

RESOURCE

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RECOGNIZE

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ANNUAL 2020

REPORT

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REACH



Literacy:
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,
Une leçon pour la vie.

For more than 120 years, Frontier College has been a leader in Canada's transformational literacy movement. We work with volunteers, partners, and communities to ensure that everyone has access to effective, literacy-based learning that empowers them with the capabilities and confidence they need to realize their goals.



Literacy:
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,
Une leçon pour la vie.

OUR MISSION

Frontier College is a national charitable literacy organization. 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 and contribute to society.

YOU CAN REACH FRONTIER COLLEGE AT:

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



@frontiercollege

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NUMBER 10740 8445 RR0001



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Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie
Payette, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.Q., C.D.
Governor General of Canada

REACH

Message from

The President



This has been a tremendous year for changing lives through the power of literacy!

Our tutoring and summer camps reached 37,129 learners, and \$11M marks another record year for revenue. But even more important, our research confirms that we are helping our learners achieve their goals. For example, 85% of parents

observed that their children improved their reading skills, and 90% of children and youth said that Frontier College's programming helped them improve in reading, writing, or math.

There are many people I would like to thank for making this a terrific year:

First and foremost, our learners. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey—you are the reason we are here; I hope you get as much out of the experience as we do.

Our spectacular volunteers. More than 2,250 of you gave more than 46,000 hours of selfless dedication. You've made an enormous and lasting impact on the lives of so many.

The finest staff I've ever known—you inspire and amaze me with your creative solutions and passion.

To our wonderful partners—we couldn't do it without you. And to our generous funders—thank you for always being there when we need you most.

And finally, to our Board—thanks for your leadership and for always having our backs.

As I write this, our team members across the country are working from home and reaching out to learners in new ways: Zoom meetings, social media lessons, phone calls, and videos. It's a different way of doing business, but we bring the same determination and passion as always. And once this is all done, when we are back to face-to-face meetings, we'll make sure that lessons learned now will continue to inform our work.

If you don't know much about us, please take the time to reach out. We'd love to get to know you.

Stephen Faul
President and CEO,
Frontier College

Message from

The Chair



**Around the world,
education is having to
adjust quickly in response
to the new environment.**

I'm proud to say that our staff and volunteers have been busy delivering quality, personalized literacy programs to help build strength and resilience in our communities and for our learners. It is the collective effort of everyone involved—our generous funders, our strong community partners, and our courageous learners—who make this organization so successful.

It is my privilege to serve as the Chair of Frontier College's Board of Directors, a dedicated group of business leaders and philanthropic supporters who assist the College with strategic guidance on its national services. I'm proud of the work we've done as a Board this year. Working with staff, we developed a bold five-year strategic plan, ensuring Frontier College is well positioned for the future. Our priorities to increase impact, expand influence, and grow resources will see us dramatically change the landscape of literacy in Canada.

On behalf of the Board, let me say how grateful we are for your commitment to Frontier College. We are fortunate to have such a well-supported literacy organization, and we will count on your continued support as we face the challenges and the opportunities that await us in 2021.

Sharon Mathers
Chair, Frontier College

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(Official Historian, ex officio)

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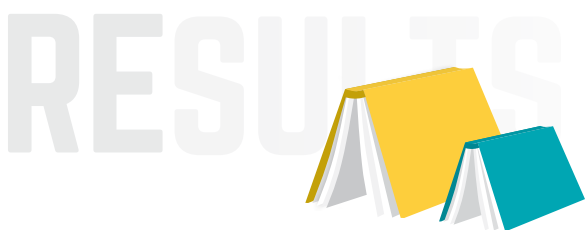
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The Hon. R. Roy McMurtry
Michael Meighen
Dr. James H. Morrison
(Official Historian)

RESILIENCE

Year in

REVIEW



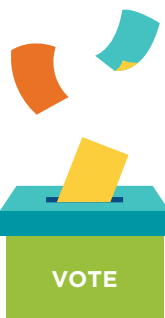
Special camp visits from Ministers of Alberta and Nunavut



Nicole Callihoo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Directorate at Alberta Education, visited kids attending our Summer Literacy Camps in Maskwacis.



Education Minister David Joanase visited the Summer Literacy Camp counsellors at their training session held in Iqaluit.



National Forum on Literacy and Civic Engagement

Ahead of the 2019 federal election, in Winnipeg, we hosted a National Forum on Literacy and Civic Engagement, supported by founding sponsor Canada Life and in coordination with Elections Canada. Civic engagement means many things, including voting or volunteering in an election, or signing a petition. However, what if it's a struggle to read about the issue? A discussion by an esteemed panel was webcast live to concurrent Frontier College events in Vancouver, Edmonton, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, Halifax, Cortes Island, and Iqaluit.



From left: Dave Angus (moderator), Margo Goodhand, Lisa Drouillard, Amel Zaazaa, Stephen Faul, and Avere Fontaine.



Our volunteers receive prestigious Governor General Sovereign Medal Awards

The medal recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians. Congratulations to our supportive and dedicated volunteers who go above and beyond to help others reach their goals.



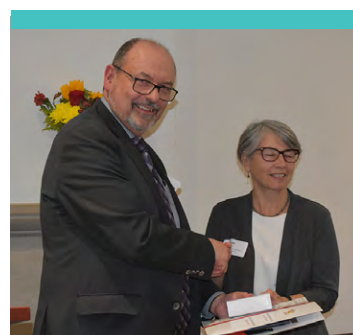
*Stephanie Cheung
(Toronto)*



*Stephen Hong
(Toronto)*



Pauline Mulder (Toronto)



Phyllis Miller (Toronto)



*Ornela Kljakic
(London)*



New report on our National Student Success Programs for Children and Youth



The results of our evaluation work culminated in a new report on school-year student programs running in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Here we work with community organizations and local schools to provide literacy support to children and youth where poverty and other barriers contribute to low literacy. After participating in a Frontier College tutoring program, a majority of students improved their reading, writing, and math skills. These students also felt more confident and completed more homework. 95% of educators reported that Frontier College programs helped them to be more effective in their work with children and youth.

Our

RESULTS

37,129

people in 176 communities
across Canada participated
in Frontier College Literacy
Programs



74,188

**FREE, NEW BOOKS DISTRIBUTED
TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The value of these books is

\$741,880



415

PEOPLE EMPLOYED
through our Summer
Literacy Camps

74%

hired from
**Indigenous host
communities**

7,689

children participated in literacy camps in **140 Indigenous communities** last summer

92%

of parents said **their children read more** after attending camp

93%

of campers said they **enjoyed reading**

We collaborated with **505 COMMUNITY PARTNERS** to deliver quality literacy support in their neighbourhoods

Our partner organizations contributed space, staff time, snacks, and supplies, valued at

\$1,010,000

2,254

volunteers gave **46,847 hours** of service to Frontier College. The value of their time is

\$843,246

16,288

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

participated in our summer reading tents

We hosted **121 literacy workshops and conferences**, attended by **2,048** parents, teachers, literacy practitioners, social service workers, and community members

RESULTS

RELATIONSHIPS

When Phe Fie talks about her son's experience with Frontier College, the smile can be heard in her voice.

"You guys are amazing," she says, even though it's her son, Beni, who is the amazing one.

"My son has special needs, and he never went out alone; home, school, home has been his life," she explains. "He joined the after-school program [at Manulife] from the first day at Our Lady [of Lourdes School]. The program lets him meet people in small groups, which is easier. Now he has built great relationships and has more friends and a social life."

The Manulife Homework Club is Frontier College's longest running corporate-partnered homework club. This free, one-to-one tutoring program has helped hundreds of students in Toronto, who would otherwise not have access to such supports, improve their academic and interpersonal skills. Over the years, the participating students' families and teachers have noted changes in the way students perceive and conduct themselves, crediting the program for a great deal of student success.

Beni, who is now 13, and his family came to Canada from Indonesia in 2016. At that time, he couldn't read, so his parents enrolled him in a paid tutoring program to learn the fundamentals. Phe Fie also credits Beni's school teachers with being patient and helping him understand his lessons. This work, along with the support he gets at the Frontier College program and his unwavering determination, has paid off.

"In history, geography, and science, he's exceeding my expectations. He does his chores and homework every night, then he might go on YouTube, then tidies up and prepares for tomorrow. He even goes to the library to play Minecraft with friends."

And, just like a lot of the other kids that attend the homework club, he likes to go to McDonald's for a snack with his friends. His mom shows how even this is a chance for Beni to learn.

"He keeps the change and used to think quarters were the most precious. Now he wants loonies and toonies! In the beginning, he couldn't count the money, but now he knows."



“

The program lets him meet people in small groups, which is easier. Now he has built great relationships and has more friends and a social life.

REINVENT



Peggy Binns grew up in Fredericton and knew that she would retire there. After increasingly challenging jobs as a federal public servant in Ottawa, she wanted to move away from policy-oriented and administrative work to help people in her hometown.

“Literacy became my passion because of a television program I had seen very early in my career, showing a parent reading to his daughter for the first time after years of not having been able to do so. I have been a tutor with Frontier College for four years, three in Ottawa and this year in Fredericton. I have been doing one-on-one tutoring with two grade seven students at the George Street Middle School, which, incidentally, is my former high school. It’s my first experience working exclusively with middle school students. I’ve really enjoyed it and have learned a lot. I am a senior citizen and have found adapting to teenagers who have been almost raised on electronic communication a positive challenge.”

RESPECT

Del Stalker, a member of Pacheedaht First Nation in British Columbia, is a Community Literacy Catalyst (CLC) helping kids, teens, and adults in her community. Knowing many of the families and the services they may need, Del helps to increase capacity by integrating literacy activities and workshops into existing programs and services. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, she helped members with school work, reading, and comprehension, as well as teaching how to write resumés and fill out government forms. Since then, Del moved everything online, from creating a Facebook book club group, and meeting with members through video chats.

“Del is a proud Pacheedaht member, and I just have to say I appreciate her and everything she does for the kids of Pacheedaht,” explains a parent.

“We have partnered with Frontier College on this project for several years and are observing its increasingly positive impacts within our community compound over time. The CLC is important for learners of all ages where levels of literacy affect self-esteem and confidence as they move forward in their lives. We greatly value Del’s efforts to provide learning support and raise literacy awareness in community members. We will continue to support Frontier College to build an inclusive learning environment, increase skills and knowledge, and build awareness of literacy in our community,” says Elizabeth Robins, Director of Education, Training, and Youth Programs, Pacheedaht First Nation.



Del’s daughter, Helena (centre), reading with her friends

Impact and Evaluation

RESPONSE

STUDENT SUCCESS
PROGRAMS FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

90%

of children and youth stated that the program helped them improve in reading, writing, or math.

85%

of parents observed that learners improved their reading skills.

79%

of educators observed that learners were more able to work independently, and **77%** observed that learners improved in completing their work, after attending a Frontier College tutoring program.

SUMMER LITERACY
CAMPS WITH
INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES

82%

of teachers said camp complemented their classroom teaching.

89%

of campers felt they maintained or raised their reading, math, and/or science skills at camp.

92%

of parents said their children read more at home after attending camp.

LIFE SUCCESS PROGRAMS
FOR ADULTS AND
OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

100%

of community partners and workplaces reported that learners improved their reading skills after attending a Frontier College program.

93%

of tutors noticed that adult learners show increased confidence after attending a program at Frontier College.

94%

of tutors agree that Frontier College helps adults improve their skills and achieve their goals.

Awards

RESPONSE
RECIPIENTS
RESPECT

COMPANION AWARD RECIPIENT



Samantha Warwick

Samantha Warwick at the Giller Light Bash fundraiser in Calgary.

An author and the Program Director at the Writers' Guild of Alberta, Samantha co-founded the Giller Light Bash fundraiser in Calgary and has led the coordination of this special event in support of Frontier College since 2010. Samantha has opened doors and made important and valued connections with authors, journalists, and Giller Prize winners, which helped to increase the profile of Frontier College, but also to inspire others to volunteer and donate. Thank you for your personal support and advocacy of the work of Frontier College!

FITZPATRICK AWARD RECIPIENT



Kativik Ilisarniliriniq

Harriet Keleutak, Director General, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq (left), with Stephen Faul.

Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, also known as "KI," is the sole school board in Nunavik territory. Frontier College partnered with KI in 2014 to bring the Summer Literacy Camps to children in the territory. The camps reached hundreds of children in Nunavik, and local community members have shared their time and expertise with campers by facilitating activities. This strong collaboration has led to a year-round project that started in the fall of 2017: the Math and Literacy Tutor project, serving 200 high school students every year. This strong partnership continues to grow; in the coming year, the Math and Literacy Tutor project will include summer tutoring for students, as well as a year-round Community Literacy Catalyst worker to work with families and other local agencies in Kuujuaq.

JOYCE MATTHEWS AWARD RECIPIENT

On her first day of grade three, having shifted from French immersion where she struggled, Ashley discovered that she had poor literacy skills and could not even spell the word 'the.' Fortunately, her parents had the resources to pay for tutoring, and she has now gone on to receive her Master's in English.

Recognizing the critical role tutoring played in her life, she began volunteering with Frontier College so those without resources could also receive help. She started a Creative Writing Club at a local school, planned Thunder Bay's very first reading tent, and has helped us acquire and train a number of volunteers. Not only has she demonstrated strong leadership skills with Frontier College, she was also selected to receive the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation award for excellence in student teaching placement in 2016-17.



Ashley Johnston

Ashley Johnston volunteer tutor (centre), and Carole and Dona Matthews, daughters of Joyce Matthews

REMEMBER

In Memoriam

This year we lost two generous and kind members of our Frontier College family. Their ability to make so many people feel special is their greatest legacy.

Arden H. King 1935-2020



Arden was a dear friend, a volunteer, and a generous donor.

In the early 1980s, Arden's lifelong love of the written word and belief in the importance of literacy for all led to her volunteer work with Frontier College. She first learned about us from CBC Radio journalist, Peter Gzowski. For several years and in various capacities she volunteered her time to assist staff at our national office in Toronto.

Through her matching gift challenge during the holiday season for the past nine years, Arden inspired many people to give more and give often. Arden was always there to show her support at our events, celebrating our learners and volunteers. In 2017, she received the Frontier College Companion Award for her passion and commitment to our mission.

Arden's legacy at Frontier College will always be treasured.

John Daniel O'Leary 1951-2020

Frontier College President 1990-2006



John was a dedicated advocate for literacy and social justice.

John joined Frontier College in 1976 as a teacher in our prison literacy program, and was appointed president of the College in 1990. His contributions have been felt and recognized widely in Canada. He had the gift of connecting with people. He always remembered everyone's name and took the time to learn about them and have meaningful conversations. Up until his passing, John continued to volunteer at our Newcomer Homework Club in Regent Park, Toronto. He loved to teach and inspire kids and would sign off on his letters as, "Your Book Buddy, John O."

Sarah Thompson, Vice President of Programs and Impact at Frontier College, remembers his words on the importance of literacy, books, and stories.

“

Each of us carries a story inside and it is sacred to us. We connect to the world and develop our humanity through sharing stories. The ability to read and write, a love of reading and stories, and the wherewithal to access them, are all essential to an understanding of the real necessity of literacy, whether written or oral. Literacy is a subtle, multidimensional, bedrock capacity of the human experience.”

RECOGNIZE

Our Supporters

Recognizing the outstanding contributors to our cause

\$500,000+

Government of Alberta
Government of Ontario
Kativik Ilisarniliriniq
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\$100,000+

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This list reflects gifts received between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

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 or omission to 1-800-555-6523 ext. 202.

SPECIAL THANKS to our donors who support us through our Literacy Leaders Monthly Giving Club.

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Monthly gifts provide Frontier College with a stable source of funding for literacy programs throughout the country.

REPORT

Financials



38%	Fundraising
33%	Provincial and Territorial Governments
14%	Indigenous Governments
7%	Frontier College Foundation Grants
3%	Fee for Service & Other Income
2%	Federal Government
2%	Frontier College Books
1%	Municipal Governments

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2020	2019
Governments	5,558,566	5,804,161
Fundraising	4,265,922	3,556,433
Frontier College Foundation Grants	754,000	730,000
Frontier College Books	195,711	151,375
Fee for Service and Other Income	348,455	457,259
Total Operating Revenue	11,122,654	10,699,228
Salaries and Benefits	7,860,200	7,391,508
Program Materials and Delivery Costs	1,247,666	1,288,159
Operational Costs	879,904	861,050
Travel	558,313	496,023
Fundraising and Communications	298,329	353,498
Cost of Sales	148,365	97,083
Amorization and Interest on Capital Leases	129,877	106,907
Total Operating Expenses	11,122,654	10,594,228
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-	105,000

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,306,488	5,696,274
Accounts Receivable	572,939	863,632
Inventory and Prepaid Expenses	237,063	172,107
Capital Assets	601,013	603,911
	6,717,503	7,335,924
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	458,160	368,246
Deferred Contributions	5,361,740	6,047,779
Other Obligations	113,319	135,615
Net Assets	784,284	784,284
	6,717,503	7,335,924

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



We are building the foundation for change.

Literacy is the foundation for all learning. It changes lives, families, and communities. It feeds growth and unleashes potential. It empowers people with the capability and confidence they need to realize their goals.

Taking literacy into the community has never been more important than it is today. Everyone can learn. But not everyone can access the help they need. **We meet our learners where they are, in every sense.**

frontiercollege.ca

RELATION
RESPONSE
RESPECT
RECOGNIZI
REVIEW
RESULTS
REINVENT
REFLECT