

# ***Live and Learn***

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance



Winter 2013

Photo courtesy of johnsylvester.com

## **Continuous Learning at the Alliance**



Here is Jinny Greaves practicing CPR on a baby mannequin. We joined with the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the PEI Business Women's Association to hire a trainer to upgrade our first aid skills.

## ***What's inside***

*Callbeck recognizes Terry Affleck    December bursary winners    A success story*  
*Writing: an essential skill*

Live and Learn – Winter 2013

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The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance

Published by the PEI Literacy Alliance.

Edited, written and designed by Catherine O'Bryan, Norman Finlayson and Jinny Greaves.

We would like to hear from you if you have:

- learners' stories
- creative writing by learners
- articles or news about teaching adults
- upcoming events
- new resources for adult education

Please send your material to:

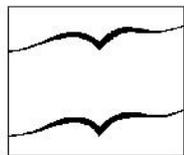
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**PEI  
Literacy  
Alliance**

*This publication is made possible by funding from the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.*

### **Canadian Literacy and Learning Network's Labour Market Study of Literacy and Essential Skills Workers**

Literacy and Essential Skills (L/ES) practitioners work across Canada in various settings to help Canadians achieve better L/ES results. While more is known about who accesses these programs and what tools are used to increase L/ES skills, recent studies have shown that there is a gap in our knowledge about who works in this field.

In Spring 2013 CLLN, funded by Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, will coordinate a large-scale, confidential survey of L/ES practitioners to get a comprehensive picture of who works in the field. Social Research & Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) will conduct the survey. The study will allow CLLN to provide a picture of the demographics of L/ES practitioners as well as what kinds of work they do, where they do it and how they do it.

Once the survey has been completed, CLLN will analyze and assess the data to inform policy-makers and the L/ES field at large about what the over-arching human resources issues are that affect L/ES practitioners. CLLN will disseminate the findings broadly.

For more information or updates about this study, please contact the project manager Anne Ramsay at [aramsay@literacy.ca](mailto:aramsay@literacy.ca)

## Terry Affleck Recognized in the Senate

*The following is a statement that Senator Catherine Callbeck made in the Senate, Wednesday, October 24, 2012. It is about our bursary winner Terry Affleck, recent recipient of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award.*



Senator Callbeck

Hon. Catherine S. Callbeck: Honourable senators, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Mr. Terry Affleck, one of this year's winners of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Mr. Affleck was presented with his award last week by the Premier of Prince Edward Island, the Honourable Robert Ghiz, who noted that the award acknowledges the importance of literacy as an essential building block in the development of a vibrant society and a prosperous economy.

Early in his school career, Mr. Affleck did well. He tells us that after the fifth grade, low self-esteem and a sense of rebellion caused him to have problems. Like many in the 1950s, he chose to quit school and begin work. His parents did not mind as jobs were plentiful for someone without a formal education. He was a good worker and was easily able to find work to suit his abilities. It was not until his children were born that he realized he could not read well enough to help them with their homework. Though he spent more years trying to hide the fact that he could not read well, a good friend finally encouraged him to seek help. He was paired with tutor Micheline Dufour, and he has not looked back.

At the age of 63, Mr. Affleck learned to read, and at 66 he is just one subject away from earning his grade 12 equivalency. He has shown great courage and dedication in his journey to overcome his literacy challenges. I am pleased that his hard work and enthusiasm has been recognized by the Council of the Federation.

Mr. Affleck's story is not an uncommon one, and it clearly illustrates the importance of solving this country's literacy problems. As I have said many times in this chamber, more than 40 per cent of working-age Canadians, those aged 16 to 65 years, have low literacy skills. In fact, when we include seniors, the percentage rises to 48 per cent. That means that nearly half of Canadians have low literacy skills. They have trouble coping with the demands of everyday life and work. Improving these skills has real benefits to these individuals and to society as a whole.

Honourable senators, I would like to congratulate Mr. Affleck and all those adult learners who have taken the steps to improve their literacy skills. I would also like to thank Ms. Dufour and tutors across the country for their work helping to turn the tide on low literacy skills. Without a doubt, we all benefit from success stories like this one.

## PEI Literacy Alliance Bursary Winners



Instructor Karen Ford Doyle was pleased to present a bursary to **Morgan Carter** of Kensington for her hard work in adult education.

Karen highly recommended Morgan for the award and says it will make a significant difference in her life.



**Amanda Beamish** of Summerside was thrilled to receive a bursary from her instructor Lois Praught.

Lois said that Amanda has been a great addition to the class and is much more determined this time around—she wants this for herself and her two little boys.



Susan Conohan, instructor presents a bursary to **Robin Davidson** of Murray Harbour.

Susan stated that Robin brings a positive attitude to every class. She sets a wonderful example to her children as she works towards completing her grade twelve certificate and achieving her career goals.



Bursary winner **Ashley Caroline Doucette** of Miscouche received her award from Karen Ford Doyle.

Karen said that Ashley is a single mom and very committed to getting her GED. She has perfect attendance, often takes work home and never seems to take a break during the day.

The fifth winner from this round was Allana Rummerfield of Alberton. There was no photo available at time of printing.

### **Winner of the \$1500 W M Hancox Memorial Scholarship at UPEI**



**Angela Taylor**

## A Success Story

Dear Mr. Finlayson,

My name is Marica Babic. I received a bursary from PEI Literary Alliance in 2004 when I was doing my GED at Holland College. I want to thank you once again for your support at the beginning of my study, when I was still uncertain about what I was going to do. I appreciate that you support those who, for one or another reason, had to give up their education in the past and do great efforts to continue it as adults. As I began my education in my forties, I know that it is not easy and that support of any kind (financial or emotional) can make a huge difference as it has done in mine.



Last June (2012), I graduated from Brock University with Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree (Iberian and Latin American Studies & Sociology) and now, I am doing Master's in Spanish Literature at the University of Toronto. I hope that one day, I will be in a position to teach and influence the others to continue their education in spite of their age and social or economic circumstances. I want to tell them that if they have enough strength and dedication to pursue their goals their efforts will be recognized and they will receive support that will help them to reach their goals.

Thank you once again for your great work. I wish you all best.  
Marica Babic

PS. I am addressing this email to you Mr. Finlayson because I remember that you were there when I received my bursary and you also took my photo that is still among the success stories on the web page of the PEI Alliance. I am also sending you my new photo because, I think, it shows how happy I am. Thank you very much.

### **\$750 Bursaries available**

The PEI Literacy Alliance will award five bursaries to adult education students this March.

To apply go to [www.peiliteracy.ca](http://www.peiliteracy.ca) and look in the "News" section OR call 368-3620 to request an application form by mail.

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

**Writing** is the ability to get an idea across by arranging words, numbers and symbols, whether on paper or a computer screen. Strong **writing** skills are essential to communicating effectively at work (e.g. writing memos, emails, or phone messages) and in everyday life (e.g. writing letters, greeting cards, or notes).

We use writing skills to:

- organize, record and document information
- provide information to persuade
- request information or justify a request
- analyse or compare information

### **Tips for Writing a resume**

1. Read the job announcement or advertisement carefully and use relevant key words that reflect your experience and knowledge.
2. Limit your resume to no more than five pages including a cover letter.
3. Present in order of your most recent work experience first.
4. Describe your experience and accomplishments in a clear and organized manner.
5. Ensure that your experience and accomplishments reflect the qualification requirements for the position listed.
6. Use action words to describe your experience and accomplishments such as coordinated, completed or managed.
7. Quantify your experience wherever possible to demonstrate your accomplishments by using numbers, percentages, and dates
8. Provide only relevant information, leave out awards, training, or hobbies if they don't relate to the job.
9. List three references – managers or community leaders who are familiar with your work.
10. Proofread your resume at least three times. Ask a friend or family member to review your resume to catch spelling and grammatical errors, or unclear statements.

## The Back Page



### Islander Day 2013 Activities

#### Monday, February 18

##### Brookvale Winter Activity Park

Two-for-one lift tickets and rentals from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Contact [Brookvale Winter Activity Park](#) at (902) 658-7862

##### Charlottetown and Area

Public skates, [MacLauchlan Arena, CARI Complex](#), Charlottetown, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. \$1 for pre-schoolers, \$2 per adult or \$5 per family

##### Cornwall

Outdoor family fun from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at the Terry Fox Sports Complex (weather permitting).

Lunchtime ZUMBA at 12:30 pm at the Cornwall Civic Centre, \$4 drop in fee.

[Visit Town of Cornwall](#)

##### Summerside

Relay races, noodles, team races and treasure hunts at Credit Union Swimplex from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Slide swims from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Summerside Storm versus Saint John Mill Rats, Credit Union Place, Summerside, 2:00 pm. Family pack (2 adults and 2 children) \$24.99 + taxes / box office fees. [Visit Summerside Storm](#)

##### Sleigh Rides

Enjoy a sleigh or wagon ride through the woods and fields.

Potts Sleigh Rides - 459 Bonshaw Road, Argyle Shore: call (902) 675-2107  
Terpstra Family Sleigh Rides - 992 Rustico Road, Winsloe: call (902) 626-3705

### McDONALD'S: Offering Happy Meals With Books in the U.K.

While McDonald's in the U.S. is focusing on making their Happy Meals healthier, in the U.K. they're trying to make them smarter - by replacing the traditional toy that accompanies the meals with a book.

Under the plan, McDonald's plans to distribute 15 million books over the next two years after teaming with the National Literacy Trust, Dorling Kindersley and WH Smith. The currently featured books are in the *Amazing World* series, which focuses on star and planets, big cats, the rainforest and the Arctic and Antarctic.

Source: [The Daily Meal](#)

### WANTED

We replenish the Book Bank every week to bring free books to children who use the Food Bank. Our goal is for children in low-income homes to have more books.



Our supply of gently used or like new books is getting low. If you have any children's books you would like to donate that are not damaged or marked on please call 368-3620.