

2022- 2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



LIFELONG
LEARNING
COUNCIL
OF RED DEER





Our Objective:

The association advocates for the lifelong learning needs of adults by supporting barrier-free, flexible, and affordable learning opportunities in the Red Deer community.

Our Vision:

A community where everyone can access lifelong learning.

Our History:

LLCRD has been an active supporter of adult education in the city of Red Deer for the past 36 years.

Land Acknowledgement:

LLCRD respectfully acknowledges that we work and learn and live on Treaty 6, and Treaty 7 lands, the traditional territory of the Siksikaitisitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy), Tsuut'ina, Stoney Nakoda, Cree, Saulteaux and Métis ancestral lands, the gathering place of many Indigenous peoples. LLCRD is appreciative of the elders and the knowledge keepers who share their knowledge and stories of Turtle Island.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lianne Hazel, *Chair*

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Erin Willmer

Dr. Tolu Taiwo

Halima Ali

Oliver Felisilda

Special thanks to our other Volunteers.

Kristine Bugayong

Sheyi Olubowale

Brandi Ward

FUNDERS & Support

LLCRD is grateful for the support we receive from the Community Adult Learning Programs and the Community Learning Centre

The Lifelong Learning Council of Red Deer is grateful for the continued funding from the Government of Alberta, and the Ministry of Advanced Education.



Alberta  Advanced Education

Message from the Executive Director

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the successes that LLCRD and our Funded programs have made this grant year. With the return of “normalcy” after the pandemic, many of our funded organizations have seen significant increases in demand for services since the pandemic. This increase in program demands has resulted in learner waitlists and increased learner support. Our funded organizations have worked hard to meet these increased demands and they continue to find ways to alleviate barriers so that learners have better access to learning and programs.

The Community Learning Network reports that 1 in 5 adults in Alberta struggles with some form of Foundational Learning. LLCRD offers funding for these foundational skills programs in order to provide adult education to learners to find success, build confidence and ladder in education and employable skills for adults to become stronger self self-reliant and successful.

Our funding includes the following areas as the primary funding streams

- Basic Digital Skills (using a computer, accessing/navigating technology)
- Numeracy
- Adult Literacy
- English Language Learning
- Skills for Learning
 - Recognizing oneself as a learner
 - Taking risks in learning
 - Actively engaging in the act of learning
 - Developing learning strategies
 - Building collaboration skills in learning
 - Strengthening communication skills in learning

LLCRD also supported some programming that is considered secondary funding. These funded programs have been chosen to be funded by our allocation committee because there is a great need in the community. During the 2022-2023 grant year, we were proud to help support mental health support classes and the Central Alberta Sexual Assault CRISIS support line. The CRISIS line has seen significant increases in call volume this past year. In October 2022, they received 290 calls, which was a 123% increase from the previous October. The pre-pandemic call volume was usually between 40-60 calls per month.

LLCRD is grateful for the continued support of the Alberta Government, Advanced Education who provides the provincial funding to our organization. In addition to the regular funding that we receive, LLCRD was also awarded an additional one-time, two-year funding (2022-2023, 2023-2024) that supported two additional programs during the grant year.

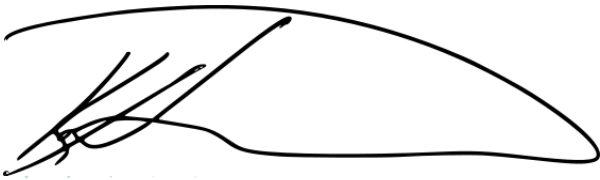
The additional funding came at the most opportune time as LLCRD programs have struggled with waitlists and increased learners' needs for programming and learning support. Our learners are often the most vulnerable residents in our community, they face food and housing insecurities. They struggle with financial barriers impacting their ability to attend classes, fees to attend classes, transportation costs to and from classes, and parents who struggle to find and pay for childminding services. LLCRD is working to help alleviate these barriers with support built into programming budgets.

Since 2021-2022, LLCRD has almost doubled the number of foundational learners who attended programs:

- 516 foundational learners were supported in 2021-2022
- 979 foundational learners were supported in 2022-2023.

I would like to thank the LLCRD Board of Directors and the Grant Allocation Committee for all of their hard work, and the many hours that they volunteer to make sure that we are able to provide this funding to our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krista Anderson', written over a large, thin, horizontal oval shape.

Krista Anderson

Grants

\$194,222

11 programs were funded

36 classes were delivered

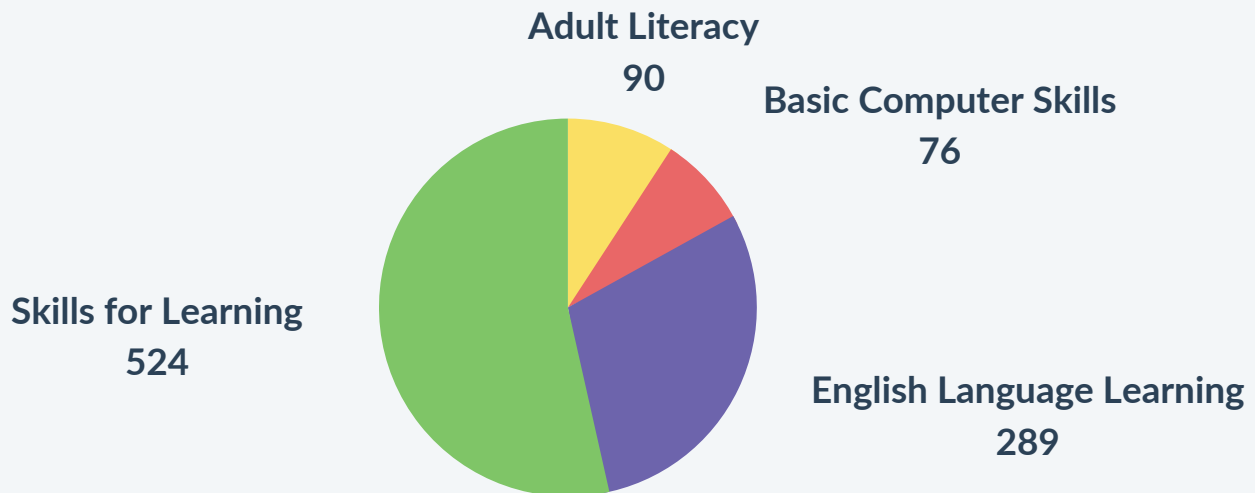
979 Adult learners accessed Foundational Learning programs.

54 Volunteers received training to support victims of sexual assault.

1569 Individuals attended mental health support sessions.

2,602 Total number of unique adult learners to attend classes

Breakdown of 979 Learners who attended Foundational Learning Programs.



Referrals

- 233 referrals to programs
- 23 unique organizations referred learners

LLCRD works to reduce barriers to support inclusive literacy and lifelong learning opportunities.

Some funded programs include:

- On-site childminding
- Buss passes for learners who struggle with transportation barriers.
- Fees for programs can be waived for learners facing Financial Barriers

LLCRD 2022- 2023 FUNDED PROGRAMS

Adult Literacy

- John Howard Society

Skills for Learning

- Employment Placement Support Services, Building Our Stronger Selves
- Red Deer Arts Council, Ross St. Singers
- Red Deer Arts Council, HUB 2.0
- COSMOS, Life Skills Program
- Alberta Prairies Life Enrichment Studio, Life Enrichment Skills Program
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Culinary Gangsters

Basic Computer Skills

- COSMOS, Basic Computer Skills

English Language Learning

- CARE for Newcomers, Evening ESL program
- CARE for Newcomers, Foundations for Women

Community Capacity Building

- Canadian Mental Health Association, Recovery College programs
- Central Alberta Sexual Assault Support Centre, Crisis Line and SART Line
Volunteer Training Sessions

Special Projects

LLCRD provides funding for special projects throughout the grant year. This is reserved for emerging needs, curriculum development and initiatives to support adult education in the City of Red Deer.

This year LLCRD was proud to support these special projects:

- Four additional Evening ESL classes with CARE for Newcomers. Red Deer has had a significant increase in newcomers to the area and a greater need for English language learning classes. These additional classes helped get learners off waitlists and into classrooms.
- LLCRD was a proud sponsor and contributor to the CommUnity Power of One event. This anti-racism event aims to bring awareness to many needs within our community.
- BOOKS on the Bus. LLCRD provided funding to reinstall twenty bins onto the City of Red Deer Public Transit system. This initiative helps to eliminate barriers to literacy.
- LLCRD provided free training for our funded organizations to participate in Introduction to Adult Foundational Learning. This training is mandatory training for CALP-funded programs.

Community Committees and Events

In order to stay attuned to the emerging needs of the community and to continue to be an advocate for literacy, LLCRD sits on multiple boards, advisory committees and is involved with many initiatives, including:

- CommUnity Power of One Event
- BOOKS on the Bus
- Central Planning Council, Red Deer Local Immigration Partnership
- Systems Navigators meetings
- Executive Directors Network

The following are student and facilitator testimony that was submitted in the 2022-2023 final reports.

EPSS, BOSS student

Many of the students who attended the BOSS program found themselves feeling excluded in their current social setting; many of them struggled with mental health and addiction issues that further compounded their sense of security and their overall feelings of self-worth

One of the BOSS participants from this contracted year fell into this demographic. Having experienced a childhood of trauma, she struggled with her personal sense of worth and well-being. The people in her life made a concerted effort to share unsolicited advice and often left her feeling like she had no opinion of her own. Despite her attempt to please people around her, she began to feel more indecisive and confused as to who she was as a person.

This eventually led to a life of drug use and other compulsive behaviours that reinforced her feelings of shame and worthlessness. She struggled with what was right for her and at times felt like a chameleon trying to be all things to all people. At times she lacked the capacity to say “no” which often led her into precarious situations and put her at risk.

After having attended the BOSS program, she stated

“ I learned that pot use has had a negative effect on me and my interpersonal relationships. I hear people all the time use the excuse that they smoke up because it calms their nerves, however, in the BOSS program I learned that smoking actually makes your nerves worse. The BOSS program provided me with information and skills I will use for the rest of my life. I have a much better sense of who I am as a person and I am learning to make healthy boundaries. One of those strategies I have learned is what to do when people feel compelled to give me unsolicited advice. I now know how not to let pressure get the best of me. Overall, I am proud to say that I am a better person because of the program. I recommend the BOSS program because it gives you life skill strategies, not just for the present, but for the future”.

Cosmos, Computer skills learner

“The knowledge I got makes me feel more confident in front of the machine, as well as in front of others.”

John Howard Society, incarcerated learner

The program staff was working with an individual who unfortunately re-entered the criminal justice system after several years of no involvement in the criminal justice system. This individual indicated that he and his natural supports “felt” that he was a bad person and that his natural supports “would no longer have any involvement in his life” due to re-incarceration as a result of an addiction relapse. This person indicated that his relapse was a result of the pandemic, and no work being available. Upon conversation, it was clear that this situation (incarceration, family/natural support abandonment) was impacting this person’s self-esteem and self-confidence. Program staff asked this individual if they would be willing to participate in an additional exercise in which he was asked to list his personal values and personal strengths. This person thoroughly (with a lot of effort and intent) provided program staff with a double-sided page outlining his skills, strengths, and values. Without the given opportunity to engage with the program staff in a structured and caring environment, this growth and self-expression may not have taken place, as this person was not able to list off any strengths, values, or skillset during the in-person interview.

EPSS, BOSS Learner

I learned to be kind in how I think and feel about my life and self. I think everything was really great and I learned how to deal better when certain problems arise

Ambassadors to the HUB

This is a new initiative for the program. Participants of the program have begun to actively volunteer to set up the classrooms, take care of sound equipment, and welcome other participants to the program. The Ambassador volunteers are creating opportunities for fundraising advocacy, and personal involvement depending on volunteer and personal abilities

HUB 2.0



Thank
You



403- 343-1322



Info@learningrd.ca




www.learningrd.ca



5550 45st #G11 Red Deer



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