal learning landscape.

The project came to a close in March 2014.
Stay tuned for news on how you can learn more.



Summary Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position	2013	2012
December 31, 2013	(\$)	(\$)
Assets		
Current Assets	1,218,464	1,225,498
Capital Assets	17,266	-
Total Assets	1,235,730	1,225,498
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	24,749	19,857
Deferred Contributions	1,036,044	1,065,694
Lease Inducement	19,235	
Net Assets	155,702	139,947
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,235,730	1,225,498
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures		
For the year ended December 31, 2013	2013	2012
	(\$)	(\$)
Revenue		
Alberta Innovation & Advanced Education	1,301,899	1,305,525
Other Income	203,898	160,111
Total Revenue	1,505,797	1,465,636
Expenses		
Program Funding	1,039,669	1,006,002
Special Project		-
Initiative Projects		40,458
General & Administrative	447,523	418,067
Amortization	2,850	-
Total Expenditures	1,490,042	1,464,527
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	15,755	1,109

“[I’m] budgeting and saving for my children”
ABLE Learner
Bow Valley College

“I learned a lot taking this program and I do think it was exactly what I needed for now. Many doors of learning and different opportunities have, are and will continue to open for me. Even the 6 weeks of this program has opened my eyes to so much that is and will be involved in my running a successful business.”
Adult Learner of the Business Development for Foundational Learners Program at Momentum

A copy of the complete 2013 audited financial statements is available through the Calgary Learns office.

2013 Organizational Members

Agapé Language Centre
Association of the Inside Out Theatre Project
Bow Valley College
Bredin Institute
CAFÉ Institute
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society
Calgary Chinese Community Service Association
Calgary Immigrant Educational Society
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
Calgary John Howard Society
Calgary Public Library
Calgary Scope Society
Calgary Sexual Health Centre Society
Calgary Workers Resource Centre
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canadian Red Cross
Centre for Newcomers
Deaf & Hear Alberta

Epilepsy Association of Calgary
Families Matter Society
Further Education Society of Alberta
Immigrant Services Calgary
Literacy Alberta
Making Changes Employment Association of Alberta
Momentum
Mount Royal University
Faculty of Continuing Education and Extension
Servants Anonymous Society of Calgary
VECOVA
YWCA of Calgary

2013 Individual Members

L. Adams
L. MacKenzie
D. Skene
Board Volunteers
Casino Volunteers



2013 Board Members

Mumtaz Ebrahim, President
Brian Larson, Vice-President
James Laughlin, Treasurer
Lorene Anderson
William McCormick
Celia Osenton
Cassie Palamar
Jeff Skipper
Honey Watts

Staff

Nancy Purdy, Executive Director
Jeannie Finch, Grants Coordinator
Nicky Peeters, Operations & Communications
Clare Pludek, Bookkeeper

Our work was made possible thanks to the generosity of
our funders, donors and volunteers!

Funders

Alberta Culture & Community Spirit
Alberta Human Services
Alberta Innovation & Advanced Education
Government of Canada
The Calgary Foundation

Sponsors

Bunch Projects

Volunteers who kindly donated their time and expertise

Board Members
Calgary Learns Marathon Team
Casino Volunteers
Funding Proposal Review Teams
LOLA Selection Committee

Donors

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S. Purdy
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A. Watson
D. Weber
M. Williams
P. Worden
Young Energyserve Inc.



The Calgary Learns Marathon Team raised \$4,046 for
Initiative Funding (pictured above: Jeff Skipper and Nancy Purdy).

Let's stay connected!



calgarylearns



@calgarylearns



www.calgarylearns.com/connector

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