



# Learning Together for a Better Tomorrow



Centre for Community  
Learning & Development  
Strong Communities Together

Yearbook 2013-2014

# Message from Executive Director

It is that time of the year again, when we celebrate the remarkable achievements of trainees and learners, and take time to honour staff and volunteers for their contributions.

Throughout the year, I have the opportunity to hear staff rave about the level of commitment and hard work demonstrated by all of you – AU learners and IWIP trainees alike! Therefore, I am thankful that we are able to take time to recognize, not just your growth in academic and leadership areas, but also the personal transformation that many of you have undergone.

One measure of achievement for organizations such as ours is the number of people graduating. However, the real sense of our impact is how well your learning has prepared you for a better tomorrow – what you do with the skills and knowledge you have acquired.

As you continue to work on your goals, and sharpen your sense of direction and focus, I ask that you also deepen your desire to be more involved in your neighbourhoods, and share your appetite for personal growth, as well as civic engagement. Inspire others, and be the change that you want to see!

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.

On behalf of all at CCL&D, I extend best wishes to all graduates. I would also like to take this opportunity to make special mention of the graduates of the Chinese Seniors Leadership Program! When I grow up, I want to be just like you!

**Alfred Jean-Baptiste**

# Message from Chair of the Board

Congratulations to the 2014 graduates, their tutors and their instructors. The yearbook is a time capsule so you can revisit it and once again celebrate your graduation. This year's theme is *Learning Together for a Better Tomorrow* because you all share in phenomenal achievements that are the stepping stones on the path to your future.

The Centre for Community Learning & Development is proud of the work of all the program managers, coordinators and tutors. Their commitment and creativity ensures all program participants have access to innovative academic and skills training. This in turn ensures that all graduates have the opportunity to improve their lives in their own way. So thank you to all the volunteers and staff for their hard work.

We are also celebrating the fifth year at the new TD Centre of Learning in the heart of Regent Park where the whole community can now access programs and events. Our hope is that you will continue to take advantage of the activities at the Centre as you continue on your journey.

**Eusis Dougan-McKenzie**

# Message from Deputy Executive Director

**Anii Boozhoo, She:kon....**

It is with great excitement I share some heartfelt words with our learners and graduates, as we celebrate yet another successful graduation.

With this year's theme being, *"Learning Together For A Better Tomorrow"*, I was reminded of a quote from Gloria Macapagal Arroyo: *"The power of one, if fearless and focused, is formidable, but the power of many working together is better."* The notion of experiencing learning through cooperative and collaborative, inclusive spaces is something that CCL&D has strived to create, since I first began working with this organization over a decade ago. Every year graduates complete their programs with both a sense of strengthened individual resolve, purpose and direction; along with a deeper appreciation for the power of community and the interconnectivity of knowledge, skills, and empathy.

It is my hope that these exemplary human beings continue to foster their collective consciousness and build on the ideal that learning and teaching. Their experiences will support the development of collective growth and each person who is a giver and receiver of this, is not only a more successful person because of it, but they have become a contributor to the larger design of a better tomorrow, not yet experienced, but likely to arrive.

**Ona:kii**

**Caroline Mahlikah Awe:ri Outten**

# Message from Manager, TD Centre of Learning

We are all so proud of you. During your time at the Centre for Community Learning & Development, each of you have emerged as great leaders, articulate storytellers, extraordinary artists, and so much more.

The strength and resilience you demonstrated convinces me that this graduating class has a promising future. You are not afraid of the challenges you will inevitably face in your life. You know how to pick yourself up off the ground after you have fallen. You believe in yourselves – and you should.

Often, we hear of the value of getting good grades in school. While this is, without a doubt, important, it seems to me each of you have highlighted that it is equally important – if not more – to keep perspective and remember the things that really make life worthwhile. You have made new friends, you have developed new talents, you have built your confidence, and you have all helped your peers when they needed helping. You have all grown into better people, and this is the thing that will take you very far in life.

Take good care of yourselves and of each other. Congratulations to you all.

**Agazi Afewerki**

## Graduates & Honourees

Immigrant Women  
Integration Program  
Graduates

Maria Amjad

Maribel Arias Garcia

Samiea Bashir

Umma Farazi

Lengxi Li

Lida Safavizadeh

Sabitra Thapa

Veronique Wanya

Xinghe Wei

Olga Yudenko

Academic Skills Upgrading  
Graduates

Mahmuda Begum

Florence Cho

Zohirul Islam

Cheryl Ramona Jonas

Patricia Nelisiwe Kuene

Joan Claudette LaFramboise

Nazira Nazira

Galina Tarnopolsky

Sindumathi Thevalingam



Academic Skills Upgrading  
Level Transition Honouree

Rathneswary Loganathan

## Graduates & Honourees



### Chinese Seniors Leadership Program (CSLP) Graduates

Anchen Xu

Benru Liu

Juezhen Li

Juying Wang

Liling Xie

Lina Hu

Longying Zhou

Peichun Gao

Qidi Wang

Weizhong Luo

Wenzhen Tang

Xianling Lu

Xicun Li

Xiulan Zhang

Xiuzhen Zhang

Yanjuan Xia

Yinxian Li

Yongpin Zheng

Yuezhen Li

Zhaohua Liu



# Learning Together

## Event from the Past Year



## For a Better Tomorrow



## IWIP Graduate Messages

First I came to this program that I want to learn new things, when I came to this program, it is started two weeks, I really like this program, the school can accept me, because my age is not young, my English is not very good, and I am single mother.

Thank you to CCL&D, I have had the opportunity to learn in the program. This program is great for women to have better tomorrow. I learned lots of new things, like how to create survey and workshops, and how to write report for the community. I have gained some work experience and, more important, confidence. It is a benefit for me and other immigrant women to what this program has to offer. The teachers were great, by being very patient and encouraging with me. And my classmates were great too. We worked well together and helped each other. Thank you all!

**Nancy**

"If people feel their participation in public life, they not only create wealth for the people - and it creates themselves. Of work, which is pronounced spirit of citizenship, begins the true self-education". This quote belongs to one of the best teachers of the 20th century, V.A. Sukhomlinsky. It is necessary to become part of a society, becoming aware of its needs, weaknesses, and interests. This is why we must learn. Not only for themselves, but for the prosperity of the society in which we live by using the knowledge, skills, and experience acquired during our studies.

When a person gives something, it will return to her twice. Those who gives from the heart, with love, to another get it back twice. That's why our experience much more satisfying when we give, not only take.

I hope my study will help to understand where my knowledge and experience will be more demanded by society. I'll be happy if I help some newcomers adapt to a new life easier, faster, without of emotional and physical losses, that often accompany the process of entering into a new society.

**Olga**

# Learning Together

## IWIP Graduate Messages

It was an amazing experience and an unforgettable learning process at CCL&D. It laid within me a strong foundation for me to help other immigrant women.

Not only did I learn theory in the classroom, I also practiced that theory in a community setting. I helped design the questionnaires and made survey, wrote research report and create proposals. I took part in various activities in the neighbourhood and made the presentations and workshops. I have expanded my capabilities and improved my professional skills to better serve my community.

I appreciate the learning environment at CCL&D. It was an excellent foundation to improve my abilities and skills. I have become more and more confidence. I am looking forward to positioning myself in the society.

I would like to say to new immigrant woman, "Come to IWIP! Update your skills and find a future!"

Amy



For a Better Tomorrow

## IWIP Graduate Messages

I am always wondering about future. Like everybody in the world, I know with a mutual understanding it would be a better place to live for all of us. So, we should understand it. I know as we gain more knowledge and skills, our individual capacities will be extended and success will come to us. Now as my journey continues, I would like to be a student for the rest of my life because without learning life would be meaningless. I believe that it could help us bring others happiness and peace which make the world a more pleasant place to be in.

**Lida**

To develop and grow in life is something we naturally have within ourselves as a human being. It is one of the instincts which causes us to take a step and work really hard to achieve our goal and to meet our targets. As we are part of human family and we all are social animals we really need each other. As we bring together different qualities and it enables a culture of learning new thing by promoting respect and harmony, sharing the skills and learning new things is not only something need of today and beneficial for this era, in fact our next generation will take this wealth of knowledge as a valuable inheritance.

Being an IWIP trainee when I was sitting very first day in class, I was thinking about the diverse group of women who are going to study together for a year. The moment we started doing group work it was really an eye opener that how much potential everyone has to contribute. And this potential was polished during the program to make everyone ready for future employment. It was also an awesome platform of learning from each other where women from different background and nationalities have a lot of gifts to share. I would say that all the memories would remain with me as a treasure of my life learning.

**Maria**

# Learning Together

## IWIP Graduate Messages



This year, I had the opportunity to share experiences and work closely with immigrant women from different places and cultures, developed surveys that brought me closer to my community, and was able to find the barriers effecting immigrants' adaptation to a new society and limitations to participation.

This program was key in realizing that what I had learned in my country could complement with my studies in Canada. I realized that learning never ends. And it isn't just about the conceptual knowledge from classes, but also constantly learning from all the people you meet. I grew by engaging in workshops, classes, surveys and placements, by accepting and understanding other people's backgrounds and beliefs. We can all work together by combining our diverse set of skills and knowledge.

I learned the true definition of the word "We". We as a group, we as a team, we as a community, and we as part of a big family seeking positive change and new opportunities for everyone. Today, as I graduate, I realize that "We" is essential to learning and building a new future. Today, I reflect on my own career goals and I decide to be open to possibilities. I want to share my experience, continue learning and use my skills to bring people together and work in building a better future for my community. It will be a cohesive community that speaks multiple languages and where every member regardless of their socioeconomic status, educational background, or place of origin, will feel as part of a family. Everyone then will know the true definition and will be proud and eager to use the word "We".

**Maribel**

# For a Better Tomorrow



## IWIP Graduate Messages

My perspective on the theme of “learning together for a better tomorrow” is that when we all work together we can achieve more than we set ourselves up for. When you work with people to achieve something bigger than yourselves you make your community a better place for everyone. We all strive to be a better people, to make a difference and to help people. When we all work and strive together we end up doing more than we even imagined. That is why working together to make a better future is an amazing thing for everyone. It makes everyone’s life a better place knowing they were apart of something big to change tomorrow.

**Umma**

I am proud that I got St. James Town Community Award Nomination Certificate at St. James Town Festival as a part of IWIP trainee.

IWIP boosted self-confidence. It made me realize that I have tremendous amount of potentiality. It opened the door for different areas of development. Now I am Grade 2 parent representative on Parenting Council in my child’s school. I am working for Family and Literacy Services at Community Matters Toronto and looking forward Nepali to English translation opportunity through the Rose Avenue School Principal and working for St James Town Community Corner Steering Committee as well.

I now work towards creating strong sense of belonging in the community. I am working in women’s group to promote civic engagement and reduce social isolation in the community where approximately 150 participants have attended the programs so far.

To celebrate the skills and knowledge you have while exploring and drawing upon this. IWIP Class provided us so many valuable trainings.

**Sabitra**

# Learning Together



One by one we take control  
New consciousness, one heart, one soul  
Oppression ends, the time has come  
So don't look back, it can be done  
Something is still missing  
Something keeps 'em blind  
Like a precious sacrilege  
They can never find  
(They can never find)  
So they walk together  
Into a silent war  
Though it seems to take forever  
This generation is finally heading for  
A better tomorrow  
A better tomorrow  
Tell me can't you feel it?  
Tell me can't you see?  
Tell me can't you hear it?  
I know it ain't just me  
Let us walk together

What are we waiting for?  
(What are we waiting for?)  
It is now or never  
This generation is finally heading for  
A better tomorrow  
A better tomorrow  
Day by day we're praying for  
It to come across the shores  
It brings new hope, it brings new light  
Nameless spirits now they shine  
One by one become aware  
New consciousness will be there  
And all the blind, now they will see  
Embrace their minds to plant the seeds  
for  
A better tomorrow  
A better tomorrow  
A better tomorrow  
A better tomorrow

Samiea

## For a Better Tomorrow

## Academic Upgrading Graduates

### Graduation

Graduating from TCCL&D was the best thing I ever did.

Now I am a peer tutor in Joan Smith's Level 1/2 class.

All because of the wonderful Academic Upgrading program.

If anyone says you cannot do something, know that it is not true.

You can do whatever you want.

I wish everyone the best in their future.

**Claudette L**

My name is Nazira Nazira and I am a graduate of TCCL&D. My experience at TCCL&D was amazing. On the first day of class, I was very nervous and was in a rush to graduate. I met my wonderful teacher Carrie who calmed me down and encouraged me to take advantage of all the things the Centre offers. I took a business certificate course, taught jewelry making lessons because of Agazi, attended One Voice radio shows, volunteered at the Centre for Social Innovation, and many more things that Sureya told me about. I appreciate my teachers, Caroline, Carrie, and Ryan, for allowing me to explore. I am very happy that I successfully completed all my subjects at the Centre and was able to graduate. My fellow classmate Mahogany, who is a successful business woman, encouraged me to pursue my dream to become a business woman too. Thank you to everyone involved in making TCCL&D a wonderful place that offers everyone a chance to explore and reach their dreams!

**Nazira N**

# Learning Together

## If We Must Learn

If we must learn, let it be together;  
Because, learning gives us knowledge  
and power.  
Let's not be mad with one another,  
For trying to make our lives better.  
If we must learn, let us not falter.  
For by supporting one another we will  
be stronger.  
With love, even the wicked we will  
defy.  
We shall be strong, and honor our  
elders.  
Everyone must meet the world with  
common sense.  
We might be out numbered, but let us  
show courage.  
So, if we must learn, let us all stand  
together,  
and fight ignorance for a better  
tomorrow.  
Like men and women, we'll face the  
evil doers, and the cowardly pack,  
We might be pressed to the wall,  
dying, but we will fight back!

**Olive W**

## Learn Today for a Better Tomorrow

Learn today to have more knowledge.  
Learn today to be better in life or  
college.  
Learn today to be able to give back.  
Learning today will be better for  
tomorrow;  
It will be brighter tomorrow.  
Together we can learn to make  
tomorrow today...  
Together we can live a better life as we  
learn.  
Together we can help each other make  
a better tomorrow, today.  
Together we can learn to be a strong  
community.  
Together we can move towards a  
brighter future.  
Learning can be hard  
But with the help from learning centers  
like CCL&D,  
WE CAN DO IT!

**Fatoumata B**

# For a Better Tomorrow



# Learning Together

## Learning Together

People of Canada respect and love each other;

Husbands and wives working together.

Many Eritrean people like the winter  
and many Canadian people like the summer.

My teachers are friendly.

I know,

I will achieve my goals finally.

Most people like money.

I like being peaceful without any enemy.

Today is better than yesterday, and

I know tomorrow will be better than today

I wish on Sunday

I will go on a special holiday.

As we continue learning together,  
we will get to know about different cultures.

**Miraf T**

## Learning Whatever You Want

If we want to learn, we can start today

Don't think of what you can't do

Think that you can do whatever you want .

Make a good decision and jump on it

If we want to learn, we can start now.

So we need to make up our minds in  
Math, Science, Language Arts, Music  
and subjects of all kinds

You can learn more than once.

Some things are easy and some things  
are hard.

You can fix, mix and match topics.

O my God! I must to know...

What is my mission and where to go?

I have to go and achieve my goal...

Show them, I can do it all.

**Mitaly H**



# For a Better Tomorrow

# Learning Together

## Together We Learn

Together we can learn, plan for the future, and have a good time

Because knowledge is more important than dollars, or dime:

By reading, writing, listening, and discussion of Humanities for humanity,

We could have better communication, and unity, in this beautiful city.

**Hebreseb T**

If we work together  
it helps us to unite,  
succeed;  
improve our communication;  
and knowledge  
Working together.  
For a Better Tomorrow  
is very important  
for achieving our goal  
We are learning from one another  
to make our life....  
for tomorrow.

**Yasmin I**

## Learning for Tomorrow

Learning together helps us to be educated.

Learning together helps us to be a better people.

Learning together gives us a variety of knowledge.

Learning together makes us smarter and life and college.

**Efrata E**

Only you can discover your gifts,  
because only you know what you  
want to learn.

The universe will reward you for  
learning together.

We need a path,  
not to go from here to there;  
but to go from here, to a better  
tomorrow.

**Michael G**

**For a Better Tomorrow**

# Learning Together



## How We Learn Together

Language Arts- We come together to learn English.

Education is important to learn new things.

Academy- Schools are where we come together for instruction.

Refresher- It is important for all of us to learn new knowledge.

Network- People get know each through our community network.

Inclusion is important for group work.

Nationality- We are proud belong to a nation.

Government makes rules for the community.

Technology helps us stay connected.

Overcoming- We overcome difficulties together.

Gather- We gather at the Center for Community Learning and Development.

Excited- We are excited to learn new skills.

Talking with new people helps us grow.

History- I enjoy learning the history of the city.

Excellent team work is important to reach our goals.

Responsibility- We share responsibility for improving our community.

**Begum R**

## For a Better Tomorrow

# Learning Together

## I Love Learning

This year I learned to write stories. I also learned to use a computer to e-mail my friends and family. I am very happy about that. I also learned to balance my own cheque book. I am very happy about what I have achieved here at CCL&D. I find my teachers to be very helpful and patient with me. My teachers are very good to all of us. They make us feel happy about ourselves. In the future, I would like to improve more. I would like to further my education. I am going to fulfil my promise of reading and writing better in the future. My dream has always been to help others. Many, many thanks to all of my teachers!

**Arjoo F**

There are many differences between humans and other animals. Humans can learn easily and fast. Learning together for better tomorrow is important to humans. For example, education and knowledge are important parts of the human learning process. Setting goals together for future learning can help us all have better lives. I believe learning together today will improve our lives tomorrow.

**Esha Y**

## Learning Together for a Better Tomorrow

Learning together helps you grow as a person by talking to other people and sharing experiences.

When learning together, it helps keep an open mind.

By learning together, you grow like a tree with its branches stretched outward.

Learning together helps make a brighter, better future.

**Kerry L**



**For a Better Tomorrow**



# Learning Together

## Learning Together for a Better Tomorrow

Day and night I learn lots of things  
It makes my future bright  
Day and night I use Digital Technology  
It makes me have a creative mind  
Day and night I learn mathematics  
It makes me solve my problems  
Day and night I learn about literacy  
It makes me correct my speaking and writing  
Day and night I learn new skills  
They are good bridges for developing success in life  
I am happy because I always learn before I go to sleep

**Ratneswary L**

Learning together to make a better tomorrow is a great idea because it is fun, educational and beneficial for learners and society as a whole. It does not end with an individual or end today, but it creates a lasting effect. The domino effect created from learning together is due to the interaction of many people from all over the world. A good example for learning together is my class at the Centre for Community Learning & Development, which is quite diverse. This type of learning serves as an eye-opener, and provides a healthy freedom of mind to all participants through shared ideas and goals. It teaches tolerance and acceptance of people from different backgrounds. This is because such diversity brings together people of different religious, racial and political backgrounds. The greatest benefit is that it improves the individual's life and the future generations. Learning together opens up opportunities such as education, employment, social relations, and personal development. In conclusion, learning together should be encouraged across the country as it benefits more than just the learners in class.

**Ted M**

# For a Better Tomorrow

# Learning Together

## Events at the Centre of Learning

This fall, the Daniels Centre of Learning became the TD Centre of Learning.



We'd like to thank the Daniels Corporation for the support and welcome the TD Bank Group!



# For a Better Tomorrow

# Learning Together

## Staff Messages

Looking back what incredible year we had at the newly name TD Centre of Learning, it seems every day was a learning experience from the moment I walked in. So many programs and workshops have flourished this year. From Arabic classes to an afterschool program that integrates math and technology, we were part of responding to the community's needs and connecting them from resource to close the gap. Many of these programs involved individuals coming together to learn and share, especially in our new sewing circle and storytelling for senior programs. These allow community members to become mentors and tutors, helping build stronger bonds between all who come out. What really stood out, for me, this year was working with partner organizations to create a wonderful International Women's Day celebration, summer Zumba and yoga series, food handling training and workshops run by the RCMP.

I wish everyone the very best and look forward to continuing on the journey to a better tomorrow.

**Sureya Ibrahim**  
Community Engagement Worker



**For a Better Tomorrow**



# Learning Together

## Staff Messages

The Centre for Community Learning & Development is a place of caring, sharing and personal growth. As its name suggests, it is a place where people meet to learn and develop themselves and their communities. When I became involved with CCL&D, I did not realize how great of an impact it had on people personally and academically. Learning goes beyond the classroom as individuals come together to develop new skills and to work together to make Regent Park a better, stronger neighbourhood. It has been a pleasure as an educator to participate in this amazing experience of learning together today for a better future tomorrow.

*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." Malcolm X*

**Carrie Hantash**

Language Arts Instructor

As we celebrate this graduation ceremony we acknowledge education and cooperation as essential keys to unlocking human potential. With the theme being: *Learning Together for A Better Tomorrow*, we pause in reflection on the famous **Maya Angelou**, who said, "I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Tonight is a momentous event that is interspersed with different feelings and memories; of trials and errors, successes and challenges, cooperation, teaching and learning with instructors and volunteer tutors, and of aspirations for the life ahead. We have all enjoyed working together, the benefits of hard work, and mutual cooperation. Together, we honour the assistance from all our Volunteer Tutors who have dedicated their time and skills in helping our students individually too.

With thoughts and feelings of happiness in mind, and on behalf of them and myself, I say to you all graduates, "Congratulations to each of you on your achievements! You have worked very hard too, in mastering the skills, completing projects, and attaining milestones in order to celebrate this occasion. Continue to learn as a life-long- learner and you'll graduate life successfully. Congratulations and good luck! Success is yours! You did it! Go on! Go On! Go on!"

**Joan Smith**

Language Arts Instructor  
& Volunteer Tutor Coordinator

# For a Better Tomorrow



# Learning Together

## Staff Messages



I hope that your learning experience at CCL&D was full of enlightening moments, meaningful relationships, and positive steps. A famous scientist once said, “Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning.” I truly believe in this philosophy, and hope that each of you will continue to learn and grow as you move forward in life. Remember that this is just the beginning!

**Pamela Robinson**  
Academic Counsellor

When I envision the theme of learning together for a better tomorrow, I think of collaboration. That’s what our classes and programs are; diverse groups of people collaborating to create a bright future, a better tomorrow. Reflecting upon this idea further, I’m reminded of the Buddhist quote, “Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.” That is what learning and collaborating does – it helps individuals become the candles in their communities and peer groups, spreading what they have learned. From the IWIP workshops to the AU learner-led Jane’s Walk this year, the people who make up CCL&D embody that quote. Take your light and shine it across our city.

**Ryan Fukunaga**  
Digital Technology & Numeracy Instructor

## For a Better Tomorrow

# Thank You Volunteers

Roland A

Janet D

Michael B

Justin L

Jennifer B

Tatiana M

Gideon B

Michael P

Karen D

Vinh N

Kendall C

Jamie R

Gabriela D

Jessica R

We would like to extend our deepest condolences to both the family of Nahom Tsehaie Berhane, and the staff and program participants of Access Point Alliance for this loss. We have had the pleasure of partnering with Access Alliance for our IWIP internship placements over several years, and many of those placement students were part of the East York Community, where Nahome worked and lived. This summer we again had another trainee placed with Access and Nahome was her supervisor. She benefited greatly from his mentorship, as we all benefited from his passion and tireless advocacy work. He will be missed but not forgotten.



# Board of Directors

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**EMPLOYMENT  
ONTARIO**

269 Gerrard St. East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON | M5A 2G3  
Phone: 416-968-6989  
Fax: 416-968-597  
Email: [admin@tcld.org](mailto:admin@tcld.org)  
Charitable Registration: # 1192 6427 RR0001

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