



# 2018-2019 Annual Report

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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.

Proud member of



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.

## What We Do

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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](http://www.abea.on.ca).

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### Board of Directors 2018-2019

Tracy Baxter, Chair

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Maria Crapsi

Tran Trang

Aurélie Demandja

### Staff

Sara Gill, Executive Director

Liz Enriquez

Michael Adebo

Ashley Hoath-Murray

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### Thanks to Our Bingo Volunteers

Mary Croitoru

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# A Message from the Chair

## Tracy Baxter

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Since incorporation as a charitable organization in 1986, ABEA has been assisting people on their educational journey by acting as the learning network for Hamilton. By linking people with literacy and other adult education partners, people can see the pathway forward to reach their education and employment goals. Being a member of the Learning Networks of Ontario and facilitating the Hamilton Literacy Service Planning process, ABEA is well positioned to assist individuals and organizations to address literacy concerns. Increased literacy levels are linked to improved financial stability and greater opportunities for sustainable employment and plays a critical role in alleviating poverty.

Our governance board is diligent and works collaboratively in order to lead and support the organization. In the summer of 2018 we created a renewed strategic plan for ABEA. Key priorities include securing more and diverse funding to provide support to more people, building brand awareness in order to communicate clearly to the entire moral ownership, building and sustaining relationships with clients, community partners and funders and utilizing technology to support our work. Through this plan we can continue to grow and adapt to the unique needs of the Hamilton community.

With Sara Gill at the helm, the organization has seen increased growth and diversification of funds, creating an opportunity to serve more individuals in the Hamilton community. Many thanks to our funders including the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, Hamilton Community Foundation, The City of Hamilton and ArcelorMittal Dofasco.

I'd like to also thank Maria Crapsi for her years of service on the ABEA Board of Directors. Maria has been an excellent collaborator and supporter of the organization as a Board member as well as on various subcommittees. Maria will be missed but we wish her well and look forward to working with her as a valued community partner.

Looking forward to another great year!

Tracy Baxter

Board Chair

# From the Executive Director

Sara Gill

We are committed to providing the best possible services to our clients and our partners. In 2018-2019 we helped hundreds of people find the pathways and programs that were right for them and we worked closely with our partners to support their clients. We value our continued formal partnerships with Ontario Works, Living Rock Ministries, the Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board (NPAAMB), YWCA Hamilton as well as 541 Eatery and Exchange.

Through the Literacy Community Planning (LCP) committee we worked on key issues facing our community that included the following.

- a. There is an ongoing and growing shortage of skilled workers.
- b. Apprenticeships continue to fall in Hamilton.
- c. Soft skills issues continue to create barriers to employment.
- d. People do not have the guidance, career planning and labour market information they need to make informed decisions.
- e. The youth unemployment rate doubles the adult unemployment rate.
- f. Digital technology skills continue to be a need to prepare people for further education, training and employment.
- g. Indigenous learners need culturally relevant programming and supports.
- h. People with disabilities experience higher unemployment rates and are highly represented in Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS).

To view the results of these actions and for the current plan please visit <https://abea.on.ca/literacy-planning>.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the McMaster Research Shop to better understand learners' interest in and knowledge of apprenticeships. This research was key to understanding how we can encourage, educate and support learners to consider a career in the trades.

To support our practitioners, we facilitated key professional development events including Soft Skills Solutions from the Simcoe-Muskoka Workforce Development Board. We also worked with the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre to offer an Indigenous Cultural Competency Training session called Honouring Relationships. As an organization invested in the support of lifelong learning, we are committed to providing our frontline practitioners with ongoing development opportunities.

I want to thank all of our community partners for your belief in the important work of this agency and we look forward to many more years of continued service to Hamilton. I also want to congratulate all of the learners who were brave enough to take that first step to achieving your goals. You inspire us as practitioners to do better, to be better and we celebrate your successes with you.

Yours in lifelong learning,  
Sara Gill, Executive Director



## Our Community Partners/Networks

### Employment Ontario - Literacy and Basic Skills Service Providers

CNIB Literacy Program for Deafblind Adults

Collège Boréal

Community and Continuing Education - Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Hamilton Literacy Council

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre

Mohawk College – Academic Upgrading

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

Employment Ontario – Employment Services

Skills Development Flagship Committee – City of Hamilton

Employment Assistance Resource Network (EARN)

Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) – City of Hamilton

Our Future Hamilton – Community Partner

Ontario Works

Living Rock Ministries

541 Eatery and Exchange

Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board (NPAAMB)

YWCA Hamilton



Your success  
is our goal!

## Congratulations to our Leaders in Literacy Award Winners 2019

### **Lynne Livingstone Memorial Award**

Jim Mackrory

### **Kim Brooks Memorial Lifelong Learning Award**

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre

### **Excellence in Adult Teaching Award**

Wael Ghali

### **CIBC World Markets Children's Foundation**

#### **Individual Early Education Award**

Lindsay Murray

### **Agency Early Literacy Education Award**

Hamilton's Dolly Parton Imagination Library

### **The Hamilton Spectator Adult Learner Literacy Award**

Kemoko Koulibaly, Collège Boréal

Janet Lynch-Johnson, Hamilton Literacy Council

Tracy McAloney, St. Charles Adult & Continuing Education Centres

Thank you to our breakfast sponsors, 3 friends of ABEA as well as



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