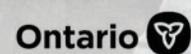




2021-2022

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.



Board of Directors 2021-2022

Tracy Cunning, Chair
Tamara Forbes, Vice Chair
Jessica Rose, Secretary/Treasurer
Lina El Ali, Director
Archie Bonifacio, Director
Elisha Turney-Foss, Director
Jonathan Ainley, Director
Muhammad Ali Hameed, 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
Debra Oakes



Phone 905-527-2222
Text 289-275-1685
Email pathways@abea.on.ca
Web www.abea.on.ca

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 Cuning

This past fiscal year was demanding for all of us and the ripples of this will affect our communities for some time. Numerous lockdowns, illnesses, workplace absences and surging mental health challenges were only a few of the obstacles that organizations faced this last year. The impact of COVID-19 on those with lower levels of education and literacy has been significantly greater so the work of the organization is more crucial than ever.

ABEA was formed in 1983 and its objective to improve the quality of life in the Hamilton community through the promotion and support of lifelong learning is still as relevant today. Acting as a resource network for the community as well as being an engaged member of the Learning Networks of Ontario, ABEA assists adult learners to connect with resources to support their literacy and education goals. Establishing linkages and fostering relationships with literacy and employment service providers, ABEA continues to support and encourage lifelong learning in the community.

While we all became more adept at using virtual meeting platforms, we also developed some new phrases such as “you are on mute” or “your camera is off” or in some cases a reminder that “your microphone or camera is still on”. Through it all, ABEA has been a strong, consistent and stable support to adult learners. Despite the challenges, the organization has developed new service protocols, moved locations, increased funding, all while protecting the health and safety of the team as well as the learners seeking assistance. With increased diversity in funding, the organization was able to weather the severe financial implications that were a reality for many businesses as we look forward to all that ABEA will accomplish in the next fiscal year.

Words of Thanks

On behalf of the Board and the organization, I would like to thank our board members who volunteer their time to support and guide the work of ABEA as well as the tireless efforts of Sara Gill, Executive Director, who continues to ensure that the organization is a going concern serving learners and changing futures.

A fond farewell to Tamara Forbes (Vice Chair) and Archie Bonifacio (Director) for their service to the Board over the past two years. Both Board Members will be missed, and their past contributions are much appreciated. Our best wishes to them both as they continue their journey.

A note of thanks to our funders including the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, Hamilton Community Foundation, Employment and Social Development Canada and The City of Hamilton that continue to support the work of ABEA. Without the support of these funders, the valuable work of the Adult Basic Education Association would not be possible.

Tracy Cuning
Board Chair

From the Executive Director

Sara Gill

Educational Pathway Planning

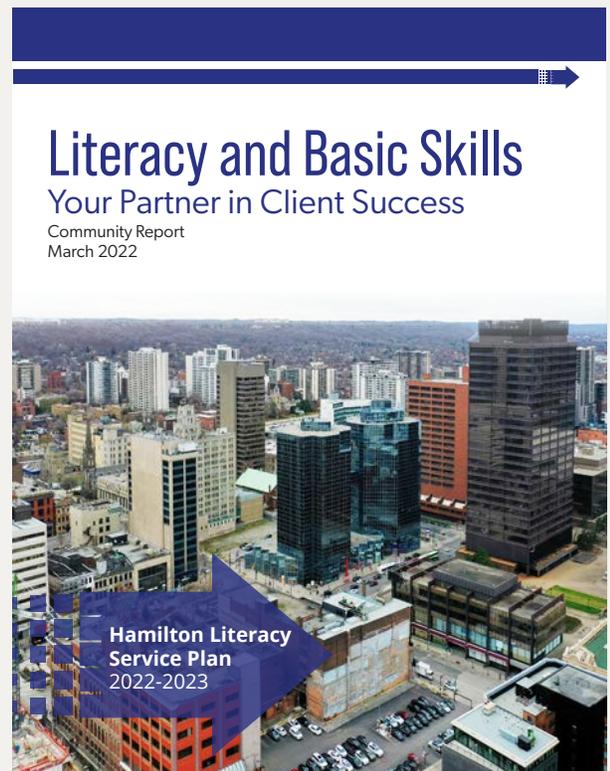
We continued to offer all services remotely in 2021-2022. We connected with over 1,700 people to provide educational pathway planning, assessment and outreach. We also continued our [monthly newsletter](#) to share literacy, education and employment program updates and events with over 150 community partners.

Thank you to our ongoing assessment and referral partners – NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment and Training, Employment Services and Ontario Works. This year, we increased remote assessment services to include the Learning Challenges Assessment Tool. This is an important service to support learners to better understand their strengths and upgrading needs.

Although we are slowly returning to in-person services, we will continue to offer remote assessments to clients who prefer it.

“The engagement from the staff is unbelievabl[e]. They are very open and understanding, especially when working with highly barriered youth.”
— Community Partner

“The support that is offered through ABEA has always been impeccable. They are well informed and updated on all things happening within the community.”
— Community Partner



Literacy Planning

Through the Literacy Community Planning (LCP) committee we worked on key issues facing our community with a focus on 5 audiences

- (A) Job Seekers
- (B) Employers
- (C) Learners
- (D) Literacy Practitioners
- (E) Community Partners

For more information about these issues and how we responded, please see our [Literacy Service Plan 2021-2022 Community Report](#).



Adult Learner Conference

In February 2022 we hosted our 3rd annual [adult learner conference](#). This virtual conference featured 7 sessions related to key topics such as apprenticeship, services for job seekers, workplace communication and others. Our next conference will be in February 2023.

Thank,
you!



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 consulted 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. We also consulted with job seekers to ensure that the tool we created was relevant to their needs and user-friendly. Check out the [tool](#) developed for the healthcare and manufacturing sectors. In 2022-2023 we'll be creating a [WE Data Tool](#) and adding an additional 8 sectors.

Thank you so much to ABEA's Board of Directors for their insight, guidance and support over the last year. I'm excited about our progress on our strategic plan for 2021-2024. We hope to continue to build relationships and work collaboratively with our community partners across the city and across the province.

Sara Gill, Executive Director



Career Ladders



The Adult Basic Education Association (ABEA) of Hamilton, along with our project partners, are excited about the continuation of our project - Career Ladders - Your Future Starts Here. Last year we explored in-demand, entry-level jobs in healthcare and manufacturing. This year we'll add an additional 8 sectors.

This project connects local labour market information with the skills and training needed for in-demand jobs. This will be an interactive career ladders tool. With this tool, job seekers will have information about in-demand, entry-level positions in high-demand sectors with opportunities for advancement. They'll be able to explore the connections and pathways between entry-level and mid-level jobs.

With a focus on skills, it will also help them explore their transferable skills from one sector to another. With this information, they can develop a plan that's right for them now and for their future. The project work will go until March 2023. The interactive career ladder tool will continue to be available for use after March 2023. For more information

visit <https://abea.on.ca/career-ladders/>

email careerladders@abea.on.ca

**Your job is out there.
We'll help you find it.**

@ABEAHamilton @LiteracyON #ONjobs



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)

Our Future Hamilton – Community Partner

Ontario Works

NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment and Training

Learning Networks of Ontario

Congratulations to our Leaders in Literacy Award Winners 2022!

Lynne Livingstone Memorial Award

Workforce Planning Hamilton

Kim Brooks Memorial Lifelong Learning Award

Jeff Moore

Excellence in Adult Teaching Award

Megan Perry

The CIBC Murphy Investment Group Individual Early Literacy Education Award

Tyla Tamosiunas

Agency Early Literacy Education Award

Village Treehouse Childcare Centre

The Hamilton Spectator Adult Literacy Learner Award

Lois Klassen, CNIB – Deafblind Community Services Literacy Program

William Cabrera – St. Charles Adult Education Centre

Marven Eugene Williams – Community and Continuing Education

Shernett Degouth – Hamilton Literacy Council

Antonio Holder – Mohawk College, Academic Upgrading

Thank you to our breakfast sponsors

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And 3 friends of ABEA