

Canadian Adult Literacy Facts

There are few people who are illiterate, meaning they cannot read at all. Low literacy levels are more common, which imply that an individual may have difficulty in one or two areas of literacy, like numeracy skills or document use.

33% of Canadians find themselves at level 3 on the prose literacy scale. This is believed to be the minimum for successful participation in society.

20% of all Canadians over the age of 16 are at levels 4 or 5 meaning they have strong literacy skills.

Globally, Canada was second only to Sweden in terms of the proportion of adults aged 16 to 65 at the very highest literacy levels.

Literacy levels can affect employment and livelihood. People who fall into low literacy categories tend to have lower rates of employment and receive lower pay as they tend to work in occupations with lower skill requirements.

Having strong literacy skills can have a positive impact on your health. For Canadians aged 16 to 65, those who reported being in good physical health also scored higher in document literacy than those reporting bad physical health.

With stronger literacy skills comes a stronger understanding of social and political issues. Developed literacy skills can help you to understand the issues facing you and your community and make informed decisions when voting.

Making use of your literacy skills is important so that no progress is undone. While education contributes to ones literacy skills, less educated persons who use their skills consistently often have more developed literacy skills than those who are considered to be well educated.

Information obtained from:

www.abclifeliteracy.ca - nl.communityaccounts.ca - hrsdc.gc.ca - www.literacy.bc.ca/facts/inCanada.htm

- As of 2006, 74.9% of individuals aged 18 to 64 from Newfoundland and Labrador held a high school diploma or higher. That's up 8.2% from 2001.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, 55% of individuals' literacy scores are below level three.

