



Creating Opportunity

September 11, 2008

Outstanding adult literacy learner receives award

Edmonton ... Daniel Haines, a student with Project Adult Literacy Society for several years, is the recipient of Alberta's 2008 Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner is presenting the award at an event, hosted by Literacy Works, in Edmonton.

The 2008 Council of Federation Literacy Award honours an adult literacy learner who has gone above and beyond to improve their basic literacy skills and in doing so has inspired others to do the same.

"Literacy skills are basic building blocks that allow people to continue learning and to fulfill their goals and aspirations. Daniel is a shining example of someone who made the choice to improve his own literacy skills and in doing so has encouraged others to do the same," said Horner. "It is evident that Daniel takes pride in learning and is an inspiration to anyone who wishes to take that next step and return to learning."

Daniel decided to return to learning and improve his literacy skills after 30 years in the workforce. While continuing to develop his own reading and writing skills with a one-on-one tutor, Daniel has gained confidence and has become a role model for others. He is currently Alberta's Learner Representative in the Movement for Canadian Literacy and an active member in many literacy organizations in the province.

"I have accomplished more than I thought was possible with the support of my family, close friends and encouragement from the literacy community," said Haines. "I am still not very comfortable talking about myself, but if my story can inspire others to begin their own literacy journey then it is worth it. I really do believe one person can make a difference."

The Council of the Federation Literacy Award was established by Canada's premiers in 2004 to recognize outstanding achievement, innovative practices and excellence in literacy by an individual or an organization. One award is presented annually in each province and territory. In Alberta, 12 nominations were received for the 2008 Council of the Federation Literacy award. All nominations were assessed by a selection committee, which included representatives from various adult learning programs.

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