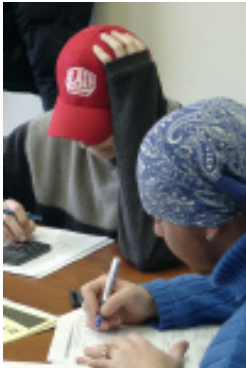


## NEW FRONTIERS in Literacy

### Building Communities Through Literacy Anti-Violence Report Recognizes Frontier College's Work



Last November, the Hon. Roy McMurtry, former Chief Justice of Ontario and Dr. Alvin Curling, released their report, *Roots of Youth Violence* in response to youth violence in inner city communities in Ontario. Among its findings, the report cited the value of community based education and literacy programs provided by Frontier College and others in providing ways for youth to escape poverty and violence.

The *Roots of Youth Violence* report sets out four pillars that describe the outcomes required to respond effectively to the roots of youth violence. They are:

- A Repaired Social Context: Social Opportunity and Anti-Racism
- A Youth Policy Framework
- Integrated Governance
- A Neighbourhood Capacity and Empowerment Focus

In its chapter on education and its importance to neighbourhood capacity building and empowerment, the *Roots of Youth Violence* report cites the work of Frontier College in improving the literacy skills of vulnerable youth in high needs communities in Toronto through volunteer tutors working with youth. "These relationships both improve the students' literacy skills and, critically, provide them with a positive attachment to an older mentor." (Vol. 1, pp. 202-3)

Frontier College provides a number of literacy programs for at-risk youth in Toronto's high-needs communities like Jane-Finch and Lawrence Heights, as well as programs for children and youth in inner cities across Canada. These programs include GED (General Educational Development) preparation; computer skills upgrades; help with homework; reading books and writing.

The report goes on to cite a number of benefits for learners, including increased self-esteem, improved education, employment and personal development opportunities.