

LITERACY ALBERTA BACKGROUND



Literacy Alberta's roots go back more than 20 years, with its predecessor organizations actively involved in promoting literacy within Alberta. The organization as we know it was formed with the amalgamation in 2003 of the Literacy Coordinators of Alberta and the Alberta Association for Adult Literacy. The creation of Literacy Alberta provided both a stronger voice for literacy action in the province and hub for literacy knowledge and best practices.

Today, Literacy Alberta is a leader in literacy and essential skills, providing tools and resources, training and professional development, employing 10 staff and many consultants. The organization is deeply committed to building a learning culture in Alberta, where it is a basic right to have the skills needed to fully participate in learning, life and work.

As a voice for literacy, Literacy Alberta provides the forum for discussions and debates, bringing literacy as a key issue for all Albertans to the forefront. Literacy Alberta is also part of a greater Canadian perspective on literacy.

Literacy Alberta believes that everyone should have the opportunity to gain the essential skills to be fully literate, going beyond the basic skills of reading and writing. This includes essential skills such as computer competency, using and understanding documents, manuals and written instruction, as well as the ability to access information through multiple mediums. It means the ability to participate in life – at work, at home and in the community.

Literacy Alberta promotes the understanding that all organizations and individuals are affected by literacy – socially, economically and personally. We know that improving literacy and essential skills in Alberta leads to a healthier, more involved and economically stable society, with a strong and growing workforce.

Key Programs and Services

- Professional Development programs, such as Essential Skills Training, Literacy Coordinator training, and Brown Bag sessions on topics including Plain Language and Numeracy.
- Literacy Audit Workshops for community agencies, health organizations and corporate workplaces.
- LearningLinks, Canada's largest resource centre dedicated to literacy, essential skills and learning difficulties, operated in partnership.
- The Literacy Alberta Help Line, our free, confidential information and referral service for potential learners and their families across Alberta.
- The Literacy and Learning Symposium, Alberta's only annual conference providing professional development, and opportunities for networking and celebration for literacy and adult learning practitioners, researchers, volunteer tutors and adult learners.

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