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Sharing the right to read...and succeed for twenty years!

Happy 20th Anniversary Project Literacy!

May, 2006

Dear Learners, Tutors, Members and Community Friends and Partners:

Yes, 2006 marks 20 years that Project Literacy Kelowna Society has been providing free literacy and numeracy services to our community. We can't think of a better reason to celebrate, and that's exactly what we're planning to do. We'll keep you posted on upcoming activities.

This past year has been eventful, to say the least! At times the challenges facing Project Literacy may have seemed daunting, but we've been **servicing the people of Kelowna and surrounding areas for twenty years** and that's a track record we're not about to give up on. Judging by the overwhelming support we have received, our learners, tutors, members and the general public share our commitment.

Without a doubt, the biggest challenge facing Project Literacy in the past year resulted from the loss of our federal funding in November. However, as that old proverb states, "**When one door closes, another door opens.**" and this is just what Project Literacy's staff and board of directors have been working on, with promising results. **New doors of opportunity are being identified or created every day.**

We are particularly delighted to announce that **we have been able to keep all of our space**, in large part due to the generosity of our landlord, who did not charge any rent on our tutor/learner area for the first three months of 2006. This was a huge savings for Project Literacy. We have also been able to sublet a small portion of this space to People in Motion, another non-profit agency and the **City of Kelowna** is providing funds to finance the balance.

Membership is up significantly over previous years and individual donations continue to arrive. Our current board of directors have really 'stepped up to the plate', increasing their involvement and contributing a wealth of expertise to raise our profile in the community.

And, drum roll here please

Project Literacy Kelowna Society... since 1986

We have a brand new sign on the front of our building! Thanks to several very generous individual donations, Project Literacy has finally been able to acquire street-front signage that will make it a lot easier for potential clients to find us. I can't think of a more positive way to let our community know that **Project Literacy is here to stay!**



Twenty years ago a small group of individuals identified a need to provide literacy and numeracy assistance to adults in this area and as a result, Project Literacy Kelowna Society was created. **That need still exists.** In fact, literacy is even more challenging today as our social and work environments become more communications-oriented and knowledge-based.

Approximately 2500 learners have passed through our doors over the last twenty years and hundreds of dedicated volunteer tutors have been here to help them. With the support of everyone in our community, from our elected leaders, to corporate partners, community agencies and individual citizens like you and I, **there will always be a Project Literacy Kelowna Society** to provide a safe and encouraging learning environment in which goals are achieved and individuals are given the tools that allow them to fully participate in and contribute to our amazing community.

How can you help? By taking out a membership and renewing it when the time comes. Your fifteen dollars ensures that we are able to continue to provide our tutors and learners with the best literacy and numeracy resources available. **Donations in any amount are also crucial.** Every dollar helps to support a learning environment that is safe, confidential and inviting to the hundreds of learners and tutors who utilize it. A lot has been accomplished in twenty years and with your continued support we will achieve even more!

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Sincerely,

Barb Hagan - Manager

www.projectliteracykelowna.org