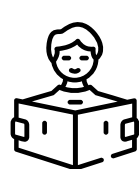


COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Adult Literacy & Foundational Learning

What are we hearing?



JULY 2020

People's experiences

- Literacy is the dignity of independence – understanding and living.
- Overwhelmed by information, too much jargon.
- Unable to understand forms like a legal document. The use of plain language is important.
- The digital world has changed the way learning happens.
- There are gaps in the Enough for All lever of change. It assumes that the person knows how to read and write. It does not represent illiteracy. How does the lever relate to ESL or EFL? It doesn't account for the different ways individuals learn.

Challenges and opportunities with COVID-19

- The technology gap seen during COVID-19 shows how people depend on the education system to do the teaching.
- The effect of adult illiteracy on children is detrimental and creates a cycle of poverty and illiteracy.
- Self-Advocacy is not an option if a person isn't capable of understanding what's written or what's being asked.
- COVID-19 exposed different learning styles and how information is absorbed.
- Face Masks make it difficult for adults with some disabilities to be able to learn.
- There has been a spotlight on the lack of comprehension around technological literacy, which needs to be addressed.
- If you can't read, how can you understand your finances, lease or mortgage? Illiteracy limits a person's opportunities in life.

What's needed

- Better foundational learning in childhood.
- Being inclusive of the different ways people learn and addressing technological gaps.
- Providing more adult education classes.
- Work to reduce the stigma around asking for help.
- Setting-up a peer-based system for adults to create more of a community for support.
- Make adult learning engaging, learning should be an enjoyable process.
- Acknowledgement of learning disabilities that pose testing barriers for adults. Making testing accessible, affordable and understandable.
- Understanding that literacy and foundational learning do not reflect a person's intelligence or wisdom to live.
- There is a need to incorporate non-traditional learning and methods of understanding.

Enough for All Lever of Change - Adult Literacy and Foundational Learning

Literacy (the ability to read, understand, use and reflect upon written texts) and foundational knowledge includes the skills necessary for navigating life, finding employment, securing housing and accessing services. Calgarians need to continue to advocate for an educational system that encourages inclusive learning and the development of appropriate and relevant skills and competencies.

#ENOUGHFORALL #SHAREDLEADERSHIP

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