

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY - 2015 -

funding

learning

celebrating



“Large numbers of people who are far from job-ready and who are among the very poor could, with the right programs in place, improve their own and their children’s and families’ circumstances. When a parent acquires basic literacy skills she can read to her children at bedtime. She can read the notes that come home from her children’s school. She can read the newspaper. Her children are likely to do better in school as a result, and her reach into her surrounding world is likely to widen. Self-confidence and self-esteem can grow. Engagement in the community is likely to increase, and volunteer opportunities open up. In many cases employment becomes a future possibility. But even when employment is not the ultimate outcome, the benefits of literacy are many, as a large body of literature attests.”
(The Next Step: Literacy Programming in Manitoba, Jim Silver 2014)

Highlights of 2015



Bill Brandon during the Community Consultation



LOLA keynote speaker Lezra Martin



LOLA winner Rotary Club of Calgary, nominated by Bow Valley College staff Belle Auld & Carol McCullough



LOLA winner Debbie Wiebe & nominator Kathy Talon



Calgary Learns Board & Staff



LOLA winner VESL team at Bow Valley College



Don Bunch giving the Thanks-A-Bunch Award to Ron Esch of The Rotary Club of Calgary

Funding, learning and celebrating nicely describes who Calgary Learns is and what we do.

For us funding goes two ways. We receive money and we grant funds. In 2015 Alberta Advanced Education provided us with ongoing additional funding to support Aboriginal Literacy and Foundational Learning and we were thrilled that Monique Fry agreed to join our staff as the Indigenous Liaison. With the support of Nancy, Jeannie and Nicky, Monique was quickly able to coordinate Calgary Learns' first round of initiative grants targeted at foundational learning for Indigenous learners. In addition to coordinating grant cycles, Monique sits on a number of community tables that keep us connected and informed to continue our journey in the right direction. We have learned a great deal from Monique and from the Indigenous community, but we still have much more to learn.

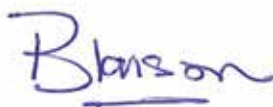
We have also been learning in other areas. In 2015 Advanced Education released the new operating guidelines we need to work within and the Outcome Measures and Evaluation that we need to report on. To support our members and help them apply these new metrics our Spring Consultation and the December Networking Event focused on funding and evaluation. We will continue to support our members in this area throughout the year. Another impact of the new guidelines is that starting in 2016 that Calgary Learns funding year will run from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year.

In 2015 we continued to offer the Integrating Foundational Learning Program (IFL) and added a mentor component as well. We also agreed to let the Community Learning Network provide this program across the province to assist and support related foundational learning opportunities.

2015 came to a close with two major news stories. New people are arriving in Calgary from around the world, traveling thousands of miles to flee home countries in turmoil. We also saw our economy become stressed and many Calgarians living with the unfortunate consequences. These challenges will shape our work in 2016. We look forward to working with you on learning solutions for adults who want and need to make a new start.

Celebrating – Three times in 2015 we met with our community and while we tried to squeeze in some learning we were really about celebrating. The LOLAs were the most obvious case, I think we can say that the spring consultation was a celebration of dialogue and exchange. The December networking event was also a clear celebration of those who work together in foundational learning.

The Calgary Learns team, Jeannie, Monique, Nicky, Bill and Nancy (returning in the spring of 2016) want to thank all of our members and supporters. We appreciate your efforts and we want to support you in providing foundational learning opportunities that meet the needs of so many different adults who learn at the foundational level.



Brian Larson
Board President



Bill Brandon
Interim

Think outside the box, and inside the Circle: Journey to support Indigenous Literacy and Learning

by Monique Fry, Indigenous Liaison



Calgary Learns has watched for emerging issues in the adult learner community for as long as they have been in existence. From my work in the Indigenous community I can attest to this fact. Jeannie had been engaged and looking for ways to better support Indigenous learners long before there was dedicated money or a dedicated role. Now, having an Indigenous Liaison with a dedicated mandate assists Calgary Learns to focus in, be intentional, raise awareness and raise the bar. **We want organizations to get in the habit of thinking outside the box to best serve and support Indigenous learners, and we believe to do that you have to be in circle.**

Since I started late April of 2015 we have accomplished a lot, and I am grateful for the prior work done by Jeannie, direction of Nancy, with existing community partners. In this past year we established an Advisory Council to guide the internal work of Calgary Learns for Indigenous adult literacy that will hopefully lead to the creation of an external Indigenous Literacy Network.

Community feedback, support and relationships are key in the establishment and maintenance of Indigenous programming. Our proposal review teams for Indigenous learning grants are comprised of Indigenous community members who have areas of expertise in both adult learning principles and Indigenous perspectives. In 2015, we distributed \$159,184 to organizations to address the unique learning needs of Indigenous adults. Please check our website for a snapshot of the 2015 grants. We hope to have a community event in the fall and report back to you all on what was accomplished, what was developed and how you can share in these learnings. Please contact me if you have any questions, have an idea or just want to chat about what is going on!

All my Relations,
Monique

Professional Development

In June 2015, Calgary Learns partnered with CanLearn Society to offer LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone), a training opportunity for the educators about learning disabilities. Adult foundational learning practitioners are not qualified to diagnose learning disabilities, but it is important to understand how to help these learners. Learning disabilities affect at least 10% of Canadians. Very likely, at least 30% and possible as many as 60% of adults in literacy and foundational learning programs have learning disabilities. About half of these individuals may also live with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD). Helping a struggling learner can start with simply reaching out and asking a few strategic questions. LIFE training is now available online through CanLearn Society. Check it out at <http://canlearnsociety.ca/literacy/adult-learning/>.

With support of the Calgary Foundation, Calgary Learns continued offering Integrating Foundational Learning (IFL) in 2015, working with Calgary community organizations to improve their program delivery to foundational learners. Foundational learners see greater success when agency staff integrate essential skills and literacy practices into their learning programs. IFL participants learned how even minor shifts increase learner engagement and success. Once agency staff had taken the training, they were able to apply for a mentor to help them implement what they learned. The IFL Project provides wrap-around assistance for community-based adult learning agencies to enhance their programs in meaningful ways for their learners.

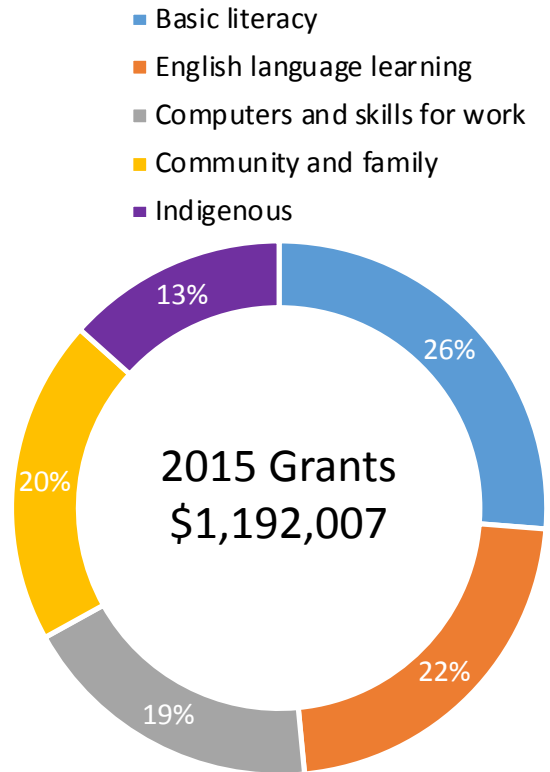
2015 Foundational Adult Learning Grants

In 2015, Calgary Learns supported 21 member organizations to provide a wide variety of foundational learning opportunities for adults with financial barriers to learning. Foundational learning helps people acquire basic skills to fully participate in life, their families, community and work.

Funded programs provided:

- Classes in dozens of sites throughout Calgary
- Over 16,500 hours of facilitated learning
- Enrollment of over 7,000 adult learners

To learn more about our grants, go to www.calgarylearns.com/funding/funded-programs



“I want to learn how to read and write in English so I can create a resume, help my children with homework and fill out forms at the doctor’s office.”
Lifeline to Literacy program, Bow Valley College

“I feel so much better and know I can do the work to change my life.”
Words to Success, Calgary John Howard Society

“The course is an eye opener to have the computer applications that can help me in job search and getting books on the Internet for my examination. Loved it!”
Digital Literacy in the Community, Calgary Public Library

“This program really helped me with better communication with my children. Reading is now an everyday bedtime activity and my children love it.”
Calgary Community Literacy and Essential Skills, Further Education Society

“Business 30 is small and short but we still can study the main idea to put our business ideas together and make our dream come true.”
Business Development for Foundational Learners, Momentum

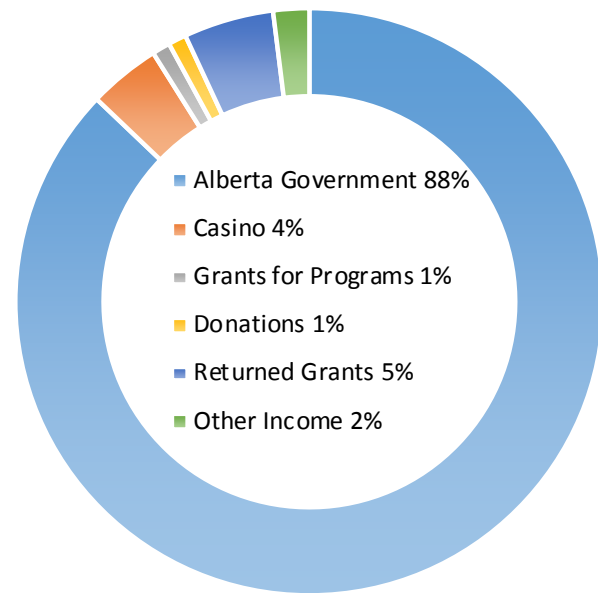
“The sense of community is a strong factor [...], the women were particularly responsive to cultural aspects of the program.”
Coordinator of the Indigenous SAGE: Women’s Emotional Wellness and Employment program, Elizabeth Fry Society

Summary Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2015

	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
Assets		
Current Assets	1,431,896	1,240,724
Capital Assets	13,174	14,115
Total Assets	1,445,070	1,254,839
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	34,092	28,315
Deferred Contributions	1,212,577	1,039,930
Lease Inducement	7,975	13,605
Net Assets	190,426	172,989
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,445,070	1,254,839

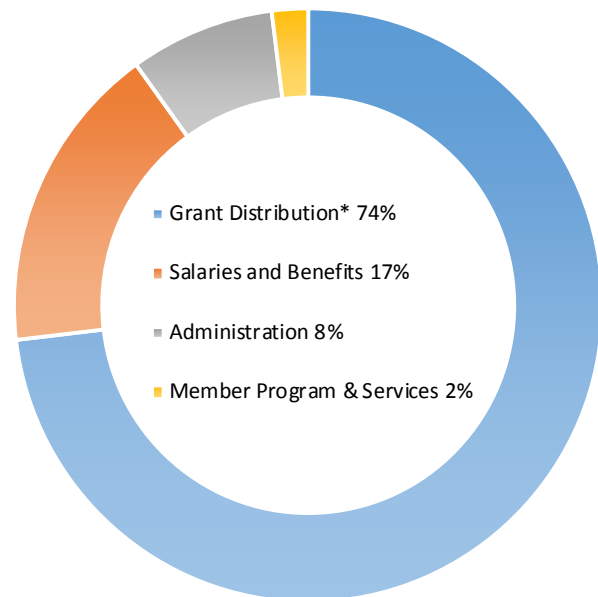
Revenues



Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2015

	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
Revenue		
Alberta Advanced Education	1,476,864	1,290,059
Other Income	141,650	145,281
Total revenue	1,618,514	1,435,340
Expenses		
Program funding	1,192,007	1,044,545
General & Administrative	402,852	369,049
Amortization	6,218	4,459
Total Expenditures	1,601,077	1,418,053
Excess of revenue over expenditures	17,437	17,287

Expenditures



* 74% dispersement includes 80% of our CALP grant

A copy of the complete 2015 audited financial statements is available through the Calgary Learns office.

Funders

Alberta Advanced Education
 Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission
 Calgary Foundation
 PriceWaterhouseCoopers

Sponsors

Bunch Projects

Donors

Alberta Association for Multicultural Education
 Canada Helps donors (anonymous)
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Organizational Members

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 Bow Valley College
 Bridges Social Development
 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
 Canadian Mental Health Association
 Canadian National Institute for the Blind
 CanLearn Society
 Centre for Newcomers
 Cooperative ESL Ministries Society
 Elizabeth Fry Society
 Families Matter Society
 Further Education Society of Alberta
 Immigrant Services Calgary
 Jewish Family Service Calgary
 Making Changes Employment Assoc. of Alberta
 Métis Calgary Family Services Society
 Momentum
 Mount Royal University
 Vecova Centre for Disability Services and Research
 YWCA of Calgary

Volunteers who kindly donated their time & expertise

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 Bill Brandon, Interim Executive Director
 Jeannie Finch, Grants Coordinator
 Monique Fry, Indigenous Liaison
 Nicky Peeters, Operations & Communications
 Clare Pludek, Bookkeeper



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