

# Literacy Council of South Temiskaming

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## January/February 2011 Newsletter

The Literacy Council of South Temiskaming exists to provide Literacy and Basic Skills programs and training to area residents. This service is free, confidential and centered on the individual's needs. Learners receive one-on-one coaching from staff, instructors and/or volunteers from the community.

If you want to learn, or know someone that wants to learn, please contact our office at (705) 672-4232.

### Survey

What is your opinion of our newsletter? Your opinion is very important to us and we would like to give you a chance to express it. Please complete the attached survey by January 21, 2011.

### Online Literacy Presentations

Do you have questions about adult literacy and adult literacy education in Ontario?

Community Literacy of Ontario has created six online audio-visual presentations that cover the following topics:

*What is Literacy?*

*Recognizing Literacy*

*Literacy and Basic Skills in Ontario*

*Making Referrals*

*Literacy and Employment*

*Learner Success Stories*

Go to [www.nald.ca/clo/presentations.htm](http://www.nald.ca/clo/presentations.htm) to view informative, easy-to-access presentations.

We're on the Web!

[www.nald.ca/lcst.htm](http://www.nald.ca/lcst.htm)

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### Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place annually on January 27 to celebrate adults and children reading and learning together, and to encourage Canadians to spend at least 15 minutes enjoying a learning activity as a family every day.

**Temiskaming Shores Library has partnered with The Literacy Council of South Temiskaming** to host a FREE Family Literacy Day Games Night on January 27 at Riverside Place in New Liskeard from 6:30-8:30 P.M. Bring your friends and family for two hours of fun as we play familiar games like Scrabble, Crib, Scattagories and other board and card games. Decks of cards and some games on site OR bring your own. Drinks and cookies will be available. A door prize will be presented. Come and "Play for Literacy"!

## 5 Reasons To Invest In Ontario's Literacy And Basic Skills Programs

- **A Critical Issue for Ontario**

Literacy is an essential foundational skill in 21<sup>st</sup> century Ontario. However, in our province, 42% of adults do not have the literacy skills they need for home, work and life. In fact, 1.3 million people (16% of Ontarians) struggle with very serious literacy challenges and have trouble reading even the most basic text. Another 2.1 million people (26%) can read but not well enough to meet the demands of today's society.

- **Employment**

People with low literacy skills have much lower rates of employment. In Ontario, just 61% of adults with the lowest literacy levels are employed while 82% of people with the highest levels of literacy are in the workforce.

- **Unemployment**

People with low literacy skills are more likely to experience unemployment and they are about twice as likely to be unemployed for six months or more.

- **Poverty**

Close to 50% of adults with the lowest levels of literacy live in low income households, compared with only 8% of those with high levels of literacy.

- **Health**

Canadians with low literacy skills suffer poorer health than Canadians with high levels of literacy and a person's level of literacy is one of the key determinants of their overall health.

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### Quotes from Adult Learners

*"The literacy program has helped me to start my education again giving me the confidence to start over."*

*"The classes have been extremely helpful for me as a business owner. I know now that I can succeed when I attempt other learning."*

*"The individualized learning venue is perfect for individuals who may require a little extra time for skill acquisition. Thank you for your patience and support. I look forward to continuing my journey in education."*

*Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... It's learning how to dance in the rain.*

### Northern College Student

We would like to welcome Tracy Lacarte to our program! She is from the Northern College Social Service Worker program doing her fieldwork placement with us.

