

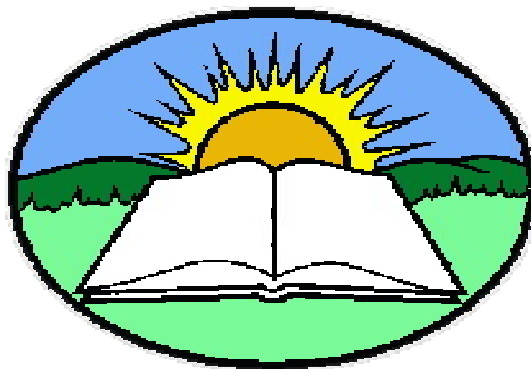
Western Quebec Literacy Council

P.O. Box 266
Shawville, Québec
J0X 2Y0

Annual Report 2013 -2014

Telephone: (819) 647-3112
Toll free: 1-888-647-3112
Fax: (819) 647-3188
E-mail: info@wq-literacy.org
www.wq-literacy.org

Celebrating
30 Years



Your charitable dona-

gratefully acknowledged with a tax receipt.

Charitable # 0 8 8 7 6 4 6 - 2 0

tions will be

Western Quebec Literacy Council

Greetings and welcome to our 30th Annual General Meeting.

I'm going to start with a quote that I believe touches on the essence of what we do:

“Literacy arouses hopes, not only in society as a whole but also in the individual who is striving for fulfillment, happiness and personal benefit by learning how to read and write. Literacy... means far more than learning how to read and write... The aim is to transmit... knowledge and promote social participation.”

- UNESCO Institute for Education, Hamburg, Germany

I like this quote because it makes the connection between the individual and society. We know that, on average, people with low literacy and numeracy skills have much greater difficulty participating constructively in our society. Research shows that adults with low literacy experience more health problems, are more likely to experience medication errors, have more workplace accidents, earn less income and are more likely to be unemployed.

We are all lessened when there are people in our community who are unable to participate fully. We are all strengthened when we are able to help people in our community improve their lives. And I believe it is this understanding that motivates WQLC volunteers to put in the hours of their time to work with students on literacy skills development. You know that in the long run you are improving their chances of leading happy, productive lives and contributing to the vitality of our community.

So hats off to our volunteers, including our board of directors and our dedicated staff, Marilee and Debbie who make the connections happen and keep it all running smoothly.

Happy 30th to the WQLC!

Peace,

Deb

Deborah Powell
President
Western Quebec Literacy Council

Western Quebec Literacy Council 2013—2014 Annual Report

The vision of the Western Quebec Literacy Council is to help and encourage members of our community to develop the skills needed for life-long learning.

The mission of the Western Quebec Literacy Council is to help English-speaking adults, families, and youth improve their reading, writing, listening, speaking, numeracy and other life skills through programs adapted to the needs of the individual. As a charitable volunteer organization, Western Quebec Literacy Council recruits and trains committed volunteers as tutors and support personnel. We are dedicated to promoting community awareness with sensitivity throughout the region of West Québec.

Who we are

The Western Quebec Literacy Council (WQLC) is a charitable organization that offers free individual lessons in reading, writing and mathematics. Volunteers are trained to tutor one other English-speaking adult with the goal of improving literacy skills. We recruit students and tutors in the region of West Quebec—from Chapeau to Gatineau to Buckingham to Kazabazua and points in between. WQLC was formed in 1984 in association with the Western Quebec School Board. Since 1992 WQLC has functioned as an independent, community-based, charitable, volunteer organization.

Board of Directors

President	Deb Powell, Norway Bay
Vice-President	Michel Chabot, Bristol
Treasurer	Shirley Gauthier, Norway Bay
Secretary	Richard Valin, Shawville
Member	Monica Dodson, Sand Bay
Member	Julie Hawley, Otter Lake
Member	Norma DesRosiers, Luskville

Staff

Executive Director	Marilee DeLombard
Office Assistant	Deborah Gauthier



Western Quebec Literacy Council 2013—2014 Annual Report

2013-2014 Board of Directors



Michel Chabot



Norma DesRosiers



Deb Powell



Monica Dodson



Shirley Gauthier



Julie Hawley



Peter Gauthier



Richard Valin

Western Quebec Literacy Council
2013—2014 Annual Report

Activity Report

I Provide individual lessons to adult literacy students

Student-tutor teams are the heart of Western Quebec Literacy Council. The private nature of their work is the advantage of our approach: the student can participate on a part-time basis, can choose the topics to be studied, and sets his or her own pace. Lessons take place in the home community saving travel time and money. Following a placement interview, the student, tutor and the executive director develop a learning plan. Workplace material and other topics of interest are incorporated into lessons. Text-books and other learning aids are supplied by the Literacy Council. Many of our students are now incorporating computers and internet resources into their lessons

22 people inquired about individual lessons during this year.

There were, on average 17 students working at private, individual lessons during the year.

59% women, 41% men

88% under 50 years of age

Student-tutor lessons took place in many locations throughout West Quebec: Aylmer, Shawville, Pontiac, Chapeau, Fort Coulonge, and Ste. Cecile de Masham

Cooperation with adult education programs in Shawville and Aylmer resulted in five student-tutor teams

Literacy Volunteers of Quebec Student Solidarity Fund

Three students were each awarded \$200 to support and encourage their successful participation in their literacy course.

Civic inclusion

Easy to read information was sent to 12 eligible students in March to encourage them to vote in the provincial election.

Happy Rockers curling group

3 students and 3 volunteers participated with the Happy Rockers curling group

Season: November - April



Western Quebec Literacy Council
2013—2014 Annual Report

Activity Report

II Recruit Volunteers and Students (Outreach)

The statistics show that one out of six Quebecers need to improve their reading, writing and math skills in order to meet the demands of modern life: retraining, upgrading, looking for work or just keeping up with household bill-paying. The W.Q. Literacy Council offers free individual tutoring for all levels on a schedule to suit everyone. The recruitment problem: reach potential students and convince them that help is available in their community on their own schedule. We also have to recruit and train volunteers to be those tutors in the community.

Here are the ways that we recruited students and volunteer tutors in 2013-2014.

Activities designed to increase client base (learners)

Presentation made to Clarendon Women's Institute, Sept. 11, 2013: 13 members present

Supported Girls Career Day 2013 on November 8 at Dr. Wilbert Keon School, Chapeau.

Developed partnerships with other community groups

Community Development Corporation of Pontiac, Mansfield, Quebec; attended three networking meetings with CDCP members, mainly social services workers

Regional Association of West Quebecers; two meetings and volunteer and seniors appreciation event.

Pontiac Continuing Education Centre and Aylmer Career Centre

Developed literacy support for 5 adult education students

Tables des aînés et retraités du Pontiac (TARP)

Attended founding meeting

Held a seat on the Board of Directors

Attended 4 meetings

Family Literacy Day, January 31, 2014

Presented reading, crafts and other learning activities to 29 children at Dr. S.E. McDowell School Daycare in partnership with Shawville-Clarendon Library.

"Semaine Quebecoise des Adultes en Formation", April 2nd, 2014

Participated in organizing and presenting event to celebrate adult learners

Partners: W.Q. School Board, Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais, and Centre local d'emploi.

Hosted literacy student art workshop promoting the theme "Individual inspiration" with literacy students and artist

Supported student's presentation to attendees (100 people who are teachers, community leaders and adult students)

"Computers for Seniors" project

Solicited community partners

Western Quebec Literacy Council 2013—2014 Annual Report

Activity Report

III Training

In addition to tutoring adult literacy students, the Literacy Council offers training to volunteers and staff. Volunteers are trained to become literacy tutors. Volunteers and staff attend training sessions offered by our provincial literacy partners, Literacy Quebec (LQ) and Quebec Essential Learning Alliance (QELA) and participate in on-line training courses.

Presented a Reading Buddies workshop to train volunteers to help school-aged children improve their reading.

Allumette Island, Sheenboro and Dr. Wilbert Keon School Library, October 24, 2013 with 4 volunteers.

Tutor Training Workshop

Workshop to train volunteers as literacy tutors was held March 29, 2014

Tutor training seminar was held in Aylmer at the W.Q. Career Centre

Trainer, Kate Strickland, was brought from Hudson, Quebec

Advertisements: in five regional newspapers and through partner organizations

Training materials were created and disseminated

Pre-workshop study packages were posted on-line for participants

Nine tutors successfully completed the training representing the following communities:

Chelsea, Gatineau, Wakefield, Aylmer, Low, Val des Monts and Shawville

Literacy Volunteers of Quebec Annual AGM conference

September 23-24, Montreal

"Value Marketing for Service Organizations" by Brent Pearce, Concordia University

"LVQ Communications" by BethannMerkle, LVQ Communications Coordinator

"Study Skills Coaching" by Louise Quinn, Quebec Essential Learning Alliance (QELA)

"iPad as a teaching tool" by Apple staff, Montreal

"Introduction to RGPAQ (Regroupement des groupes populaires en alphabétisation du Québec)"
by Caroline Meunier, Responsable au développement d'analyses et de stratégies



Western Quebec Literacy Council
2013—2014 Annual Report

Activity Report

III Training (continued)

Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ) & Quebec Essential Learning Alliance (QELA) joint conference

February 19-20, Montreal

"Study Skills Intervention Program" Karen Dotto, Literacy Unlimited

"YWCA's Literacy Towards Employment Project" Lilia Goldfarb, WQCA Montreal

"Learning Communities" RESDAC's Integrated Learning Model", Donald Lurette.

"Grant Application Workshop" presented by Service Canada

Literacy Quebec (formerly Literacy Volunteers of Quebec) Conference, June 4-5, 2014, Montreal

"Strategic Planning" presented by Brent Pearce, Concordia U.

"Introduction to Webinars" by Keith Fyckes

On-line webinar participation

"Money Matters" Nov. 25, 2013; financial literacy materials

"Introduction to Creating a Social Media Strategy" by HootSuite Webinars & QELA, 2 December, 2013

"Key Steps for Building a Major Gifts Program" by Canada Helps, March 19, 2014

IV Governance and Management

Regular operations of the charitable volunteer organization include a volunteer board of directors, an annual members meeting, financial management, internal communications and volunteer support.

Board of Directors

Met 8 times during the fiscal year 2013-2014

Seven volunteers are members of the Board of Directors

Succession plans in place

Operational procedures continue to be recorded

Annual General Meeting

October 5, 2013 at Café 349, Shawville, Quebec

Fifteen members attended

One new member joined the board and one left, resulting in seven members on the board.

Finances

The firm of Smith, Porter, Hétu performed the annual review engagement and issued a positive financial report.

Newsletter

3 issues of "Literacy Information Network in our Communities" (LINC)s, were written and sent to a mailing list of 250 on paper and on-line.

Volunteer recognition during Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 6-12, 2014

Western Quebec Literacy Council 2013—2014 Annual Report

Tutors Active In 2013-2014

Martha McGuinn, Aylmer
Debbie Gauthier, Otter Lake
Janet Intscher, Chelsea
Douglas Kent, Nicabeau
Richard Valin, Shawville
Deb Powell, Norway Bay
Kathleen Lemieux, Aylmer
Ann-Marie Adam, Chapeau

Monica Dodson, Sand Bay
Venetia Crawford, Shawville
Jim McKenzie, Masham
Louise Carisse, Aylmer
Linda McCrea, Aylmer
Meera Ghosh, Aylmer
Julie Hawley, Otter Lake
Ruth Preston, Aylmer

Thank you - you are life-changers!

Supporters

Throughout the year we received donations and services in-kind from the following people and organizations. Thank you for helping increase literacy in W. Quebec!

Shane Baldwin, Otter Lake
Michel Chabot, Bristol
Venetia Crawford, Shawville
Sonia Crawford, Shawville
Jennifer Davies, Shawville-
Clarendon Library
Muriel Davies, Clarendon
Marilee DeLombard, Thorne
Norma DesRosiers, Luskville
Monica Dodson, Sand Bay
Anne-Chantale Fontaine, Sutton
Deborah Gauthier, Otter Lake
Peter Gauthier, Shawville
Shirley Gauthier, Norway Bay
Peter Haughton, Bristol
Julie Hawley, Otter Lake
Nancy Hunt, Vinton
Tracy Judd, Clarendon

Beryl Kerrison, Cantley
Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ)
Rhonda Morrison, CEDEC
Leila Nulty-Senf, Greermount
Pontiac Journal, Mansfield
Deb Powell, Norway Bay
Radio Pontiac, Fort Coulonge
Quebec English Literacy Alliance (QELA)
Barb Racine, Shawville
Kathy Richan, Sherbrooke
Kate Strickland, Hudson
Heather Stronach, Regional Assn. of West
Quebecers
United Way donors
Bruce Walsh, Clarendon
Richard Wegner, Bristol
Robert Wills, Thorne

Western Quebec Literacy Council 2013—2014 Annual Report

Photo Highlights



March 2014 Tutor Training Workshop

L->R: Brian Ray, Chelsea; Rose Reginbold, Gatineau; Patricia Low-Bedard, Wakefield; Kate Strickland, Trainer; Helen Stach, Aylmer; Margaret Ruppel, Low; DeeDee Blake, Val des Monts; Meera Ghosh, Aylmer; Georgie Bracken, Aylmer; Rick Valin, Shawville.

Congratulations!

Many thanks!

This document was made possible by financial support from the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport through the Programme d'action communautaire sur le terrain de l'éducation (PACTE). WQLC thanks MELS for their support.

We also wish to thank all our volunteers for taking time from their busy lives to help WQLC carry out its work. You provide valuable help, support, guidance and inspiration!

Most of all we thank our students. Your dedication to life-long learning is an inspiration to us all!

"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource." -President John F. Kennedy

Western Quebec Literacy Council 2013—2014 Annual Report

Photo Highlights of the Year



Art work created by W.Q. Literacy Council students and volunteers for Adult Learners' Week 2014 (SQAF)

Art workshop for Adult Learners' Week (SQAF)
Shane, Kayla, Melissa and Venetia

Bruce Walsh with Perseverance Award (SQAF)
Congratulations, Bruce!

