



PEI
LITERACY
ALLIANCE



Annual Report

2022-2023

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**Thank you to the Province of PEI for providing
us with \$150,000 of operational funding in
2022-2023**



Literacy Opens Doors

Year at a Glance

We supported 5,865 clients with free literacy programs and resources

648 children gained literacy and social-emotional strategies to help them conquer their learning challenges.

42,676 books distributed to children in PEI serving **5207** families

23 future educators by providing tutor training in wise practices related to literacy and social-emotional learning

New funding secured
Our Essential Employability Skills Program will start up again in 2023-2024 for 36 adults.

10 adult learners returning to school received financial support through bursaries and scholarships

Thousands of Islanders are better informed about the costs of low-literacy and the benefits of increasing literacy skills

\$669,399 Funding Secured for 2022-2023

Literacy in PEI

40% of kindergarten-aged children in PEI who completed the Early Years Evaluation did not meet the developmental milestones in at least one of the five skill areas. (2017 Children's Report)

950 Island children in grades K to 6 were referred to us by resource teachers this year because they were struggling with reading, writing and math. Note: This number would likely be higher if we did not limit the number of referrals.

45% of working-aged Islanders do not have the literacy skills needed to succeed in our digital world. (PIAAC 2012)

Literacy is a basic human right. An investment in literacy is an investment in the future of PEI. Without strong literacy and essential skills it is difficult for people to be fully engaged at work, in their community and at home. Research shows improving literacy and essential skills creates:

- More employment and higher incomes
- A stronger Island economy
- Better health and well being
- Increased community and family engagement
- Less crime and safer communities

Our Mission

We make it easier for people to access literacy services so that they can reach their full potential.



Ready Set Learn

Ready Set Learn celebrated its 22nd year this summer!

This program is a free summer tutoring program for children who struggle with reading, writing and math. We offer this program to children in grades K to 6 in English, French Immersion and Francophone programs across Prince Edward Island. Each child receives 45 minutes of tutoring each week for eight weeks during the summer months. Our tutors are trained to create a safe, fun, and positive learning experience.

New Focus on Social Emotional Learning

We integrated social-emotional learning into our tutoring sessions to address the challenges our students face: lack of confidence, frustration, anxiety, lack of self regulation, and negative self talk. We carefully selected resources for our tutors to use with children that explored themes of social-emotional learning, such as empathy, and perseverance. We also equipped our tutors with resources that promote reframing negative thinking to positive, growth mindset thinking.

648 children gained literacy and social-emotional strategies to help them conquer their learning challenges.



“I learned not to give up on myself.”

- Grade 5 student participant

23 future educators gained training and experience in teaching literacy and social emotional learning strategies.



Thank you to our program funders and partners



Imagination Library and Gift of Reading

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a free book-giving program devoted to inspiring a love of reading in children and families. Each month, children ages 0-4 enrolled in the program receive a high quality, age-appropriate book in the mail for free.

Our Gift of Reading program distributes free children's books to families in need through Christmas Hampers in partnership with Food Banks and PEI Public Library Service.

42,676 books distributed to children in PEI serving 5207 families



“The love for books that has happened with our daughter is incredible. When she sees a new book in the mail, it becomes something she carries with her daily for weeks! I'm so grateful for such an amazing program”

- *Imagination Library parent*



Thank you to our program funders and partners



Essential Employability Skills

Essential Employability Skills prepares adults who are underemployed or unemployed for the workforce. This program gives participants 180 hours of classroom training and a six-week work placement in the healthcare sector. Our original funding agreement for this program came to an end after four successful years. We spent the early part of this year looking for new funding and are happy to announce we will offer this program for three cohorts, or 36 participants, in 2023-2024.

We secured funding to continue this program in 2023-2024

We partnered with Skills PEI and the Government of Canada.



“The recipe to success really speaks to the determination and foresight of the PEI Literacy Alliance, the people they hire to put these programs on, and the participants and community and industry partners that come on board to make it all happen.”

- Mary Hunter, Skills PEI



Thank you to our program funders and partners



Adult Learner Awards Program

Each year, we award \$750 bursaries to adults who are working toward a grade 12 certificate or grade 12 equivalency (GED).

We also award \$1500 scholarships to adults who have completed their GED and are enrolled in a post-secondary institution working toward a diploma or degree.

We awarded six \$750 Bursaries



Thank you to our bursary sponsors



“I am thankful to be on my path in the nursing program and am thankful for this scholarship to help me on my way. I look forward to my future as an RN and a member of the healthcare field.”

- Lydia Cudmore, scholarship winner
(pictured right)



We awarded three \$1500 scholarships

Thank you to our scholarship sponsor



Celebration of Learning

Our **Celebration of Learning** celebrates the success stories of learners, recognizes literacy champions in our community, and raises funds to support our literacy programs. This year's event was hosted in the Florence Simmons Performance Hall with MC and comedian Patrick Ledwell and PEI's Poet Laureate, Tanya Davis. Musical entertainment and food was provided by Holland College Culinary and SOPA students. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

\$27,500 was raised to support literacy programs in PEI



Opening by
Julie Pellissier-Lush



Performance by
Tanya Davis



Food by Holland College
Culinary students



Literacy Champion, Eileen
White (in black)



Emceed by
Patrick Ledwell

“I wouldn't be where I am without PEI Literacy Alliance. Taking their employability program helped solidify my decision to continue my education and enroll in the RCW program to pursue a career in healthcare.”

- Matt Perry, participant in our Essential Employability Skills program and winner of the Learner Achievement Award



Thank you to our event sponsors



Public Awareness

We use traditional and social media to promote our free literacy programs and to raise awareness about the benefits of increasing literacy skills and the costs of low literacy on economic, cultural, political and social aspects of life.

Thousands of Islanders are better informed about literacy in PEI

4847 followers on social media Island wide

5734 subscribers to our quarterly e-news

Thank you to our media partners



Our Members

ADHD PEI

BGC Charlottetown

Black Culture Society of PEI

Bookmark

Canadian Mental Health Association

Canadian Union of Public Employees

CHANCES Family Centre

Collège de l'Île

Community Legal Information

Creative PEI

Coopérative d'intégration Francophone de l'IPÉ

Dance Stars Academy

Department of Education and Lifelong Learning

Early Childhood Development Association of PEI

Greater Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce

Holland College

Immigrant & Refugee Services Association of PEI

Institute of Advanced Learning

La Commission de la langue française

Learning Disabilities Association of PEI

Lennox Island First Nation

Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI

Native Council of PEI

PEERS Alliance

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

PEI Association for Community Living

PEI Business Women's Association

PEI Department of Social Development and Housing

PEI Family Violence Prevention Services

PEI Federation of Labour

PEI Home and School Federation

PEI Public Library Service

PEI Senior Citizens' Federation

PEI Speech and Hearing Association

PEI Teachers Federation

PEI Trucking Sector Council

PEI Writers' Guild

Provincial Realty

Resource Abilities

Richardson Wealth PEI

Scotiabank - Charlottetown Branch

Steam PEI and Bricks4Kids

The Acorn Press

The Employment Journey

Tops to Floors

United Way of PEI

UPEI, Faculty of Education

Women's Network

Workplace Learning PEI Inc.

Our Staff



Jinny Greaves
Executive Director



Amanda Beazley
Programs Director



Christine Snowden
Ready Set Learn Manager



Lily Reaman
Essential Employability
Skills Manager

2022 Summer Tutors

Mia Stewart

Chloe MacAdam

Haydyn MacAulay

Emma McQuaid

Hillary Smallman

Ava Stewart

Jodi Cameron

Jensen Wood

Jamie MacAulay

Rebecca Hayes

Avery Laflamme

Loren Enman

Claire MacPhee

Emma Hughes

Lydia Enman

Gracie Burns

Leovina Tocjayao

Bailey Gaudet

Alyx Ellis

Hannah Lok

Shelby Beaton

Emilie Willis

Ellie MacLeod

Our Board of Directors



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Literacy Opens Doors

www.peiliteracy.ca