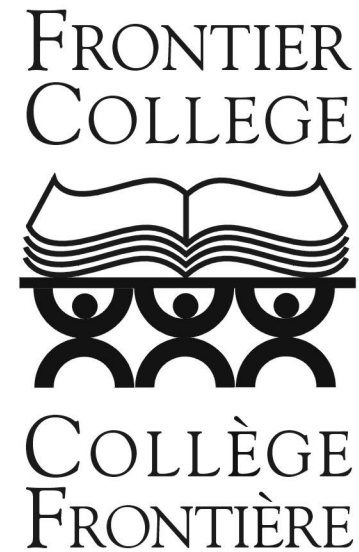


# The Labourer-Teacher Program

Frontier College is a Canada-wide, volunteer-based, literacy organization that has been teaching Canadians to read and write since 1899.



# The original Frontier College program

Labourer-Teachers have worked on railway camps, lumber camps, mines, factories, farms and the like.



LTs Henry Norman Bethune (third from the right) and Alfred Fitzpatrick (third from the left) in Lumber camp, Whitefish, Ottawa, 1911.

# In More Recent Years...



- Labourer-Teachers (LT's) work as labourers on farms and in greenhouses in Southern Ontario. They live and work right alongside the seasonal workers, sharing their lives on the farm.
- After hours, LT's volunteer their time as tutors, counsellors and recreation organizers for their coworkers, who are predominantly migrant farm workers from Mexico and the Caribbean.
- Placements run mid-May to end of August.

# The Labour part...



# Rain or shine...

- ✿ The job has to get done; pruning, thinning, planting, weeding, hoeing, picking, sorting...
- ✿ This can mean long hours during peak times (10-12 hour days / 6-7 days a week).
- ✿ Remuneration is generally minimum wage

*“It was an amazing experience.  
I would love to live  
again in the spirit of camaraderie  
with the workers that makes it  
possible for Canadians to have  
food in their markets.”*

Former-LT



# The teaching part....



# The Frontier College Philosophy

- ✿ Frontier College follows an informal, student centered approach to learning, rather than being curriculum driven. Using the principles of adult education LT's start from a learner's strengths and needs
- ✿ LT's initiates activities that are meaningful and relevant to the learners they are working with. LT's get training and support for this though they also need to have the initiative and energy to follow through after a hard days work..



A former LT says:  
*"I can guarantee that the teaching,  
helping your friends with problems,  
will make it all worthwhile."*

# Sample learning activities

Meaningful literacy and language development can come through activities based on:

- Work related topics such as farm safety / tasks / schedules / crop information
- Reading flyers / weekly shopping trips
- Cooking activities, sharing of recipes
- Reading news articles from home
- Involvement in sports / outings
- Sharing interests (music, for example)
- Communicating with family and friends

*“ One of the guys asked me for help with writing a letter to his wife ”*



# It's hard work - why do it?

- To share your knowledge and skill-set
- To develop new skills, and gain hands on experience
- To provide learning opportunities for those unable to access mainstream classes
- To learn about the land and the people who farm it; to learn what it takes to get food to the table
- To make new friends, learn about different cultures
- To challenge yourself physically and mentally
- To learn about yourself and your ability to make a difference in other people's lives
- To experience development work within your own country



Learn more in one summer than you ever imagined possible.

# What you get

- intensive pre-placement training covering such topics as: the principles of adult education; literacy and essential skills; tutoring strategies and activities; background on seasonal workers in Canada; Introductory Spanish; working with ESL learners; doing farm work and living on site; farm safety;
- Support while on placement (phone and site visits)
- Shared accommodation on-site, usually in a bunk house or trailer
- Subsidized travel costs
- The experience of a lifetime



# What Former LT's Say:

*Frontier College was ultimately a lesson in empathy: how to bridge that cultural-linguistical barrier and relate to people on a more fundamental level. Definitely a crucial life skill.*

*Every Canadian who eats should do this programme*

*I had a wonderful experience on the farm and was able to offer support in many forms...At the same time I leaned more than I ever could have anticipated*

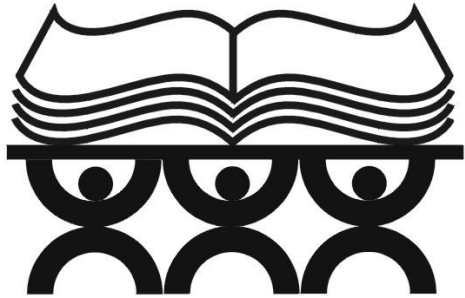


*...my summer was an excellent experience....I definitely took away from it myself at least as much, probably more, than I was able to give...*

*...this experience has changed me profoundly...*

# Think you have what it takes?

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Applications are on-line at  
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