

@theLCLA

The Learning Centre

LITERACY ASSOCIATION

2014 Highlights

www.tlcla.org

Programs

Educational Programs

9001 Instructional Hours

[Click here for: program information](#)

Program Partnerships

6 Organizations helped the Association foster innovative approaches to adult literacy education.

[Click here for: list of partners](#)

Funders

Grants and donations fund the Association's work, in 2014 the Association received grants from

9 primary sources & numerous private donations.

[Click here for: list of funders](#)

Association Leaders

Board of Directors: 12
Volunteers who guided our community based work in adult education.

[Click here for: 2014 Directors](#)

Message from the Vice Chair

[Click here for: message from the vice chair](#)

Our Mission

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.

People

Students

172 registered students

40 offsite tutored adults

172 outreach students

Community Partners

26 organizations support and contribute so much to the quality of Association services and the success of our learners.

[Click here for: list of community partners](#)

Staff and Instructors

6 Staff and 16 contracted instructors deliver programs and services.

[Click here for: 2014 staff and instructors](#)

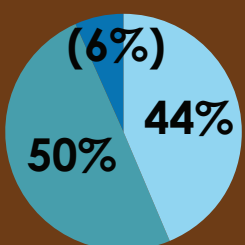
2014 Year in Review

The Association's featured highlights for the year of 2014.

[Click here to: read the highlights](#)

Dollars & Cents:

2014 Association Revenue & Expenses

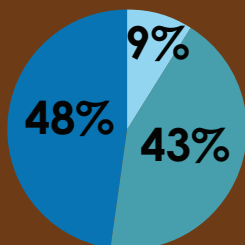


Total Revenue
\$273,364

Total Expenses
\$312,225

Deficit
\$41,086

2014 Association Expenses



Volunteer Management & Fund-raising
\$28,412

General & Administrative Expenses
\$135,181

Program Expenses
\$148,632

[Click here for More Information](#)

Educational Programs

The Association offers six (6) adult educational programs in both the inner city and North East section of Edmonton. Programs are offered in five (5) locations in addition to individual tutoring sessions offered by our trained volunteer tutors in support of lower income adult learners; individual tutoring sessions occur throughout the city in areas most amenable to students. All of the Association programs are tuition-free for students.

In 2014, the Learning Centre Literacy Association provided the following literacy/numeracy and related adult educational programs:

1. Developing Reading and Writing for Adults

This program is designed to help adult students learn to, or improve their reading and writing. Specifically students develop reading skills and strategies for word identification and comprehension and to develop facility with the writing process, including spelling. Students also practice oral communication skills, including speaking in groups and in public settings. As well, students learn other essential skills such as computer use and critical thinking necessary for use in the workplace or to move on to further studies. Contracted literacy instructors and trained tutors work with students in this class.

In 2014, the Association offered 78 Developing Reading and Writing classes in all program locations (860 instructional hours) serving 120 adult learners. Classes were undertaken at the main site at Abbottsfield Mall, Boyle Street Community Services, EPL Sprucewood Library, and Hope Mission and at the Bissell Centre.

2. Adult Math/ Numeracy

The math/numeracy program endeavors to help adult learners identify math/numeracy interests and the numeracy skills they would like to develop. Students learn math concepts, operations and applications--numbers, adding, subtracting, fractions, etc., applied to everyday use or workplace requirements. Students are helped to develop reading skills and strategies solving math/numeracy problems and to engage in mathematical thinking with regards to daily life situations. Numerous students are also helped to prepare for apprenticeship programs. Essential skills and digital literacy is also interwoven within the math/numeracy

program. Contracted literacy facilitators and trained tutors work with students in this class.

In 2013, the Association offered 25 Math/Numeracy classes (338 instructional hours) in all program locations serving a combined 68 adult learners. Classes were undertaken at the main site at Abbottsfield mall and Boyle Street Community Services.

3. Creative Writing for Adults

The creative writing program for adults course supports people to learn and practice writing skills and self-expression, which helps provide confidence and resources to make positive changes. The program involves helping adult learners identify issues and topics they wish to write about, in order to provide relevant learning contexts. Moreover, students are provided opportunities to learn about and develop writing skills in a range of genres (creative, non-fiction, etc.) . Contracted literacy facilitators and trained tutors work with students in this class.

In 2014, the Association offered 11 Creative Writing for Adults classes (146 instructional hours) in all program locations serving a combined 48 adult learners. Classes were undertaken at the main site at Abbottsfield mall, Boyle Street Community Services and at the Bissell Centre.

5. Individual Adult Tutoring

This program occurs on a city wide basis and is designed to provide individualized reading, writing or math instruction for adult students who are unable to attend the Association's main campus or outreach locations. Adults are paired with trained volunteer tutors who meet weekly (at minimum) for two to three hours to address literacy or numeracy learning gaps. All resources and learning supports are provided by the Centre.

In 2014, 30 adult learners were involved in the Association's tutoring sessions and sessions were usually undertaken in EPL libraries throughout the City of Edmonton.

6. Creative Writing Towards Literacy Program

This program, which runs adjacent to the University of Alberta's fall and winter schedule, is a collaborative Association and University of Alberta venture co taught by both University and Association instructors. Adult learners are given the opportunity to learn creative forms of research and inquiry and the creative forms of expression within which to archive their own processes of inquiry to a more intimate understanding of language and expressions. Genre studies allows learners to understand that there are very distinct language worlds that they need to engage in as they move through their day. Literary studies give learners the access to wonderful works of literature they might not otherwise encounter. The CWTL program seeks to find successful relationships between these approaches and to understand the ways in which they might be effective in non-academic or workplace environments.

In 2013, 16 adult learners were enrolled in the program and the classes were co taught by an Association instructor, a University of English professor and supported by two research assistants. Classes were undertaken at the main site at Abbotsfield mall, Stanley Milner Library and at the U of A's Humanities Centre.

Program Partnerships

- A. *Bissell Centre*:** weekly creative writing classes.
- B. *Hope Mission*:** reading & writing literacy classes in conjunction with the Herb Jamieson Break Out program.
- C. *Boyle Street Community Services*:** numeracy and literacy assistance with community members registered in Water Wings pre-employment and employment program.
- D. *Edmonton Public Library*:**
 - Abbottsfield Branch: weekly book club for adult students.
 - Stanley Milner Branch: weekly Creative Writing towards Literacy class.
 - Tutoring space at numerous other branches.
- E. *University of Alberta Community Service Learning program*:** weekly Humanities 101 class (non-credit).
- F. *University of Alberta Department of English and Film Studies*:** weekly Creative Writing Towards Literacy class (non-credit).

2014 Funding Sources

- A.** Innovation and Advanced Education- Government of Alberta
- B.** Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association
- C.** AGLC – Alberta Casino Funding
- D.** Stollery Charitable Foundation
- E.** Alberta Culture –Community Initiatives Program
- F.** Edmonton Community Foundation
- G.** Soroptimist International Club of Edmonton
- H.** Community Service Learning – University of Alberta
- I.** Fleming & Friends Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- J.** Many generous & kind individual donations

Association Leaders – 2014 Board of Directors

Chair - Donna Chovanec

Community Representative

Vice-Chair: Lloyd Rogowski

Community Representative

Treasurer: Eva Mentz-van Gunsteren

Tutor Representative

Secretary: Debbie Lathlin

Student Representative

Jocelyn E.King

Community Representative

Mack Male

Tutor / Community Representative

Drummond Dorothy

Student/Community Representative

Lawrence Hazlett

Community Representative

Helen Herbert

Student Representative

Eileen Keogh

Tutor Representative

Frank van Veen

Tutor Representative

Community Partners

- 1.** Abbotsfield Recreation Centre
- 2.** Abbotsfield Youth Project
- 3.** Acces Emploi
- 4.** Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society
- 5.** Bissell Centre
- 6.** Boyle Street Community Services
- 7.** Candora Society
- 8.** Centre for Family Literacy
- 9.** Centre d'accueil et d'établissement du Nord de l'Alberta
- 10.** Clareview Community Builders
- 11.** Community Services - City of Edmonton
- 12.** Edmonton Public Library - Stanley Milner, Abbotsfield and Sprucewood
- 13.** E4C
- 14.** Faculty of Nursing & Faculty of Medicine – University of Alberta
- 15.** Frontier College
- 16.** Heritage Club
- 17.** HIV Edmonton
- 18.** Hope Mission
- 19.** NorQuest College
- 20.** Northeast Edmonton Literacy Network
- 21.** PALS
- 22.** Partners for Kids and Youth
- 23.** PDD Agencies
- 24.** Volunteer Alberta- SCiP Internships
- 25.** Wecan Co-op
- 26.** Windsound Learning Society

Staff and Instructors

Staff

Denis Lapierre, Executive Director

Susan Skaret, Program Coordinator

Stacy Kennedy, Program Assistant

Marguerite Folk, Bookkeeper

Loretta Christianson, Abbottsfield Custodian

Theresa Varty, Abbottsfield Custodian

Instructors

Anna Marie Sewell, Creative Writing, Abbottsfield

Barb Harvey, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield & Boyle Street Community Services

Brian Overland, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield

Dyan Semple, Reading and Writing, Sprucewood Library

Evelyn Martin, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield

Heather Parliament, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield

Marg Swytink, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield

Mary- Ann DeVries, Math/Numeracy, Abbottsfield

Megan Wilson, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield

Rebecca Blakey, Reading and Writing – Women’s Studies- Abbottsfield

Rebecca Schellenberg, Reading and Writing, Herb Jamieson Centre and Creative Writing Bissell Centre

Ariel Bowering, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield

Claire Fraser, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield

Karen Turner, Reading and Writing, Abbottsfield

Shaun Murphy, Math/Numeracy, Abbottsfield

Sylvie Vigneux, Reading and Writing – Women’s Studies, Abbottsfield

Message from the Vice-Chair

The Learning Centre is an adult educational and learning organization that daily celebrates creativity, innovation and unique learning experiences for Edmonton adult students. I have been a part of the Learning Centre community for almost 19 years, and I am always inspired by what I see.

My involvement with the Learning Centre came through my involvement in an organization to which I belong to called the Heritage Club— a club which represents the retirees association of Canada Post. Our organization supports literacy, both locally and Canada wide and, we will volunteer to assist the Literacy cause in any way we can. We originally became involved with the Learning Centre in the late 90's by assisting the Centre to process and prepare for mailing the monthly literacy newspaper called the English Express, which generated operating funds for the Association. The English Express has sadly been discontinued some 5 years ago.

The community involvement that is necessary to effectively and positively manage an adult learning centre can be a challenging one, but the Learning Centre Literacy Association continues to view this role in a strategic manner and from an adult student oriented perspective. The Board continually looks for the best ways to promote community engagement with community volunteers and partners, as well as promoting active involvement among the adult learners who attend Association programs and services. This is critical for a community based organization such as the Learning Centre. This is also of great importance to the wider community and to the betterment of our society as we continue to work together to address society's adult literacy and numeracy challenges. For myself and my fellow board Directors, it is important that the Association maintain a strong community commitment so that the Learning Centre's programs and services can be accessible to any and all Edmonton citizens regardless of their individual financial backgrounds.

As Vice -Chair, I have had the opportunity to meet creative and engaged students, knowledgeable instructors and aware staff. I can attest to the fact that Learning Centre students are receiving quality programs and services that they so rightly deserve, as well as the skills and perspective they need to engage more fully in their lives and in the fabric of their communities.

Again, all of this cannot happen without the caring and effective involvement of our communities and the ongoing support of our many partners and funders. It is my pleasure and privilege to thank you all for your collective contributions to the Association's accomplishments in 2014 and now I look forward to the future in seeing how these achievements will help improve the lives of others.

Lloyd Rogowski
Vice - Chair
The Learning Centre Literacy Association

The Association's 2014 Year in Review



January 2014

The Association began its first full month of operations in the newly leased space in the Mall with the resumption of classes on January 6, 2014. With close to **3000 square feet** of program and office space, students and staff are well accommodated in Rm 218.

The Learning Centre along with several other North East agencies began working together to develop a **Shared Space Model** intended to help with future program space considerations.

2014 also evidenced the Association's renewed commitment to serve the literacy needs of citizens in the inner city by offering outreach literacy/numeracy classes at Boyle Street Community Services, Bissell Centre, Hope Mission, and at the Sprucewood and Stanley Milner Libraries.

February 2014

The Board's policy committee met to discuss how to implement **risk management** in all Association policies. This would help the Board further improve its decision-making in providing quality learning programs for adult students.

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. Numerous student activities occurred in February 2014 that provided opportunities for students to reach out into various communities including:

- Students and instructors from the Learning Centre/University of Alberta's **Creative Writing towards Literacy** class's visit to Blue Quill's First Nation College. Participants were provided with a tour of the former residential school by a survivor followed by lunch and a circle discussion of the residential schooling experience.
- The **Abbottsfeld Writers Circle** went out and did a public reading at the Upper Crust Café as part of the Poet's Haven with the Stroll of Poets.

As well.... the community came to the Centre ... as students from the **Capilano Transition Program** came to the new Centre for a tour and information gathering afternoon.

March 2014

The Learning Centre offers its programming in five cycles. Each cycle is 6 – 8 weeks long. Classes meet for two hours once each week; some classes meet twice weekly. Learners can ***begin the program at any time***. Some complete a short-term goal and move on; others have continued to develop their literacy and numeracy skills at the Centre for several years.

Individual tutoring is also provided to students who prefer this approach to improving their reading, writing and math skills.

The Association truly depends upon its many ***program and community partners*** to provide quality adult educational and literacy programs to Edmonton's adult students. March 2014 was an especially busy month as discussions and meetings were taking place to plan for the following year's programs and services.

Once again the Association submitted a statement of intent to participate in the U of A's CSL Non Profit Board Internship program to host a ***Board student intern*** in September 2014. In the past, board interns have been very helpful to the Board and students by assisting in the development of programming, policies and fundraising opportunities.

As well, the Association, through its Executive Director, was invited to attend the ***City of Edmonton Fire Rescue Services*** strategic planning stakeholder meeting to provide input on the community driven plan with regards to Edmonton's community safety processes.

The Association's administration attended the ***ECALA Literacy Focus Group*** meeting to present the Association's programming proposal for 2014-2015 and to respond to any questions regarding the proposal to other member groups

April 2014

The Learning Centre Literacy Association held its ***AGM*** at the Abbottsfield Recreation Centre. There was a good turnout of Learning Centre participants and volunteers and the event was highlighted by the election of the 2014-2015 Board of Directors. Also, an informal ***open house*** was held at the Centre in advance of the AGM to provide an opportunity for community agencies and partners to visit the new location and engage in informal program discussions.

In other news, April was also the month that saw Learning Centre students provide readings and an installation of their year's work as part of the events at the 2014 ***Edmonton Poetry Festival***.

In April, Association staff and an instructor attended the annual **NorQuest** Agency Breakfast which serves to provide program information/changes to local literacy and social service agencies. As well, the staff of the Centre meet with NorQuest personnel on committees such as the Edmonton Literacy Coalition, Literacy Works which helps forge positive relations between the two organizations.

As well, Association staff attended the **Literacy Works** meeting where NorQuest College presented the new Literacy and Essential Skills Pathways program that would be helpful to Learning Centre students looking to transition to the College.

May 2014

The Association works together with Edmonton's other literacy centres and educational institutions to deliver adult educational opportunities. The Learning Centre was a founding member of the **Edmonton Literacy Coalition** along with NorQuest College, PALS, Centre for Family Literacy and the Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association (ECALA). The coalition helps raise awareness and ensures that adult literacy and educational programs are accessible to all adult learners in Edmonton.

May was also the month that the Association received some good news regarding program funding. The Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association (ECALA) provided the Association additional money to begin providing **francophone literacy classes** for adults whose first language was French. As well, ECALA also provided programming funding for the Literacy Outreach towards Employment (LOTE) program; a very important initiative for adult learners experiencing literacy challenges in their search for **employment** or improving their current employment opportunities. Finally, the Learning Centre continued to receive numerous referrals from such employment programs as Otteenow, Trade Wings for Success etc. for adults facing literacy challenges in their job searches and placements.

The Association also held the first **Civics 101 / Leadership** session with Donna Chovanec, Board Chairperson, and Ariel Bowering leading the group of students in discussions involving curriculum and program plan for the new course.

June 2014

The Association facilitated the participation of 16 Learning Centre students to attend the **PALS student conference** at NorQuest College. The one day student conference was an opportunity for Learning Centre students to listen to several interesting speakers and to participate in

learning sessions. The event provided networking moments for adult students involved in programs throughout the Edmonton region.

On the funding front, the Association received a \$3000 CSL (**Community Service Learning**) grant to help defray costs associated with the Creative Writing towards Literacy class. As well, Donna Chovanec, Board Chair, was also awarded \$3000 to help with the Centre's Civics 101 class for both of the program's September startups.

The Association's city wide **individual tutoring program** continued to grow throughout the year. In June 2014, there were 30 students in Edmonton being individually tutored with 4 students waiting to be matched with a trained volunteer tutor. Several of the students also attended regular Centre programs and the additional tutoring sessions helped improve their literacy/numeracy skills.

Several Association staff attended the **Chrysalis** fundraiser breakfast which was an opportunity to interact with the Chrysalis staff who were previously involved with the collaborative pilot program for adults with developmental disabilities. Both organizations felt that there was an additional need to further develop future programming options.

And, as is common every June at the Centre, staff and instructors gathered at the Centre to discuss the past year's **programs, successes and challenges** and to begin the preliminary planning process for 2014-2015 learning programs.

July & August 2014

In 2014, the Association continued to offer Edmonton adult learners with quality diverse learning opportunities to help improve their reading, writing and numeracy skills. These opportunities which go a long way towards helping citizens lead more confident and productive lives. The Centre's summer tutoring program combined with the continuation of regular programming at its **inner city outreach locations** were two examples of the Association's committed efforts to provide diverse programs based on student needs.

Staff met with a second year U of A medical student representative who was selected to organize the medical school's **community service component**. Eight (8) first year medical students came to the Learning Centre twice a month to volunteer their services in curriculum development and student assistance.

Three (3) Learning Centre students and several community citizens met at the Learning Centre to discuss, plan and participate in a ***north east community survey***. The students' familiarity with the community allowed them to obtain valuable information regarding the community's perception of present and future programs.

The Association renewed its ***memberships*** in such important and diverse organizations as the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (ECVO), Volunteer Alberta and Literacy Alberta. Membership in these organizations have many social and relational benefits, but the biggest benefit to the Association is the professional development opportunities for staff.

September 2014

A Board member and staff attended the ***Board Internship Program*** orientation meeting at the University to meet the Association's intern for the 2014-2015 academic year.

September saw the beginning of classes at both the Abbotsfield Learning Centre and outreach locations in the inner city. As usual, the beginning of classes serves as a reminder that the Association's learning programs are more than mere academics and that students and staff form an ***interesting and vibrant community***.

The Centre held a phonemic awareness in-service for instructors and tutors. One of the Centre's volunteer tutors who is a speech pathologist, provided a great deal of information relative to diagnosing, assessing and helping adult learners who are in need of direct instruction in phonemic awareness. Reading and writing classes with a focus on ***phonemic awareness and phonics*** were also implemented beginning in the fall of 2014.

A student, staff member and instructor attended the ***Laurel Awards*** ceremony as one of the Association's programs was nominated to receive an award. The awards recognize innovation, creativity, achievements and success of Edmonton area not-for-profit organizations. While the Association did not receive the award, it was a privilege to be considered for the prize.

A Board and staff representative attended the at the ***2014 ECALA Annual General Meeting***.

October 2014

The month of October also brought some good news on the funding front with The Association as the ***Edmonton Community Foundation*** provided the Association with a onetime \$25,000 funding grant for special needs technology and adaptive resources. The funding was part of

ECF's 25th year Anniversary celebrations. As well, the Association was so fortunate to have received \$110,000 over two (2) years from the **Stollery Charitable Foundation** in their financial support of the Association's newly created Special Needs Volunteer/Resource Coordinator position.

As usual, October was also a very busy month as adult students settled in for some exciting learning and the startup of new classes such as the women's studies class entitled: *Women Workers: Writing and Quilting For Women*. The Association was fortunate to have been provided funding for this class by the **Soroptimist International Club** of Edmonton.

Learning Centre students participated in the Abbottsfield Shared Space focus groups to survey the Centre's adult student's opinions on what type of services they would like to see in the area. With the help of all of these community connections, the students continued to develop their **literacy and leadership skills** in 2014.

Staff members, on behalf of the Association, attended the 24th Chrysalis Annual Achievement Awards to receive the **Chrysalis Achievement Award** for 2014. This was indeed an honor as the Association seeks to continue its work in the area of special needs education and literacy development.

The association's Executive Director was asked to speak at the Edmonton Public Library's first ever PD day held at the Radisson Conference centre. The title of the presentation was '**Trickle Down Literacy**' which involved comparing PIAAC results, national literacy program initiatives and implications for public libraries.

November 2014

The Association adopted a new student **goal setting and orientation** process for newly arrived students at the Centre. The community volunteer, a former physical therapist in the health services field, provided both the impetus and expertise to refine the Association's goal setting procedures; once again demonstrating the valued importance of the Centre's many talented volunteers.

Susan Skaret, long time Association staff member and Program Coordinator, resigned from the Centre after nine (9) years of service to adult literacy students. Susan has gone on to pursue other employment opportunities.

A staff attended the Beverly United Church's Sunday service to briefly explain The Association's literacy/numeracy programs and to present volunteer tutoring opportunities. The congregation

members were supportive of the Association's programs and services. The visit also gave the Centre an opportunity to raise **community awareness** with regards to literacy issues.

The Centre was fortunate to receive several visitors in November including Carol Aubee-Girard CEO of ECALA and Sarah Chan, **Edmonton's Literacy Coalition Ambassador** and wife to Edmonton's mayor. Both had an opportunity to tour the Centre and classes as well as engage in discussions with several adult students.

The Association's finance **committee** met to prepare information for presentation of the proposed 2015 budget at the Dec 19th board meeting.

December 2014

Students, facilitators, friends and staff gathered at the Centre for Susan Skaret's farewell celebration and to **share stories and memories**.

The Association posted openings for two SciP Interns (**Serving Communities Internship Program**) for volunteer assistance with graphic design and resource development for the Civics 101 course. The Volunteer Alberta program has been a source of quality volunteer help for the Centre over the last several years. And it also gives University or College students some excellent opportunities to gain experience in the non-profit world.

The Government of Alberta Human Services department was contacted to help the Association with human resources assistance involved in **the recruitment and hiring** of a Special Needs Volunteer/Resource Coordinator. Government employees with particular skill sets can be available to assist Alberta non-profit organizations.

The Association Board discussed and approved the **2015 Budget** at the December 19th board meeting and luncheon.

Students, staff and instructors enjoyed a two week holiday season break commencing on Monday, December 22 and classes resumed on January 9th, 2015