



ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Building a Learning Society

What is a Learning Society?



In a basic sense, all societies are learning societies. They could not function otherwise. Learning is everything a society does to prepare its people, and everything people do to prepare themselves, to meet the problems & opportunities of their time & place in history. The key issue is not whether learning is important. That is a given. The key issue is the quality, effectiveness and wisdom of our learning arrangements relative to the current range of survival challenges facing individuals and societies. Human history is rich with examples of societies that collapsed, not because they failed to learn, but because they busied themselves learning things that were not very helpful in the face of changing circumstances. An effective learning society is one that can continuously adjust its learning arrangements to match its best emerging understanding of the changing problems and opportunities of life, and how we can best prepare ourselves to handle them.

Ken Low—Action Studies Institute

Accessible Applicable Advantageous

Marcia Purvis –Board Member

Accessibility, variety, flexibility, choice

Kathy Fyfe—Epilepsy Association of Calgary

My vision of a learning society is one where all it's Members, regardless of status, are invested with the power to express their creative potential.

Ruth Bieber—Inside Out Theater

A learning society is one that accepts and celebrates the all learning that a person does throughout their life, including academic, work, and life experiences. This is also a society which holistically incorporates the many learning and communication styles of our pluralistic community.

Cam Stewart—United Way

Success happens when preparation meets opportunity. Calgary Learns enables people to prepare themselves for success, and opens doors to unseen opportunities.

Anne-Marie Pham—Ethno-Cultural Council

A learning society is made up of people who: Want and envision a better life for themselves; map out what is needed to achieve that goal, and then persevere throughout the obstacles, objections and obfuscations!

Alex Brierley –Board Member

Embraces change, Celebrates the whole individual within the context of a community, Grows through collaboration and cooperation

Carolyn Reicher—Calgary Public Library

The success of any learning endeavour is to make someone self-sufficient. If we assist people in achieving their potential, then our society will become more equitable

Faisal Ali –Board Member

I want to see a Learning Society include real learning opportunities for everyone. These opportunities should be made available at times and places where adults can easily access them. These opportunities should also be available for learners for as long as they need them.

Celia Logan—Calgary Immigrant Woman's Association

A Message from the President and Executive Director

What does “A Learning Society” mean? Is it a society where everyone has opportunity to engage in discovering their potential? Is it a society that reflects and learns from its experiences? Is it a society that supports the growth of knowledge and skills that lead to everyone’s full participation in the community?

Part of striving for a learning society is to ensure there is a supportive community that openly values and advocates for equal opportunity for lifelong learning.

To better reflect the vision we hold for Calgary, the Association pursued a number of strategies in 2005 related to enhancing our relationship with the community.

- We renamed our organization “Calgary Learns” to reflect our vision of a learning society where all people fully participate in their community. Our new logo, a flower, captures the growth and opportunity that learning creates.
- We hosted a “Think Tank” of ten community leaders to help us identify societal trends. The next step was to strategize around tools and supports essential for learning needs of the future. We used this information, along with input from four community consultations, and a board strategy session to set our future direction.
- Through our involvement with the Advanced Education Minister’s “A Learning Alberta” process, the Community Learning Network and Literacy Alberta, Calgary Learns advocated at the provincial level on behalf of Calgary’s adult learners more strongly than ever before.
- We continued with our signature event, the Life of Learning Awards (the LOLAs). These awards recognize the unsung learning heroes who contribute tremendously to community-based learning. These individuals inspire us with their incredible commitment to learning, masterful instruction and innovative program design. The LOLAs are an annual re-energizer and profound reminder of how learning touches the community. Along with the above strategies, Calgary Learns staff continued to participate at community tables

and committees and in this way maintained valuable connections with members and community partners.

- Staff also worked to enhance existing feedback loops to support funding applicants and continued with plans for events, processes and technologies that will increase the number of information sharing and networking opportunities in years to come.
- We are optimistic and grateful now that Honourable Minister Dave Hancock has put a strong focus on the importance of foundational learning in the Advanced Education system. This focus gives us an opportunity to form a sustainable third part of the education system; one that acts as a web, offering support, transition and innovative linkages to other learning and life opportunities.

Our accomplishments this year would not have been possible without the support from the community agencies that work in this area, the talented and dedicated instructors and volunteers, the learners that commit to advancing their education, the leadership of the Board of Directors, our very gifted staff of Calgary Learns and the support from Community Programs, Advanced Education. We thank all of you who are striving to create a learning society.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Poole".

Krista Poole

Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duna Bayley".

Duna Bayley

Board President



BOARD MEMBERS

Duna Bayley - President

Jude Udedibia -Vice President

Don Poirier - Treasurer

Bretta Maloff - Past President

Faisal Ali

Alexandra Brierley

Bill Luxton

Marcia Purvis

Linda Reinhardt (Interim member)

David Watt

STAFF

Krista Poole - Executive Director

Jeannie Finch-Grants Coordinator

Clare Pludek-Accounting

Megan Williams- Communications Coordinator



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Calgary Learns was pleased to collect books for the Further Education Society's Books for Babies Program at our Special General Meeting—Thanks to everyone who contributed & Monkeyshines Books for their kind donation.

Calgary Learns Funding Impacts the Community!

Quotes from Learners and Agencies

"We thank you for being a loyal funder who shares our belief and vision that immigrants truly are essential for the future and well being of our country. It is with your partnership that we are able to empower them and provide them with the skills and support so that they may come to realize their potential and achieve their dreams."

Hadassah Ksienski, Chief Executive Officer, Calgary Immigrant Aid Society

"I have started to read signs on the street. For me, that is the first time ever. It makes me feel like I can do it and I am normal."

Bow Valley College Lifeline to Literacy—**Learner**



"Day and night difference in my parenting skills and confidence!"

Families Matter, Family Program Parents and Children Together—**Learner**

"Thank you for helping keep my spirit bright and my mind busy and my soul safe with laughter."

Elizabeth Fry Society, Bridges Program—**Learner**

"You should be very proud of your impact in the Calgary community."

Edna Sutherland, Executive Director, CIWA



In 2005 Calgary Learns member agencies provided 16,795 instructional hours in 805 courses; serving a total of 10,034 learners!

"It made me realize there were possibilities for my goals and I got great response from people."

Calgary SCOPE Society, Making Movies—**Learner**

"It is especially wonderful that the whole family can learn together at the same time"

Deaf and Hard of hearing Services, Family-focused Sign Language —**Learner**



Family Peer Support Program

Canadian Mental Health Association

(At Calgary Learns we contribute to solving individual and community issues through the support of learning opportunities coordinated by our member agencies. Our funding decisions are made in response to community feedback and align with Alberta Advanced Education's community adult learning program mandate. In order to demonstrate how our funding makes an impact in Calgary, we are pleased to profile the Family Peer Support Program at the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).)

Mental illness occurs in one out of five people and approximately half of those suffering will be hospitalized. It is estimated that approximately 200,000 Calgarians will have a serious mental illness at some time in their life! Each of these people will affect **four to seven** others. Parents, adult children, siblings, employers, landlords and friends are all affected by the social, behavioral, and relational issues caused by chronic mental illnesses.

In order to better understand the realities of living with someone with a mental illness try and imagine the following:

- Believing that every word you speak runs the risk of driving someone you love to suicide.
- If you don't tolerate unacceptable behavior from your adult child, he or she will end up homeless and walking the streets.
- The brightest of your children, the gifted one, has been diagnosed with a catastrophic, chronic mental illness and will not ever be able to deal with the stress of employment, or completing school
- Finding out that your spouse is no longer able to work and worse, he or she lacks any insight into the situation and refuses to take medication. What do you do then?

These are the issues that are reality for families trying to cope with a loved one who is mentally ill. Unfortunately, because of the stigma and lack of information, families have traditionally had nowhere to turn in trying to resolve these issues and are often left feeling isolated and helpless. According to program organizers at CMHA "participants come to us desperately needing information and support they aren't able to get elsewhere." Determined to

help these families deal with the stress, fear and pain of their loved one's mental illness, CMHA began the Family Peer Support Program. The weekly program includes a broad range of educational topics related to loving someone with a mental illness and strives to help families cope by reducing their stress and isolation. Participants come to the group needing support, understanding and encouragement. They need permission to grieve and to be given reassurance that whatever they're feeling is normal and appropriate. They find all that and more in the group. Participants note their increased knowledge, awareness, and problem solving skills. They learn how to more effectively deal with conflict and to reduce isolation and set boundaries. Additionally the laughter of the group is a great stress buster. Program participants have found the group invaluable and, plead with CMHA staff to: "Please, please make the public more aware of these meetings so that others don't have to flounder and suffer for so long."

We at CMHA are very aware of the good that comes out of the Calgary Learns funding. In helping educate people about mental illness, we are changing lives – one family member at a time.

Thanks to Louise Behiel at CMHA for contributing this article



Canadian Mental
Health Association

Calgary Region

Why Change?

The past year has seen our organization go through numerous changes. The most visible being the new name and logo. We would like to take you through the process and decisions that compelled the Calgary Community Adult Learning Association (CCALA) to become Calgary Learns (Association).

Given that the main purpose of any brand is to communicate the true characteristics of an organization, our re-brand was designed to reflect our ultimate goal to be responsive,

"I like the logo it captures the work we do—people blossoming through learning."

Carol Aubee-Girard, CEO ECALA

inclusive, collaborative and credible to member agencies and the community. Although our previous name linked us with the other 82 Provincial Learning

Councils we felt that the full name and acronym were not easily remembered or identified and did not help to define our role in the community.

This encouraged the staff and Board of the organization to make communications a top priority for 2005. In order to help us develop a comprehensive and inclusive process for selecting a new name we engaged the services of Beth Gallup (former CCALA Executive Director) and her team at Brainstorm. They guided the organization thorough the "name storming" process which involved collecting feedback from community stakeholders around the organizational name, role and relevance in the community. The research yielded some definitive answers: our community stakeholders appreciated and recognized the work we do but it was time to change our name! Thanks to Brainstorm we were able to incorporate community and provincial feedback and combine input from the staff and Board to select the new name Calgary Learns.



How to communicate our name and goals visually proved to be a more difficult challenge. We wanted a logo that provided a narrative about our organization: we are responsive, inclusive, and collaborative and open to learning and growth. We worked with Emerge Learning and used the graphic design talents of Wesley Pohl Design Studios to develop a logo that tells this story. We continuously solicited feedback and input from a number of community partners to help guide our direction and make appropriate choices. The result; the selected logo a flower encapsulates the elements of growth, innovation, support, celebration and learning. It is a dynamic image designed to encourage feelings of inclusiveness and provide the organization with a professional image that complements the new name.

We knew from our research that the Calgary Learns website is a key communication tool. Yet our previous website was difficult to navigate and cumbersome to update. Always looking to improve, we were inspired to redesign our site. Under the guidance of the talented staff at Emerge Learning, we set out to create a site that made our funding process easier to understand, more clearly communicated our key messages and better celebrated the adult learning community. The site builds on the past success of our most visible communication medium the FACTS OUT and is designed to be a source of information for the entire adult learning community.

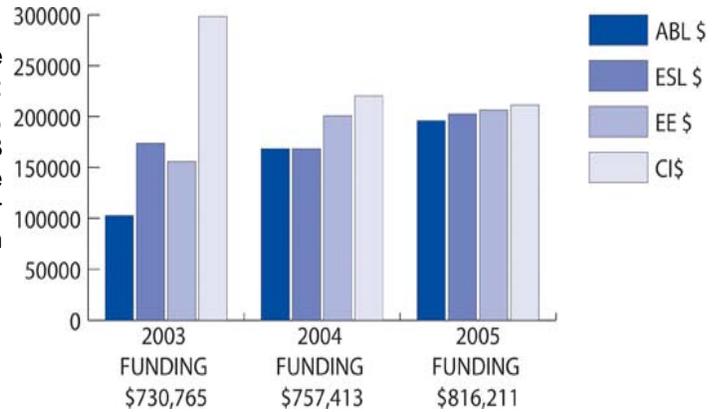
"I love the rebrand..WOW..simple... effective and really brilliant! Cheers!"

Derek Wilken, The CHEERS Project

2005 Grants

Calgary Learns funding is made possible by a grant from Alberta Advanced Education's Community Adult Learning Program. We are one of the province's 83 Community Adult Learning Councils that support and offer a range of community-based learning opportunities.

In 2005 we allocated a total of \$816,211 in grants. We are mandated by the province to support learning in four areas: Adult Basic Literacy, English as a Second Language, Employment Enhancement and Community Issues. In 2003 we began to work toward equalizing our allocation across the four funding areas thereby increasing support for foundational learning, especially adult literacy. The graph illustrates this major shift in focus over the past three years.



Summary of 2005 Funding

Program Funding – Adult Basic Literacy

Bow Valley College	Evening Adult Basic Literacy	\$21,733
Bow Valley College	Speech-Assisted Reading and Writing	\$14,220
Bow Valley College	Lifeline to Literacy	\$14,973
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association	Pebbles in the Sand	\$40,000
Further Education Society of Alberta	Family Literacy Program, ESL	\$44,020
Mount Royal College	Transitional Vocational Program – ABE	\$30,000
University of Calgary, Community Services Ctr	Learning to Learn	<u>\$21,232</u>
		\$186,178

Program Funding – English as a Second Language

Bow Valley College	Computer Enhanced ESL Literacy	\$26,560
Bow Valley College	ESL Volunteer Tutor Program	\$16,389
BVC, CCIS, CPL & YWCA	ESL Tutor Training Program	\$10,000
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society	Seniors Literacy Project	\$35,000
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association	Canadian Pronunciation	\$5,000
YWCA of Calgary	English for New Canadians	<u>\$90,000</u>
		\$182,949

Program Funding – Employment Enhancement

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society	Computer Training for Employment	\$30,000
Calgary Immigrant Educational Society	Computer Program	\$30,000
Calgary John Howard Society	Learning Education Enhancement Program	\$40,000
Elizabeth Fry Society	Bridges Program	\$25,000
MCC – Employment Development	ABCs of Small Business	\$45,000
MCC – Employment Development	Trades Success	<u>\$12,000</u>
		\$182,000

Program Funding – Community Issues

African Sudanese Community Assn	Community Kitchen Program	\$10,000
Calgary Immigrant Aid Society	Citizenship Classes	\$13,150
Calgary Mennonite Centre for Newcomers	Multicultural Family Development Program	\$29,963
Calgary SCOPE Society	Integrated Community Kitchen	\$2,304
Canadian Mental Health Association	Family Peer Support Program	\$17,873
Canadian Mental Health Association	Art of Friendship/Peer Volunteer Training	\$16,900
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services	Family-Focused Sign Language	\$12,000
Families Matter Society	Family Program/PACT Program	\$73,000
Independent Living Resource Centre	Fitness/Leisure for People with Disabilities	\$10,000
Inside-Out Integrated Theatre	Inside-Out Integrated Theatre Workshops	<u>\$12,984</u>
		\$198,174
Total Program Funding		\$749,301

Initiative Funding (one-time projects, maximum \$10,000)

Calgary Chinese Community Service Assn	Stepping Stones	\$9,998
Calgary John Howard Society	Journey to Employability Project	\$9,997
Calgary Immigrant Educational Society	ABCs for Disadvantaged Learners	\$9,540
Calgary Learning Centre	Directory of Learning Resources	\$9,850
Calgary Public Library	Online Job Search Success	\$4,525
MCC – Employment Development	E-Commerce & Internet Business Program	\$10,000
MS Society of Canada	Speakers Series: Plain Language Materials	\$3,000
United Calgary Chinese Association	Comedy as a 3 rd Language	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total Initiative Funding		\$66,910

Funding amounts reported represent actual dollars spent on programs in 2005, including returned funds from previous years reallocated in 2005 and funds returned at year end 2005. As such, these numbers may not directly correspond with the financial statements.

An Overview from the Treasurer



As a new Board member and Treasurer for Calgary Learns I was concerned with learning the financial procedures and general funding landscape as articulated by Alberta Advanced Education. Many thanks to Krista Poole and the staff of Calgary Learns for their patience, time, and informed answers to my many questions. This past year has been a very positive one from a budgetary perspective. First, Alberta Advanced Education increased overall funding by 6% late in our fiscal year for a total of \$1,082,230.46, the majority of which was funneled directly into Programs. It should be noted that any increase in funding follows the 80/20 distribution rule set out by Advanced Education – that is, at least 80% of funding is directed toward front line programs. Both the Board of Directors and Staff have worked hard to maintain this ratio and direct all money available to areas that will have the greatest impact. Second, a number of administrative initiatives built into the 2005 budget were undertaken with some, like the Communications Strategy, given increased prominence as the year developed. Despite some shifting of Administrative priorities throughout the year, the integrity of the overall budget was kept in tact; a testament to the knowledge and skill of the staff. A third development was the initial steps taken to understand common financial markers of success and Calgary Learns' own performance. This will be an ongoing project that should give the Board and Staff a much better understanding of success according to our past performance and that of our peers. Finally, our steady progress in reporting procedures was acknowledged in our annual audit, which was undertaken by BDO Dunwoody LLP.



Don Poirier—Board Treasurer

“What we now call ‘finance’ is, I hold, an intellectual perversion of what began as warm human love.”

Robert Graves

When you read through the Calgary Learns financial statements you may question “what do these numbers really show?” Obviously they are indicators of performance and objective financial value, of the ebb and flow of money as well as the general ability of this organization to responsibly fulfill its mandate today and in the coming fiscal year. However, they are also the expression of decisions, these decisions serve to support the general strategy of the organization and help the staff and Board to fulfill the values of the organization. When money is shifted from one initiative to another, it is done in light of the belief that that move will best serve the mandate of the organization and by extension the needs of the community. These statements are a testament to Calgary Learns commitment to our stakeholder, the community we serve, and ultimately represent “*human love*” and the creation of a Learning Society.

Source: Robert Graves (1895–1985), British poet, novelist. speech, Dec. 6, 1963, London School of Economics. “Mammon,” Mammon and the Black Goddess (1965), <http://www.bartleby.com/66/24/25824.html>, March 15, 2006



Summary of Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Assets		
Current Assets	381,268	660,075
Capital Assets	7,127	0
Total Assets	388,395	660,075
Liabilities	213,177	213,150
Deferred Contributions	10,800	298,948
Fund Balances	164,418	147,977
	388,395	660,07

A copy of the complete 2005 auditor's report is available through the Calgary Learns office.

Statement of Operations

December 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Revenue		
Advanced Ed. Community Programs	1,001,486	949,145
Other Income	84,161	52,940
Total Revenue	1,085,647	1,002,085
Disbursements		
Program Funding	749,301	680,043
Initiative Projects	66,910	82,690
General & Administrative	249,323	237,466
Amortization	3,672	4,211
Total Disbursements	1,069,206	1,004,410
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over disbursements	16,441	(2,325)

2005 Membership

African Sudanese Association of Calgary
Agapé Language Centre
Alberta Network of Immigrant Women
Ali, Faisal
Aspen Family and Community Network Society
Association of the Inside Out Theatre Project
Bayley, Duna
Bow Valley College
Brandon, Bill – Solutions at Work
Brierley, Alexandra
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society
Calgary Chinese Community Service Association
Calgary Health Region
Calgary Immigrant Aid Society
Calgary Immigrant Educational Society
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
Calgary John Howard Society
Calgary Learning Centre
Calgary Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
Calgary Public Library
Calgary Scope Society
Calgary Seniors' Resource Society - Senior Connect
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canadian Outcomes Research Institute
Canadian Red Cross Society
Champions Career Centre
Clubhouse Society of Calgary
Columbia College
Corbett, Rod
CUPS Community Health Centre
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Developmental Disability Resource Centre of Calgary
The Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary
Epilepsy Association of Calgary
Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary
Families Matter Society
Further Education Society of Alberta
GNG Computer Solutions Inc.
Independent Living Resource Centre
Jewish Family Service Calgary
Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta - Calgary Chapter
Literacy Alberta Society
Luxton, Bill
Maloff, Bretta
Mennonite Central Committee-employment development
Millican Ogden Community Association
Mount Royal College, Faculty of Continuing Education and Extension
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada – Calgary Chapter
Myasnikov, Valery
Nicholson, Murray
Peer Support Services for Abused Women
Poirier, Don

Pringle, Janet
Purvis, Marcia
Rehabilitation Society of Calgary
Reinhardt, Linda
Schizophrenia Society of Alberta – Calgary Chapter
Southern Alberta Heritage Language Association
Suicide Prevention Training Programs
Sunrise Community Link Resource Centre Society
Taylor-Cole, Wilfred
Udedibia, Jude
United Calgary Chinese Association
University of Calgary – Community Services Centre
van Dijk, Marlies
Watt, David
Welsh, Shona – Momentum Learning Inc.
Wilken, Derek – The CHEERS PROJECT
Women's Health Resources
YMCA Calgary – Community YMCA
YWCA of Calgary
Zachri, Linda

