

Making a Difference by making Connections



Frontier College is a national charity leading Canada's transformational literacy movement. We work with volunteers, partners, and communities to ensure that everyone has access to effective, literacy-based learning.



Literacy:
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,
Une leçon pour la vie.

OUR MISSION

We believe literacy is a right. We work with volunteers and community partners to give people the skills and confidence they need to reach their potential.

In order to achieve our mission, we are committed to finding and using innovative ways to reach the people who need us most. Our activities, programs, and services are inclusive of any individual for whom our assistance is welcome and needed.

YOU CAN REACH FRONTIER COLLEGE AT:

35 Jackes Avenue
Toronto, Ontario Canada M4T 1E2
1-800-555-6523
information@frontiercollege.ca
frontiercollege.ca



@frontiercollege

**CHARITABLE REGISTRATION
NUMBER 10740 8445 RR001**



Frontier College is accredited by Imagine Canada's Standards Program.

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Message from the President



In looking at the past year, I am filled with pride in the accomplishments of Frontier College staff, volunteers, partners, and learners. As my colleague Sarah Thompson noted, everything changed except our values. My thanks also to our donors for their flexibility and ongoing support.

When told we could no longer meet in person, staff and volunteer tutors created safe ways to learn online. For people unable to connect digitally, we reached out any way we could. We kept people learning over the phone and via radio broadcast. We also sent out thousands of books and learning kits to people's homes across the country. When allowed, we even held outdoor sessions.

As I write this there is optimism that the country will soon be opening up as the impact of the pandemic lessens. We hope that it will soon be possible for tutors and learners to be in the same room. We also know that our new skills with virtual learning will continue to be part of our work.

At the top of this message, I mentioned my colleague Sarah. My review of this year would be incomplete without recognizing her retirement. Over 30 stellar years, Sarah had many roles here, concluding her career as Vice President of Programs and Impact. On behalf of everyone, I want to thank Sarah for her outstanding contributions and wish her all the best for a happy retirement!

Stephen Faul

President and CEO, Frontier College

Message from the Chair



It has been an extraordinary year. I am proud of how Frontier College rose to meet the challenges caused by the pandemic. What our staff and volunteers have accomplished in rapidly changing circumstances is remarkable. The many contributions of our nationwide community of partners and volunteer literacy tutors have benefitted over 87,000 people this year.

Special thanks to our funders and donors for their unwavering support and investment in literacy and learning. Your generosity makes it possible to offer flexible and accessible literacy support free of charge to children, youth, and adults in their communities and in their homes.

I'd like to thank my fellow board members for their endless enthusiasm and support for Frontier College, dedicating many extra hours of engagement during this year of great change.

The pandemic presented opportunities for our organization to do more and to do things differently. We built new partnerships, maintained financial stability, and increased impact, staying in touch with our Strategic Plan but pivoting quickly to the new challenges.

As we focus on the current and future needs of our communities, we will continue our tradition of meeting learners where they are, in every sense. Together we will adapt to new realities and ensure people are connected to the essential literacy support they need. I am inspired to see the responsiveness of our learners as they rebuild their lives, gain an education, find a job, and advocate for themselves. Literacy is a stepping-stone to hope and self-sufficiency, and we need this now more than ever before.

Suzanne Anton QC
Chair, Frontier College

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Michael Meighen
Dr. James H. Morrison
(Official Historian)

Our programs*

from coast to coast to coast

Yukon

Gwen helped me with my English and taught me how to build a resume. I am now studying adult psychology and I want to be a social worker. I feel fulfilled. Dreams never end. Don't stop learning!

- Learner



Northwest Territories



Nunavut

British Columbia



My teacher says my reading has gotten better and I am faster.

- Learner

I learned a lot of new words today. I also really like the book about peace.

- Learner

Alberta

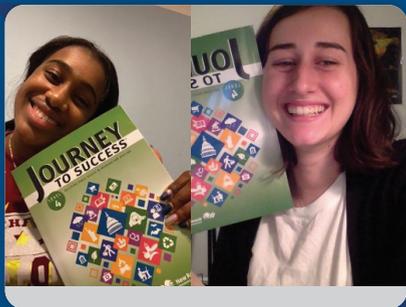
Saskatchewan

I loved volunteering at the Comic Book Club. All of the kids were interested in what they were doing.

- Volunteer

Manitoba

* from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021



Quebec

“
 The Summer Literacy Program was a highlight for our community. There was something to look forward to nearly every day, encouraging children and adults to participate in many activities.
 - Retired teacher

Newfoundland & Labrador



New Brunswick

Math wasn't my favorite in high school and it is a requirement to join the trades. With the help from Frontier College tutors, I successfully completed the course and passed the final exam.
 - Learner

Nova Scotia

“
 I am very impressed by Frontier College's consideration of both student's vulnerabilities and needs.
 - Community outreach worker

Ontario

National:



SERVING AGE GROUP

- 53.6% - Children
- 18.4% - Families
- 17% - Adults
- 10.9% - Youth



PROGRAM TYPE

- 63.6% - Tutoring
- 19.1% - Summer Camp
- 17.3% - Large Group

Tutoring includes:

- Direct One-to-One or Small Group Instruction and Support
- After-school Literacy and Numeracy Programs
- Reading Circles

Large Group includes:

- Training and Workshops
- Presentation and Speeches
- Awareness Events
- Family Learning Activities
- Reading Tents
- Conferences

Summer Camp includes:

- Literacy Programming and Materials for Children Aged 5-12



87,290

people in **153** communities across Canada participated in Frontier College literacy programs



62,078

free, new books distributed to children and families. The value of these books is **\$620,780**

Making a **Difference**

5,348

children participated in literacy camps in **96** Indigenous communities last summer



93% of parents said their children read more after attending camp



83% of campers said they think reading is important after attending camp



76 people employed

through our Summer Literacy Camps

100% hired from Indigenous host communities



1,543

volunteers gave **31,207** hours of service to Frontier College. The value of their time is **\$561,726**



16,384

activity kits were sent to children, youth, and families to support at-home learning throughout the pandemic

by Making

Connections



We collaborated with

252 community partners

to deliver quality literacy support in their neighbourhoods. Our partner organizations contributed space, staff time, snacks, and supplies valued at **\$504,000**



We hosted

18 literacy workshops

and conferences that were attended by **796** parents, teachers, literacy practitioners, social service workers, and community members

Staying Connected

to our learners and communities

Over the year, we developed and modified the way we work to help learners access the supports they needed, in a safe environment.

For partners, volunteer tutors, and learners, the ability to pivot to online tutoring depended on individual and community circumstances. **Our digital tutoring program was able to operate at about 60% of our in-person 2018-19 levels, helping 5,388 learners across Canada.**

When the COVID-19 pandemic and associated social distancing measures began in March 2020, Frontier College pivoted to an entirely virtual format for the first time in its history.



Learners felt supported by digital tutoring programs during the pandemic.

— Report, Cathexis

Recognizing that in-person tutoring may remain best for many Frontier College programs, through our evaluation it became clear that digital tutoring offers a host of benefits for learners and families, staff and volunteers, and even Frontier College itself:



Tutors and learners can be paired across distances online, there is potential to **increase geographic reach.**



Staff and volunteers can leverage **online tools and resources** to enhance their work with learners.



An online offering **increases accessibility** for learners with behaviour, mobility, or other challenges.



Learners' **parents are more directly involved/engaged**, enabling two-way information sharing.



Some families and tutors prefer online tutoring because it is **more convenient and flexible.**



Learners develop **stronger digital skills.**

Insights

School-aged learners
(Kindergarten to Grade 12)

After participating in a Frontier College program, LEARNERS...

	In person (2018-19)	Digital (2020-21)
APPLY MORE EFFORT		
Read more often outside school	39%	43%
Are more engaged with reading, writing, or math	44%	46%
★ Complete more of their schoolwork	19%	27%
IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS		
Improve skills in reading, writing, and/or math	98%	98%
ARE MORE CONFIDENT WITH IMPROVED RESULTS		
★★ Are more confident with reading, writing, or math	31%	45%
Are more confident working independently	25%	27%

★ denotes a difference between years that is statistically significant $p < .05$
★★ denotes a difference between years that is statistically significant $p < .01$



Learners in **one-to-one tutoring programs** were especially likely to see improvement in completing their schoolwork in 2020-21 (38%) compared to 2018-19 (17%).

When comparing in-person and digital tutoring programs, learner outcomes seem to be comparable regardless of the modality. However, some learner outcomes (confidence, completion of schoolwork) seem to be stronger with digital tutoring.

The online program helps learners because it provides them with a sense of community during a time when they are feeling disconnected from their peers.

— Tutor, homework club



Source: Evaluation of Frontier College's digital tutoring supports, Cathexis

Stories and Testimonials

The safety and well-being of our employees and volunteers and the families we support remained at the heart of every decision we made this year. We are very proud of how everyone handled new challenges, even in isolation, with heart and determination. This collective effort is a remarkable expression of hope for a better and brighter future.

Parents and Guardians



We felt so blessed to have tutors from Frontier College, especially during COVID-19 when all schools were closed. **Tutoring is a big help for our son to improve his learning levels!** Thank you so much for providing this wonderful opportunity to families like us!"



It has been one of the best things that has happened to my family during these times of uncertainty due to the pandemic. My kids have enjoyed the opportunity Frontier College's group of amazing tutors have given them. The Math Club program made a huge impact on my kids' lives by making them become interested in math (!) help them improve their skills, and even more, the tutors and facilitators **made them feel as part of a community again, they were able to socialize, learn and forget about COVID for an hour each week.**"



Thank you so much to all the tutors who have worked with my Joanna. Isolation had made her sad but **being able to participate in your program lightened up her life again!**"

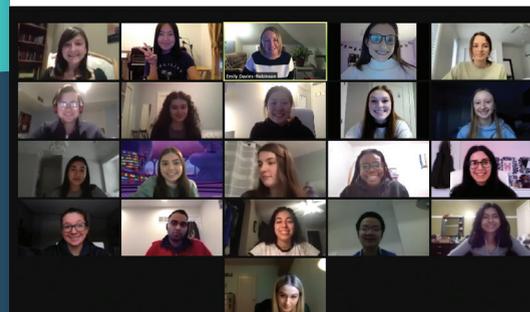
Volunteers



The thing that has most impressed me, particularly since the program is offered online, is that **the participants seem to be quite engaged, which to me illustrates that they want to be here.** For my own learning, in addition to figuring out how to keep the learners engaged and interested, I have really appreciated the cultural diversity of resources used as part of the program."



This past year has been really isolating and different for many of us, so volunteering to be a Frontier College tutor and interacting through Zoom on a routine schedule **has personally helped me in feeling less alone.** It is fun seeing and tutoring Vanessa every week."



Learners



My time at Frontier College has been a positive and rewarding experience. **The instructors are patient, supportive, and knowledgeable. They are always available for questions, and eager to offer words of encouragement.** Now, I am able to complete math calculations with more confidence, and my reading and writing skills have improved.”

—Patricia, Literacy and Basic Skills Program in Scarborough, Ontario



Frontier College has given me more confidence and better literacy skills.

This year I have been asked to be part of a number of groups as a self-advocate helping to give my input about living with disabilities and also life during COVID. Frontier College has prepared me for this work by helping me become more self-confident and outgoing. Also, I have learned to be a better reader by slowing down, asking for help when I don't understand and not being afraid of trying to figure out words by myself.”

Learner in Independent Studies in Toronto, Ontario

Partners



The Frontier College team worked diligently to ensure that the reading program could continue at our school even with the limitations of COVID. Our students look forward to their personal reading sessions. The online experience has encouraged our students to be independent and organized. **This program is a blessing to our older students who need a confidence boost in their reading.** We are thankful for the gift of reading that Janine and her team offer to Mother Teresa Catholic School.”

Nichole Gerein, Principal, Mother Teresa Catholic School, Grande Prairie, Alberta



Most of the students in the class are very far behind in their schooling due to their migrant journey to Canada and are learning to read, and most cannot be accompanied by their parents since many are, themselves, learning a new language. **The one-to-one support provided by Frontier College volunteers has a direct impact on the quality and speed of learning as well as on the self-esteem of the students.”**

Educator, L'école les Quatre-Vents, Laval, Quebec

Awards

FITZPATRICK AWARD RECIPIENT



Regent Park Community Health Centre



A strong partnership with Regent Park Community Health Centre began in 1997 to support the Regent Park community in Toronto where a high population of residents are individuals with low income, immigrants, and refugees living in social housing.

Together, we created the Newcomers Homework Club, a safe space for children and youth where mentorship and tutoring were offered to support their school studies. We also established an adult literacy program to support parents and families in the community. Through this program, newcomers learn about Canadian culture, gain job skills, and are better equipped to support their child's education.

In addition to program delivery, the Health Centre provides substantial financial support to Frontier College through their in-kind contributions including staff supervision at all programs, program evaluation tools, and space in a local school. We gratefully recognize this valued and successful partnership.

JOYCE MATTHEWS AWARD RECIPIENT



Sharon Moncarz



In the last 16 years, Sharon has devoted over 3,000 volunteer hours to our Independent Studies program in Toronto, helping adults with intellectual disabilities learn to read. Her positive energy, passion, and perseverance in small-group lessons and one-to-one tutoring have generated many successful outcomes for dozens of people who face numerous barriers in life. Beyond the lessons, Sharon invests time to befriend the learner, engaging them in meaningful conversation and learning about their perspective on life.

In 2007, Sharon saw the potential for a partnership with Angus Lloyd and Associates (ALA). ALA is a private tutoring company that works with low-level students to improve their basic reading, comprehension, and spelling abilities through phonics-based programming. Working with Frontier College staff, Sharon started the ALA Direct Instruction Reading Mastery Program. She encouraged other volunteers to participate and convinced ALA to provide tutors with complimentary training, resources, and follow-up visits.

In addition to tutoring, Sharon and her husband have shared their Scrabble prowess at our annual Scrabble for Literacy fundraiser. Sharon, we are incredibly grateful for your compassion, grace, and dedication. You have made such a difference.

COMPANION AWARD RECIPIENTS



John Daniel O'Leary



John O'Leary was a dedicated advocate for literacy and social justice. He served as President of Frontier College from 1990-2006. During his tenure, he led a national initiative to organize literacy programs with volunteers at every college and university campus in Canada. He also created literacy coalitions with labour, business, and other sectors. He has been widely acknowledged for his contributions to literacy and incredible gift of connecting with people. Many regard him as the father of the present adult literacy movement in Canada.

John co-founded several nationwide advocacy groups for literacy, including the Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournaments, ABC Canada, the Regent Park Community Health Centre Newcomers Homework Club program, and the Business Task Force on Literacy. He was a committee member of the inaugural Mr. Christie Children's Book Awards and a member of a federal government task force on social policy and reform, the National Crime Prevention Council, and an advisory group on literacy for the Ontario Ministry of Education. John passed away last year, but his legacy lives on at Frontier College.

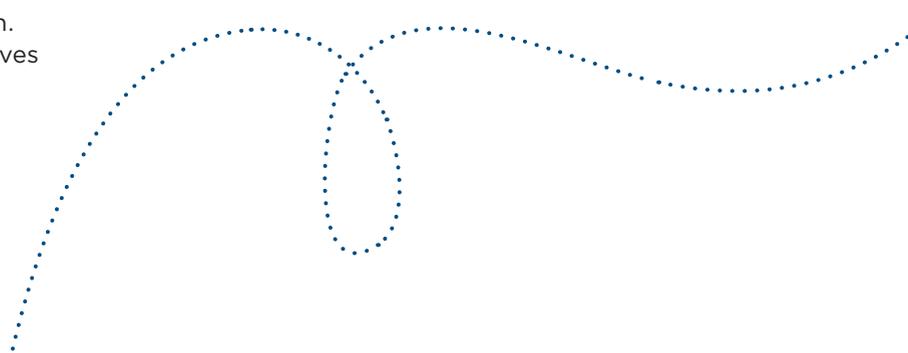


Jean Rasmussen M. Ed.



As founder and executive director of Canucks Family Education Centre (CFEC) Jean is a trusted partner delivering family literacy programs in Vancouver's east end. Since 2001, we have recruited and trained volunteers to support English and Math classes organized by CFEC. In these classes, volunteers work with parents to encourage involvement in their child's learning and educational development. They also assist adult learners who are working to successfully graduate from secondary school.

Jean has worked tirelessly to make this program the success it is today. She embodies the goodwill and spirit of community literacy and lifelong learning. Thank you so much for your leadership and friendship, Jean.



Impact and Growth



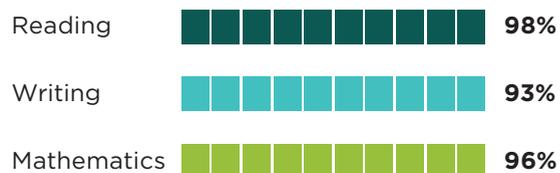
Despite the impact of COVID-19, we continued to provide tutoring—mostly in a virtual format—to thousands of children, youth, and adults throughout the country.

Whether finding new ways, like Pizza Box Learning Kits, to keep kids interested in reading and writing at home, or sustaining learning through telephone mentoring as Inuit students prepare to leave homes for southern post-secondary institutions, we modified our services to help learners access the supports they needed more than ever as the pandemic continued.



Student success programs for children and youth

Percentage of children and youth who improved their skills during 2020-2021:



87%

of parents observed that their child's reading skills improved after participating in the Frontier College program.

82%

of parents observed that their child's math skills improved after participating in the Frontier College program.

93%

of community partners and educators observed an improvement in reading skills and 91% observed an improvement in writing skills.

81%

of community partners and educators observed an improvement in math skills.



Summer Literacy Camps with Indigenous Communities

97%

of locally hired camp counsellors said working at camp strengthened their employment skills.

91%

of campers said camp supported or improved their interest in reading and learning.

100%

of parents said camp helps their child return to school more prepared and ready to learn.



Life success programs for adults and out-of-school youth

98%

of learners improved their writing and document use skills.

100%

of learners improved their numeracy skills.

96%

of learners improved their reading skills.

100%

of learners agreed or strongly agreed that they gained skills they need to achieve a life goal.

91%

of adult tutors observed that their learners improved their reading skills after participating in the Frontier College program.

95%

of adult tutors rate the Frontier College program as good to excellent.

Thank you to our 2020-2021 supporters

Your support makes an
incredible difference.

This list reflects gifts received between
April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

We would like to thank our community partners
for providing space, staff, snacks, and supplies.
We also wish to thank those donors who have
chosen to remain anonymous. Although we have
made every effort to ensure that donors have
been correctly acknowledged, if we have erred,
please accept our apologies and report the error
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\$100,000+

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Financials

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2021	2020
Governments	4,972,122	5,558,566
Fundraising	2,103,808	4,265,922
Frontier College Foundation Grants	868,000	754,000
Frontier College Books	147,459	195,711
Fee for Service and Other Income	214,104	348,455
Total Operating Revenue	8,305,493	11,122,654
Salaries and Benefits	6,344,750	7,860,200
Operational Costs	1,000,379	879,904
Program Materials and Delivery Costs	528,216	1,247,666
Travel	54,740	558,313
Fundraising and Communications	126,033	298,329
Cost of Sales	116,030	148,365
Amorization and Interest on Capital Leases	135,345	129,877
Total Operating Expenses	8,305,493	11,122,654
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	0	0

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,545,116	5,306,488
Accounts Receivable	577,537	572,939
Inventory and Prepaid Expenses	278,194	237,063
Capital Assets	582,300	601,013
	7,983,147	6,717,503
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	493,056	458,160
Deferred Contributions	6,616,275	5,361,740
Other Obligations	89,532	113,319
Net Assets	784,284	784,284
	7,983,147	6,717,503

Full audited financial statements and notes are available at frontiercollege.ca



33% ● Provincial and Territorial Governments

25% ● Fundraising

19% ● Federal Government

10% ● Frontier College Foundation Grants

8% ● Indigenous Governments

3% ● Fee for Service & Other Income

2% ● Frontier College Books



Literacy:
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,
Une leçon pour la vie.

Learning opens opportunity.

Learning new skills in literacy
and numeracy boosts confidence
and builds resilience.

And that is something
we all need right now.



At Frontier College, we believe in making literacy and
learning accessible. We are committed to finding and using
innovative ways to reach the people who need us most.

Literacy changes everything.

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