

What is literacy?

Literacy is the building block of learning. As we become more literate, we become more able to grow, adapt and change as individuals and as a society.

Literacy benefits

Health and Wellness

- Improves self-esteem and self-reliance
- Increases access to information that can improve health practices
- Lowers health care costs
- Decreases stress
- Increases life expectancy
- Contributes to better quality of life

Family Life

- Builds a legacy of learning that is shared between generations
- Helps break cycle of poverty, the root cause of most social issues
- Contributes to the stability of family life
- Creates stronger connections with family members
- Contributes to raising healthier children and encourages their education
- Helps develop people's spirituality by giving them access to the written word of their faith

Community

- Reduces rates of criminal activity and imprisonment
- Encourages social and gender equality

- Contributes to more active participation in the community
- Helps seniors be better informed, healthier, active and maintain their independence longer
- Increases political participation which contributes to the quality of public policies and to democracy
- Preserves and promotes cultures with oral traditions
- Helps newcomers feel included in broader society

Workplace

- Reduces absenteeism and accidents on the job
- Creates employment choices and ability to take further training
- Enhances team performance
- Improves labour management relations
- Increases quality of products and services
- Reduces time per task and error rate
- Increases productivity and profitability
- Encourages organizational flexibility and ability to respond to rapid changes in marketplace
- Provides skilled, competitive workforce for global economy

For more information on Literacy and Lifelong Learning in your community call the Evergreen Reading Society at

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