

MEDIA ADVISORY

Volunteer tutoring helps children who are struggling *Research shows that Frontier College tutoring works for kids*

TORONTO, Ontario – October 30, 2006. Research Works!, a university-based research team, has announced the results of a systematic review of the effectiveness of one-to-one volunteer tutoring for children in Grades 1 to 6.

The team, working in partnership with Frontier College and the Ontario Ministry of Education, found that trained tutors helped children become successful readers and tutoring helped raise the literacy skills of children living in poverty.

There are more than 5,000 Frontier College trained volunteers working with children, youth and adults all across Canada. These volunteer tutors are contributing to the literacy success of students and their families.

“Frontier College has been recruiting and training volunteers as literacy tutors in centres across Canada since 1899. Back then most of our work was with adults who needed help, but today with ever-increasing demands on parents and teachers, our volunteers are needed more than ever,” says John O’Leary, President of Frontier College. “We’ve known that one-to-one tutoring by trained volunteers is a highly effective way to work with kids who need the extra help. Thanks to the systematic review done by Research Works!, we have scientific evidence.”

“A *systematic review* is a comprehensive, non-partisan summary of research findings,” says Kathleen Bloom, Director of Research Works! and a professor at the University of Waterloo. “You can be more confident when conclusions are drawn from a large body of accumulated evidence and not from just one or two studies alone. Our systematic review of 57 studies convinced us that tutoring really works in helping children become good readers.”

More information about the review can be found at www.research-works.ca/TutorReview.htm

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Literacy is an essential skill in today’s world. At **Frontier College**, we believe it’s a fundamental right. Low literacy skills are directly linked to poverty, poor health and high unemployment. Forty-two percent of adult Canadians have trouble with everyday tasks that involve reading. That’s millions of Canadians who are not reaching their potential. Through a network of thousands of volunteers, Frontier College is helping people to realize their potential and seize the opportunities that come their way. www.frontiercollege.ca

Research Works! for child literacy is a community-university alliance for enhancing child literacy by sharing and applying research knowledge. Research Works! is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and supported by the University of Waterloo.

For more information about Frontier College, or to arrange an interview with Kathleen Bloom of Research Works! or John O’Leary of Frontier College, please contact:

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