

CCL&D Board of Directors 2012-2013

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Message from the Executive Director

It is always with the strongest feelings of joy and pride that I reflect on the months leading up to our graduation ceremony. It is also very uplifting to witness the hard work and commitment of learners and trainees during the year, and just as rewarding to celebrate their progress and personal transformation.

Still, this time of year also gives me cause to reflect on how we are doing.

As an organization, did we do right by all the participants in our programs? Did AU students make meaningful progress in their efforts to upgrade their academic skills? Did the newcomer women in the IWIP program really enhance their capacity and skills? And do you all now feel more equipped to be effective leaders and supporters of meaningful change within your communities, and personal situations? Did we increase your employability skills, and the chances of finding, rewarding and fulfilling work for those of you seeking employment?

Well, the best measure of our impact is in the men and women who are graduating. Your success, your new-found goals, sense of direction, and desire to be more engaged in your communities, helps us to thrive as an organization. Your success also serves as a source of strength and inspiration for our staff, volunteers, board members – we all share the same sense of purpose – to build individual and community capacity. So we feel rewarded knowing, that with our support, you have been able to bring about meaningful changes in your own lives. Changes and personal transformations we witnessed almost daily, over the past several months.

So on behalf of all at CCL&D, it is with the deepest pleasure (and gratitude) that I wish you all the best, as you begin your new journeys, wherever they may take you. Always strive to be the best that you can be, and remember, “If it’s NOT broken, FIX it anyway!

Alfred Jean-Baptiste,
Executive Director

Message from the Board President

On behalf of the board, I would like to congratulate all the participants who achieved their personal goals in the last 12 months. This yearbook is one way we have tried to acknowledge the work of learners, trainees and volunteers. This year we will also install a mural that some of you created and it too will serve as a reminder of your success.

As a board we are proud that the Centre for Community Learning & Development (CCL&D) provides a hub that connects us all as community members. The theme for this year's graduation celebration and yearbook is Building Bridges, Strengthening Bonds because of the work we have done together to create new paths and relationships. From mentoring new community leaders, to supporting students as they increase their skills, to providing a space for future business owners; CCL&D works to be a foundation on which you build your future.

This year has been one of great accomplishments not only for those of you who are graduating but also for all of the staff, volunteers and community members involved in programming at CCL&D. I thank the volunteers and staff for their hard work. And once again congratulate all of the program participants.

Eusis Dougan-McKenzie,
Chair, Board of Directors

Message from the Manager – Training, Resource & Development



All My Relations Artist Frank Big Bear

Bending unbounded
Brave Bold
Bridging places
Bridging faces
Bridging races
Redefining an Arch
Directed navigation
Journey deliverable
Authentic exchanges
Unbreakable bonding

Bending unbounded

Caroline Mahlikah Awe:ri Outten—Walking Woman

To begin I would like to start by congratulating all the 2012-2013 graduates from both the Academic Upgrading Program and the Immigrant Women's Integration Program. And for those who are still with us keep up the amazing effort and don't stop striving for personal and professional success.

This year's theme "Building Bridges; Strengthening Bonds" for me is best expressed in a quote by Chief Seattle,

"Humankind has not woven the web of life.
We are but one thread within it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to
ourselves. All things are bound together.
All things connect."

Like bridges, webs are structures that facilitate connecting, and also like bridges the strength of the web is dependent on the strength of each part—or thread. We have all become a part of a web of learning, sharing, growing, leading and knowing as members of TCCL&D. And even when our classmates, students, staff members move on from this web to construct a new one, their thread remains, as an imprint of their contribution to our collective achievements.

Congratulations

Immigrant Women Integration Program Graduates

Fatma Bafagih
Geumran (Grace) Park
Ishrat Zahan
Jie Yu*
Shahanara Kandaker*
Shuangmei (Sherry) Sui
Wazhma Sahle-Mohammad
Yunyun (Laura) Li*

Academic Upgrading Graduates

Amare Mulate
Ernie McLean*
Jeanne Mukamunana*
Rasheda Absar
Wahida Safi*

Academic Upgrading Transition Level Certificate Recipients

Atashalee Buckley
Caroline Ngongo
Rocksana Ahmed
Shafiqah Rahimi
Hanifa Rahimi

* indicates those who have won the Elizabeth Cooke Award

If we expand on our ability to create programs and tools by increasing our resource capacity, and diversifying our funding base...

Then we will enhance our role in adult academic upgrading, training and community capacity-building.



Academic Upgrading Learners' Work

Building Bridges Give and Accept

- B.** *Beautiful People and Beautiful World.*
- U.** *Unfortunately, some are hostile to each other.*
- L.** *Love is the only way to melt that hostility.*
- D.** *Dalai Lama said where you feel happy, and where you get love there's your home.*
- I.** *It is important for us to give and accept love, and be thankful for love.*
- N.** *Never give up on your goals, and always believe in yourself!*
- G.** *God always forgives you, whenever you turn over a new leaf.*
- B.** *Bravery without fear shows that you're courageous.*
- R.** *Respect nature, faith, and people of different cultures.*
- I.** *Interdependently, we need to value every good thing, not only humans*
- D.** *Demonstrate bravery for truth, justice, tolerance and love.*
- G.** *Goodness is all around us sons and daughters, with everything we need.*
- E.** *Encourage those of us who are fighting for human rights and peace.*
- S.** *Serenity is important for us to create peace of mind. Thank you for listening.*

Dawa Tsering

International Thinking

- B**ringing families together from near and far
- U**nite us in multicultural diversity in many ways
- I**nternational development comes through education, business and sports.
- L**ove, respect, peace, and sharing of ideas help build communities of all sorts.
- D**emocracy allows for freedoms of speech and choices in the world.
- I**nterdependence means giving and getting help from each other.
- N**ationality distinguishes people and nations, one from another.
- G**oal setting is important to achieve our dreams in becoming a doctor or hairdresser.
- B**ridges, whether social or physical, serve to connect to things and others.
- R**eligious believers worship a higher power especially God or gods.
- I**mportant connections help us take care of things and people, here and abroad.
- D**evelopment of art, cultural activities and policies that promote organizations.
- G**overnments, communities, and programs that help all, including the disabled.
- E**ducation, the economy and security of the population are important to the nations.
- S**urvival of the fittest is an attitude that people depend on in challenging situations.

Hebreseb Tekelabrhan



Bridges of Reality

My mind is blowing with many different ideas.

University education prepares people for better opportunities.

Nationality gives the value of who we are as people.

Ability makes people confident in themselves.

Diwali is celebrated in Hinduism dedicated to Lakshmi.

Handicraft industry can build bridges among different people.

Muna Dhungel

Bridges of Unity

Bridges between people and nations
Unite us to many lands
Integrating with cultures to avoid clash
Learn to overcome our
Differences
Implode our
Negativity with
Generosity

Bring families together
Reconcile quarrels
Include everybody
Democratically Decide
Giving
Encouragement, and
Show sensitivity.

Razia Begum

Bright Heart

A clean bill of health for the one that I
love
I want love that sings sweetly like a
dove.
All the while, we raise a child with love
That life feels so good and high above
It can last so bloody long
All my life for love is strong.
My heart is bright and oh so strong
Some people are right and some are
wrong
Although the lights shine so bright
Subjects at night sometimes will bite.

Joseph Whynder

Wayne's Bridge

My name is Wane Bailey.
I was born in Jamaica.
I came to Canada in 1987.

When I started school, they told me
that I could not go to high school
because I did not know how to
read and write.

So, I registered in an Adult Literacy
program instead.
At the school it was hard for me to
learn as quickly as the others.
I am grateful for all that my teachers
taught me, there.

I was sick for a long time and could
not go back to school for a long
time

Now I am back, because I want to
learn more, and become a chef.
Before I can be a chef, I'll have to go
to George Brown College and learn
how to cook.

I will prepare tasty Jamaican and
Canadian dishes, and serve them as
my bridge.

Wayne Bailey

Bridges of Beauty

Beauty is Bright!
Beauty is when we love each other and
care for each other.
It is the beauty inside the heart, the
beauty we all have as love.
Beauty on the outside is not the thing.
The thing is when beauty is on the
inside.
It makes a difference in life.
When I was a young woman, I was a
pretty girl.
But as time went by and age came by
my outward beauty seemed to fade.
I went through many physical
problems.
I felt bad and sad because it came
down on me suddenly;
But I still found beauty in the world
around me.
Nothing was taken away from me, but
it was hard.
It was my faith in God that helped me
come to terms with my condition.
I decided to go back to school at the
Centre for Community Learning
& Development
I am glad for the kind teachers. Now
that's beautiful!
Thank you.

Arjoo Fatama

Belief and Respect

Believe in yourself and try to
Understand people and languages.
Invest in your education, knowledge,
and money.
*Lifelong friendships with others are
important.*
Defend yourself against discrimination.
Love yourself, your family, and others.
Never discriminate, and always show
respect for life.
Gratitude in life is important more than
earthly possessions.

Beautiful is the life we have.
Remember your goals, and keep
working.
It is Important to learn English and
other languages.
Discover great skills in work and
pleasure.
Group work is helpful for cooperation in
good measure.
Education helps us explain ideas by
ourselves clearly
Speak softly and kindly to others, and
treat them dearly.

Yasmin Ibrahim



Building Bridges

Being there and giving support for the things needed
University is important for me.
I learn a lot every day.
Living on my own it's not hard.
Different things I do always it's so much fun.
I love my life.
Near where I live there is a big park.
Games what I love I always play.

Efrata Eshetu

Building Bridges

We like a beautiful community and like to keep it our beauty.
We like to interact with unity in our society, and we need to keep it our dignity.
We like to connect with healthy living, to take part in any volunteer activity.
We have to respect for diversity and stay connected to many a cultural opportunity.

Ratneswary Loganathan

Contributors



Academic Upgrading Level 1-2 Learners

Dawa
Wayne
Yasmin
Razia
Fatama
Hebreseb
Muna
Joseph
Efrata
Ratneswary
Sahra

Academic Upgrading Level 2-3 Learners

Claudette
Nazira
Wahida
Jeanne
Patricia
Ernie
Rocksana
Kerry
Pauleen
Cheryl
Hanifa
Shafiqah
Mahamuda



Did you know?

In this year, there were more than **9,000** attendees who benefited from learning and other activities at the Daniels Centre of Learning

What happened this year

Digital Storytelling (DSTO)

Through digital storytelling, trainees learn to make their own short videos using photographs, music, video, and their own voice to tell stories of community and of personal journeys.

30 DSTO trainees
= 37 Digital Stories

Clear Language and Design (CLAD)

Last year, CLAD worked with **organizations** to help them communicate their messages clearly to their intended audiences. This included the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, Canadian Centre for Financial Literacy, Health Canada, Community Legal Education Ontario, St. Christopher House, among others. CLAD services included research, consultation, editing and rewriting, advising on design, and training

One Voice Radio

Our own *One Voice Radio* program continued this year. It is a new tool for helping us raise awareness about matters of interest to our community and our various stakeholders. Most importantly, it adds to the variety and quality of learning options available to our program participants – another opportunity to integrate technology with creativity.

United Nations Award for YEP

Youth Empowering Parents was awarded an Intercultural Innovation Award through a partnership between the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the BMW Group. The award was created to encourage intercultural exchange around the world. With more than 400 proposals from 70 countries, the group tabbed YEP as one of only 10 to receive the 2011 Intercultural Innovation Award. "It is both a great honour and a great step towards the very future we envision," said YEP co-founder Agazi Afewerki, in a press release. "This award will certainly help us raise awareness, and attract funding to help us pursue our goal of replicating the program in other communities."

Building Bridges...

I have gained and learned a lot at TCCL&D because of the many bridges it has provided for me. The one that stands out the most is my connection to the University of Toronto's Humanities for Humanity course. TCCL&D connected me to the program's directors, Kelley Castle and Professor John Duncan. They introduced me to different lecturers who discussed famous literature and philosophy. With the encouragement of the people in the course and the safe class environment, I was able to present my point of view on "Plato's Apology." Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development also give me the opportunity to attend vast amounts of workshops, like Mind Mapping, Mental Health Issues, Financials Investments, and Workers' Rights. I went to many, many others too. TCCL&D opened up the opportunity for me to pursue my dream of volunteering. TCCL&D is strongly connected to the performing arts community. Any time an event takes place at Daniels Spectrum, TCCL&D offers a handful of free tickets to students. I was very privileged to attend Speak Out, Poetry. Being a student at TCCL&D now, at age 48, has given me these experiences for the first time in my life.

Cheryl Jonas

I started studying at TCCL&D in April 2009. I was a bit scared because I'd been out of school for over 30 years. The staff told me not to worry about anything, so I showed up to class. At first, the schoolwork was hard I didn't understand very much, but I sat and took in what was being said. The people in the class were new to the Academic Upgrading Program too, so I fit right in. The learning process was a bit hard for me because I didn't know anything; except what I'd learned on my own. Being at TCCL&D taught me more about life and what the rest of the world is doing. Studying for five years and meeting new people, like my teachers and tutors, was a great help in making sure that I was ready to move on in life. Now that I've finished at TCCL&D, I know that my future looks a lot better. I want to thank everyone at TCCL&D helping me through the rough times. I will miss everybody. Good luck to everyone at TCCL&D!

By Ernie McLean

... Strengthening Bonds

Being an adult and going back to school is not easy. Some people may say that you are too old, but don't listen to them as they are wrong. Going back to school as an adult is a big step for some people. I think it is a great feeling, so go with your own thoughts and feelings.

I made the right choice when I decided to go back to school at TCCL&D. I did it all on my own and I am proud of the choice I made. All my achievements from being at TCCL&D have shown me that I can do anything. It taught me to be confident and to go ahead and achieve my goals and dreams.

Being at TCCL&D has also shown me that I can build my own bridges. Now I know how to connect with other learning resources, academic opportunities, and new friends.

Claudette LaFramboise

What I have gained at TCCL&D has built bridges for me in so many other areas of my life. I have learned a lot of things at TCCL&D, especially in Language Arts, Math, and Communication. TCCL&D is a very good place for networking. I met my friend Cheryl here. She always helps me with getting information, like how to choose daycare for my sons. TCCL&D offers some extras like workshops. We recently had a Workers' Action Centre workshop, which was very informative. I learned that you have to work before and after a holiday in order to get paid for the holiday. The things I have achieved at TCCL&D have helped me build bridges in lots of ways.

Patricia Kunene

Building Bridges...



Academic Upgrading is a very good program. It's helped me a lot with my reading, writing and communication skills. I've improved the way I communicate and now I'm more confident. I understand everything now when my teachers give me work. I didn't know anything before. I didn't know how to present in front of a class. I was a very shy person, but now I'm not. Since I came to TCCL&D, I've improved my skills. The teachers are very good. They always help me when I need help. I'm very happy that I have the best teachers and I'm happy to be in the Academic Upgrading Program at TCCL&D.

Hanifa Rahimi

I joined TCCL&D hoping to brighten my future by building bridges. TCCL&D has given me the opportunity to upgrade my education. I plan to go to college. TCCL&D is a place for networking. I can access lots of other programs through it. George Brown College came and offered its services this week. I've gained additional knowledge from different organizations. Milan, from Workers' Action Centre, came and gave my class lots of information about employment. TCCL&D has given me the opportunity to make my life brighter and easier.

Mahamuda Begam

... Strengthening Bonds

WHERE DO I BELONG

Where do I belong? Where do I
belong?

I long to know where I belong
For so long I've overcome
To find out where I belong
Do I belong to God?

Oh how I've longed to find where I
belong

Through sorrow and pain for so
long

I've remained with all my pain
I do not blame or feel shame
For no one is to blame

For the question does not remain
Where do I belong? Where do I
belong?

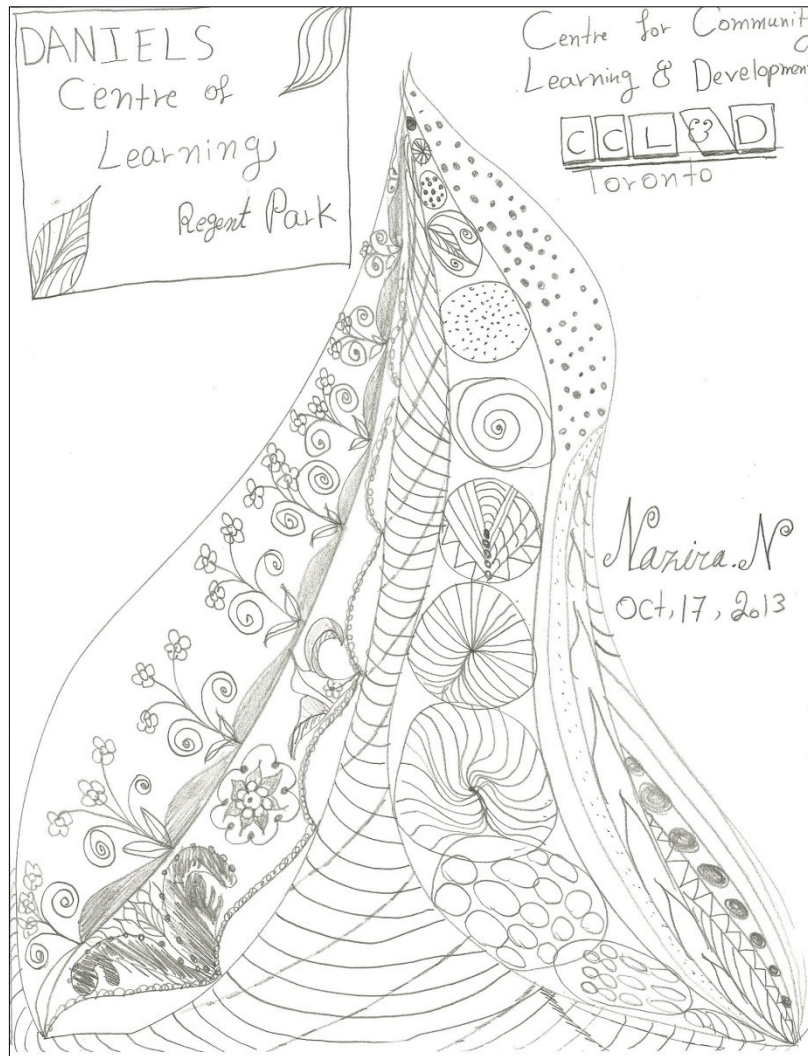
I've finely found somewhere I
belong

For it's a very special place where I
belong

The place is called TCCL&D
It's a place of learning and fun
Where everyone makes me feel I
belong

I can finally say I know where I
belong

TCCL&D is where I belong



Pauleen Laframboise

Building Bridges...

Coming to school is helping me to build bridges. It's helping build skills for my future employment by teaching me about language arts, communication, math and digital tech. It's been a good social gathering spot because of the social networking. There are lots of events and friends to be made in class. TCCL&D provides fun things to do. The activities are connections to help everyone learn and move forward. Building bridges is a wonderful way to help students learn and go back to work.

Kerry Letherby

Verbal Intelligence

Read and read, all day, all night
about the topic that you like

Writing journals is perfect
to practice, to learn, to mature

Speaking is important
for people, for groups, for everyone

Conversing between two people
is an important part of uniting

Nazira Nazira

My time at Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development helped me build my confidence and improve my education. English as my third language was a barrier for me in being successful. I did not feel comfortable going back to school after many years away from it. Throughout my time at TCCL&D, I gained new friends and opened my mind. I was able to access many things in my community, which I still do. I improved my writing and can now write letters, paragraphs and essays. Moreover, I learned math and computer skills. I was very happy about my results in those courses. I gained a lot of knowledge. The skills I learnt at TCCL&D provided the foundation for me to be a successful student at George Brown College. My goal is to be a Medical Office Assistant. Looking back at my transition from home to TCCL&D, and now GBC, I can say that I built bridges to a better life. Most importantly, I built my confidence and upgraded my education because of the support of my teachers, family and friends.

Jeanne Mukamunana

... Strengthening Bonds



Never cross a bridge until you come to it

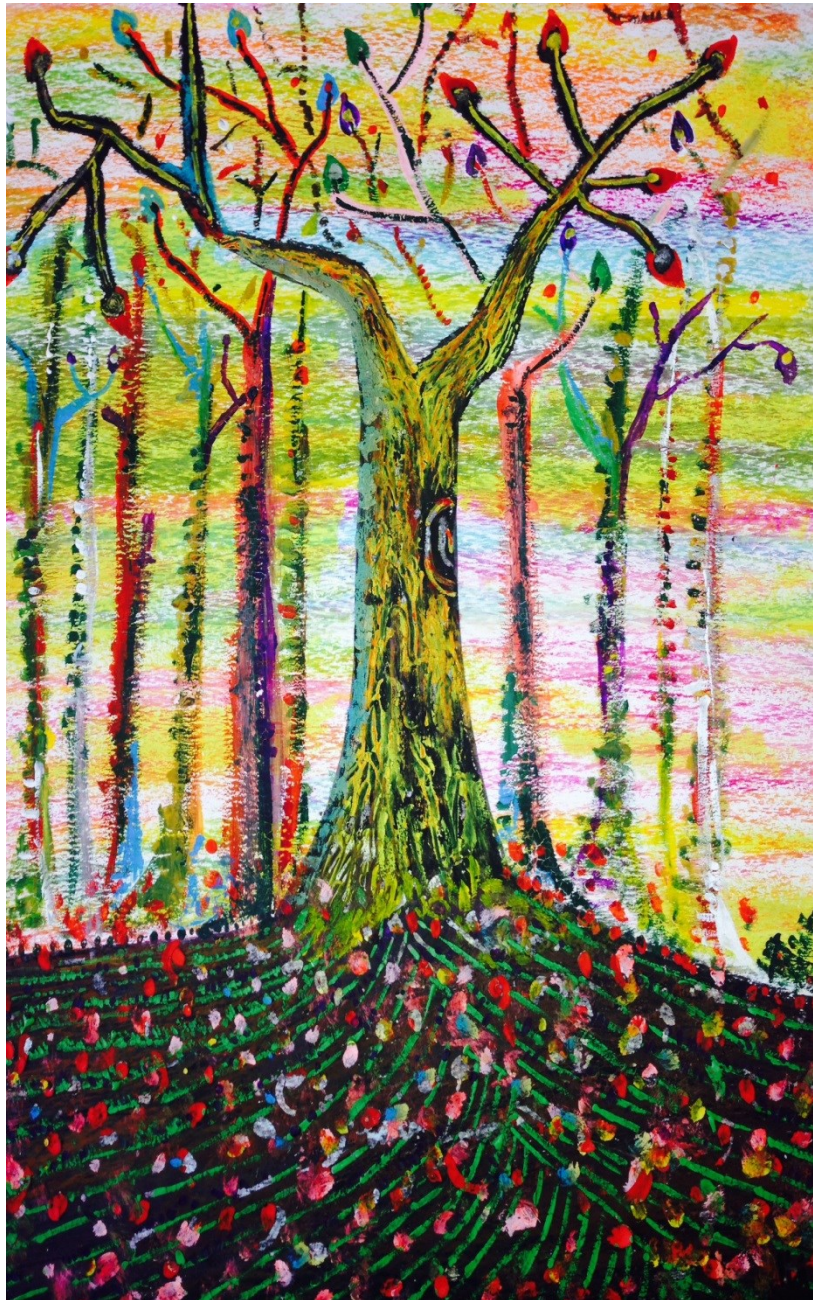
It is obvious that where there is life, there is hope. Regardless of whatever experience, hardship, etc. we have, there is always a way to improve and advance ourselves. So, if we choose to go ahead, it will not happen just by wishing and dreaming. We have to have a plan and take action. Why? Because “we will never cross the bridge until we come to it.” In my opinion, the bridge is returning to school. Hence, for me, that bridge for is CCL&D, which helped me go to George Brown College. Not only that, it helped me also to attend a class at the University of Toronto. The program Humanities for Humanity contains the topics of: Renaissance literature, Political Philosophy, Feminism, etc. Even though this class is for a short time, I am using it as an opportunity to build an effective bridge for me to experience U of T’s campus atmosphere. I want to emphasize that we always have to maintain our hope whatever the circumstances we face. If we are able to do so, I think life will be brighter.

Amare Mulate

Acknowledgements

Volunteer Tutors worked individually with students throughout the year.

Gerry Mungham
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Toko Kamata
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Leonard Swartz
Bill Baker
Jann Everard
Sara Heironen
Rukhsana Haji
Jennifer Burns
Gabriel Wria
Karen Driver
Vinh Nguyen
Susan Weingart



Thank you for all your hard work. This year would not have been the same without you.

Impact of our Academic Upgrading (AU) program

Our class sizes have grown from **10** to **15** students per class.

73% of those graduating went on to Further Training, Education and Employment.

Our Academic Upgrading Program has experienced tremendous growth and success over the past year, and has successfully transitioned to the “Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework” (OALCF).

Current Student Goals

55% aim to go to college/university

10% apprenticeship

10% employment

10% secondary school credit

15% want enhanced independence.



Immigrant Women Integration Program



Building Bridges

I feel very proud that I attended the Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP) provided by the Centre for Community Learning & Development in 2012-13. It was a really great opportunity for a newcomer woman like me, who was isolated but had skills and knowledge. I was too shy to talk my neighbours and I had no connection to anyone. Through IWIP, I met with diverse community women and learned about their community issues, opportunities, etc.

I learned how to do a lot of different things from IWIP training; such as, doing research, writing reports, facilitating workshops, doing community outreach, and leading presentations. I put this learning into practice at my internship with the Yonge Street Mission (YSM). I facilitated two workshops and created a database on resources for immigrant women by conducting research and compiling data. I also participated at 'Sunday in the Park' for the YSM. I demonstrated skills in event planning, including promoting events, sending invitations by email, conducting outreach, and setting up and tearing down venues. A woman who was isolated from the community became engaged with the community through her professional work and volunteering. In this way, IWIP definitely creates a bridge for new immigrant women to integrate into the community.

I want to thank Alfred, who really is the leader of the Regent Park community. His great effort on behalf of newcomer women is now making leaders in this community. I am so grateful to Caroline because she inspired us so positively that we, as women, are able to do lots of thing. She gave us excellent training on workshop facilitation. I also want to thank Ryan and Joyce, who were great teachers. Of course, I must thank Sureya because she always took care of our needs. We got all kinds of help from her.

I am happy to be a graduate from the Immigrant Women Integration Program. It is my greatest achievement! I wish success for all of our trainees for a better future.

Shahanara Khandaker

Building Strong Bridges

Each year, many women and men start a new life by immigrating to Canada from all over the world. They contribute to the country's population growth and community vitality. They help shape today's and the future's cultural diversity. I am one of them.

To increase my sense of belonging and to contribute myself to my community, I applied for the Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP), and luckily I was accepted through series of screening processes. IWIP is a leadership development program at the Centre for Community Learning & Development. The period of time I spent studying in class, taught me lots of new things, which broadened my horizons. I learned how to analyze community issues, how to build social networks and organize local events, how to increase volunteerism and employability, and how to design and deliver workshops based on community research.

At the end of the first term, the IWIP students designed a series of wellbeing questionnaires and conducted community needs assessment surveys in our communities. I carried out the survey done in the neighborhoods of South Riverdale and St. James Town. I went to different places, such as Toronto public libraries, community health centers, LINC classes, after-school programs, and door-to-door visits to residents, stores and service agencies.

After the questionnaires and surveys were conducted, we analyzed all the data and put it into a 25-page report. In order to give back to the community, we invited the survey interviewees' representatives, local community agencies and social activists to join our Community Resource Needs Assessment seminar. We discussed issues existing in our neighborhoods and tried to find possible solutions to the problems, such as how to increase household income and how to improve health situations.

The meaningful experiences I had in IWIP increased my involvement in contributing to my community and in building the bridges I have between TCCL&D and local society.

Laura Li

IWIP as a Tool of Building Bridges

Building bridges is not only making connections, but also how those connections work more effectively and in a disciplined way in life. I arrived in Canada in 2010, since then I have lived in Regent Park. Due to the Immigrant Women Integration Program at the Centre for Community Learning & Development, I am now closer with my community and able to apply the knowledge and networking skills I learned to enhance my spirit within.

During my IWIP training I learned about so many new things, like the Logic Model, the Theory of Change, wellbeing, etc. I also conducted surveys and analyzed findings on community issues through Needs Assessment report writing. I was taught about workshop design and delivery within timeframes, and I obviously improved my technical skills. All of these skills have empowered me to overcome my barriers.

As a newcomer, I realized that social networking is very important in Canada, which is totally different from back home. As a result of being an active resident of Regent Park and being knowledgeable about the results of the surveys, I came to realize that most of its immigrants do not have enough information about different accessible programs in the community. At the same time, the residents also suffer from language barriers and miscommunication due to the cultural differences among the community members.

During my training with CCL&D, I met many friends from different cultural orientations. I learned about their culture as well as Canadian culture. I also gained experience with Canadian workplace culture due to my placement attachment. My learning process will continue to be enriched as I plan to volunteer in different environments.

After more than a year of IWIP training, I now feel more confident about my personal and professional life. I believe that my life will continue to change for the better due to the teaching provided by IWIP and the bridges it built for me within the real Canadian environment.

Ishrat Zahan

Impact of our Youth Empowering Parents (YEP) program

"We're both learning, (my mother and I). "She's learning on the computer and she's learning English while I'm learning how to teach." – At YEP, students do the teaching. Good News Toronto. March 9, 2012

"I came because I like helping people...It's the same as helping my own parents" – In Regent Park, students become the teachers. Toronto Star. February 7, 2011

2010-present we trained **200 youth.**

They gave over **8000 community volunteer hours.**

... and **taught 200 adults** in English and Computer skills.

Youth Empowering Parents

Youth Empowering Parents (YEP) is an idea inspired by the natural phenomenon that exists within many newcomer families, where youth and children help their parents integrate into Canadian society. YEP is an innovative program that aims to change people's perceptions on how to educate adults and engage youth. Rather than a traditional classroom with an instructor, YEP trains youth with the skills to act as effective volunteer tutors for adults in their community.

Our mission is to work with communities across Toronto and around the world to provide free, accessible, one-on-one tutoring, and to strengthen community relations through education. This year, we are building bridges with communities across the GTA by replicating the YEP program into multiple locations. These initiatives will enable us to strengthen communities beyond Regent Park.

YEP Strengthening Community Bonds

FERIAL K.

What YEP gave to Ferial is something beyond what most people understand, because it's something that almost everyone in the world takes for granted. We're brought up with it, and not knowing it is considered a hurdle that, to this day, remains a challenge for those who face it. And that is the gift of language. English isn't an easy language to learn, it's called 'The Language of Exceptions' for a reason. The nuances, the stress, the inflections and everything else I assume you learned growing up. Those who immigrate here have the herculean task of, not learning to cope with culture shock, not trying to juggle a job while still finding time to take care of your children, but simply learning to speak the language. And even children in this country are taught the language incrementally and you don't have a solid grip on it until at least Middle School; yet immigrants like Ferial have to learn the language over the course of just a few short years between their busy lives. Immigration is difficult for reasons too many to list and the fact that Ferial does all this is nothing short of a miracle. And the help YEP gave her is also nothing short of a miracle.



Written by Suleman, age 17, YEP Youth Tutor

Transformation



Instructing at TCCL&D has been a very enriching experience. I've had the pleasure of working with amazing staff, fantastic students, and engaged community members and agencies. Being a part of TCCL&D has enabled me to give back to my community. I've been blessed to see the major transformation that being a part of our programs has done to our graduates. Strong, confident, capable and civically-minded graduates leave us academically. However, they don't ever actually 'leave.' They return to provide workshops, network, do community outreach, and share a cup of Sureya's tea. How proud do you think that makes me as an instructor? In particular, to Amare, Ernie, Jeanne, Rasheda, and Wahida, the 2012-2013 Academic Upgrading graduates, I'm so very, very proud of you! Yes, TCCL&D truly builds bridges and strengthens bonds!

Carrie Hantash – 2/3 Language Arts Instructor

Culture of Collaboration



I am grateful for the collaboration, and support from all members of the CCL&D team. Together we work: Students, Tutors/Volunteers, Maintenance Crew, Office Personnel, Funders, Board of Directors, Placement Students, and Instructors. We keep the wheels of learning revolving, and helping our students in accomplishing goals. It has been a pleasure working with everyone.

I wish to congratulate the trainees and graduates for their outstanding accomplishments. I believe in you and continue to wish you well. Always remember: If you can believe it, you can achieve it.

You did it. We did it. Go on! Go on! Go on! GO ON!

Thank you all, and Hearty Congratulations!

Joan Smith – 1/2 Language Arts Instructor

CCL&D Staff



Back Row (l to r): Sureya Ibrahim, Mary Gan, Alfred Jean-Baptiste, Agazi Afewerki, Caroline-Mahlikah Aweri Outten, Joan Smith, Joyce Wang, & Olga Florean

Middle Row (l to r): Silvia Gonzales, Alison Chan, & Sally McBeth

Front Row (l to r): James Cowan & Ryan Fukunaga

Not Pictured: Carrie Hantash, Thivija Ramajeyam, Alexandra Gosselin & Irena Trajkovska

Thank you everyone for making the 2012-2013 year fantastic with your dedication and hard work.

We wish Alison, Silvia, Olga, James, and Joyce the best on their future endeavours.

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