

**2019-2020 Year End Report**

Lifelong Learning Council of Red Deer is a member of the Community Learning Network, funded by Alberta Advanced Education. We are one of a hundred and two CALP organizations within Alberta. The 2019-2020 Grant year was a year of many transitions and changes, Covid was a main factor for many organizations, challenging how we functioned. The Lifelong Learning Council of Red Deer supported the funded organizations this past year, and we were amazed by the ways that these organizations persevered in order to continue to help their students and clients during the Covid-19 epidemic. Many of these organizations switched their in-person programs to online learning. They were able to quickly adapt and be there for barriered learners, who were often isolated and dependent on these classes for personal interactions during Covid. The following are a few of the many accomplishments and success stories from the 2019-2020 granting year of our funded agencies:

**The Canadian Mental Health Association**

 The CMHA recognized that because of Covid-19, some of their clients were isolated and needed interaction. The CMHA provided frequent check-in phone calls to eight of their isolated learners, who were struggling with mental health during this epidemic. These interactions between staff and clients may have been the only interactions that the clients had that day and speak to the importance of their programs.

 **Ross Street Singers**

This is a quote from one of the choir students. It speaks to the need for these social programs that teach the foundational skills needed to survive in the current economic climate.

“*We have learned life skills such as leadership, time management, problem solving, perseverance, thinking on spot, responsibility, verbal communication, creativity, stress management and music theory. These life skills have taught me how to think differently about life. I have learned how to be better at time management, patience, responsibility etc. This choir has brought me out of my comfort zone by giving me the confidence in myself to know that I am capable of putting my mind to anything I want to do. “*

Another participant wrote:

*“The inclusion of all to be invited to sing has been a treat for the community.  Those from marginalized groups, those needing barrier free programs and for those that just want to sing and grow musically, this choir has filled the niche.”*

**Central Alberta Sexual Assault Support Centre**

The 24-Hour Text, Webchat and Phone Crisis Line has seen an increase of calls by about 31% over the same time frame last year. This means that 943 individuals were supported by CASASC volunteers and SART members. The funding provided by LLCRD, has helped train 20 new learners to support Central Albertans who have been affected by sexual violence.

**Programs Funded in 2019-2020**

*The following pie chart represents all of the different types of funded programs that the LLCRD funded:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Program Type  | Number of programs delivered |
| Adult Literacy | 1 |
| English Language Learning | 10 |
| Basic Computer Skills | 62 |
| Community Capacity Building  | 19 |
| Foundational Skills | 63 |

In total, LLCRD funded **156** programs**,** with **652** students**, 2,103.5** instructional hours, and **337** volunteer hours. This totalled up to **11,872.5**hours contributed to all programs.

**Lifelong Learning 2019-2020**

The Lifelong Learning Council of Red Deer has had many changes this past year, including a change in staff. Both Kareen Lambert and Lee-Ann Shinsky have moved on to pursue different career paths. Lifelong Learning Council of Red Deer has benefited from their experience and dedication. Some of the highlights of their past year contributions include:

**Adult Learning Touchpoint report**

On January 10th 2020, 29 people contributed to an in-person meeting to discuss the needs of adult learners in Red Deer. This information was imperative to understanding the growing needs of the barriered learners in the Red Deer area. The information was also used to create the Adult Learning Touchpoint Report. The report was used in our 3-year strategic planning sessions. Three CALP facilitators, ten learners, and seventeen agency organizations contributed to the Adult Learning touchpoint report.

**Three-year strategic planning sessions**

In June 2020, the board met with Shari Hanson. She is a Community Development Officer from Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, to develop a three-year strategic plan for 2020-2023. She guided the organization through the development of the plan.

**Training provided to funded agencies**

The Lifelong Learning Council of Red Deer supplies training to our funded organizations. This past year we were able to offer the Introduction to Adult Foundation Learning to thirteen participants. This is mandatory training necessary to run CALP funded programs.

**Community Involvement**

Both Kareen and Lee-Ann have been leaders in the Red Deer Community, they have sat on many community committees and Boards including:

* Welcoming and Inclusive communities. Staff attended monthly meetings. Their participation in this network allowed them to stay connected to a wide variety of learning opportunities, and equity work taking place in the community.
* Urban Aboriginal Voices Society Lee-Ann Shinsky was an Education Domain Speaker. The Urban Aboriginal Voices Society promotes intergenerational learning to provide Indigenous learners the opportunity to access authentic indigenous learning.
* CAPRA Staff were a part of the operations team, literacy action committee, and books on the bus. The goal was to remove financial barriers so that learners can access literacy and resources.
* Settlement Services Network Staff attended network meetings to gain information on settlement issues and opportunities with local service agencies and government staff

**Funded Programs for the 2019-2020 grant year.**

**Canadian Mental Health Association** ($15,096.00)

*The Art of Friendship* was designed to assist people who are lonely and isolated due to mental health, disability, or underdeveloped socialization skills.

*Living life to the Full* is an evidence-based program that empowers participants to gain and practice new skills for daily living in managing low level depression and anxiety related to everyday life stressors.

*Wellness Recovery Action Plan* is an evidence based self-management and recovery program, that empowers participants to manage a variety of difficulties that are impeding their daily functioning and well-being. These difficulties may include intrusive or disturbing thoughts due to mental illness, weight management, family functioning, anger, or substance use.

**Central Alberta FASD Network** ($3,500)

*The Circle Series* was developed for individuals living with a FASD disability, and/ or other cognitive disabilities out of the knowledge that these individuals often lack informal and formal support and have little chance to interact in social situations while learning a skill. The FASD Network in conjunction with the HUB, identified a gap in available and affordable activities that provide individuals living with FASD and/or other cognitive disabilities, and opportunity for social inclusion, a necessary component for a full life. The Circle of Support and Arts program provides life and social skills development in addition to an opportunity to participate in a general arts program.

**Central Alberta Refugee Effort** (C.A.R.E) ($30,000)

*Alternative ESL*- Students in this course acquired skills in everyday, functional English, for use in the community.

*Foundations for Women*- A weekly class on Saturday mornings for women with low-level ESL and literacy needs. It focuses on providing real-world ESL instruction and removing barriers by helping them become more comfortable in the classroom and building relationships in class and the community.

**Central Alberta Immigrant Women’s Association** ($35,195.00)

*Essential Life Skills for Newcomers-*the learning objective of the program is to develop immigrant’s foundational life skills (both personal and interpersonal), which are necessary for newcomers to successfully integrate into Canadian society

*Word Processing for Immigrants*- improving career opportunities for newcomers by helping them to acquire the basic computer skills required in today’s Canadian Workplace.

*Collective Kitchen*- A community-based cooking program where immigrant women come together to develop learning skills related to the purchase and preparation of low-cost nutritious meals. The program helps to bridge language barriers by encouraging women to practice English while helping them to socialize.

**Central Alberta Sexual Assault Support Centre** ($4,000)

*Volunteer/sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Crisis line training*-These volunteer led sessions provide participants with the information and specific training needed to support those who have been impacted by sexual assault or abuse.

**COSMOS Community Support Services Ltd**. ($40,040)

*Basic Computer Literacy Skills Training-*Providing individuals with basic computer literacy training to enhance their ability to efficiency and knowledgeably use the computer.

*Community skills training***. –** Taking anywhere between 3 to 8 weeks to complete, all workshops are designed specifically for the continued learners who are facing social, emotional, cognitive, educational, and financial barriers. A variety of topics are covered, including but not limited to communication, socialization, workplace and personal development, and budgeting.

**John Howard Society of Red Deer** ($4,740.00)

*JHS Literacy Program***-** Delivered at both the Red Deer Remand Centre and in the community of Red Deer, this program will support participants experiencing social and financial barriers, including incarceration or other contact with the criminal justice system, to develop literacy skills in a social context. Each individual will explore a variety of literacy topics, techniques and skills in meaningful and relevant ways.

**Red Deer Arts Council** ($4,740.00)

*Ross Street Singers***-**  The Ross Street Singers program provides opportunity for participants to learn music and to let their creativity flow and their voices be heard. Singers learn the words and music to several songs, sing together in a group, gain confidence communicating through music, and work together in a supportive environment to create music. Working as a choir singing together also builds connections with people from different walks of life, breaks down barriers of isolation, and builds a healthy supportive network through music.

**STEPS Society of Red Deer** ($19,722.00)

*Building our Stronger Selves*.- This 8 week program is designed for participants who want to improve their life situations through increasing their basic life management skills and learning positive life skills. They will gain awareness about themselves, their core values, and their personality style. Participants will enhance their skills in areas such as: decision making, problem solving, managing emotions, initiating change, effective communication, surviving stress, developing a positive support network, and goal setting.

**Volunteer Central Society** ($2,040.00)

*Training for the Voluntary Sector*- Volunteer managers and non-profit staff will gain knowledge and best practices to understand their roles and responsibilities. Non-profit staff and volunteers learned to perform effectivity and confidentiality in their roles through high- quality learning opportunities. Non- profit staff will gain increased knowledge, and skills to better serve their organizations clients. The capacity of the community will be enhanced through access volunteers trained by a cohort of volunteer managers with expertise, skills and knowledge.

**Red Deer College: $15,995**

*Alberta Workplace Language Certificate for Newcomers-* Red Deer College provided online learning to 15 newcomers to Canada to practice and increase their workplace English. Using workplace language, the participants became more familiar with workplace language increasing their chances for employment and workplace safety.