

Literacy. Learning for Life.



Literacy in Canada



Literacy is an essential skill in today's world. At Frontier College, we believe it's a fundamental right.

Literacy is more than just the ability to read and write. It's the ability to understand the printed word and to put it to use. It's about strengthening culture, achieving goals, gaining knowledge and recognizing potential. It's about succeeding in today's world.

Low literacy skills are directly linked to poverty, poor health and high unemployment. Nearly one in four adult Canadians has trouble with everyday tasks that involve reading.

**That's millions
of Canadians who are not
reaching their potential.**

Through a network of thousands of volunteers, Frontier College is helping people to realize their potential and seize the opportunities that come their way.

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 almost one in four 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.



What We Do



Frontier College is strengthening Canada's social fabric by engaging and mobilizing volunteers to take action in the cause of literacy and learning. We demonstrate the power of non-formal learning to make change in people's lives and we work in partnership with others. Through these partnerships, we reach children, teens and adults from coast to coast.

We support children and families, community groups and organizations in high-needs areas through training, workshops, conferences and volunteer placement.

**We recruit and train more than 5,000
volunteers each year to work with thousands
of Canadians who want to learn.**

“Frontier College's goals...

are really geared to the improvement of individuals' lives, and it's a terrific feeling to be a part of that. Being involved has allowed me to learn from my learners as much as they have learned from me.”

Frontier College volunteer

“Because of Frontier College...

I feel I have the literacy skills to demonstrate who I am and what I can become. I want to do more than survive. I want to thrive. I want to feel important.”

Frontier College learner

What Can You Do?

Become a literacy volunteer in your community. Contact Frontier College or a local literacy group to get involved.

Make a donation. Frontier College depends on donations from individuals, businesses, service groups, foundations and governments to carry on our work.

Encourage those around you to read and learn for pleasure.



“Frontier College
is part of a
great heritage in
Canadian history...”

... a heritage known as popular or informal education. This heritage recognizes that all people have the desire and the capacity to learn and that education takes place everywhere in the community, not just in the classroom. It is these methods and these teaching approaches that will enable us to teach all citizens, especially those that are most isolated and dispossessed.”

John Daniel O'Leary
President, Frontier College



Please contact us:

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We have offices across the country. Please visit our website for locations and contact information.

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