

COMMENT

Literacy definition has broadened

Of all the issues Canadians are concerned about—the environment, health care, and the war against terrorism—literacy is rarely defined as a pressing problem.

This is not surprising, since it is hard to imagine how Canada can have a literacy challenge when it has a caring, inclusive society, a modern industrialized economy, and a well-developed primary, secondary and post-secondary education system. However, it is quite a shocking fact that many adults still lack the necessary literacy skills to succeed in today's fast-paced environment. Literacy affects all people in every aspect of their daily lives, whether at home, in the workplace, at school, or in the community.

There is a lot of confusion about what literacy means. The traditional view is that literacy is simply the ability to read and write. However, in recent years there has been a greater awareness that literacy is actually far broader in nature. In addition to reading and writing, it includes the ability to comprehend written material both printed and electronic, the ability to use computers to navigate many day to day activities, and also includes financial and numeracy literacy. Higher levels of literacy are becoming an absolute necessity in today's knowledge based economy to enable individuals to keep pace with the changing times.

The good news is it's never too late to learn! There are options right here in your community



Literacy Matters

905-873-2200

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that provide adult upgrading at a range of levels to meet individual needs. Whether you're looking for a refresher in the basics of reading, writing or math, to learn basic computer skills for the workplace, or perhaps you want to complete your education by earning Grade 12 equivalency or college entrance, we can help.

The Adult Learning Centre offers the following part-time programs:

- Tutoring Program for Adults— 1:1 and small group tutoring in reading, writing and math
- Essential Skills Computer Training for the Workplace
- Introduction to Windows, Word, File Management, Email, Internet & Excel
- Sheridan ACE - Academic Upgrading
- Study with a Sheridan College Professor to earn grade 12 equivalency in English, Math &/or Science

For more information, visit www.lnhadultlearning.ca or call us at 905-873-2200.

**Adapted with permission from TD Bank Financial Group - Literacy Matters: A call for action. Author: Craig Alexander, Vice President & Deputy Chief Economist.*

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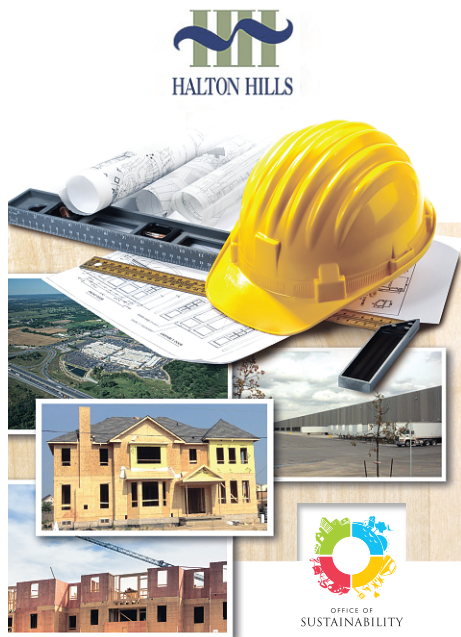
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