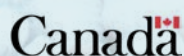


2020-2021

Annual Report

The Adult Basic Education Association exists to improve the quality of life in the community of Hamilton through the promotion and support of lifelong learning.



This *Employment Ontario* program is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario and through the Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement.

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Tracy Cunning, Chair
Tony Maddalena, Vice Chair
Jessica Rose, Secretary/Treasurer
Aurélie Dimandja, Director
Lina El Ali, Director
Archie Bonifacio, Director
Tamara Forbes, Director

Staff

Sara Gill, Executive Director
Michael Adebo, Educational Pathway
Planner
Jeimy Martinez-Sorto, Educational
Pathway Planning Support
Sophie Auger, Career Ladders Project
Manager
Jaroslava Halencak, Bookkeeper

Thanks to Our Bingo Volunteers

Anne Oakes
Curtis Croitoru
Debra Oakes



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Hamilton Public Library
Central Branch
55 York Blvd., 4th Floor
Hamilton, ON L8R 3K1



What We Do

As Hamilton's adult learning network we provide information, referrals, outreach and assessments for youth and adults looking to upgrade or retrain. We help our clients develop educational action plans. Action plans are individual and goal oriented. Plans could include referrals to academic upgrading, completing high school, getting into post-secondary, apprenticeship training or other training. We work closely with our adult education partners across the city to develop the annual Literacy Service Plan. This plan identifies key issues and actions that we work on throughout the year.

We also offer Clear Writing training and consulting services. We offer workshops, document editing as well as a 12-week online course through the Learning Networks of Ontario. For more information about our services please visit www.abea.on.ca.

Want to get literacy, education and employment updates all in one place? [Subscribe to our monthly newsletter.](#)

A Message from the Chair

Tracy Cunning

Serving as Board Chair for the Adult Basic Education Association (ABEA) over this past year has been an honour. I witnessed the reimagining of client facing service in the Literacy and Basic Skills sector. This transition has maintained client and community partner interactions with high quality services and referrals.

Since 1986, ABEA has existed to improve the quality of life in the Hamilton community through the promotion and support of lifelong learning. ABEA accomplishes this by ensuring that adult learners are connected to resources to assist them in their literacy or education journey or to increase skills in preparation for a new job. Acting as a resource network and being an active member of the Learning Networks of Ontario, ABEA continues to foster partnerships with literacy providers.

Dynamic, adaptive, and flexible leadership from Sara Gill has ensured a renewed focus on funding diversification as well as the awareness of available services in the community during these challenging times. This diversification of funding has assisted the organization to weather the financial effects of the pandemic in relatively good shape. With lockdowns and continued uncertainty regarding COVID-19, all services are currently offered virtually to enable the continuation of the services and protect the health and safety of staff, clients, and service providers.

On behalf of the board and the organization, I would like to thank Tony Maddalena (former Chair & Vice Chair) and Aurélie Dimandja (former Director) for their service to the board over the past several years. Both board members will be missed, and their contributions are appreciated and acknowledged. We wish them the very best.

Many thanks to our funders including the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, Hamilton Community Foundation, and The City of Hamilton that continue to support the work of ABEA.

Tracy Cunning
Board Chair



From the Executive Director

Sara Gill

Educational Pathway Planning

2020-2021 was certainly an interesting year. Although we couldn't meet clients and community partners in person, we were able to ramp up our remote services. We connected with over 1,800 people to provide educational pathway planning, assessment and outreach. We also continued our [monthly newsletter](#) to share literacy, education and employment program updates and events with over 140 community partners.

Thank you to our ongoing assessment and referral partners – NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment and Training, Employment Services and Ontario Works. This year, we worked closely with the Hamilton-based Skills Advance Ontario programs to develop a referral protocol to assist their participants to gain the necessary essential skills for work.

“Thankful for the services provided by ABEA, they provide insight and guidance to many of my clients.”

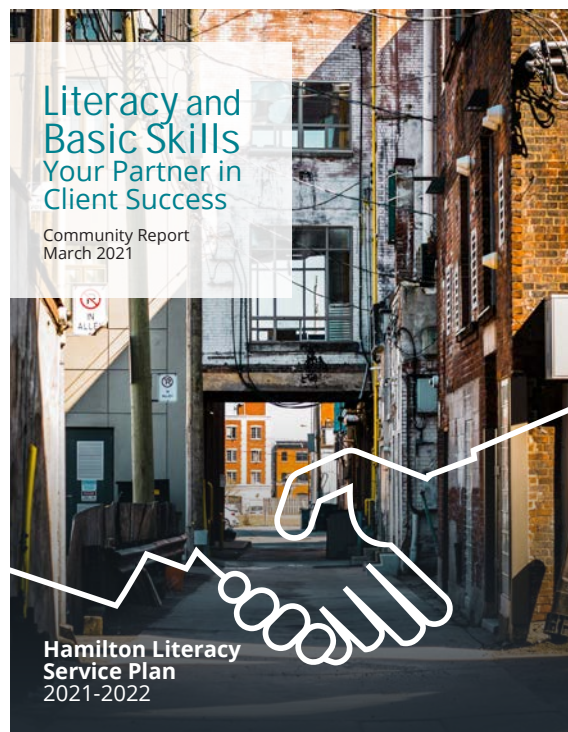
— Community Partner

Literacy Planning

Through the Literacy Community Planning (LCP) committee we worked on key issues facing our community including

- a. LBS Programs Report High Numbers of Learners with Multiple Barriers to Employment
- b. Supporting Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- c. Newcomers are a Critical Talent Pipeline
- d. The Supply of Workers Does Not Meet the Skills Demand of Employers
- e. Skilled Trades Workers Continue to be in Demand
- f. Those that are Precariously Employed Need Support

For more information about these issues and how we responded, please see our [Literacy Service Plan 2020-2021 Community Report](#).



In early March we hosted our second annual [adult learner conference](#). This virtual conference featured 10 sessions related to key topics such as learning online, getting your Grade 12 diploma, how to manage your mental health and information for job seekers. Our next conference will be in February 2022.



Career Ladders Project

In November 2020 we received funding from the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development to develop career ladder frameworks for the local manufacturing and healthcare sectors. Through this project we researched the labour market information to determine 3-5 entry-level jobs in those sectors that have consistent growth in the region and have opportunities for advancement. We are now consulting with literacy service planning groups, trainers and employers to identify the skills and training needed for individuals to advance from entry-level jobs to mid-level jobs in these sectors. The target audience for this project are those that have multiple barriers to employment. Stay tuned for more information in the fall of 2021.



Thank you so much to ABEA's Board of Directors for their insight, guidance and support over the last year. I look forward to addressing our new strategic plan for 2021-2024 and to continue to build relationships and work collaboratively with our community partners across the city.

Sara Gill, Executive Director



Our Community Partners/Networks

Employment Ontario - Literacy and Basic Skills Service Providers

CNIB – Deafblind Community Services Literacy Program

Collège Boréal

Community and Continuing Education - Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Hamilton Literacy Council

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre – Native Learning Centre

Mohawk College – Academic Upgrading, Deaf Empowerment Program

St. Charles Adult & Continuing Education Centres – Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

Employment Ontario – Employment Services

Skills Development Flagship Committee

Employment Assistance Resource Network (EARN)

Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) – City of Hamilton

Our Future Hamilton – Community Partner

Ontario Works

NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment and Training

YWCA Hamilton

Congratulations to our Leaders in Literacy Award Winners 2021!

Lynne Livingstone Memorial Award

Anthony Maddalena
Aurélié Dimandja

Kim Brooks Memorial Lifelong Learning Award

Kathryn Deiter

Excellence in Adult Teaching Award

Cheryl Richesin

The CIBC Murphy Investment Group Individual Early Literacy Education Award

Magdalena Newman

Agency Early Literacy Education Award

Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg

The Hamilton Spectator Adult Literacy Learner Award

Amanda Hackney, Mohawk College Academic Upgrading
Olga Leguisamon Reinoso, Mohawk College Academic Upgrading

Megan Masters, St. Charles Adult and Continuing Education
Sharifa Gauhar, St. Charles Adult and Continuing Education
Noura Mahamat, Hamilton Literacy Council

Thank you to our breakfast sponsors

HAMILTON  **SPECTATOR**

The Murphy Investment Group  CIBC Wood Gundy

And 3 friends of ABEA