

# The Writer's Voice



Private and Public Life

This book belongs to:

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THE WRITER'S VOICE

SUMMER, 1987

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# Canada has three levels of government:



The Federal Government looks after the whole country.



A Provincial Government looks after a province.



A Municipal Government looks after a town, city or district.



These are some of the things that governments look after:



Federal



employment  
immigration  
R.C.M.P.  
Canada Post  
military  
banks



Provincial



education  
housing  
provincial police  
social services  
roads and bridges  
environment



Municipal



public transport  
fire department  
municipal police  
garbage removal  
sewers  
libraries

# Low Income People

by Eleanor Doiron

If poor people did not have low income housing, we would not be able to live in Toronto.

I live on family benefits.

I pay just under a quarter of my monthly allowance for rent.

I have a living room,  
a bedroom  
a kitchen  
and a bathroom.

I travel on the bus.

I spend \$40.00 a month on bus tickets.

After I have bought groceries, I do not have much money to have fun with.



# City Homes

by Cathy Jones

I once lived in City Homes. I moved out in January. They tried to say I moved out in February.

One day the Cityhome collector called me at home about rent. He said I owed them three hundred dollars (\$300). He had me crying and not willing to fight for my rights.

I had to sign a lease when I moved in and I couldn't read it at all. It was all in big words. When I first went there, I was afraid to ask them to read it to me. I didn't want to end up on the streets alone. I was afraid of looking dumb.

I ended up in the hospital and decided to move to Father Joe's Hostel after this. I gave the City Homes one month's notice and paid the balance of the last month's rent. I gave them a cheque.

One day I realized it didn't go through the bank. I phoned them and asked them why. It turned out they lost the cheque. I almost got sued for the money.



So from now on I'm not scared to ask others to read things to me. One thing I'm mad about is that I said I was sorry to Cityhome. They have a way of making people like me feel it's our fault, not theirs. The system is perfect to them.

# Word Puzzle

These words from Cathy's story are hidden in the puzzle. Put a circle around all the words you can find.

The answers are on [page 43](#).

cityhomes

collector

**rent**

rights

afraid

system

money

sued

notice

cheque

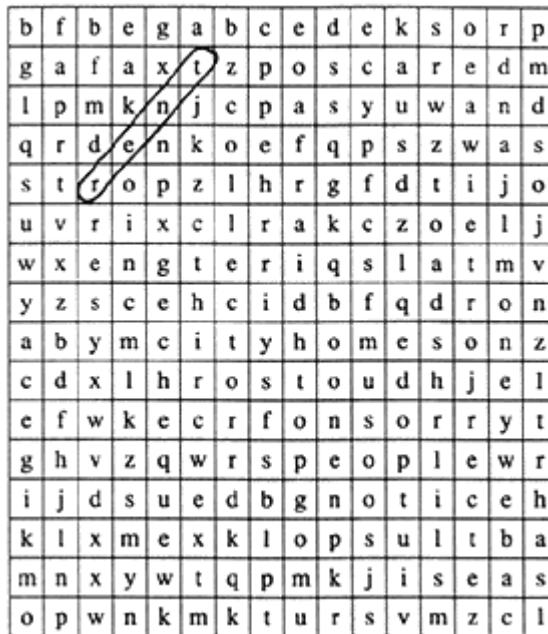
bank

scared

hospital

people

sorry



# The Housing Shortage

by Margaret Anne Goheen

When a homeless Toronto woman froze to death in an abandoned truck two years ago, I saw it on the news. I wanted to know why she had to live on the street.



**Building a condominium**

One night Jeff Evenson, who works at City Hall, came to talk to us at The Writer's Voice. He said that a long time ago people would invest money in apartment buildings. They got a good return for their money. Now if people have money to invest for buildings, they build condominiums, sell them and get their money back immediately. Or, they invest in the stock market. It seems that no private money is going into rental units.

Also, Jeff said, all the older rooming houses have become single family dwellings or offices for dentists or lawyers.

To add to problems, more people are living on the streets. According to Macleans Magazine, "Increasingly the homeless ranks include young people, psychiatric out-patients, single mothers, the unemployed or the poorly paid - and others shut out by the steep costs of housing."



**People once lived here**

# Homeless People

by Margaret Anne Goheen

I read in the Macleans Magazine that there are about 2,500 homeless people in Metro Toronto. To help provide shelter the city, church groups and others such as the United Way have set up hostels where people can stay for a few weeks.

Chris Brillinger works at Neighbourhood Information Post (N.I.P.), which helps people find places to live. He told me that there are 25 hostels in Metro. Eleven are for women, nine for men, three for families and two for 16 to 21-year-olds. Most (17) are downtown. The rest are in the suburbs.



**Help for roomers**

Meals are usually provided in hostels. In the larger ones, particularly those for men, the cooking is done by staff. But in some, such as shelters for battered women, the women do their own cooking.

According to the article in Macleans Magazine, all hostels have rules about smoking, guests and curfews.

Some hostels are stricter than others. But there will always be people who prefer the freedom of the streets to putting up with rules. Recently, I read in the Toronto Star that the Ontario Government will provide money to build 390 new homes in Metro for the street people who are "most difficult to house". They include drifters, alcoholics, drug addicts and psychiatric out-patients.

I am glad the Ontario Government is doing something about the housing shortage.



**A hostel for men**

# Government Cheques

Many people get money from the government when they are not able to work. They can't work because they are single parents, they are disabled or they can't find jobs.

Everyone in the Writer's Voice group agreed that there are lots of problems with government cheques and we had some questions:

- What's the difference between Welfare and Family Benefits?
- How do I qualify?
- What are my rights?
- Who can help me if I have a problem?



We asked Chris Brillinger to answer some of our questions. Chris works at Neighbourhood Information Post (N.I.P.) in the same building as East End Literacy.



Chris said, "If you want really good service, get an information post like N.I.P. to help you."

We did some research and wrote about our experiences with government cheques.

We went to a meeting of the Social Assistance Review Board at City Hall. Then Pat Daenzer came to Writer's Voice to tell us more about the Social Assistance Review Board.

# Where Do Government Cheques Come From?

When we pay taxes, our money goes to the municipal, provincial and federal governments. These governments give cheques to help us when we are in need. This chart shows where the cheques come from and who can get them.



GWA - General Welfare

- anyone who can prove they are in need
- must have an address

## Municipal

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FBA - Family Benefits

- sole support parents
- disabled
- unable to work

WCB - Workers' Compensation Board

- anyone injured on the job if their employer has a WCB account

## Provincial

---

OAS - Old Age Security

- Over 65 years old

GIS - Guaranteed Income Supplement

- Over 65 years old



UIC - Unemployment Insurance

- no other income
- unemployed after working for 20 weeks
- must prove you are looking for work

## Federal

CPP - Canada Pension Plan

- disabled
- widowed
- retired and over 65

DVA - Department. of Veterans' Affairs Baby Bonus or Family Allowance

- injured war veterans and their widows
- to parents with children under 18

# Opinions About Government Cheques

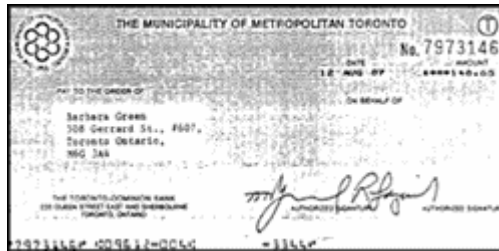
One night at a Writer's Voice meeting, we talked about our experiences with government cheques. This is what people said:

I don't want to be on Welfare. But I have trouble getting a job. When I apply for jobs, I have to stay home waiting for their calls and I get pestered by my friends. They think I'm home just sitting around.



Finally I got in a program at George Brown College. The program was called B.E.T. - Basic Employment Training. But I didn't get to finish the course and now I'm back on welfare.

**Margaret Anne**



I tried to move to a new rooming house and they wouldn't change the cheque. After they phoned Paula, my worker at Archway, they changed it. I don't like people not believing me. That really bugs me. If I tell the truth, I tell the truth.

**Annie**



When you are 50 years old with no education, the Welfare people should not force you to fill out their job search forms.

If you do not know how to read and write, it is hard to fill out their forms.

**Andre**

It is surprising to find out that I'm not the only one who gets the run-around from Welfare. They lost my files. At Welfare, your worker makes out a form. It goes into a computer next. Sometimes it gets lost.

People don't know the rights they have with welfare. A worker cannot come into your house and say "You can't smoke or drink."

Workers give you a job list. Every place you go you have to mark down when and where you went for interviews.

A lot of people are scared of their workers. I used to be nervous when they came.

A lot of people who live common-law are afraid they'll lose their benefits. But there is a new law that says you can't lose your benefits.

**Rose, Paul and Hank**



# Computers Don't Make Mistakes... People Do!

by Hank Guindon

Ever since I've been on welfare,  
they have given me the run-around.  
To top it off, I had to run around twice  
to get my cheque.

Each time I get a new worker  
I have to go to the doctor's office  
to get a statement saying I can't work.

A worker came in November 1986  
to fill out a form  
so that I could get on Family Benefits.  
On Family Benefits, the worker visits once a year. On Welfare, they can come any time.

Anyway I found out three months later  
that it hadn't been put through yet.  
I haven't heard from her since.



The file was lost  
and was not put into the computer.

**Computers don't make mistakes, people do.**

My doctor told me he'll put it through himself if he has to.

If it wasn't for Chris Brillinger  
at Neighbourhood Information Post,  
I wouldn't have been able to do anything myself.

He gives people information about Welfare.  
He has been a great help to me.

# Prostuda Melissa's Budget

by Annie Akula

Item	Income	Expense	Balance
Family Benefits Cheque	42300		
-Rent		19500	
-Food & Cigarettes		14960	
-Cosmetics & toiletries		1000	
-Entertainment		1400	
-Metropass subsidized		500	
-Sundries includes dining out		2500	
TOTAL	42300	39860	2460

Prostuda Melissa had a hard time budgeting his money.

He went to the tavern with his friends and bought drinks. Then he had to pay rent at the rooming-house where he lived.

He had very little money left.

He was very skinny, and everybody thought he was dying.



Drawing by Annie Akula

# My Government Cheque

by Lesley MacKay

I get a government cheque.  
Half the money helps to pay for my parents' apartment,  
and half goes to me.  
I can't cash my cheque  
because it's in my mom's name.  
I asked her to sign it  
so that I could put it in my own bank account.  
But she said no.  
It's a very small cheque  
but I want to save money for my own apartment.

I need the money to buy bus tickets or a  
Metropass.  
If people won't help me  
with buying my tickets  
then I'll be stuck.  
It is hard.

Sometimes the government isn't much help.





East End Literacy

# Students for Action

**The Social Assistance Review Committee  
10th floor, 2195 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4S 2B2**

**February 1987**

To the Committee:

We are the Students for Action at East End literacy in Toronto. We come here to learn to read and write so we can make a better life for ourselves. Many of us are on Social Assistance. Just because there are no jobs it is not our fault.

We feel that we are not getting enough to live on. By the time we pay our rent, car-fare, and phone-bill there is very little left for food, clothes and necessities. On welfare, If we were to get a part-time job we would be penalized. We need a guaranteed annual income.

We feel that:

- the forms that the government send us are hard to understand because we have difficulty reading. We would appreciate it if you wrote them in Plain English (East End Literacy does a workshop on Plain English);
- more low rental housing is needed;
- there should be more job-training programs for people over the age of 24;
- social assistance is not a charity and
- it is no business of the front-line workers to ask us about our private lives.

Some of us went to Toronto City Hall in November 1986 to listen to deputations at the Social Assistance Review. We realized that there are other people like us. We are pleased to have this opportunity to help you to solve some of your problems.

# Write to your M.P.



It is important to let your Member of Parliament (M.P.) know how you feel about things like prisons, unemployment, immigration, or Canada Post. Did you know that you can write to your Member of Parliament in Ottawa? It is free; no postage is needed. It does not have to be a long letter. The government keeps track of the letters it receives.

## Fill in the blanks

(Write your name and address)

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(Write your M.P.'s name)

\_\_\_\_\_, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

# Prisons and Literacy

The Writer's Voice group read a newspaper article about inmates and literacy. In the article James Kelleher, the Solicitor General, said that inmates could lose privileges like family visits if they did not take literacy classes.

## Inmates warned against dodging literacy scheme

By David Vienneau Toronto Star

**OTTAWA - Illiterate inmates who refuse to learn to read, write and add may be denied prison privileges such as as family visits, temporary absences and jobs, Solicitor-General James Kelleber has announced.**

And they are also going to be told that their chances of being paroled will be reduced if they refuse to participate in a new Adult Basic Education program, to be implemented in all federal prisons beginning April 1.

"We're going to teach inmates in fderal penitentiaries how to read and write well enough so that they can meet the daily requirements of living and working in society," Kelleher told Queen's University students in Kingston yesterday.

Kelleher, who released a copy of this text in Ottawa, said the goal of the new program is to help 3,600 inmates achieve functional literacy - defined as competency in reading, writing and arithmetic at the Grade 8 level - in the next three years.

"I discovered that approximately half of all inmates, 6,000 men and women, are considered to be functionally illiterate," he said.

**"Of this number, less than 10 per cent - 500 inmates - have requested to be enrolled in literacy training, and only 150 complete the program each year."**

Under the program, it will be compulsory for a new inmates to take a literacy test on entering the system. This was not the case in the past, where 22 per cent of the approximately 12,500 inmates refused to be tested.

Kelleher said the program will be a prerequisite for inmate jobs and a consideration before the granting of privileges such as parole, temporary absences or family visits.

The illiteracy rate among prisoners is almost twice that of Canadians in general. The 1981 census found that 20 to 30 per cent of Canadians have a Grade 9 education.

**Toronto Star March 4, 1987**

We had a discussion and there were a few things that we did not agree with. We wrote a letter to the to the newspaper so that people could see how we felt.

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# East End Literacy

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265 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, Ontario, M5A 2G3 \* Phone 968-6989

To the Editor of the Toronto Star:

A few of us are awfully annoyed about David Vienneau's article on March 4th called "Inmates warned against dodging literacy scheme". Solicitor-General James Kelleher is going about it in the wrong way. Inmates should have a choice to go or not to go to classes. Parole and family visits are important to the rehabilitation of the inmates. Prisons can make them go to classes but they can't make them learn. Forcing literacy on students may discourage them from learning. We come as adults to East End Literacy because we went to learn. No one has forced us. If the literacy program in prisons is good, inmates will stick with it.

Sincerely,

The Students of the Writer's Voice Group.  
East End Literacy  
Toronto

**We sent copies to Mr. Kelleher and to David Crombie, our Member of Parliament. Both men sent us a reply.**

## Here is Mr. Crombie's Letter:

### OTTAWA OFFICE

Room 511-S, Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, K1A 0A6  
(819) 997-7788



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA  
K1A 0A6

### CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

Room 203  
65 Wellesley Street East  
Toronto, M4Y 1G7  
(416) 929-9845

HON. DAVID CROMBIE, P.C., M.P.  
Toronto-Rosedale

Ms. Margaret Anne Goheen  
Mr. Lloyd Pike  
Ms. Marguerite Godbout  
Mr. Resl Daiser  
Mr. Michael Moore

Mr. Hank Guindon  
Ms. Tenna Steiner  
Ms. Lesley MacKay  
East End Literacy  
265 Gerrard Street East Toronto, Ontario M5A 2G3

Dear Friends,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to James Kelleher, Solicitor General, regarding an article in the Toronto Star about prison inmates and literacy. I appreciate you letting me know your thoughts on this since each of you has experienced a literacy program on your own.

I want you to know I have requested that James Kelleher send me a copy of his response to your letter. As soon as I receive a reply, I will be back in touch with you.

Thanks for sending along a copy of your 1985 Annual Report and the fall 1986 copy of the writer's voice. I always enjoy looking through this publication as it is so well done. My congratulations and best wishes on a first class job.

Keep well, take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Crombie".

David Crombie, M.P.  
Rosedale

**This is a short version of the letter Mr. Kelleher wrote. It was hard to read. We edited it to make it easier to understand. The edited copy is on page 23.**

Dear Students:

Thank you for your recent letter and the attached copy of the Writer's Voice which I found most interesting. As you request, I am commenting on your concern that inmates may not learn if they are forced to go to literacy classes.

May I state at once that I agree with you that inmates should not be compelled to enroll in the school program. In fact, the thrust of the Adult Basic Education Initiative is to create an institutional climate in which functionally illiterate inmates will be encourage, but not compelled, to complete basic education to at least the Grade 8 level.

Literacy programs have always been available and inmates who were identified as needing this kind of training were urged to enter the programs; yet, in 1986-87, only about 150 completed the training. It seems clear to me, therefore, that if we are to address this problem, we must do much more to stimulate interest and, even more importantly, to allay the anxieties that now play a large part in deterring inmates from entering the school program.....

...The granting of privileges will not be denied to inmates not participating in Adult Basic Education but participation would be a positive factor when the granting of such privileges is under consideration.....

It is perfectly appropriate for literacy skills to be one of the factors considered in the granting of parole. Successful reintegration with society is extremely difficult if the released inmate cannot find employment, and there is no doubt that finding employment is a great and increasing problem for those who are functionally illiterate.....We now believe that the institutions should, wherever possible, ask for the same prerequisite skills that are demanded elsewhere, and we hope that this approach will not be seen as punitive, but rather, as an incentive to acquire the necessary education.....

I hope I have addressed your concerns adequately and I thank you very much for taking the time to send me this very thoughtful letter.

Yours sincerely,



James Kelleher

**Solicitor General  
of Canada**



**This is a simple version of Mr. Kellcher's letter. We tried to get the same meaning so that everyone can understand his point of view.**

Dear Students:

Thank you for your letter and the copy of the Writer's Voice. It was most interesting. Here are my comments:

I agree with you that inmates should not be forced to take the courses. We want to encourage inmates to finish school, at least to Grade 8. But we do not want to force them.

Only 150 inmates completed literacy training in 1986-87. This is a problem, because many inmates need to go to school. We have to do more to get them interested in these programs and we want them to feel comfortable at school, not afraid.

Inmates who don't go to school still have special privileges. But if inmates come to school, they will have a better chance of getting privileges.

We will look at an inmate's reading and writing skills when we decide who gets parole, and that is O.K. It will be easier for inmates to do well outside prison if they can get jobs, and it is easier to get a job if you can read and write. Prisoners will be required to have the same skills for prison jobs as they need for jobs outside prison. We hope this won't be a punishment, but that inmates will want to improve their skills and get better jobs.

I hope I have answered your questions. I thank you for taking the time to send me this very thoughtful letter.

Yours sincerely,

James Kelleher.

**We did not agree with his letter. We decided to write to him again. Here is our letter.**

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## East End Literacy

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265 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, Ontario, M5A 2G3 \* Phone 968-6989

July 15, 1987

Honourable James Kelleher  
Solicitor General  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0P8

Dear Mr. Kelleher:

Thank you for your letter on May 22nd. You may not be aware, but we had difficulty reading it. We had a long discussion about it and we needed help to understand it. A staff person edited your letter to make it clearer to us. Is our attached letter what you meant to say? If so, we would like to discuss this with you some more. If inmates don't go to literacy classes, they lose their privileges. We think that this means the same thing as being forced to go to classes.

If you would like to visit our program, you would be more than welcome. We would be happy to talk with you about literacy.

Sincerely,

The Writer's Voice Group

# Immigration

by E. T.

I was born in the West Indies, in a small country called Tobago. It lies about 95 miles east of Trinidad, its sister colony. Tobago is a beautiful and tranquil country.

I came to Canada in September 1973 as a tourist. I was accompanied by a very good friend. At the airport we were given three months to remain in this country. One week later my friend went back to the U.S.

One day I went back to the Immigration department. I was told I must have a job letter and start working if I wanted to remain in this country. I did so and was given more time.

This went on for a while, I kept getting more time until I met a fine gentleman from Scotland. We fell in love with each other and got married in May 1975. He helped me to get landed status. Unfortunately he passed away in May 1984.

In 1979 I applied for citizenship. I became a citizen in October of the same year and was joined by my daughter. I now take time off to thank the government of this country and its people for all they have done for me.



# I Want to Know ...

by Joseph Robinson

I want to know why  
I cannot get my kids  
to come here to me in Canada.  
I have been in this country  
for nine years.  
Why is Immigration giving me such a hard time?

I tried every year that God sent. I did all that they said  
I am supposed to do.  
They said the kids  
don't belong to me.

It isn't right for them to say that.  
If they aren't mine, who do they belong to?  
I've been taking care of them since before they were born!

Their mother wrote a letter  
signed by the Justice of the Peace in Jamaica.  
It said that the kids should come.  
Immigration said I had to show  
more proof that the kids were mine.

So I got a letter from the school they go to  
signed by their teacher,  
and from the church where they were christened  
signed by the parson.  
I also got a letter from the Justice of the Peace in my district.

People who know me, who know the kids are mine,  
they signed too.  
When I had done that, they told me I could appeal.  
But now, six months later, I haven't heard anything.  
If I don't phone my lawyer then I don't find out anything.

I go to Immigration  
and they tell me that not even  
citizenship will help me  
as far as they are concerned.



But I am supposed to have a right  
just like anybody else.

They are giving me a new story now.  
I've spent nine years of hard labouring with them  
and they still turn me down.  
Now they're saying the kids are too old to come.

They have passed the age  
at which they can come.  
The fault shouldn't be mine.  
The hold-up was Immigration, not me.

Since I've come to this country I've been working  
and all my earnings have gone to Immigration and a lawyer.  
I owed him \$800.  
And for what? I want to know.



# Refugees

One night at a Writer's Voice meeting, we asked the question:

**"Should the government make it harder for people to get into Canada as refugees?"**

Refugees come to Canada because they have been driven from their home country for political reasons or during a war.

There were many different opinions. We have printed some of them.

**Marguerite:** Yes, it should be harder. They should have a reason to come to Canada. One of these reasons could be escaping from their country to save their life.

**Lesley:** We should make it a little harder.

**Marilyn:** It should be harder. People should be honest when they come here. People coming in are taking our place.

**Lloyd:** No, they should not make it harder, but they should closely control the number of refugees. I feel that they should be allowed to bring their families with them.

**Tony:** The government should make it easier for refugees to come to Canada because the country they live in may be communist, or there may be very high unemployment and people can't manage to support themselves.

**Etta:** It was easy for me to get into Canada when I came in 1972, but not now. Now you need a visa, and someone has to sign a bond to promise that the person won't take off. I had to sign a bond for \$1000 for my niece. Then she went home, and they still wanted me to pay.

They don't grant refugee status to Jamaicans, but it's bad in Jamaica.

**Annie:** That's terrible. It's no good. What if there's a war in your country and you can't leave? My parents had to leave Russia because of the war.



**Rubert:**

I think that we should make it easier for people to come to Canada. They could create jobs for everyone and they would benefit from being here. Their new ideas could help us and our ideas could help them.

# Prank Calls

by Rose Doiron

I am getting threatening phone calls.

I would like to tell them to stop.



I looked in the phone book to find out what to do.

This is what it says:

- Don't talk to the caller.
- Hang up.
- If they keep calling, you can:
  - call the cops.
  - call Bell Telephone
  - get your number changed.



I found out that a person who makes prank calls can get six months in jail or a \$500 fine. I changed my phone number. He doesn't bother me anymore.

# Good Things From The Government

by Marguerite Godbout

I like my apartment because it is equipped for handicapped people. There are handrails in the bathroom to have a shower. my kitchen cupboards are easy to reach. The stove and fridge came with the apartment. I have two bathroom doors, one going to my bedroom and the other to my livingroom. It is nice and cozy. I would like to thank Metro Housing for helping me with my apartment.

i go to school everyday. I would like to thank East York Board of Education for paying my taxi-fare to school. When I was a little girl, I couldn't go to school. There was no transportation where I lived. I am so glad to be able to go to school now.

I go to East End Literacy every Wednesday night for the Writer's Voice. I got there by Wheel-Trans. The drivers are nice when they pick me up and then drive me home.

I feel better about myself now.



# Income Tax Forms

by Seatceah Nichols

I understand how to fill out some of the income tax form. The name address, and things like that are easy to fill out.

The boxes that show amounts of money are a problem.

People who cannot read and write cannot fill it out easily and so they get discouraged and confused.



Long before the deadline I went to the post office to get the tax form but no one could help me. I tried to do it myself. I felt ashamed to send it in when it was not done properly.



Even if they make it easier to read, people who can't read won't be able to do it. People who can read find it hard too.

Neighbourhood Information Post, (N.I.P), gives some help doing the forms.

They are very supportive.

# T-4 Slips

This is a T-4 slip for John Doe. It tells you:

**Box C:** John's employer paid him \$ 1 0,000.00 this year.

**Box D:** John paid \$142.00 for his Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

**Box E:** John paid \$235.00 for Unemployment Insurance(UIC).

**Box G:** John paid \$1022.00 for Income Tax.

- The amounts paid for CPP, UIC, and Income Tax are called deductions. This money gets deducted, or taken off, John's total (gross) pay.

The image shows a T-4 slip form with the following key information:

- Box C (Total Income):** 10,000.00
- Box D (CPP Contributions):** 142.00
- Box E (UIC Contributions):** 235.00
- Box G (Income Tax):** 1022.00
- Employee Name and Address:** DOE John, 265 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5A 2G3
- Employer Name and Address:** Parkdale Autobody, 1303 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6K 1L6

Find out what John's take-home (or net) pay is. This is the money he gets after the government takes off CPP, UIC, and Income Tax.

**Step #1:** Add CPP (Box D), UIC (Box E) and Tax (Box 0):

$$\$142.00 + \$235.00 + \$1022.00 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ (total deductions)}$$

**Step #2:** Subtract total deductions (Step #1) from Income (Box C):

$$\$10,000.00 - \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

The answers are on [page 43](#).

# Sheltered Workshops

by Eileen Mullen

When I was small I got sick a lot. I could not keep up with my school work. I had to go to special classes. When I turned 16, the teachers thought Beverley Street School would be helpful until I turned 18. Then they put me in the sheltered workshop.

I didn't like it there because the staff were always pushing me to do things.

They would not let us decide what we wanted to do. I tried other workshops and I didn't like them either.

Sheltered workshops are slave labour. They made us put little things in packages. The money was not enough to pay for carfare.

I finally got the courage to leave. I left in 1979 to try babysitting for a while. I was making lots more money and was happier. I moved out on my own. Now I go to school. I am learning new things everyday.



**Drawing by Annie Akula**

# Word Puzzle

These words from Eileen's story are hidden in the puzzle. Put a circle around all the words you can find.

The answers are on [page 43](#).

labour  
workshop  
happier  
money  
slave  
packages  
carfare  
sheltered

l	a	b	o	u	r	b	d	e	w
f	r	e	q	i	s	p	o	e	p
w	o	r	k	s	h	o	p	l	a
h	a	p	p	i	e	r	w	s	c
p	e	w	d	s	l	a	v	e	k
m	k	c	s	a	t	f	d	s	a
o	s	x	d	r	e	y	u	g	g
n	r	t	c	a	r	f	a	r	e
e	h	m	v	x	e	t	x	s	s
y	f	g	i	o	d	e	i	p	l

# Interview

by Lloyd Pike  
with Arthur Bull of the  
Ministry of Citizenship and Culture  
Government of Ontario



Arthur



Lloyd

Lloyd: What is your job?

Arthur: I work in the part of the ministry that does literacy. They started doing it in the fall of 1986. They are trying to do two things:

- To fund programs that are out there in the community and support them.
- To direct all the literacy things that happen in the Ontario Government.

Lloyd: How do you decide how much money to give to a literacy program?

Arthur: One of the main things is how much money we have to give. Our Ministry has five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to give to literacy.

This sounds like a lot of money. But in fact, there are more than one hundred (100) programs out there, and there's going to be more and more. There is not enough to give all the programs everything they want. We look at every program and see what they are doing based on the needs of the community.

Lloyd:

What are your goals for the future? Is your goal to reach out to more people to help them read and write? Is your goal to let them know there are places to go to without being embarrassed and let them know that there are people who care about them?

Arthur:

That's exactly it! The big goal of the Ministry is to help people play an active role in the community.

Lloyd: Does the government have property to give new programs?

Arthur: The government funds programs to rent space.

Lloyd: Will the government put out pamphlets that we can understand, and read ourselves.

Arthur: I hope so - Other Ministries , like Health or Consumer Affairs. come to us and say, " What can we do for literacy?" We say, "Make that stuff you are sending out easier to read."

Lloyd: What is the Ontario Government's stand on literacy?

Arthur: Literacy is a basic right for everybody. I think it is better now than it has ever been.

# City Politicians

East End Literacy is in Toronto's Ward 7. Jeff Evenson works for the Metro Councillor of Ward 7. He came to talk to The Writer's Voice group on February 4.

We were very interested in what he said to us. He spoke about what city governments do: everything from sewers, roads and parks to housing and services for the handicapped.

Jeff said that city politicians are very easy to get ahold of - just phone! They can help you with many problems, and tell you who to get in touch with.



If you send them a letter, you can get results.

# A Municipal Election

by Mario Pietrantonio

In October 1985 I got involved in the municipal election. I met the candidate and we talked about the issues concerning the election.

The first task was to work at the headquarters, answering the phone, making signs and coordinating the crew. Also I did canvassing in shopping centres and in my neighbourhood. One time thrown out of a shopping centre because I was handing out political pamphlets.



I went to some of the all-candidates meetings and watched the other candidates express their views. One of the main points was the expense of the new Mississauga City Hall. One of the candidates said that they bought American bricks instead of Canadian bricks.

I had fun working on the campaign. I learned more about how elections are run.

# Gingersnaps Recipe



We got this recipe for gingersnaps from the East End Crafts and Cooking Group. In the picture, Rose and John are demonstrating some of the activities of the group, and giving out the cookies at the World Literacy Day party in Toronto. Try the recipe, and enjoy the cookies! If you want to join the Crafts and Cooking Group, phone East End Literacy (968-6989) for information.

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## **Recipe:**

3/4 cups shortening

2 cups sugar

2 eggs

1/2 cup molasses

2 teaspoons vinegar

4 cups flour

2 teaspoons baking soda

1/2 teaspoons cinnamon

3 teaspoons ginger

1. Preheat oven to 325 F
2. Mix together sugar and shortening.
3. Add eggs, molasses and vinegar. Mix well.
4. Stir together the flour, sugar baking soda, cinnamon and ginger. Add to first mixture (step 3) and mix well.
5. Form dough into small balls on the cookie sheet.
6. Bake for about 12 minutes.

# Movie Review

by Debbie, James, Linda and Seymour

A group of East End students went to see a film called "Bluffing It". It's about a man who couldn't read or write. It starred Dennis Weaver and was filmed in Toronto. Here are some of our thoughts:

"We have to lie to cover up that we can't read to people and friends."

"I had a friend that could read and write very well. But she didn't want me to learn anything at all. She was scared of losing me."

"My wife is helping me to go back to school and wants me to learn to read and write so that I can read to my children. We will still be together if I can read or not. We will still do things together. I am a lucky person to have an understanding wife."

"In the movie, he had an accident. He went for help and he had to admit that he couldn't read the signs. I know just how he felt."

The movie was very good. It was interesting and got the message to the people about reading and writing. Now the public knows how valuable a tutor is. If it wasn't for his tutor, he wouldn't be able to read to his granddaughter.



# Puzzle Answers

From [page 34](#) "T-4 Slips"

## Step 1

Total Deductions

\$ 142.00  
 \$ 232.00  
\$1,022.00  
 #1,399.00

## Step 2

Take-home pay (net pay)

\$10,000.00  
-\$ 1,399.00  
 \$ 8,601.00

From [page 7](#)



From [page 36](#)



# Our Next Issue:

The next issue of The Writer's Voice will be about **Education.**

If you have a story about education, ask your tutor to help you write it down. We will put it in the next issue of The Writer's Voice.

Here are some story ideas:

- going to school as a child
- adult upgrading courses
- learning in a literacy program
- how I learn

The Writer's Voice group meets every Wednesday, 6-8 pm at East End Literacy.

All students and tutors are welcome.

Call us at 968-6989.



# Thank You!

This book was written by:

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We love to hear from our readers. Please write to:

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