



# Igniting Flames of Success



Centre for Community  
Learning & Development  
Strong Communities Together

Yearbook 2014-2015

## Message from Executive Director

Where do I begin?

Several years ago, in 2006, we changed our name from Toronto East End Literacy, to Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development (CCL&D). With the new name also came a more strategic, pragmatic, and long-term commitment to building individual and community capacity.

Since then, our development and capacity building work has allowed us to reframe what we do, as well as refine the content of our delivery. Over time, we have been able to incorporate the type of learning content and activities that promote the long-term success of our Academic Upgrading program, Immigrant Women's Integration Program (IWIP), Youth Leadership Programs, the new Food Incubator, and a range of activities too numerous to mention.

Our programs address specific challenges, for example, upgrading academic skills so participants can access high school or college education, employment or increased independence. On the other hand, the IWIP focuses on enhancing the capacity of newcomer women in a way that also builds their employability skills, and increases their sense of belonging.

In addition to those program goals, there is a deliberateness to our learning content and delivery methods, which foster the development of capacities in the areas of leadership, civic engagement, presentation skills, volunteerism, digital storytelling, and critical thinking.

The need for this type of content is not always obvious, but others, such as the Canadian Institute of Wellbeing, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation all agree *that when everyone feels at home, and is able to play a meaningful role in his or her community, we all benefit. People connected to those around them are more likely to reach out and participate in everything their community has to offer, and to provide value by actively engaging in its economic, social, cultural and political institutions.*

Ours is an approach that we believe contributes to growing optimism, increasing participation, better health outcomes, more responsive programs, and most definitely, *Ignites the Flames of Success!*

**Alfred Jean-Baptiste**

# Igniting Flames of Success

## Message from Deputy Executive Director

Our elders often ask us "how is your fire burning?" They are reminding us that we must feed our passions; our purpose. We must fan our internal flames in order to ignite success. I wish to congratulate all our 2014-2015 graduates for keeping their fires burning even when faced with obstacles and challenges. You inspire your teachers; family members and community to follow their passions and live their dreams.

Excerpt from Dream Mahlikah Awe:ri 2013

She knew the odds were not in her favour

She liked those odds

See one of her spirit guides

Are butterflies

She gambles on migratory urges

She likes those odds

She will crystallize

Her method

Then actualize

Like her ancestors before her

She too will rize

Solidify

Her legacy .....

Her fire

Her dream



Ona:kii

**Caroline Mahlikah Awe:ri Outten**

## Graduates & Honourees

### Academic Skills Upgrading Graduates

Awes Amin  
Efrata Eshetu  
Gizman Mohamed  
Igoré Rissond  
Kerry Letherby  
Miraf Tefari  
Rahel Beyene  
Ratneswary Loganathan  
Ted Mwakiwiwi

### Academic Skills Upgrading Level Transition Honouree

An Nguyen  
Esha Yousef  
Fatama Arjoo  
Fatoumata Bah  
Hebreseb Teklebehan  
Mitaly Hasna  
Olive Warner  
Razia Begum

### Immigrant Women Integration Program Graduates

Adilya Ibragimova  
Amal Kanafani  
Irum Siddiqui  
Nipa Kar  
Paridokht Shahcheraghi



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## Events from the Past Year



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## IWIP Graduate Messages

It was definitely a wonderful one-year study experience and I learned an amount of enormous information about community and leadership.

In this program, my organizational and analytical skills were developed, I gained understanding of organizational structures, and participated directly in local community organization. It also increased my experience in outreach, intake assessment, information and referrals, workshop design and facilitation, and self-advocacy. It was wonderful program, I enjoyed it very much and learned a lot. The IWIP team (Alfred, Caroline, Vessey, Ryan, Irena, Agazi, Surya, and others) was enthusiastic and committed

**Pari**





# Igniting Flames of Success

## Academic Upgrading Graduate Messages

When I started at Academic Upgrading program, I didn't know what opportunity they have. First class was math. It was hard for me, but my teacher Ryan was a kind and patient teacher. He taught me the important points that I needed and spent time to describing math for me. After few months I became smart and improved my math skills. Ryan was also the one who taught us digital technology. I learned how to use a computer and save my documents in computer.

Language Arts was my favourite subject. My teacher Joan was a really hard worker. Because I didn't know perfect English, but she was the one who encouraged me to speak and read. I learned how to write a letter and to speak confidently.

Every Thursday I had a special class, communications, with Caroline. It was really interesting class. I didn't want to be late for that class. Usually I was one of the first students to arrive. Caroline was taught us to open our mouth in a group. I never forgot Caroline's rule, because she was strict, as she gave us a topic for communication. Then she lets us to speak for everybody in the class. So I learned to speak and share my idea in front of a group.

Finally, I was really proud of my teachers and my school. I will never forget CCL&D Academic Upgrading program.

**Miraf**

My journey was to try to find something to do with my time. I thought learning would be a good way to do that. I learned something new and learned more about the subjects of English, computers, and I learned a little more about how to be patient with math. I decided that going to the end and learning would be a good way to improve my communication skills. I wanted to improve myself in general.

Today, I'm working part-time from 6-25 hours week at Value Village at Lawrence Ave East in Scarborough. Working keeps me busy and it keeps my occupied. I like having things to do. Hopefully, I will get my driver's license so I can become a mechanic. That's the basic goal. For me, the Flame will always burn until the day I die.

**Kerry**

# Igniting Flames of Success

## Academic Upgrading Graduate Messages



### Always be a Student

Keep on learning, though  
your graduation's done;  
your whole life's an education  
that has only just begun.

This is your the first big step,  
for knowledge is the special key  
to winning what you want in life  
and being who you want to be

If you'll always be a student,  
you'll find the secrets to success  
and travel on the happiness.

**Gizman**

### Flames of Success

Something burns deep within me, a desire to  
be the best that I can be.

I will not be distracted, I will not be deterred,  
for I can see the horizon, it's almost within  
my grasp.

There are many obstacle, so many hurdles to  
cross but nothing is going to stop me, for I  
am guided by the compass of determination  
and my steadfast belief that nothing is  
impossible for success lies with me.

I am worthy, I am strong, and I am invincible  
for I dare to dream.

### My Path to Success

**Igor'e**

My goal is to become a computer programmer, and I have realized that in order to achieve that, I needed to go to college. I was recently blessed with opportunity to joined George Brown College, to pursue my goal.

I am grateful to all my instructors and my tutor who have helped to propel my achievements, to ignite the Flames of Success. You have been fantastic! I wish to thank everyone who has helped me directly, and indirectly on my path, journey as I journey on.

**Awes**



# Igniting Flames of Success

## Life In Canada

I want continue in my studies to become a nurse, because it is interesting, and I want to work in that field. I think being here in Canada is good chance for me in having a brighter future than in Ethiopia. Canada has lots of opportunities to ignite the many Flames of Success, and much faster too.

**Senait**

## Keep Trying

Recently I started the academic upgrading program at the Center for Community Learning and Development. I can learn more skills, and help others in my community, including the newcomers.

One important thing I have learned from my life is: Keep trying! Never give up; so you can achieve your goals and ignite the Flames of Success.

**Jannath**

My daughter motivates me to come to school. I want to graduate high school and also go to college.

The reason I come to school every day is my daughter. Although she is only two, I want to finish high school so I can help her with her schoolwork when she goes to school. I also want her to be proud of me.

When I was a child, my mother was good at helping me and my siblings with our homework. I would like to follow in her footsteps.

Being a nurse is my life-long dream. If I could finish school, I would have a better life with my earnings.

It would be wonderful if I could be an example for my daughter. It would also be good for our future.

**Rahel**



# Igniting Flames of Success



My success is very personal and important to me. First reason is my pride in my children. Second is my ever extending family who inspires my thirst for knowledge.

This time around, I am hoping for a grandson, someone for my granddaughter Ava to play with, and get in trouble with. I also want to keep my passion for reading, and continue igniting many Flames of Success.

**Toni**

## My Goal for Success

My goal is to become a chef, and a successful person in my career. Many people in the world inspire others to become successful in their careers. When we put our minds to do something, we must keep our focus on our dreams, to ignite the Flames of Success.

**Wayne**

## Culture and Life

Peace and harmony in my Eritrean culture make the key flame of my success as a person. For example, we respect our parents, old persons, and we work hard for our autonomy. We learn to share food, clothes, our homes, and everything good with family and neighbours. Life is different here, but I will continue to ignite the Flames of Success.

**Yodit**

# Igniting Flames of Success



My father is the person who has affected me the most in my life. I admire him because he devoted his life to building a good life for his family.

My father was born in the war in a poor village. He lived in a difficult period. He had no chance to access higher education, because at that time, no one cared about education; they just cared about how to survive in a huge, terrible battlefield. But my father was different. He tried to learn any time he could, by himself. He dreamed of traveling to the south for a meaningful life. And he did, and started to realize his dream with nothing but youth and confidence. A few years later, he became a successful businessman.

I am so proud of him and so proud to be his daughter. My father passed away a long time ago, but in my heart he will still, always, be.

An

I enrolled in the summer course "Global Citizenship" with my academic advisor Chris. Although it was challenging, I confronted topics including: human rights, the availability of affordable housing in Toronto, and the experiences of women all over the world. The women represented a global community, including South Asians and Afghanis. I graduated from the summer program with wonderful grades, and I came to see myself in a new way. I can now view myself as an intelligent and positive person.

By joining organizations such as Human Rights for Youth, Global Citizenship, and Violence Against Women and Children's Parkdale Legal Clinic, I have learned about people of different cultures and religions, and witnessed people who have suffered complicated lives.

I look forward to graduating, with the goal of being an honour student at university or college.

**Jennifer**



# Igniting Flames of Success

The Academic Skills Upgrading Program provides a very strong opportunity for me. It provides me with the opportunity to connect with others and establish new relationships. This is a very personal route towards practicing active listening and receiving feedback from my peers.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the program, for me, is its location in Regent Park. The beautiful murals and myriad of community services engage my eyes on the way to school.

Although math is a personal struggle for me, I am encouraged by staff and students daily to never give up. Their own achievements, including graduation, provide me with hope.

Another aspect of class that benefits me includes our daily class discourse on topics related to social change and politics. In this way I am challenged to organize my thoughts and ideas, and be open to new perspectives. I am learning to examine my own values.

My mother is at the heart of my decision to continue with my education. At seventy-five years old, and healing from a terrible fall, she and I drew up a pact. She herself has committed to learning computers at our public library! (Whether that actually materializes or not is altogether another question.)

**Lara**



I first noticed the CCL&D building at Dundas and Sackville when I was taking my children to swimming. The name “Centre for Learning” made me want to learn more. I walked inside, and met a guy from my country -- someone I was waiting my whole life to meet. He said, “If you want to learn, this is the place to go.”

He introduced me to Caroline. I gave her my name and information, and then I forgot all about it. Two months later, Caroline called me and said, “We have a place for you. You can start school.”

I told her, “I want to come, but I have no childcare for my kids.” She said, “Leave it to me.”

Less than two weeks later, Caroline found daycare spots for my children. Caroline: Thank you. You have changed my life, and I will always remember what you did for me.

Coming to school has changed my life. It is not easy, but it is worth it.

**Hebreseb**



# Igniting Flames of Success



My children, especially my daughter, motivated and encouraged me to go back to school to get my GED.

They inspire and support me in every thing I do, so I get up in the morning with lots of energy and positive thinking, and can't wait to get to class to see my teachers and classmates.

School keeps me young and rejuvenated; thinking and writing makes my brain function well; and every morning I wake up, and I thank God that I am alive to see another day.

So go back to school! Don't be afraid! No negative thinking -- always try to do your best. Don't waste your time, because one morning, you might wake up and regret what you have not done.

Every day, I am fanning my flames of success, and with determination and courage, I will succeed.

**Olive**

I came back to school because I have two little girls at home who look up to me. I have a 7-year-old and an 18-month-old. Sometimes it is hard for me to go to school because the baby is sick because of daycare. When I do come to school, I look forward to it. I love it at CCL&D. I have new friends and I learn new things all the time.

I am motivated to come to school so I can help my daughters with anything they ask me for, like help with homework and help with life. I would like to further my education and open my own business. I want my girls to have something to look forward to.

**Atashalee**

# Igniting Flames of Success

## LIFE

Life is joy  
Life is laughter  
Life is sorrow  
Life is difficult  
Life is flower  
Life is good moments  
Life is past, present, and future.  
Life is do good deed  
Life is passion  
Life is a guide  
Life is pleasure  
Life is seeker of knowledge.  
Life is for honour  
Life is for progresses  
Life is for wisdom  
Life is for morality  
Life is for independence  
Life is for everyone.  
Life is for today and tomorrow  
Life makes you feel best when you  
ignite the Flames of Success.

**Tania**



## Parable: Paradise Lies Under the Feet of Your Mother

*A man came to the Prophet Mohammed (sa) and asked: "O Messenger of Allah! Who from amongst mankind warrants the best companionship from me?" He replied "Your mother."*

*The man then asked, "Then who?" The prophet stated again, "Your mother". The man then asked, "Then who? So the prophet replied with emphasis, "Your mother!" The man asked again, "Then who?" The prophet said: "Next, is your father."*

*This is one of the amazing appeals that I find in Islam: The treatment of women in general, and especially the high position that mothers hold in Islam. I thank my mother for her sacrifices which ignite my Flames of Success".*

Thank you for reading.

**Asma**

## Education is Key

My success in studies at the CCL&D's Academic Upgrading Program gives me hope in life. Education is the most important key to success. It prepares us with skills in math, writing and communication for work and in life. I am happy to be igniting the Flames of Success."

**Aron**

# Igniting Flames of Success

## Fanning the Flames of Success: What Keeps Me Going

I find life can be overwhelming at times. What keeps me going and facing daily life challenges? I find inspiration through my daughter. She motivates and inspires me. Knowing everyday that she can breathe, and seeing her develop through different stages of her life, drives me to overcome my obstacles, embrace my mistakes, move on, and strive towards achievement.

**Althea**

## Stepping Forward

Stepping forward to ignite the Flame of Success, my spirit still keeps me awake. I'm not giving up my quest to gain more knowledge, continuously. I will continue to ignite the Fames of Success

**Naznin**

## Being a Friend

To have a friend, one must first show himself/herself as polite and friendly. There are many ways to show friendship: by offering a gift, opening a door, saying kind words, and smile. Friendship and courtesy ignite Flames of Success.

**Derven**

## When I Am Going Away

You have to think where you are going in life. Because life is unpredictable, so you have to think and plan for the future. It is said that if you do good before you die you will go to heaven when you die." Those were the words of my grandmother Abrahatsean Tesfazgay, who said them to me in 1988. I think that could be a Flame of Success.

**Tsege**



# Igniting Flames of Success

## Events at the TD Centre of Learning

Last 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!





# Igniting Flames of Success

## Events at TD Centre of Learning



## Thank You Volunteers

Karen Diver

Vinh Nguyen

Jaimie Robins

Justin Lin

Veronica Rivera

Sheena Taylor

Nimara Dias

Kavitha Siewrattan

Shirin Shad

Joan Claudette

Danny Howard

LaFramboise

Hassan Sesay

Janet Helen Duckworth

## Thank You CCL&D Staff

Joan Smith

Wanxia Sun

Carrie Hantash

Vessey George

Jessica Rudolph

Sureya Ibrahim

Chris Harris

Joanne McConnell

Ryan Fukunaga

Karen Villanveva

Irena Trajkovska

# Board of Directors

Val Lesko

Gideon Buntyn

Gregory Mak

Chad Saliba

Nastaran Roushan

Jennifer Spiess

Frank Portman

Ismail Afrah



Thank you to the *Daniels Spectrum* for providing space for the 2015 graduation!



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