



Literacy.

Fall 2007 Volume 2 Issue 2

Learning for Life.

FRONTIER COLLEGE



COLLÈGE FRONTIÈRE

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Once Upon a Time...

Isn't that how the most magical stories of our childhood begin? That magic continues today wherever Frontier College Reading Tents appear. There were Reading Tents all over Canada this summer and special TD Summer Reading Tents in Montreal, Halifax, Toronto and Winnipeg.

Lots of things can happen at a Frontier College Reading Tent: A-shaped piñatas rain down pencils, pens and candies after a morning of reading and writing stories; volunteers share their enthusiasm by acting out favourite stories from their childhood; and whole families spend an afternoon experiencing the joy of books.



Frontier College Reading Tents open eyes and ears to whole new worlds and help young imaginations take flight. Once upon a time leads to a world of opportunity and a bright future, as children discover the pleasure of stories and the power of words!

Contributed by Élyse Grenier, Frontier College staff member in Montréal

A Celebration of Learning

Learning should be celebrated, and Frontier College did just that in June when we recognized the accomplishments of the street-involved youth enrolled in Frontier College Beat the Street in Toronto. Learner achievements ranged from realizing they have the ability to learn, to receiving a GED, to becoming certified in Microsoft Office.

Each year The Patricia MacNeil Memorial Award is given to the learner who achieved the most positive changes in his or her life over the last year, while showing concern for the well-being of others.



Melsin Diaz receiving his award

This year the award was presented to an emotional Melsin Diaz, honouring his amazing progress towards his goal of becoming a caregiver in a retirement home. This included obtaining a part time job and volunteering in the community. Thank you to volunteers for your contributions and commitment; we couldn't do it without them!

BREAKING NEWS

Frontier College is excited to be working with community agencies to bring the Beat the Street program to other areas of Toronto, including Lawrence Heights and the Jane-Finch community. Youth in these areas have a need for free, learner-focused literacy upgrading and training programs to give them the skills they need for a brighter future. Frontier College looks forward to celebrating the accomplishments of the learners in these communities over the upcoming year. www.frontiercollege.ca

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Charitable Registration Number

89254 9965 RR001

Getting Creative at Frontier College

For the last 20 years Frontier College has been the place to be for learners who have developmental, physical and/or cognitive disabilities. Learners, staff and tutors work together to improve literacy and numeracy skills, while exploring different types of reading and writing, like resume writing, journalism and story telling.

The focus of last year's program was creative writing, including poetry. Many of the learners are at a very basic level of literacy, and had never had the chance to express their creative side through poetry. The learners were thrilled to discover this wonderful outlet for sharing thoughts and feelings. Staff and tutors were overwhelmed by the depth of understanding and grasp of the deeper meaning of life and words displayed in learners' poems.

Frontier College is proud to share some samples of the haiku and cinquain (five-lines in a diamond shape) poetry written by the learners:

Books

Wordy, Readable

Learning, Looking, Creating
It's Like Watching TV

Story

*Chris, Frontier College
Independent Studies Learner*

Life

Personal, Possible

Trying, Challenging, Existing
Misery is Life

Being

*Bonnie, Frontier College
Independent Studies Learner*

Love

Love is Happiness

With Feeling and Special Thoughts
A Symbol of Warmth

*Michele, Frontier College
Independent Studies Learner*

Disability

Makes People Special and Is

Part of Who You Are!

*Amy, Frontier College
Independent Studies Learner*

It's SCRABBLE® Night in Canada!

SCRABBLE®. We're all familiar with it and most of us probably have a dusty board somewhere that we bring out on rainy days in the summer or cold winter day.

Did you know that playing SCRABBLE® can also raise money for Frontier College and its national literacy programs? You can host a Frontier College SCRABBLE® Night in Canada Friends & Family Challenge event, proudly presented by Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, and help people across the country improve their literacy skills.

It's easy and fun. Choose a day, invite some friends, set up the SCRABBLE® board, put out some food and enjoy. Your party can be held anywhere, any time and any way you like. The idea is to get friends and family together to have a good time, celebrate literacy and invite your guests and friends to support Frontier College through donations.

Register your party online at www.scrabblenightincanada.ca or call 1-800-555-6523, ext.335.



People can donate to your party online or you can download a printable donation form. Or you can call and request a form be sent to you. Your guests can also raise money by asking their friends and family to support their participation in your party.

Join the SCRABBLE® challenge and support Frontier College. Host a SCRABBLE® Night in Canada party today!

Frontier College

Frontier College is strengthening Canada's social fabric by engaging and mobilizing volunteers to take action in the cause of literacy and learning. We demonstrate the power of non-formal learning to make change in people's lives and we work in partnership with others. Through these partnerships, we reach children, teens and adults from coast to coast. We support children and families, community groups and organizations in high-needs areas through training workshops, conferences and volunteer placement.

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Why I Support Frontier College



Today I Taught a Woman How to Ride the Bus

As a Frontier College staff member, people often ask me about the impact of Frontier College's literacy programs on the lives of learners. This is the story I tell them.

During my first year as Intern in Edmonton a volunteer tutor came to my office while I was working on the program budget for the next year.

"Can I come in?" she asked.

"Of course," I replied, waving her in while shuffling papers. The tutor sat down and promptly burst into tears. Papers forgotten, I turned to her in alarm and asked her what was wrong.

"Today I taught a woman how to ride the bus," she said, struggling for control. I looked at her, sure that I was supposed to utter something profound.

"Well...that's great," I said, not really sure what else to say.

"No," she said, "You don't understand. She is a single mother of five who has just moved to Canada. Her family has been here for three weeks and she told me that until today they were starving.

I sat there, stunned, as the tutor explained that it wasn't that this learner couldn't find a grocery store, but that she couldn't find a store with food familiar to her. She and her children had been scraping food from the trash behind restaurants for three weeks. The woman knew that the bus could take her to a store, but didn't understand the schedule or how to count out the proper change for the ride. It was the biggest hurdle she had faced in her new country. Now, after just one hour with a Frontier College tutor, the woman could provide a real meal to her children for the first time in weeks.

The "Bus Schedule" story is the one I tell people when they ask me why I'm involved with Frontier College. Not only does it demonstrate the hurdles faced by people with low literacy, it shows the immediate impact of Frontier College programs and the importance of seemingly simple tasks. For this woman and her children, literacy meant survival.

Jenn Barber, Frontier College Staff Member in Edmonton



YES, I want to help Frontier College achieve its mission of literacy for all!

Donor Name

Address

Town/City Province

Postal Code Email

Credit Card Number Expiry Date

Card Holder Name

Card Holder Signature Telephone

- I would like to donate \$ _____
- I would like to pay by cheque, payable to Frontier College Foundation.
- I would like to use my Visa or Mastercard
- I would like to join the Literacy Leaders Monthly Giving Club with a monthly donation of \$ _____
- I have enclosed a blank VOID cheque for my monthly gift.
- I would like to use my Visa or Mastercard for my monthly gift.
- I have remembered Frontier College in my will. I would like to be a member of the Dr. Margaret Strang Society.
- I would like more information about remembering Frontier College in my will. Please contact me.

Tax receipts will be issued with our genuine thanks. To keep costs lower we only receipt donations \$20 and over, unless specifically requested.

Charitable Registration Number 89254 9965 RR0001

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Want to make your gift RIGHT NOW?

Go to www.frontiercollegefoundation.ca and click on YES! I want to help Frontier College achieve literacy for all.

It's easy and secure. You'll receive your tax receipt right away, and your gift will go straight to work spreading literacy across Canada.



www.frontiercollegefoundation.ca

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If at any time you wish to stop receiving this information, contact Barbara Fraser at 416-923-3591 ext. 324 (or 1-800-555-6523 ext. 324), email: bfraser@frontiercollege.ca, or mark the appropriate check box on this coupon and we will gladly accommodate your request.

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We would like to acknowledge donor support publicly in our annual report and on our website.

If you consent to having your name publicly recognized as a donor, there is no need to contact us.

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Or contact Barbara Fraser at 416-923-3591 ext. 324, (or 1-800-555-6523 ext. 324) or email: bfraser@frontiercollege.ca.



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Literacy in Northern Alberta

After three successful summers of the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Literacy Camps in northern Ontario, this year Frontier College took the reading camps to the Cree community of Saddle Lake, Alberta (about 200km Northeast of Edmonton).

Frontier College worked with the Boys and Girls Club in Saddle Lake to put together a program that was right for the community, and hired four local women to run the camp.

All four of these women were passionate about the importance of literacy and had first-hand knowledge of the positive impact of literacy and education. In fact one had recently returned to university after dropping out of high school eight years ago.



The key to the Aboriginal Summer Literacy Camp program is involving elders and other community members by:

- Having elders help decorate the space and teach the children activities like making fish scale art
- Inviting community members to share traditional pastimes such as round dance and singing
- Starting each day with a Cree prayer and a Cree word of the day

Over the summer 140 children participated in the camp – listened to tall tales, created and illustrated their own stories, played games and read books. There are over 1,500 children under the age of six in Saddle Lake and we hope to expand the camp to provide opportunities for more of these youngsters.

Before coming to the camp many of the children had no books at home and no one to read with. The camp made reading and writing fun, and the children went home with books donated by Frontier College to help them keep up their reading skills.

A Final Note

After 17 years as President of Frontier College, John O'Leary is stepping down.

He leaves behind a rich history of achievement including a major federal grant at Frontier College's 100th anniversary, co-founding of the Peter Gzowski Invitational, co-founding of the Movement for Canadian Literacy and ABC Canada, and work with Ontario's Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman to bring Frontier College's literacy services to Aboriginal communities.

At the same time, the Frontier College Foundation was established and has become a thriving operation with a dedicated staff and original fundraising programs generating a growing source of financial support for the College.

After a long record of dedicated service, John is concluding his work with us. He leaves behind strong, capable staff at both Frontier College and the Frontier College Foundation. His deep commitment to the cause of literacy lives on with them and in all our volunteers and supporters.

We wish John all the best for the future.