

## Literacy Program Innovations

*Reaching Learners in non-traditional learning locations*



**Learners are everywhere and every place is a learning place guides how Frontier College delivers its programs.** From newcomers looking for work at employment agencies to migrant labourers working on farms, Frontier College strives to reach marginalized learners by building innovative partnerships in non-traditional learning locations.

### ***First Response Literacy in Montreal***

Frontier College's First Response Literacy program offers group tutoring in French as a Second Language (FSL) to adult learners who have recently arrived in Canada. At Les Petites Mains, an employment agency for newcomers and Projet Villeray and Relais Côte-des-Neiges, newcomer settlement organizations, retirees or university student volunteers develop and deliver FSL classes to help learners acquire the basic language skills they need to start building a new life in Canada. The majority of learners face many challenges and appreciate the opportunity to quickly access French language tutoring. With their tutor, they learn the basic skills that allow them to move on to official government courses or to find an apartment and employment.



### ***Frontier College Learning Centre in Leamington, Ontario***

The Labourer-Teacher program is the original literacy program of Frontier College dating back 110 years when university students went out to the frontiers of Canada, then railway, lumber and mining camps, to work side-by-side with the workers by day and teach them how to read and write at night. Today, with funding from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Labourer-Teacher model is one of our workplace literacy programs that continue to reach workers, including farm workers, in workplaces and communities.

Frontier College opened the Learning Centre in Leamington,

## Literacy Program Innovations (cont.)

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Ontario, in 2008. The Centre provides Labourer-Teachers (LTs) and workers the space and resources they need for literacy skills upgrading and computer training. In November 2009, a new computer lab will open at the Centre with state-of-the-art computers. The literacy programs at the Centre have proven so popular with migrant workers that the centre is often full on weeknights. “After a long day of hard work on the farm it’s amazing to see the workers ride into town on their bicycles to take part in our programs,” says Stephen Freeman, Coordinator of the LT program. “On some nights we’ll see a couple of dozen bicycles parked out front.”

### ***Toronto Directory of Children and Youth Learning Support Programs***



On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Frontier College launched the **Toronto Directory of Children and Youth Learning Support Programs.** An initiative in partnership with Toronto Public Library and U of T’s Centre for Community Partnerships and funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the online directory provides a listing of literacy programs in Toronto that are available to children and youth. This new online directory is an accessible way for parents, teachers or social service providers to identify community resources to help children struggling with school, newcomer students or at-risk youth upgrade their literacy skills.