

Frontier College
Frontier College Foundation

FINDING NEW WAYS TO GROW

ANNUAL
REPORT
2008



FRONTIER
COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



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Under the distinguished patronage of
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean,
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada.

www.frontiercollege.ca

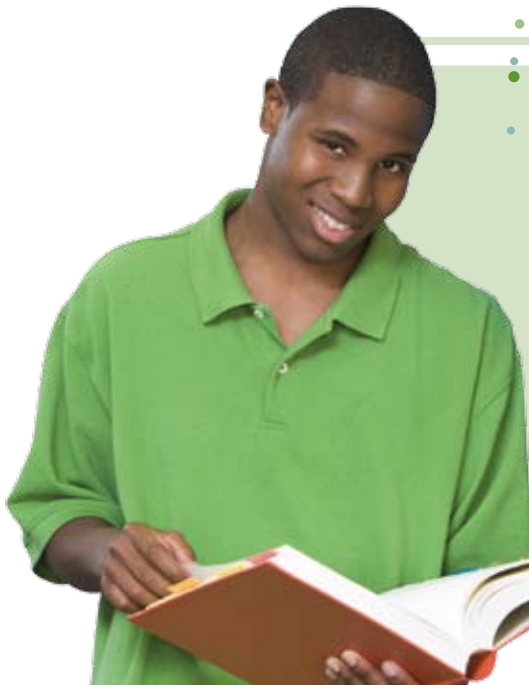


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chairs.....	1
Message from the President.....	2
About Frontier College.....	3
Looking Into The Future.....	4
Frontier College by the Numbers.....	5
Regional Profiles.....	6
Annual Supporters.....	16
Financials.....	18

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

The past year has been one of exciting and successful transition and progress for Frontier College and Frontier College Foundation. Under the leadership of the College's new President, Sherry Campbell, and the Foundation's new Executive Director, Judy Tobe, our programs continue to expand, reaching more participants than ever before.

This growth is being guided by Frontier College's 2008–2011 strategic plan, which envisions a greater national presence and new or expanded partnerships in all of Canada's provinces and territories.

The three-year plan calls on the College to build a sustainable, strong national presence by diversifying funding streams and offering more types of programs to more people in more sites across Canada. By fostering innovation, taking advantage of new technologies, and increasing sustainability in provinces and territories, we will secure the long-term success of Frontier College.

In support of the College's plan, the Foundation continues to grow its fundraising capabilities and has generated additional sources of funding from corporations, foundations, individuals, sponsors and special events.

As in every one of our 109 years, this year's successes have been due to the expertise, innovation and hard work of our staff, the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our funders. The boards extend our heartfelt thanks to you all for recognizing the crucial importance of literacy to the health, well-being, security, economic prosperity and personal happiness of Canadians. Canada is richer for your contributions.

Catharine Heddle, Chair
Frontier College

Nancy Evans, Chair
Frontier College Foundation



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year many stakeholders, volunteers and staff took time to reflect on the work of Frontier College. Thanks to all of you who dedicated time to thinking about the future of Frontier College and offering insights that helped to shape our strategic plan.

Some of the themes that we heard repeatedly in the process reflected that literacy continues to be perceived as an issue without urgency and that there is a growing need to link to other issues like youth violence, health, civic engagement, community development, employment and poverty reduction. You encouraged us to continue to serve the hard to serve and the hard to reach as well as to continue to grow our partnerships at all levels.

2007 was a year of growth and innovation for Frontier College. We did continue to build more community partnerships to reach more children, youth and adults across Canada. Our impact is far reaching because of the commitment, time and most of all passion of our thousands of volunteers across Canada.

Implementing our new strategic plan, this year, will see us expand our programs and services across the country. Our vision is to continue to grow as a leading national literacy organization responding to Canadians' literacy needs through robust programs in all provinces and territories.

We will build on 109 years of bringing literacy services to Canadians. We will continue to do this by developing the leadership capacity of our volunteers; make use of new technologies to reach more Canadians; and work with communities to build their capacity. We look forward to building upon our success as a leading national literacy organization helping Canadians fulfill their potential wherever they live.

As we move into 110 years of existence one of the things I am most proud of is something one of our Beat the Street youth said about Frontier College... "I tell my friends about Frontier College because it's cool, the staff are cool and the place is cool."

I am very proud to be President of an organization so rich in history but still "cool" and relevant!

Sherry Campbell, President



ABOUT FRONTIER COLLEGE

Founded in 1899 by a small group of university students, Frontier College began by sending student volunteers to the frontiers of Canada: logging camps, mining towns and rail gangs. They worked alongside workers during the day and taught in the evenings and on weekends.

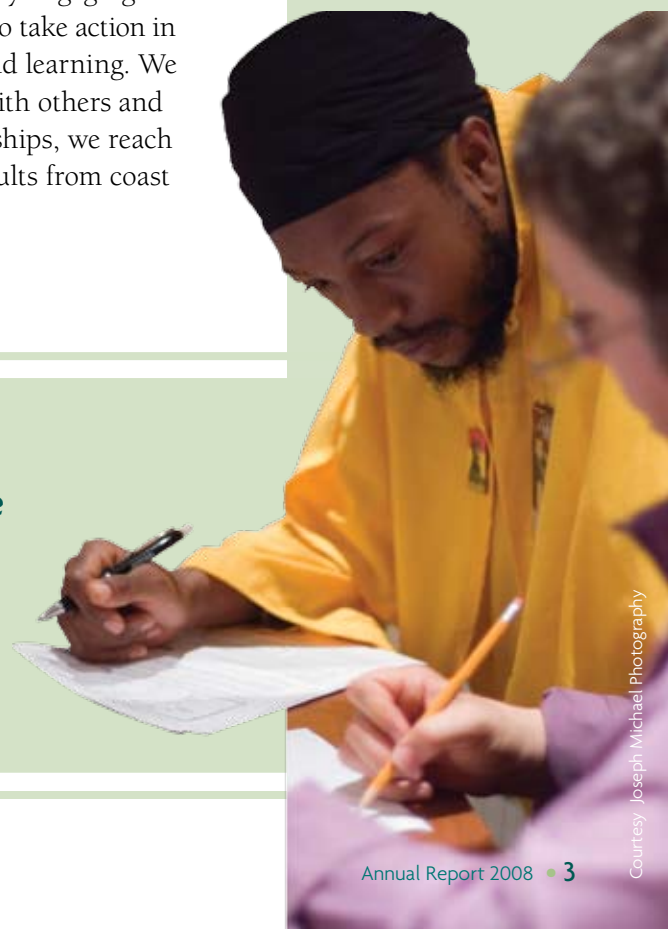
Today, we work with Canadians who have little or no access to other educational opportunities or who need extra support – wherever they are.

With 42% of adult Canadians experiencing reading difficulties, Frontier College is needed now more than ever. We are continuing our role as a leader in the literacy movement by doing what we have always done – reaching out to people and responding to their learning needs.

Frontier College is strengthening Canada's social fabric by engaging and mobilizing volunteers to take action in the cause of literacy and learning. We work in partnership with others and through these partnerships, we reach children, teens and adults from coast to coast.

“My experience with Frontier College was superb. I greatly appreciated the time that Catherine gave me. I am learning grammar more easily. In a way, that has made me want to continue.”

– Adult learner





LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

2007 was a year of planning and creating our vision for Frontier College's future.

To ensure continued success for the coming years Frontier College will focus on fostering innovation, taking advantage of new technologies and increasing sustainability in provinces and territories.

Our strengths will continue to be our ability to build leadership in communities, mobilize volunteers and assist communities to build their own capacity.

by diversifying funding streams and offering more types of programs to more people in more sites across Canada.

Our goal is to build on 109 years of bringing literacy programs to Canadians. In the recent past, our programs have expanded to include work with Aboriginal communities, new programming for youth and a revitalized version of our original Labourer-Teacher program.

Over the coming years, we will focus on building on our current program mix while we expand our reach into new



OUR STRATEGIC VISION

Frontier College is a leading national literacy organization responding to Canadians' literacy needs through robust, self-sustaining programs in all provinces and territories.

We will achieve this vision by increasing partnerships, demonstrating innovation and leadership in our literacy programs and leveraging technology to expand and enhance our scope. We will build a sustainable, strong national presence

communities and focus on innovative new partnerships and programs.

We will use technology in new ways to facilitate communication and access to resources for volunteers and members of the community.

FRONTIER COLLEGE BY THE NUMBERS

Frontier College volunteers worked with more than **14,000** participants across Canada.†

More than **2,400** Aboriginal children and youth attended summer literacy camps in remote communities in Northern Ontario and Alberta.

- Number of classrooms these participants would fill: **628**
- Number of new words learned by campers over the summer: **40,000+**

More than **300** labourers on farms and in other agricultural settings learned with Frontier College Labourer-Teachers.

- Number of letters written and sent home: **600+**
- Number of callouses on the hands of Frontier College Labourer-Teachers: **thousands**

We hosted more than **120** workshops and conferences across Canada.

- Number of people who attended: **1,280**
- Number of Frontier College literacy resources distributed: **6,000**

Over **2,050** people volunteered with Frontier College: tutoring, organizing, event planning, fundraising, governing, doing administrative tasks.

- Number of hours these people spent volunteering: **100,000+**

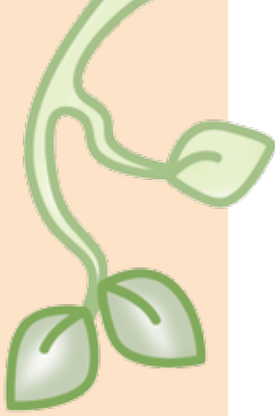
More than **38,850** children, youth and adults received free books from Frontier College thanks to the generous publishers who donate books.

- Number of shelves it would take to hold these donated books: **438**

We hired over **115** people for summer employment as camp leaders and program coordinators.

- Number of employment hours provided to Canadian youth: **28,000**
- Number of innovative, volunteer-driven, community-based literacy programs Frontier College operates and contributes to across the country: **countless!**

†(Including over 9,000 Canadian children who participated in summer literacy camps and Reading Tents)



REGIONAL PROFILES

BRITISH COLUMBIA

In British Columbia, Frontier College volunteers and staff work with nine community partners to serve learners in the Vancouver area. Programs offered with community partners include one-to-one tutoring with domestic workers, classroom support for Native youth and Homework Clubs for children of African descent.

The Domestic Workers ESL program is a workplace literacy program that offers one-to-one and small group tutoring to live-in caregivers and nannies (mostly female) in coffee shops, libraries and community centres throughout Vancouver. Volunteers work with caregivers on ESL lessons and learning activities which interest the women. Activities include conversational English and resume writing.

“The best thing about being a tutor with Frontier College is being able to provide a safe, welcoming, and non-judgemental service to people who work in precarious situations. What we do as tutors transcends the initial purpose of improving English communication skills – by providing a listening ear, a forum for practicing everyday interactions (talking to retail clerks, in doctor’s offices) and personal insights into Canadian society, we also build confidence, courage, and independence.”

– Frontier College Tutor



Courtesy Joseph Michael Photography

REGIONAL PROFILES

ALBERTA

This year, Frontier College took its summer camp model to Saddle Lake, Alberta. The Saddle Lake First Nation is a large reserve about 200 km northeast of Edmonton. The reserve has a population of over 7,000 people – 1,500 of these are children under the age of six.

Frontier College worked in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Saddle Lake to get the program off the ground. Space was donated by Onchaminahos Elementary School and camp counselors were recruited from within the community. More than 140 children participated in the camp, with a waiting list of many more. Elders from the reserve visited the camps often to read stories, demonstrate traditional crafts and teach drumming, traditional songs and dance.

A parent of one camper in Saddle Lake said, “I have noticed a change in my daughter wanting to read and learn more from books. She is in her first year of school and she is very excited that she can read.”

SASKATCHEWAN

Our volunteers in Saskatoon worked with elementary schools and a settlement agency to offer homework help and classroom support for children and youth along with conversation circles and other support for adults and families newly arrived in the province.

“The assistance our school receives from Frontier College is extremely important in helping us meet the diverse needs of our student population. The Junior Chefs program involves volunteers working with students to do meal planning. They read recipes, measure and follow instructions to prepare a wonderful meal to enjoy together. The Acting For Life drama group allows our students to express themselves creatively as they learn the basic skills needed to develop, write and perform their own drama projects. We are fortunate to have such a partnership with Frontier College and their trained volunteers are invaluable to the extra-curricular activities we can offer our students.”

– *Community School Coordinator,
Saskatoon*



REGIONAL PROFILES

ONTARIO

Frontier College works across the entire province of Ontario to deliver varied and vibrant literacy programs to children, youth and adults. We work in partnership with other agencies such as women's shelters, prisons, inner-city schools, settlement agencies and remote Aboriginal communities.

The programs we deliver span a huge spectrum from Reading Circles for younger children as a means to impart a love of reading and books to programs for inner-city youth who have dropped out of school to upgrading and literacy support for adults living in shelters or in prisons.

Our partnership with the Ontario Teachers' Federation brings parents, teachers and community organizations together to support literacy for children in Kindergarten through Grade 6. This partnership has resulted in new homework clubs, tutoring programs and other activities across the province.

One of our programs for adults with disabilities provides a safe, supportive and encouraging learning environment for adults whose educational needs have not been met by the traditional system.

Sane is a student with the Frontier College, Independent Studies Program. He lives in Toronto with his mother. Sane's goals include owning a carpentry shop, producing music and becoming a graphic artist. Sane dreams about one day designing and building a home for his mother.

WHAT LITERACY MEANS TO ME

The dictionary definition says literacy means to be able to read, write and comprehend. But to me it means much more. It means the confidence to express my thoughts, feelings and ideas and to socialize with people.

Literacy is something that is very important because it makes me feel good about myself and my ability to be part of my community and share my knowledge with others.

Being confident has opened up my ideas for career choices. Before I became literate I felt very embarrassed because my ability to read or spell was not very good. It was very hard to express my thoughts or ideas to people because my self esteem was very low. The confidence that I needed in everyday life was not there because I was unable to express myself.

When I began learning more about reading and writing and improving my vocabulary I felt more confident, independent and my self esteem

REGIONAL PROFILES



increased. I started having more interesting career choices. Now I believe in myself and my ability to be successful in the career that I have chosen for my future.

I am motivated and committed to learn all I can so I can become a cabinet maker in Canada.

Sane, Frontier College learner

Darlene is a student in a youth literacy program in a high-needs neighbourhood of Toronto. The program prepares young adults who have not graduated from secondary school to write the GED (General Education Development) test.

At the age of 17, Darlene was a high school dropout and a new mother. Although she kept trying to get back to school and back on her feet, life wasn't letting her. When her son was diagnosed with autism, she had to drop out of a program at Humber College. Devoting all her time to his special needs and without a high school diploma, the only jobs she could find were low-paying service jobs.

Eventually, Darlene applied to college again only to face an educational roadblock. She needed her GED (General Educational Development) certification.

She found out about the Frontier College GED and Literacy Upgrade Program, offered in partnership with JVS Toronto's flagship youth program, Youthinc, located in the Jane Finch community.

“My Frontier College instructors wouldn't let me entertain the idea of failing and they gave me the resources to be successful. The studying techniques they showed me really helped me achieve my goals at the end of the course.”



Darlene

Thanks to their support, Darlene scored in the 96th percentile.

Darlene says without the program she would still be working in retail, earning minimum wage, unable to care for her son. With her newfound confidence, Darlene plans to graduate from the Medical Administrative Program at a local college within months and then hopes to study journalism part-time.

REGIONAL PROFILES



“Teaching my learner so far has been successful. We have completed two sessions and I hope that I’ll be able to make a difference in his literacy skills. It is quite apparent that he is committed to learning and quite enthusiastic about reading.”

– Volunteer tutor

MANITOBA

Winnipeg is a diverse city with a large First Nations and immigrant population. Frontier College operates literacy programs across the city of Winnipeg in cooperation with a variety of community partners that includes newcomer organizations, schools, community centres, adult learning centres, and libraries. In all, we worked with 18 of these community partners.

This summer we ran a 7-week *Families Learning Together* pilot program in conjunction with the Salvation Army. Six tutor/learner matches worked on things from basic literacy to more advanced grammar and comprehension. Even in a short period of time, tutors were seeing progress from the learners. As well, our Reading Tent coordinators facilitated 48 Reading Tents with over 1,100 children engaging in summer literacy and learning.

QUEBEC

Frontier College works in Quebec City, Sherbrooke and Montreal to offer a variety of literacy activities in both French and English with more 40 community partners such as adult education centres, community centres, referral and information centres for newcomers, schools and housing projects across the province.

In Montreal, Frontier College offers an individual tutoring program for adults and youth who are referred to Frontier College by other organizations that cannot respond to their learning needs. Each week, between fifty and sixty individuals who have difficult life circumstances (refugees, individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities, individuals with little formal education) are tutored by Frontier College volunteers.

Volunteers are mostly university students and community members. Recently a number of seniors have joined the ranks of tutors who give their time to help adults reach their learning goals.



“We always warm up by playing the card game, Fish. When we started playing this game, my learner needed all of his concentration to decide what card he wanted to ask for. In just a few weeks, his skills and confidence have increased and now we can have a great conversation while we are playing.”

– Frontier College Tutor

NEW BRUNSWICK

Frontier College volunteers and staff deliver literacy programming in both French and English in Fredericton and Moncton with 13 community partners. Community partners span tenant associations, community centres, multicultural organizations and schools. The Reading Buddies program is offered in cooperation with the Fredericton YMCA and provides not only a way for seniors to contribute their time, knowledge and experience to the community, but also gives an opportunity to children to enjoy reading and books in a relaxed environment. The “reading buddies” are seniors who meet once a week with the group of children at a local community centre. Many of the seniors have a relatively isolated social life within the walls of their residence. Bringing them together with children in the community is a

practical and unique way to encourage the children’s social and literacy skills and provide an opportunity for the seniors to contribute their energy and wisdom to the community.

A Frontier College Homework Club in a Moncton area Family Learning and Resource Centre serves children and youth who live in a local public housing community. According to the Family Resource Centre’s coordinator, “The same kids returned to the centre week after week for help with their homework. This is very remarkable and speaks volumes about the type of service offered by Frontier College [volunteers], as most of the children and youth come from families that do not have the skills to promote education and are not used to attending any type of program on a regular basis.”



Courtesy, Joseph Michael Photography



REGIONAL PROFILES

NOVA SCOTIA

In Halifax, Frontier College delivers literacy programs in partnership with seven community agencies ranging from settlement services to youth employment centres to community recreation centres. Programs offered include one-to-one tutoring for adults to Homework Clubs and Reading Circles for children.

A Homework Club at the Bayers-Westwood Family Resource Centre provides an opportunity for teenagers to increase their literacy skills, promotes a greater interest in school and increased confidence and self-esteem. The centre works with families living in a low-income neighbourhood with barriers to education, literacy in general and academic achievement.

“I am the parent of a boy who attends the Homework Club. My son had started getting tutoring at the centre a few years back. The tutoring was really helpful for him. It helped him in subjects that he had problems with. He just needed the extra help on his schoolwork. He’s looking forward to coming back to the Homework Club for more help next year.”

Frontier College has launched a new initiative – **The Frontier College New Readers Bookstore** – which supplies literacy resources to our partners and other literacy service providers and practitioners across Canada. The New Readers Bookstore is a literacy resource distribution service which carries titles in the areas of essential skills, work-place literacy, ESL, GED and more. We specialize in materials that support basic literacy skills, dictionaries and reference books for new readers, clear and plain language materials, resources for volunteer tutors and instructors, and volunteer management resources. This new initiative allows us to reach people in places where we don’t already have a presence thereby introducing the organization to new communities all across Canada. The profit generated from the sale of literacy resources goes directly into the literacy programming carried out by Frontier College from coast to coast. We are deeply grateful to the former Laubach Literacy of Canada for allowing us to bring this service to the Canadian literacy community.



WWW.FRONTIERCOLLEGE.CA

Become a volunteer!

Click on [Volunteer](#) to learn more.

Make a donation!

Click on [Donate](#) to learn more.

Tell someone about Frontier College!

Click on [Advocate](#) to learn more.

Our heartfelt thanks
to the following levels
and departments of
government for their
support in 2007-2008:

National Office of Literacy and
Essential Skills, Government
of Canada

Human Resources and
Social Development Canada,
Government of Canada

Ministère de l'Emploi et de
la Solidarité sociale Québec

Department of Community
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Ontario Ministry of Training,
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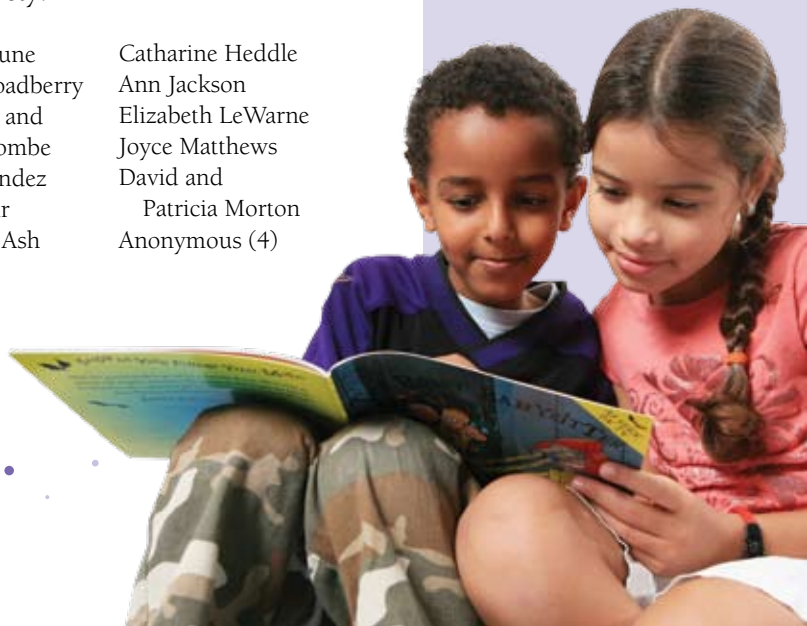
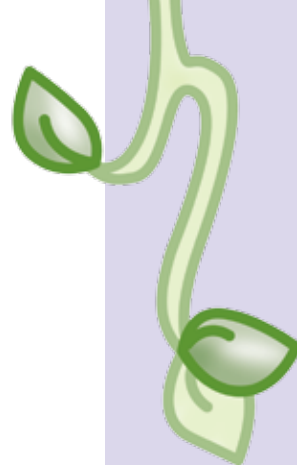
City of Montreal

**DR. MARGARET
STRANG SOCIETY**

Frontier College Foundation's Dr. Margaret Strang Society acknowledges and celebrates donors who have made the commitment to include Frontier College Foundation in their wills. The Society is named after Dr. Margaret Strang, the first female Frontier College Labourer-Teacher who rode on horseback, bringing education to children in remote northern communities. You can become a member of the Dr. Margaret Strang Society by notifying us that you have included a bequest to Frontier College Foundation in your will. Frontier College Foundation would like to thank and recognize the following members of the Dr. Margaret Strang Society:

Betty I. Bethune
Jonathan Broadberry
Jo Campbell and
Don Coulombe
Philip Fernandez
Michael Fuhr
and Heidi Ash

Catharine Heddle
Ann Jackson
Elizabeth LeWarne
Joyce Matthews
David and
Patricia Morton
Anonymous (4)





FUTURE FRONTIERS

Frontier College Foundation's Future Frontiers program spreads the word about Frontier College and literacy. It raises funds to support our programs, by reaching out to friends of Frontier College. We would like to extend our thanks to the members of the Future Frontiers Societies for their generous five year pledges. With their help we will continue to build hope, create dreams and change lives through literacy.

Creating Dreams Society (\$5,000 per year)

Nancy Evans

Building Hope Society (\$1,000 per year)

Sherry Campbell
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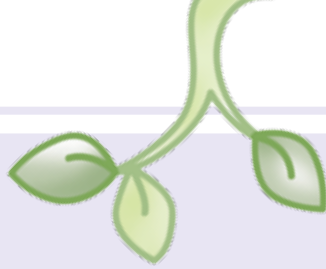
LITERACY LEADERS MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

We would like to give special thanks to the members of our Literacy Leaders Monthly Giving Club. Their monthly gifts demonstrate their commitment to bringing literacy to children, youth and adults across Canada.

Sarah Banani
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Watson Wyatt Canada ULC
Harry Welch
Whirl Inc.
J.R. Wilder
Richard Worzel
Zeller Family Foundation

\$500 to \$999

The Arrogant Worms Inc.
Paul Beeston
Bell Canada Employee
Giving Program
Paul Bennett
David Bergen
Thomas Best
Joe Bolla
Patricia Bovey
Walter and Christine Boyd
Catherine Brown
Frank Buckley
Carole Carpentier
Yvonne Caspersz
CG&B Group Inc.
Wayson Choy
Margot Curry
Corrie and Elizabeth Eaton
Firstbrook Cassie
& Anderson Ltd.
Sheila Leah Fischman
Barbara Flynn
Joan C. Francis

Barbara Fraser
G. Braha & Associates Ltd.
Suzanne Grimble
Hahn Smith Design
Douglas and Jean Hamm
Barbara Howes
The J.M. Smucker Company
Greg Johnson
Kuretzky Vassos LLP
Labatt Brewery
Lakehead University,
Faculty of Education
Belinda Lamoca
Lant & Co. Insurance
Brokers Ltd.
Neil Levine
Harvey Levy
Peter Loukas
Bart MacDougall
Nancy MacKellar
Manchee Foundation
Murray McLauchlan
Donald W. Middleton
Catherine Milne
Warren Milne
Peter Morgan
Desmond Morton
David Munro
Murakami Design Build
Margaret Murray
Harold and Madeline Oliver
Colin Paterson
Anne Pennington
PKF Hill Chartered
Accountants
R.S. Kane Limited
Random House of Canada
Raptors Foundation
Janice Rubin
James P. Mahoney Institute
of the Family - Saskatoon
Community Foundation
SaskTel

Simon & Schuster Canada
Chris and Pat Snyder
Andrew J. Stewart
Linda Stromme
Rosslyn Swanson
Robert Thedorf
Catherine Thomas
Thomas G. Cooke,
Barrister & Solicitor
Chris Thomlinson
Judy Tobe
The Don Middleton and
Clayton Wilson Fund
United Way Ottawa
WestWood Industries Ltd.
Susan Willmot
Laurence Woodruff
David and Debbie Wright
Paul Yoannou
Adam Zimmerman

In-kind donors

Simon Bellemare
Body Harmonics Pilates
Sheila Carson
Coteau Books
Dorset Fine Arts
Jeffrey Goodman
Ann Jackson
Microsoft Canada
Naka Press Limited
Riverwood Publishers,
(Usborne Books)
Rotary Club of Vancouver
Quadra Foundation
Scholastic Canada Ltd.
The Flying Dragon Bookshop
The Institute for
Cross-Cultural Exchange
Urban Empire
Vinyl Café Incorporated

FRONTIER COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Full financial statements are available upon request.
March 31, 2008, with comparative figures for 2007.

	2008	2007
Government	1,745,952	1,433,564
Frontier College Foundation		
– Annual	963,507	926,500
Frontier College Foundation		
– Endowment	614,000	600,000
Lieutenant Governor's		
Aboriginal Literacy Camps	915,732	725,220
Events	145,749	122,543
Other	483,334	326,710
Total Revenue	\$4,868,274	\$4,134,537

Salaries & Benefits	3,232,389	2,620,586
Program Expenses	618,559	573,866
Travel	309,660	261,361
Occupancy	233,001	350,680
Professional Services	158,139	168,283
Communications	105,384	130,742
Professional Development	47,537	17,570
Total Expenses	\$4,704,669	\$4,123,088

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2008	2007
Current Assets	2,794,183	3,049,432
Capital Assets	349,121	355,097
	\$3,143,304	\$3,404,529

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2008	2007
Current Liabilities	2,623,342	2,973,961
Other Obligations	164,292	238,503
Net Assets	355,670	192,065
	\$3,143,304	\$3,404,529

FRONTIER COLLEGE FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Full financial statements are available upon request.

	2008
Investment Income	645,967
Corporations & Foundations	859,742
Individuals & Special Events	560,891
Gross Revenue	\$2,066,600
Expenses	684,729
Net Revenue	\$1,381,871
Donation to College	\$963,507
Endowment Transfer to College	\$614,000

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2008	2007
Current Assets	234,455	445,712
Investments	15,622,772	15,556,770
	\$15,857,227	\$16,002,482

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2008	2007
Current Liabilities	330,150	148,885
Net Assets	15,527,077	15,853,597
	\$15,857,227	\$16,002,482

