



A rich legacy that helped millions

As LLC's national role winds down, let's celebrate the strength of our unique legacy.

In 1970, a tutor training workshop held in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia set the stage for a way of teaching adults to read that would spread across this country. In

the 38 years since that first training event, thousands of men and women have adopted the "Each One Teach One" philosophy. LLC tutors and trainers have volunteered their time with local literacy councils, on provincial boards of directors, and

at the national level, with one goal in mind: to increase adult literacy rates, one person at a time.

Along the way, Laubach Literacy of Canada took its place as one of seven national literacy organizations.

Message from Senator Joyce Fairbairn

It is with great pride, affection, and personal sadness that I join in saying farewell to Laubach Literacy of Canada. You have coordinated so many years of lifelong learning, offering Canadians of all ages a fair chance in our society.

Your slogan "Each One, Teach One" has enhanced the opportunity to read, write, and communicate throughout Canada. Your enthusiasm in supporting literacy prompted me to place that issue at the centre of all I do on Parliament Hill and across this remarkable country.

I became a literacy advocate shortly after I entered the Senate of Canada in 1984. My first committee work involved a special study on youth that took a group of us across the country. I was shocked to hear, at every stop, about problems with learning to read among young people. I decided to launch, for the first time in Parliament, a Senate debate on literacy in Canada. Very few who listened understood or believed.

Almost immediately, I received an invitation from Laubach Literacy of Canada to your 1987 meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Not only did you



treat me with enthusiasm and kindness, but your history demanded that I carry the flag of literacy and learning just as all of you have done for so many wonderful years.

I will miss your welcoming friendship at the National Office in Ottawa, as will my loudly literate dog, Bailey, who enjoyed his visits. Your gift of knowledge will never be forgotten.

In May 1987, Senator Fairbairn (second from right) attended her first Laubach event. Also in attendance were (from left to right): Luke Batdorf, president of LLC, Mrs. Ruth Stanley, and the Hon. George F.C. Stanley, Lt. Gov. New Brunswick.

President's message

by Pam Iype



As I reflect on LLC's history, **thank you** says what I feel most deeply about our many accomplishments. Thanks to the thousands of dedicated volunteers who know that the Laubach method works, thousands more Canadians have learned to read.

As a tutor myself, I know the true satisfaction that comes from teaching someone to read. For 13 years, I worked one-on-one with a student who progressed in so many ways by improving his literacy skills.

My experience with Laubach has been a rich and rewarding one. When I began this journey 18 years ago, I assumed responsibilities at the local and provincial levels before deciding to be part of LLC at the national level. I know that LLC has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the six other national literacy organizations in delivering programs that made a difference in the lives of millions of Canadians.

Laubach tutors, trainers, and councils have done a tremendous job over the years. You are doing a tremendous job now. I know that your efforts to enhance literacy levels in Canada will continue to have a positive impact on the students you will encounter in the future.

For those councils working with students in a province where there is a strong provincial Laubach organization, the support you need at the provincial level will remain. If your council operates in a province where no provincial Laubach organization exists, Frontier College is ready and able to connect with you as they do with their existing network across Canada.

Thanks to the courage and foresight of our current Board of Directors, which made the difficult decision to wind-down, and thanks to the hard work of national office staff, we have found a new home for our national training and certification program and for the New Readers Bookstore. I am confident that Frontier College will value and honour these important legacies, and will be mindful of Dr. Frank Laubach's call to "study all methods, to try those that look most promising, to adopt what is best and to improve on them where possible..."

National Student Representative's message

by Gary Porter



I have so many memories of the time I have spent with Laubach people. There were hard times and there were fun times. I have grown so much and learned a lot.

My message for Laubach students, generally, is that you need to stay focused on your goals. Continue with your studies and stick with your goals.

To the people who were part of our national student caucus, I encourage you to keep being advocates for students in your provinces. If you're in a province where your provincial organization is strong, then keep on being there for students.

I think that one of LLC's strengths was its training and certification. I was a bit worried at first when I heard that this part of the legacy was being transferred to Frontier College. Now that I've thought about it more, I'm hoping that Frontier College will pick up the slack where Laubach did not have strong presence, in rural areas of some provinces and in the West. When I think about students' needs, I hope that Frontier College will be able to make an impact in parts of the country where LLC was not so strong.

The memory that really stands out for me during the time I was involved with Laubach was the first time I attended Literacy Action Day on Parliament Hill. I was on my own that morning, coming from the hotel to Parliament Hill for the first time.

As I walked up the laneway in front of the Hill, there wasn't a soul in sight. I was thinking, "I can't believe I'm here on Parliament Hill." It was because of literacy that I was doing this!

Just as my foot touched the first step of the staircase into the building, the clock in the Peace Tower started to play its music. It gave me goose bumps because it happened just as I'd been reflecting on how my life had changed.

I have felt such respect from staff at National Office and from other members of the Board. I'm so glad that I had a chance to meet students from across Canada. Thank you to everyone. It's been a joy in my life to know you.

A new home for the bookstore and training

Since June 2007 when LLC decided to wind-down its national operations and to surrender its charitable status, the Board of Directors and National Office staff have dedicated our efforts to ensuring that two of LLC's core assets would be preserved. The continuity of the New Readers Bookstore and the Training and Certification program was a key focus of all our efforts during the past nine months.

On February 4, 2008, LLC reached an agreement to transfer both the New Readers Bookstore and the Training and Certification program to Frontier College.

Closing the National Office

LLC's National Office will close on April 24, 2008. In the meantime, staff will be addressing all of LLC's legal and financial obligations and disposing of its assets. You can reach the office by phone and e-mail (see page 7 for details). Please note that the toll-free

number for national office is no longer available. LLC's national website will redirect visitors to Frontier College until the end of 2008.

The New Readers Bookstore

Assets of the New Readers Bookstore, including the book inventory, were transferred to Frontier College as of March 2008.

LLC has also provided Frontier College with the contact information for all current NRB customers and suppliers. The **Frontier College New Readers Bookstore** will be accepting customer orders as of March 3, 2008. Please see the final page of this newsletter for more information.

"We have no final method yet, expecting to be forever dissatisfied, to beware of adhering too closely to any one theory or authority, to study all methods, to try those that look most promising, to adopt what is best, to improve on them where possible..." —Frank C. Laubach

LLC/NRB staff will be available until April 24 via phone and e-mail (see page 7 for details).

LLC's Training and Certification

A revised **Literacy Trainers Manual** (in CD-ROM format) will be mailed to all active trainers by mid-March 2008.

Frontier College is most interested in working with LLC trainers. Key components of LLC's Trainer Certification process and the Laubach Enhanced Training System (LETS) have been transferred to Frontier College.

As an **LLC trainer**, you will have the choice to opt out of having your contact information transferred from LLC to Frontier College. A detailed notice about the transfer of LLC trainer information will be included in the CD package. Please watch for its delivery, as your opportunity to respond will be time-limited.

LLC tutors who are working with students in a province where there is a strong provincial Laubach organization will continue to enjoy that support. For tutors in communities where the local council is no longer active and where you wish to tutor students, Frontier College, with offices across Canada, is most interested in connecting with you! Since LLC has not transferred its tutor database details to Frontier College, please be sure to contact Frontier College directly to establish this connection.

Support for LLC's legacy continues south of border

From our first efforts to address literacy at a community level, though our rise as a national literacy organization and major provider of literacy resources in Canada, LLC has enjoyed the ongoing support of **ProLiteracy Worldwide** (formerly Laubach Literacy International) based in Syracuse, New York.

Dennis Cook, vice-president of publishing for ProLiteracy Worldwide and executive director of New Readers Press, says he is sorry to see ProLiteracy's long-standing relationship with LLC come to an end.

"We are looking forward to developing a relationship with the Frontier College New Readers Bookstore and its customers throughout Canada that will be as positive as our long-time relationship with LLC," he said.

For our part, LLC extends its deep and heartfelt thanks to ProLiteracy for its past support and encouragement. We also appreciate its willingness to extend the same support to Frontier College.

A timeline that spans 38 years



LLC's 25th Anniversary logo

2007 Due to significant limitations on LLC's capacity to refocus its priorities and resources, in June LLC's board decides to dissolve the corporation and seek a new home for its bookstore and training.

2006 In the fall, an in-depth evaluation of LLC identifies needed changes in LLC's direction and governance structure.

2004 In June, LLC adopts a 10-year strategic plan after completing an organizational review.

1999 LLC launches a student TREE committee that continues until 2003.

2001 A special edition of *Literacy Connections* celebrates International Year of the Volunteer.

1995 The first of a series of Born to Read books by Ben Wicks is produced with LLC support.

1990 Three staff are employed at the newly-named Development Office based in Bedford, Quebec. In honour of International Literacy Year, LLC produces a 10-minute video *The Practical Solution* and a book, *Canada Our Country*.

1993 Two new programs, Peer Youth Tutor (PYT) Clubs and Books for Babies begin in Newfoundland. The PYTs spread across Canada.

1989 LLC hires Field Service Officers to help develop councils and provide training support across the country. The number of councils jumps from 119 in 1988 to 152 in 1991.

1988 In February, LLC delivers its proposal *To Reduce the Incidence of Illiteracy in Canada* to the federal government. The three-year plan is funded for \$466,000.

1988 The Training and Certification Committee of the national Board is launched. Dr. Bob Laubach turns 80. The "Dr. Bob" Student Fund is created.

1987 A national "project and development office" opens in a remodeled shed in Bedford, Quebec.

1981 Laubach Literacy of Canada is incorporated as a registered charity.

1984 In November, LLC receives federal government funding for a National Youth Tutor Project that lasts until March 1986.

1980 Canadians meet in Toronto in November to begin setting up a Canadian Laubach organization. A key goal is to establish a book distributorship to serve the existing 53 councils in eight provinces.

1970 First Laubach training event in Canada graduates 22 tutors in the town of Bridgewater, located in Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia.

Volunteer efforts made literacy happen

Although the philosophy of “Each One Teach One” was not supposed to defy math principles, it has.

For every Laubach student, there may have been only one tutor, at least in the beginning. But for every tutor, there were probably many students. The volunteer effort required to support this partnership was huge. Thousands of LLC volunteers made the organization a truly grassroots phenomenon with national impact.

Besides their role as tutors, these volunteers supported local literacy in many other ways. Those who became trainers had a major impact. Across Canada, LLC’s trainers volunteered countless hours over the years, especially as members of the national board’s Training and Certification committee.

At the provincial level, LLC volunteers have organized provincial conferences and taken seats on the national board. All of LLC’s 13 presidents assumed that role as volunteers. Bravo!



Peter Sawyer (left) is a longtime tutor and volunteer in New Brunswick. Shown here in 2005 at a provincial conference and LLC meeting in Moncton, Peter was on hand in 1981 when LLC was created, also in Moncton. **Lynne Lalonde**, right, of the National Literacy Secretariat was one of many dedicated federal officials who supported LLC’s vision.

In January 2008, the LLC **Board of Directors** met in Ottawa and held its final meeting. The LLC Directors who attended were Pam Iype (President); André Veniot (Vice-President, New Brunswick); Carol Fraser (Secretary/Treasurer, PEI); Valerie McConnell (Quebec); Helen McLeod (Ontario); Maureen Kennedy (Newfoundland/Labrador); Dawn Skinner (Nova Scotia); and Gary Porter (National Student Representative).

Through their dedicated work on behalf of LLC, these Directors have mirrored the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to literacy of their many predecessors. **Thank you!**

New Readers Bookstore: Canadian, eh?

Almost as soon as Canadians adopted Laubach methods to teach adult literacy, the need for Canadian versions of teaching materials emerged.

In April 1981, Laubach Literacy International, based in Syracuse, New York guaranteed a \$10,000 line of credit to LLC to open a “book distributorship.” Until 2001 when the New Readers Bookstore became its new name, the arm of Laubach that sold books was called “the distributorship.” It opened its doors in Saint John, New Brunswick in November 1981.

The distributorship was a crucial part of Laubach’s dream to create a national organization. Not only did

it allow American books from the U.S.-based New Readers Press to enter Canada at bulk rates negotiated with Canada Customs, it also produced Canadian books for adults learning to read.

The “golden girl” behind the 28 titles published by LLC was Gladys Neale. A retired executive with Macmillan Canada’s educational publishing division, Ms. Neale volunteered long hours on LLC’s board and with the distributorship.

When she died in 1999, LLC held a special memorial service at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Donors and governments offered support

LLC deeply appreciates the financial support it received in support of its literacy programs.

Funding from a variety of sources made it possible for LLC to support local literacy councils, to hire national field service staff, and to launch national programs in workplace and family literacy.

Ongoing support from the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (formerly the National Literacy Secretariat) was crucial to LLC from 1988 onward. Throughout the 1990s, Canada Post Corporation funded LLC's program *Creating a Learning Culture in the Home* as well as

paying the printing costs of *Literacy Connections*.

Provincial governments offered support for LLC initiatives in various provinces.

Over the years, corporate sponsors included major banks, companies, and foundations. Individual donors provided support during annual appeals. In-kind support was offered by a Celtic music group and by book publishers.

LLC's patrons

A series of Governors-General acted as national patrons for LLC.

Other longtime patrons from across Canada included: Hon. Marion Reid, Mr. Albert Hickman, Mr. John W. Irwin, Mr. Ben Wicks, Mr. G. Wallace F. McCain, Rev. Kenn Ward, Mr. Andrew Nikiforuk, and Mr. Pierre Berton.

A special champion

Senator Joyce Fairbairn knew and supported LLC's presidents, students, and grassroots projects from the time she was named as Special Advisor on Literacy, through LLC's move to its Ottawa office in 2004, and until the final days in 2008. Her support has been deeply appreciated.

LLC's hard-working and loyal staff



For many years, "the girls at the D.O." was a common way to refer to the Development Office (D.O.) staff based in Bedford, Quebec. In 1995, the staff included (from left to right) Juel Weideman, Karen Ingalls, Wendy Seys, Sarah Mills, and Karen Smith (seated).



At the Book Distributorship (later the New Readers Bookstore), longtime staff included Beatrice Arbo (left) and Shirley Hansen (right). Gladys Neale (centre) was Director of the distributorship, a role she assumed as head of the Publications Committee of the national Board of Directors.

“Dr. Bob” and Laubach students

The “Dr. Bob” student fund was established in 1988 when Dr. Robert Laubach turned 80. This national fund provided an annual cash award to Laubach student groups to fund worthy projects in their communities, all across Canada.

The son of Dr. Frank Laubach, “Dr. Bob” was part of the American Laubach organization for many years. A world traveller, he loved to visit Canada on what he called “safaris” in support of Canadian tutors and trainers who were using Laubach methods.

When he turned 80, the LLC Board decided to celebrate his commitment to the Canadian organization by setting up an annual student fund.

“Students” not learners

In 1990, a national survey by LLC revealed that the men and women working with Laubach tutors preferred to be called “students.”

A year later, Dorothy Silver of New Brunswick became the first student representative on the national Board of Directors. Mrs. Silver had come a long way in a short time. After learning to read, she started support groups for students in her home province. In 1992, she launched “Pen Pals Across Canada” to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. In 2003, LLC published Dorothy’s book, *Living on a Shoestring Budget*.

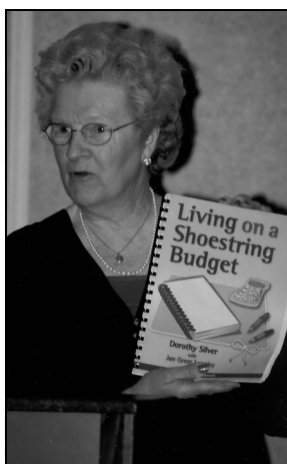
Student Leadership

In 1999, LLC launched a new committee whose goal was to offer support to Laubach students across Canada.

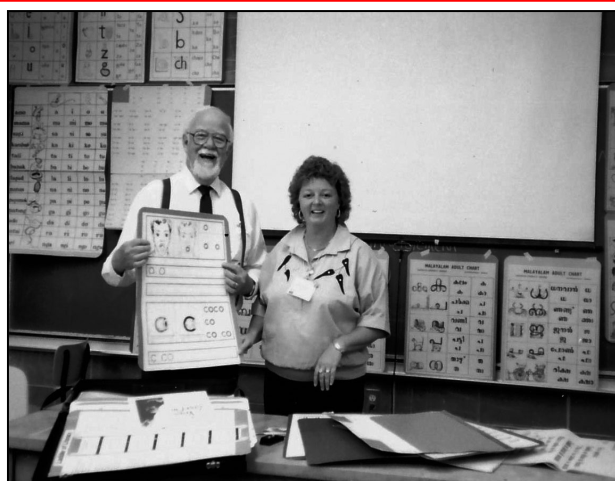
PennyAnn Tibbitts was hired to coordinate the TREE committee (Teamwork to Raise Education and Equality) which continued until 2003.

In 2004, the National Student Caucus made up of provincial student delegates began working at the national level to serve the interests of LLC students across the country.

A final message from LLC’s National Student Representative appears on page 2.



Dorothy Silver became a published author in 2003.



“Dr. Bob” Laubach and Diane Young attended a tutor training workshop in 1990.

Laubach Literacy of Canada

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Our national website will redirect visitors until the end of 2008.

www.laubach.ca

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THE NEW READERS BOOKSTORE IS BACK!



Frontier College is proud and honoured to have been offered the opportunity to carry on the Laubach tradition of bringing cutting-edge literacy resources to the literacy and learning community in Canada.

Laubach Literacy of Canada has a long and distinguished history of innovative literacy work in Canada. Frontier College is committed to helping keep the legacy of LLC alive by revitalizing the New Readers Bookstore as the **Frontier College New Readers Bookstore** and by offering the quality resources the community has come to expect.

Frontier College has been delivering literacy programs, recruiting and training tutors and working with community-based organizations across the country since 1899. We know that literacy is an essential skill in today's world. Founded by a group of university students and faculty, our mission was to live, work and teach in isolated "frontier" settlements.

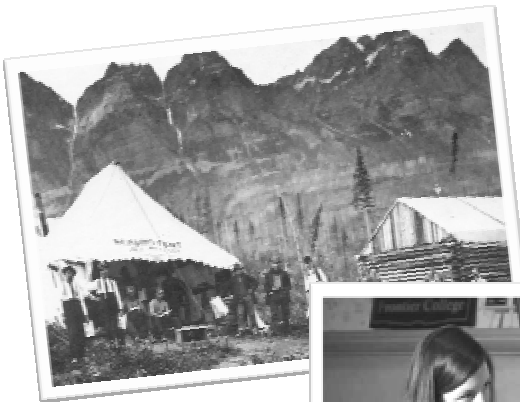
Today, Frontier College volunteers and community partners work on Canada's "new frontiers"—inner city schools and streets, public housing sites, farms, prisons and Native communities.

As of March 3, 2008 the Frontier College New Readers Bookstore will be up and running and ready to take your orders.

All the profit generated by the **Frontier College New Readers Bookstore** will be reinvested in our literacy programs across the country.

As well, Frontier College has accepted the transfer of LLC's enhanced training system and will be adapting it to share with adult literacy tutors and trainers across Canada.

Visit our websites www.frontiercollege.ca and www.laubach.ca for more information. If you have questions, please call 1-800-555-6523 or e-mail us at newreaders@frontiercollege.ca



Top: An early Frontier College Reading Tent at a labour camp in Alberta's Rocky Mountains.



Bottom: A Frontier College tutor working with a student.

"We are honoured to have the confidence of the Laubach Literacy of Canada staff and board and we look forward to working with the Laubach network, councils, trainers and tutors across Canada. We will move ahead with the knowledge that we will keep the legacy of LLC alive and vibrant and we truly hope that the membership of LLC will join with us to ensure that these legacies live on."

**Sherry Campbell, President
Frontier College**