



Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy
Regroupement d'Ottawa pour l'alphabétisation

June 7, 2011

Premier Dalton McGuinty
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

We are writing to you on behalf of the members of the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy. We would like to express our appreciation for the government's announcement, in the provincial budget, that \$44 million will be invested in literacy and basic skills services over the next three years.

The decision to permanently increase base funding for literacy programs will ensure that quality services are available for those Ontarians who need them most. Literacy programs in Ottawa and across the province are working hard to build stronger linkages with Employment Ontario partners that will lead to more referrals of clients from employment services and apprenticeship. As a result clients will have improved access to opportunities to increase their employability and their ability to find and keep jobs.

There is a clear and direct link between literacy and employability and a skilled workforce and productivity. But it is also important to recognize that adult learners across the province are not just potential workers. They are volunteers, parents, homeowners, tenants, caregivers, taxpayers and so much more. Stronger literacy and essential skills enable individuals to participate more fully in society.

During the last two fiscal years, when Ottawa's literacy programs received additional field support funding, they met the province's requirement to expand capacity and in doing so revealed a higher demand for their services. The need for the services and the positive results they produce for adult learners, have been demonstrated – increased literacy funding pays off!

Once again, thank you for your government's recognition of the importance of literacy and basic skills services and for your increased investment in quality programming.

Yours sincerely,

Marcia Aronson
Chair, Board of Directors

Jan Goatcher
Local Planning and Coordination Committees

Cc Hon. Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance
Hon. John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure
Lisa MacLeod, MPP
Phil McNeely, MPP
Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services
Yasir Naqvi, MPP
Lesley Brown, Ontario Literacy Coalition