



# 2003 -2004 Annual Report

*Literacy for All — Learning for Life*

## *Report from the Chair*

My second and final year as Chair of the Board has been characterized by new initiatives for the Alliance.

The executive director participated in a review of programs at the Provincial Correctional Centre. As a result, inmates are making and donating Storysacks to the Provincial Library Service. This initiative has encouraged some links to the community for inmates and encouraged a few to seek further literacy training.

Destination Employment, a job experience program for people with learning disabilities, found a home at the Alliance office again this year. This HRDC-sponsored program has operated across Canada for a number of years and this year we were lucky to hire Blaine Hrabí and then Sandra LeBlanc to implement it for us.

In April we invited Gail MacDougall, an instructor at Foothills Academy, to present workshops on reading strategies for teachers and parents to use with children. She also gave a public presentation. This was one of a series of initiatives that helped the Alliance foster the renewed Learning Disabilities Association of PEI. This new association is working hard to raise public and government awareness of learning disabilities.

In November of 2004 we are presenting a Provincial Literacy Summit in Charlottetown. The Summit has gathered a huge amount of interest. Even at this early stage it appears this will be a successful and important event.

We hope the Summit will lay the foundation for an action agenda for literacy in PEI including strategies for influencing policy direction, common guidelines for new and renewed literacy initiatives, plus plans for various literacy communities to work together to improve literacy for all PEI citizens.

I wish to thank fellow Board members who have willingly shared their wisdom and been very patient with me. The dedicated staff, Catherine and Norman, have always been supportive, never failing to keep me informed. I extend to them sincere thanks for their generosity during my years on this Board. We are a very fortunate organization to have them working for us.

Now, in my upcoming year as Past Chair, I hope to watch my successor have the same rewarding experience I had as Chair of the PEI Literacy Alliance.



*Nora Young*

# Minutes 2003 AGM

September 8, 2003, 6:00 pm

In attendance:

Don Anderson	Holland College (retired)	Shauna Sullivan Curley
Bernice Bell	Alliance Board	Department of Education
Tracey Biggar	PEI Council of the Disabled	Paul Trainor Bradley and Shea
Mary Burke	Alliance Board	Ken Williams PEI Home and School
Ian Carr	City of Charlottetown	Association
Karen Chandler	Workplace Education PEI	Nora Young Alliance Board
Leo Cheverie	Federation of Labour	
Ray Doiron	Alliance Board	
Jude Driscoll	Occupational Therapist Society	Regrets:
Norman Finlayson	Alliance staff	Janet McLeod Alliance Board
Karen Gaudet	Department of Education	Joanne McCabe Alliance Board
Barb Gibson	AIDS PEI	
Elizabeth Gill	Fitzroy Centre	
Allan Groen	Alliance Board	
Marie Hickey		
Lori Johnston	Literacy Initiatives Secretariat	
Sandra LeBlanc	Alliance staff	
Peggy Logan	Employment Enhancement	
Maitland MacIsaac	Learning & Reading Partners	
Angela MacKinnon	AIDS PEI	
Barbara Macnutt	Literacy Initiatives Secretariat	
Brian MacPhee	Award winner	
Laura Mair	Project L.O.V.E.	
Linda Meggs	Alliance Board	
Shawn Murphy, MP	Government of Canada	
Jim Nimmo	Laubach Literacy-PEI	
Liz Nimmo	Project L.O.V.E.	
Catherine O'Bryan	Alliance staff	
Lori Patriquen		
Dolly Perry	Fitzroy Centre	
Dianne Peters		
Daniel Poirier		
Maurice Poirier	PEI Teachers Federation	
Thomas Prowse	Award winner	
Ian Scott	Department of Education	

## **Welcome**

Nora Young thanked everyone for coming and recognized special guests Shawn Murphy, MP for Hillsborough, Shauna Sullivan Curley, Deputy Minister of Education and Barbara Macnutt of the Literacy Initiatives Secretariat.

## **Agenda Review**

Nora reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any additions.

## **Review of Minutes of the 2002 AGM**

Nora read the minutes of last year's meeting. She moved acceptance of the minutes. Dolly Perry seconded.

Motion carried.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Nora read out her report. She moved acceptance of her report. Mary Burke seconded.

Motion carried.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Catherine O'Bryan reviewed highlights from her report.

She discussed our renewed Destination Employment program and introduced Regional Coordinator Sandra LeBlanc. She also discussed our new partnership with the Provincial Correctional Centre with the Storysacks project and Turning a New Page.

She said the National Literacy Secretariat invited the Alliance to submit a three-year funding proposal, which was accepted. This will lessen our reporting requirements.

She thanked the board for their work and Norman Finlayson for his office support.

She moved acceptance of her report. Jim Nimmo seconded.

Motion carried.

### **Financial Report**

In Janet McLeod's absence, Vice Chair Ray Doiron reviewed the financial highlights of the past year and reported that the Alliance is in a healthy financial position.

He moved acceptance of his report. Angela MacKinnon seconded.

Motion carried.

### **Auditor's Report**

Ray introduced Paul Trainor of Bradley & Shea who highlighted items from the financial reports. Paul recommended that some of the surplus be used for Alliance work.

Ray Doiron moved acceptance of the auditor's report. Elizabeth Gill seconded.

Motion carried.

Ray Doiron moved that Bradley & Shea be appointed auditors for another year. Elizabeth Gill seconded.

Motion carried.

### **Nominations Report and Election of Board**

Ray Doiron welcomed returning board members for the 2003-2004 year. They are Nora Young, Janet McLeod, Linda Meggs, Ray Doiron, Allan Groen, and Joanne McCabe.

Angela MacKinnon and Joyce McCardle were nominated to the board. Ray asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations. He welcomed Angela and Joyce to the Alliance board.

Ray thanked retiring board members Mary Burke, Ann Sherman, Bernice Bell, and Velda Crane and gave them small gifts.

### **Announcements**

Dolly Perry announced that she has passed her General Education Diploma (GED) tests. She is also a tutor for Elizabeth Gill.

Allan Groen welcomed the Federation of Labour as a new member of the Alliance, and introduced Leo Cheverie of the Federation.

## **Laura Mair Presentation Adjournment**

Former Executive Director Laura Mair presented “Serendipity,” a history of the PEI Literacy Alliance from 1988 to 1994. Nora Young thanked her and presented her with a small gift.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. Nora encouraged everyone to stay for the Canada Post Literacy Awards and the reception to follow.



## **Special Awards Presentation**

Barbara Macnutt introduced Deputy Minister Shauna Sullivan Curley, who presented the following awards:

The American Council of Education plaque is for attaining the highest GED scores in PEI. This year’s winner is Brian MacPhee.

The Atomic Energy of Canada Limited Scholarship is given to someone who passes their GED tests the first time and is pursuing post secondary studies in a science field. This year’s winner is Thomas Prowse.

A special Workplace Education award was given to the City of Charlottetown for their workplace program.

## **New Literacy Alliance Publications**

The Alliance is pleased to announce a series of fact sheets and brochures about the Social Assistance and Child Care Subsidy Programs. The titles in the series are:

- Basic and Special Needs
- Common Question
- Housing
- Appeals
- Help With Drug Costs
- The Child Care Subsidy Program



If you would like any of these fact sheets or brochures, call us at 368-3620 or toll-free at 1-866-827-3620.

You can also get them by going to our web site [www.pei.literacy.ca](http://www.pei.literacy.ca) and clicking on “publications.”

# Executive Director's report

We have had another busy year at the Alliance. Our mission statement: "The PEI Literacy Alliance advances literacy for the people of Prince Edward Island" defines the scope of our activities.

This was the first year of a new three-year funding cycle. We had some new initiatives and repeated some successful activities.

Some of our major efforts were:

- completing and distributing of "Fact Sheets on Social Assistance in PEI"
- help to establish the revived Learning Disabilities Association of PEI
- planning and organizing the 2004 Literacy Summit: advancing the literacy agenda

The Literacy Summit is planned for November 4 and 5, 2004.

We hope it will bring together people from across the Island with an interest in literacy policy.

Community groups, business and government partners have been invited to attend.

Our board defines the direction for the organization through its

"ENDS" or outcome statements, while the job of the executive director is to determine how to work toward these "ENDS."

This year we added a fourth statement to our list. When the Board has defined the ENDS statements and added any elaboration to them then, the Executive Director gives a reasonable interpretation of the ENDS and decides how best to use the resources available to complete the work.

Here is a recap of our ENDS or outcome statements.

**END #1**  
*Gaps and overlaps in literacy services to adult learners and their families will be decreased.*

Organizations with an interest in literacy will share information about trends, issues and successes.

**END #2**  
*Barriers to people with low literacy levels will be reduced.*

Adult learners will know how to access opportunities for learning.

People's learning needs will be properly identified.

Islanders will be able to use the printed material commonly found in the home, at work and in the community.

**END #3**  
*Islanders will be better informed about the costs of low literacy on economic, cultural, political and social aspects of life.*

Federal and Provincial policy-makers will be better informed.

Families will be better informed about the costs of low literacy.

Member organizations will be better informed about the costs of low literacy.

**END #4**  
*Literacy will be valued and celebrated across PEI.*

Families will know about the value of literacy and will recognize their role in promoting it

On the following pages I have briefly described some of our projects. I have also listed the conferences and workshops we attended, the committees we worked on and people we met

# Project Reports

throughout 2003-2004.

In April we met with Lynne Lalonde and Tom Vigneaut of the National Literacy Secretariat. They encouraged us to submit a proposal for an evaluation workshop that we hope to hold in the fall. This workshop will train a small group of trainers from each Atlantic province so they can in-turn provide information to community groups in their own provinces. We have also received some NLS funding for the 2004 Literacy Summit.

I'd like to thank the board of directors and especially Chair Nora for her support during this hectic year.

Thanks again to Norman Finlayson the excellent office manager and technical wizard at the Alliance who offers sober second thought at all times. Your teamwork and support helps make the Alliance a success.

*Catherine O'Bryan*

## March Break Spelling Bee



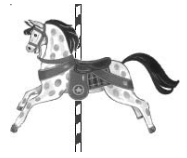
We held our first spelling bee at the Confederation Centre on March 20. Over 125 children from 6 to 12 years old turned out to compete. The day was a great success, thanks to planning advice from Bill Kendrick of the Summerside Rotary Club and our volunteers who included three sage judges Allan Groen, Linda Meggs and Trudy MacDonald. Island Radio's Anne McRae was our official pronouncer.

## 2003 PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy



One hundred and twenty-eight golfers enjoyed beautiful weather at our 13th annual **PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy** on June 13. They helped raise over \$28,000 for Island literacy. Friday the thirteenth was a lucky day for Gerald Beaulieu. He not only won a CBC contest to play in the tournament, but also scored a hole-in-one and claimed a Honda Civic Sedan from Capital Honda, a PGI first.

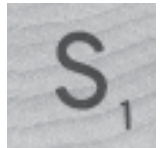
## 2004 Family Literacy Carousel



Our annual Family Literacy Carousel at the Charlottetown Mall attracted over 200 parents and their children. They picked up family literacy kits, watched puppet shows, enjoyed the Reading Tent and music with Mike Pendergast. Our celebrity readers included CBC's Matt Rainnie, Minister of Education Mildred Dover, Provincial Librarian Allan Groen, and May Ames, the "Story Nanny." Artist Dale McNevin led kids through a special drawing activity.

## Scrabble Tournament for Literacy

The big blizzard in February postponed our 2004 Scrabble tournament until April. Over sixty people came out to play in either the "Fun" or "Competitive" divisions. Local merchants and the CBC donated modest prizes. Karen Mair of *Island Morning*, was our MC for the awards ceremony and Joanne McCabe was our learned judge. Barbara Macnutt won the fun division, and Barbara Bovaird was the competitive winner.



# Activities

## **Conferences/Presentations/Meetings**

Book Launch/press conference - April 10  
"Looking Good in Print" - April 29  
Dieticians Plain Language presentation - May 14  
Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) -  
May 27-June 1  
Women's Network AGM - June 24  
Canada Post Literacy Awards - September  
Council of the Disabled AGM - October 18  
MCL - Oct 20-26  
Media Workshop - October 24  
Premier's Council Think Tank -October 30  
PGI National committee meeting - November  
Rising Tide press conference - December 16  
Family Literacy Carousel - January 24  
Library Presentation - January 27  
MCL Executive Directors meeting - March 5-8  
Kids on the Block - March 17  
March Break Spelling Bee - March 20  
Semi-annual meeting - March 24  
Canada Reads presentation and unveiling of  
painting - March 30

## **Committees and Boards**

PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy Planning  
Institute of Adult and Community Education  
Advisory Committee  
Children's Working Group  
LDA-PEI  
Working Group on Learning Disabilities  
Families Learning Together Advisory  
Community Legal Information Board  
Women's Network-PEI Board  
Professional development LDA-PEI  
Key Messages Steering Committee  
Partnerships for Children Evaluation  
Provincial Correctional Centre Program  
Provincial Literacy Strategy  
Family Literacy Committee

## **Consultations**

Barbara Macnutt, Literacy Initiatives Secretariat  
Clayton Coe, Department of Education  
Dale McNevin, graphic designer  
Laurie Ann McCardle, Women's Network  
Avril Vollenhoven, Canada Post  
Nancy Murphy, Community Development Bureau

Dutch Inn staff  
Kevin Arsenault, Association for  
Newcomers  
Lorraine Beck, Association for  
Newcomers  
Mary Burke, Frontier College  
Asifa Rahman,  
Dr. Ray Doiron, UPEI  
Erin Casey, graphic designer  
Tom Vigeant, National Literacy  
Secretariat  
Heather Wightman, CBC  
Jake Baird, Institute for Adult and  
Community Education  
Jim Nimmo, Laubach Literacy of PEI  
Kathy Flanagan Rochon, Health and  
Social Services  
Barbara Nymark, CBC Charlottetown  
Lori Johnston, Literacy Initiatives  
Secretariat  
Lynne Lalonde, National Literacy  
Secretariat  
Verna Ryan, Provincial Correctional  
centre  
Carolyn Hewson, Atlantic Veterinary  
College  
Velma Higginbotham, Holland College  
Florissa Abreau, consultant  
Dave Wright, accountant  
Matt Rainnie, CBC  
Ruth Rogerson and Karen Chandler,  
Workplace Education-PEI  
Jan Greer, Literacy Coalition of NB  
Deb MacPhedran, MCL  
Barb Kissick, Confederation Centre  
Library  
Bill Kendrick, Rotary Spelling Bee  
Heather Wightman, CBC  
Ralph Goodale, Minister of Finance  
Shawn Murphy, MP Hillsborough  
Carol Fraser, LLC-PEI  
Nadine Koch-Smith and James  
Aylward, Confederation Centre

# Treasurer's Report

The Alliance has fared well this year. We completed the first year of our three-year funding cycle. The annual report describes some of the activities carried out using these funds.

**Destination Employment**, a job experience program for people with learning disabilities was hosted at the Alliance again this year. We received funds from the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada through a Canada-wide HRDC program to hire a regional coordinator to deliver the program. This project was renewed for 2004-2005.

The **2003 Summer Tutoring Program for Kids** received funding through HRDC from their Summer Career Placement program. Twenty-one tutors, mostly Education students, provided one-to-one tutoring for up to 600 children last summer. Other sponsors included the school boards, the Department of Education, Provincial Library Service and the Community Development Bureau.

The **2003 PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy** raised over \$28,000 for literacy in PEI. The money was distributed through ten \$500 bursaries to adult learners, three \$1500 scholarships for post-secondary education, support for the LEARN Line and other initiatives of the Alliance.

On the advice of our auditors we have overspent this year by about \$9,500 to reduce our surplus. The Alliance continues on a sound financial footing and we have savings in the event that any funding sources become unavailable. This spring the board initiated a program of literacy grants to spend some of these savings to advance literacy in PEI. Our proposed Literacy Summit in November will also use some of our savings. These expenditures will be reflected in next year's financial statements.

We have had a very productive year and have used our project funds to move literacy forward in PEI.

*Janet McLeod*



## **\$500 Bursaries for Adults**

The PEI Literacy Alliance will award ten bursaries to adults who are working toward a grade 12 certificate or grade 12 equivalency (GED). Laubach Literacy students are also welcome to apply. Each bursary is valued at \$500.

**For more information and an application form please call 902-368-3620. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2004.**



# ***Nominations Report***

Article 5.1 of our Constitution states that :

The Directors of the Governing Board of the PEI Literacy Alliance shall consist of 7-10 representatives of non-profit organizations, elected by the Membership

The PEI Literacy Alliance is pleased to welcome our returning board members for 2004-2005 year:

**Ray Doiron** returning as **Chair** for a two-year term

**Joanne McCabe** returning for a second year of her second two-year term

**Nora Young** returning as **Past- Chair** for one year

**Angela MacKinnon** returning for a second year of a two-year term

**Joyce McCardle** returning for a second year of a two-year term

**Angela Larter** returning for a second year of a two-year term

**People offering for the 2004-2005 Board include:**

**Karen Chandler** from Workplace Education-PEI

**Donna Langille** from the Community Legal Information Association

**Audrey Penner** from the Institute for Adult and Community Education

**Carrie St-Jean** from the PEI Teachers' Federation

We would like to thank our retiring Board members: **Allan Groen, Janet McLeod and Linda Meggs.**


A special thank you goes to **Nora Young** our outgoing Chair. Her special interest in literacy and constant good humour made it a pleasure to work with her over the past two years.




## Nominations to the Board

These people have been nominated to the PEI Literacy Alliance Board for the 2004 – 2006 term of office:


**Donna Langille** works for the **Community Legal Information Association**. Her skills include writing, research, facilitation and education. Donna has extensive experience with non-profit groups, as both a board member and an employee. Some of the groups are Epilepsy PEI, Parkdale-Sherwood Head Start, Hensley Green Housing Co-op and the Hamilton Natural Foods Co-op.




**Karen Chandler** is a field officer for **Workplace Education PEI**. She offers a wealth of experience in the education field, and serves on national committees for literacy and essential skills. She has been a volunteer and a participant in our PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy, has taken part in many Alliance activities and been a volunteer with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. She and her colleague Ruth Rogerson authored the companion *Instructors Guide* to our *Guide to Social Assistance in PEI*.



**Audrey Penner** is the program manager with the **Institute of Adult and Community Education**. While working towards her master's degree, she was a research assistant on *Families Learning Together*, a family literacy project sponsored by the National Literacy Secretariat. She has been president of both a national and provincial board of directors, and has served on a variety of other boards. She has been actively involved with the PEI Home and School Federation. She recently returned from Honduras where she volunteered for American Assistance International.



**Carrie St. Jean** is a member-at-large with the **PEI Teachers' Federation**, and she is the teacher-librarian at Glen Stewart School. She also works as a resource teacher helping grade one students learn to read. She has served on the PEI Teachers' Federation board and the PEI Teacher-Librarians' Association executive for several years, and she is an elder with Trinity United Church. Carrie says, "I know our initiatives in literacy are working when I have to mediate between my students who are arguing over who should get to borrow a book first."



## Member Organizations

AIDS PEI  
Canadian Mental Health Association - PEI  
Community Legal Information Association  
Employment Enhancement Program  
Frontier College  
Holland College  
Human Resources Development Canada  
Laubach Literacy of Canada - PEI  
Learning Disabilities Association of PEI  
Movement for Canadian Literacy  
PEI Adult Learners Association  
PEI Association for Adult Educators  
PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada  
PEI Association for Community Living  
PEI Council of the Disabled  
PEI Department of Education  
PEI Federation of Labour  
PEI Home and School Federation  
PEI Literacy Initiatives Secretariat  
PEI Professional Librarians' Association  
PEI Teachers' Federation  
PEI Provincial Library Service  
PEI Women's Network Inc.  
Project L.O.V.E.  
Société éducative de l'Île-du-Prince Édouard  
Transition House Association  
University of Prince Edward Island  
Workplace Education PEI

## What you can do...

If you would like to improve your reading or know someone who has a difficulty contact the **LEARN Line at 1-800-348-7323.**

**Laubach Literacy** is a volunteer group which matches adults who want to work on their reading skills with tutors who want to help. The one-on-one tutoring is free and confidential.

If you are interested in becoming a tutor, you can attend a three-evening tutor training workshop this fall.

In Summerside, the workshop will be on September 15, 22 and 29th from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the PEI Youth Centre. To register or for more information call the LEARN Line at 1-800-348-7323.

In Charlottetown, the workshop will be on October 22, 29 and November 5 from 6 to 9 pm at Royalty Centre. To register or for more information call the LEARN Line at 1-800-348-7323.

## How to contact us

### Staff:

Catherine O'Bryan  
Executive Director

Norman Finlayson  
Office Manager/Researcher

The PEI Literacy Alliance is a registered charitable organization.

### Mailing address:

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Tel: 902-368-3620

Fax: 902-368-3269

### E-mail:

[peiliteracy.alliance@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:peiliteracy.alliance@pei.sympatico.ca)

### Website:

<http://www.pei.literacy.ca>

# ***Thank you***

The PEI Literacy Alliance acknowledges the support of :

- National Literacy Secretariat
- Department of Education
- Lynne Lalonde and Tom Vigneault, NLS program officers
- Barbara Macnutt, Literacy Initiatives Secretariat
- ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation
- Donna MacEwen, McInnes Cooper
- Canada Post Corporation
- PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Scotiabank
- Learning Disabilities Association of Canada
- The Co-operators
- Metro Credit Union
- APM group
- Island Coastal Services
- The Guardian
- Island Press
- CBC Charlottetown
- Community Development Bureau
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Psychological Association of Prince Edward Island

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## ***Special thanks to our 2003-2004 governing board***

Nora Young, Chair  
Ray Doiron, Vice Chair  
Janet McLeod, Treasurer  
Allan Groen  
Linda Meggs

Joanne McCabe  
Angela Larter  
Angela MacKinnon  
Joyce McCardle