

# *Live and Learn*

Summer 2010

The Newsletter of the PEI Literacy Alliance

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Pat Sargeant whoops it up as the Workplace Learning PEI team wins a prize at the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy banquet.

## *What's inside*

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# ***Live and Learn***

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:

Live and Learn  
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Web site: [www.pei.literacy.ca](http://www.pei.literacy.ca)



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

Register Now!

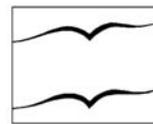
OLC's Spotlight on Learning:  
Becoming Agents of Change

**WHEN:** October 18-20, 2010

**WHERE:** Delta Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard St. West,  
Toronto, Ontario

**VISIT:** [www.on.literacy.a/spotlightonlearning](http://www.on.literacy.a/spotlightonlearning)

2010 Bursary Program



**PEI  
Literacy  
Alliance**

The PEI Literacy Alliance will award up to five \$500.00 bursaries to deserving adult learners in the fall.

To get an application form please visit [www.pei.literacy.ca](http://www.pei.literacy.ca) or call the Alliance office at 368-3620.

Deadline for applications is October 31, 2010.

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**Literacy and Essential Skills**

## **Improving literacy can save lives in the workplace - literally**

Employers are more confident than workers or labour representatives in the ability of employees to understand health and safety policies. This is from a survey released by The Conference Board of Canada. "This gap in perception creates the potential for accidents in the workplace to occur. Because employers are confident in their workers' literacy levels, they are less likely to see the need for training to upgrade employees' knowledge and understanding of health and safety practices," said Alison Campbell, Principal Research Associate.

Many employers create manuals and other documents to set out health and safety practices, but their employees may not be able to read and understand them. When incidents occur, the typical response is to review policies and practices. They often don't verify that individuals have the literacy and basic skills to fully understand or follow set procedures.

"Without even realizing it, some individuals with low literacy skills put themselves, their co-workers and the public at risk," said Campbell.

There were 319 respondents answered the survey. Sixty-four per cent of respondents felt that health and safety practices were understood fully or to a large extent; only 40 per cent of workers agreed. Immigrant service providers and Aboriginal service agencies also expressed concerns about worker understanding of health and safety policies.

Although respondents viewed skills such as listening to instruction, reading printed information, and applying information as very important, only half said that training to build these skills was available through their workplaces.

The report outlines seven steps to take as an organizational action plan:

1. Review past incidents through "a literacy lens"
2. Review organizational health and safety policies and practices
3. Examine policies and practices from the perspective of an individual with low literacy
4. Brainstorm solutions to help users understand health and safety documents
5. Measure and track health and safety incidents and improvements
6. Recognize outcomes
7. Reward efforts to improve literacy skills

To read the full article visit <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/78594>.

The full report is available at [www.e-library.ca](http://www.e-library.ca).

## **FAMILY LITERACY LUNCH & LEARN:** a research conversation about family literacy, highlighting initiatives in PEI and Canada

On Wednesday, June 2 the Alliance hosted lunch with local researchers to discuss family literacy. Dr. Jim Anderson, family literacy expert from UBC gave an overview of trends and issues in Canada. He also spoke about his own work.



Erin Casey



Dr. Jim Anderson

He was followed by a presentation on the Alliance's "Sharing Our Gifts " project by Erin Casey. To wrap up two staff members of CHANCES Family Resource Centre spoke about how they involve parents to support family literacy.

The event was sponsored by PEI Family Literacy Network, UPEI Centre for Education Research, and the PEI Literacy Alliance.

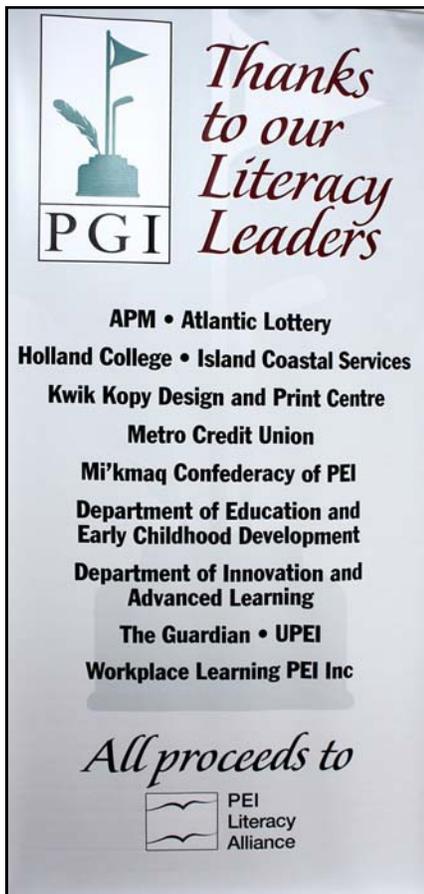
For more information visit the PEI Literacy Alliance website at [pei.literacy.ca](http://pei.literacy.ca).



Alaina Roach O'Keefe, Elizabeth Cairns, Maryam Wagner and Martha Gabriel join the conversation

# 2010 PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

Our 20th PGI in PEI was another success. We returned to our home golf course - the newly renovated Green Gables Golf Club.



Our "leader board" at the entrance to the golf course recognized our sponsors.

*Many thanks to all our golf day volunteers, committee members and supporters.*



Folk singer Valdy golfed with us and entertained the crowd at lunch time.



Blair MacLauchlan (left) accepted the Gzowski award from Alliance Chair Joey Seaman.

## Letter from a Learner

Dear Readers,

I am the proud recipient of the PEI Literacy Alliance William J. Bill Hancox Memorial Scholarship and I would like to express my gratitude for receiving such a wonderful award. I am currently enrolled at UPEI as a mature student in the Arts program; however, my goal is to transfer into Family and Nutritional Sciences once I have upgraded my high school biology and chemistry. My aspiration is to become a dietician. I want to help educate and empower people to make the necessary dietary and lifestyle changes required for living a healthy, happy, and balanced life. Nutrition and physical wellness are my passion and I am confident I will be able to make a difference in the lives of many.

I resigned a full-time position with Fitness New Brunswick and during the school term I have left behind my house, husband and step daughter of 10 years, returning to them in the summer in order to pursue this dream. I courageously asked for support and understanding from my family as I began this new chapter of my life. This is a journey that will help me grow and the overall experience will propel me in a forward direction to reaching my potential. Although I am grateful, the meager student loan I was granted was not enough for me to attend, therefore, my family had to pull together to provide a little extra in order for me to further my education. I am in a state of constant financial strain, so being awarded with this *bursary* was truly a blessing and will assist me greatly next year.

On another positive note, being able to utilize Accessibility Services in the Webster Centre at UPEI has changed my life. The opportunities, consistent support and encouragement provided are absolutely outstanding. I never would have thought I could have returned to university at 33, with ADHD and excel at the rate I am. The Webster Centre has opened my eyes to many useful technologies I did not know existed and my confidence continues to grow as result of my amazing experience to date. Thank you again for awarding me with this scholarship for it has made an incredible difference and allows me to continue on the path to achieving my dream. I am looking forward to returning in fall 2010 and there is no doubt I made the right decision to attend UPEI.

- Angela Taylor

## 2010 Harry MacLauchlan Scholarship

Harry MacLauchlan was a well-known businessman who was noted for his determination and good humor. He was a great supporter of literacy and for years participated in the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. When he died the PEI Literacy Alliance created a \$1500 scholarship in his name.

This year's winner of the scholarship is Joseph Perry. This is what his instructor Betsy O'Brien said about Joe:

*I have been Joseph Perry's instructor this past year and a half. He started back in February of 2009 after he had been laid off from his job at Cabinetmaster. He completed his grade 10 math credit last year before the summer and since returning this past fall, he has gotten his grade 11 and 12 math credits, his grade 12 English credit and his grade 11 physics credit.*

Joe shares the determination of Mr. MacLauchlan and is a worthy recipient of this award

## 2010 Peter Gzowski Scholarship

Peter Gzowski was a longtime radio host on CBC Radio. He was a champion of Canada and a great supporter of literacy and learning. When he died we created a scholarship in his name.

This year's winner is Kevin Sampson. Here is what his instructor Anne Morrison said about him:

*Kevin came to adult education last winter to prepare for the GED exams which he successfully wrote in March of that year.*

*This success was a big boost to his confidence level and an incentive to continue studying. Since then he has returned to our program and was very successful in three academic courses - Math, Oceanography, and Physics on his way to being accepted into the Pipefitting program this coming September at the Holland College Georgetown Center.*

*Kevin was a joy to teach, has a wonderful work ethic, and is now heading for a successful trades career. He is a very deserving recipient of this award.*



Kevin Sampson receives his scholarship from Catherine O'Bryan of the PEI Literacy Alliance

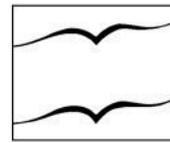
The PEI Literacy Alliance sponsors these scholarships with funds raised from the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. For more information on our tournament or bursaries and scholarships please visit our website at [www.pei.literacy.ca](http://www.pei.literacy.ca).

## The Back Page

### Congratulations



Alliance Executive Director Catherine O'Bryan presents Ray MacInnis of the PEI Volunteers for Literacy with a cheque with funds raised at the PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy.



PEI  
Literacy  
Alliance

#### ANNUAL MEETING

7:00 pm, Wednesday,  
September 8  
Delta Hotel, Charlottetown

We will have our business meeting followed by guest speaker Henk van Leeuwen, executive director of the Cultural Human Resources Sector Council.

Light refreshments

RSVP to 368-3620



PEI Volunteers for Literacy promote literacy as a positive and important lifetime habit. They act as reading helpers in elementary schools, and tutors for adults who want to improve their literacy skills. If you would like to work on your reading and literacy skills or if you would like to be a volunteer tutor call Mary at 902-368-4695.

You can visit their website at [www.nald.ca/litweb/province/pe/peivol](http://www.nald.ca/litweb/province/pe/peivol)