

Marica Babic

**Marica Babic is a recent winner of the PEI Literacy Alliance \$500 bursary.
This is the essay she submitted with her application.**



I was born in Croatia. It is a little country in middle Europe. My childhood was very nice. I loved my family, friends and I enjoyed going to school. But my parents did not have money for my education, so I had to give up my dream to become a teacher.

I love my country with all my heart. But it does not give any chance to young people. They usually leave their homes and start a new life away from their loved ones.

I have been in Canada for eleven months now. I go to school every day and I am very happy. Last spring I attended ESL course in Holland College. Now I take the GED program. I like it very much. There is a little of every subject and a great deal of English.

My dream has always been going to university. If I go to UPEI, nobody will be happier than me. I want to study Arts because I like reading, writing. I always find a little time to read a book -- before going to school or work or at lunchtime. It helps me to improve my English.

I like very much the way Canadians think and live. They seem so relaxed. They say that anything is possible in Canada, that all of us deserve a chance to succeed.

If I get a chance to reach my goal I will work very hard, I will do my best because of me, my future but also because of nice people who help me when I am sad or homesick. I am grateful for everything I got in Canada. This is my home now. I love it because I am feeling very welcome.

Marica Babic

Marica attends Adult and Community Education at Holland College. She recently wrote and passed her GED exam. Now she is working on her academic high school credits.