

Adult Learning Centres

IN MANITOBA



2004/2005 ANNUAL REPORT



MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Room 156
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

The Honourable John Harvard, P.C., O.M.
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba
Room 235, Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the privilege of presenting for the information of Your Honour the Annual Report of Manitoba's Adult Learning Centres for the program year ending June 30, 2005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane McGifford".

Diane McGifford
Minister



Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Training

Room 156
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Honourable Diane McGifford
Minister of Advanced Education and Training
Room 162, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report for Manitoba's Adult Learning Centres. This report contains program information from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

For the 2004-2005 program year, the Adult Learning and Literacy Branch of Advanced Education and Training registered 44 adult learning centres under *The Adult Learning Centres Act*. These centres assist adult learners to upgrade their skills, complete their high school diploma, or earn credits needed to access educational or employment opportunities.

Our adult learning centres have demonstrated a consolidated effort to provide quality adult education programming with a focus on meeting the needs of adult learners as mandated under *The Adult Learning Centres Act*. While the overall number of learners declined slightly, the proportion of learners completing courses and earning a high school diploma has increased. The Highlights section of this report summarizes the noteworthy activities that contribute to the success of adult learners in Manitoba.

Manitoba's adult learning centres have operated for two years under *The Adult Learning Centres Act* and *General Regulation*. I am pleased with the continued dedication to education on the part of the staff and learners at the adult learning centres.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Botting". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dwight Botting
A/Deputy Minister

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I. Introduction

Adult Learning and Literacy (ALL) of Advanced Education and Training is dedicated to improving the educational and employment prospects of this province's adults by working with Manitoba's adult learning centres (ALCs) that deliver adult-appropriate high school and upgrading programming.

ALL administers *The Adult Learning Centres Act*, which became effective July 1, 2003. This report encompasses the second year of the Act's implementation. ALCs are registered on an annual basis under the Act to provide tuition-free high school credit and upgrading courses using recognized principles of adult education. The *Adult Learning Centres Act – General Regulation* also came into force July 1, 2003. The Act and General Regulation establish accountability standards that ALCs meet in order to ensure public monies are being well spent and adult learners are being well served.

II. Highlights of ALC Programming for 2004/2005

Mature Student High School Diploma

Manitoba adults have the option of completing a Mature Student High School Diploma (MSHSD), which is established by regulation under *The Public Schools Act*. At the Senior 4 level, adult learners meet the same course requirements and learning outcomes as school-age learners.

In 2004/2005, 1,120 adult learners graduated from ALCs with a MSHSD. An additional 93 adult learners chose to complete a 28-credit diploma.

Funding for School-Age Learners Attending an ALC

ALCs are permitted to enroll a limited number of learners who are not old enough (age 18 or under) to work on a Mature Student High School Diploma, but for whom the ALC provides a suitable learning environment.

ALCs are funded on a program basis rather than the *per capita* model traditionally used by schools. To improve accountability, effective 2004/2005 funding for school-age learners attending an ALC was incorporated into the annual funding allocation issued by ALL. School-age learners attending an ALC are no longer funded on a *per capita* basis. They are now supported by the annual ALC program grant in the same manner as the adult ALC learners.

A total of 16 school-age learners earned a 28-credit diploma in 2004/2005.

"...I improved my mark in Pre-calculus from 51% to 82% to meet the requirements for university. The last class I completed was English to finally finish my high school diploma. After that final day, I felt a combination of relief, satisfaction and much happiness....I've been accepted to the University of Manitoba for the fall session. I'll use the lessons I've learned to continue success in university."

Don

2005 Millennium Adult Learner Bursary recipient
Transcona Community Learning Centre, Winnipeg

"For the PLAR in English, I sent in an article that was published in Canadian Cattleman magazine, as well as a presentation given at Midland Division Career Technology Studies award night....For accounting, I decided to challenge the course using PLAR. I have developed a strong accounting ability. This has come from using budgeting in all aspects of our farm operation.... without PLAR I would never have attempted to get my Grade 12 diploma."

Blaine

Midland Adult Education Centre, Carman

TOTAL NUMBER OF ALC GRADUATES IN 2004/2005 = 1,229

"I dropped out of high school several years ago when I was in grade 10. I mistakenly thought that having a job would be better than going to school because I was attracted to the idea of earning my own money, but I quickly came to realize that I wanted to do more with my life....The mature high school diploma program and adult learning centre environment provide adults like myself with an opportunity to get our grade 12 and move forward with our lives."

Aaron
CrossRoads Learning Centre, Winnipeg

Number of Courses Completed for Credit

ALC learners completed 11,807 high school credits. These credits are fulfilling adults' graduation requirements, preparing them for post-secondary studies, and enhancing their employment opportunities.

The number of incomplete credits decreased 20% from the previous year, indicating learners are completing courses for which they register in a timely fashion.

Dual Credit Option

The dual credit option allows learners working toward a high school diploma to study post-secondary courses and apply them for credit at both the secondary and post-secondary levels, facilitating the transition of one level of education to another.

ALC learners took advantage of the dual credit option, completing 505 dual credits in 2004/2005.

Millennium Adult Learner Bursary

The Government of Manitoba and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation established the Millennium Adult Learner Bursary to provide assistance to low-income ALC learners who are pursuing post-secondary studies.

Over 30 ALC learners who completed a Mature Student High School Diploma or completed credits to fulfill post-secondary admission requirements during 2004/2005 were awarded a bursary of \$5,000 to support them in their first year of post-secondary studies.

These students will be eligible for up to 3 more years of bursary support, depending on the length of their program. Additional ALC learners will be eligible for the bursary as it continues in subsequent years.

"...attending the ALC...has really encouraged me to fulfill my dreams..."

Caroline
Frontier School Division Adult Program,
Moose Lake

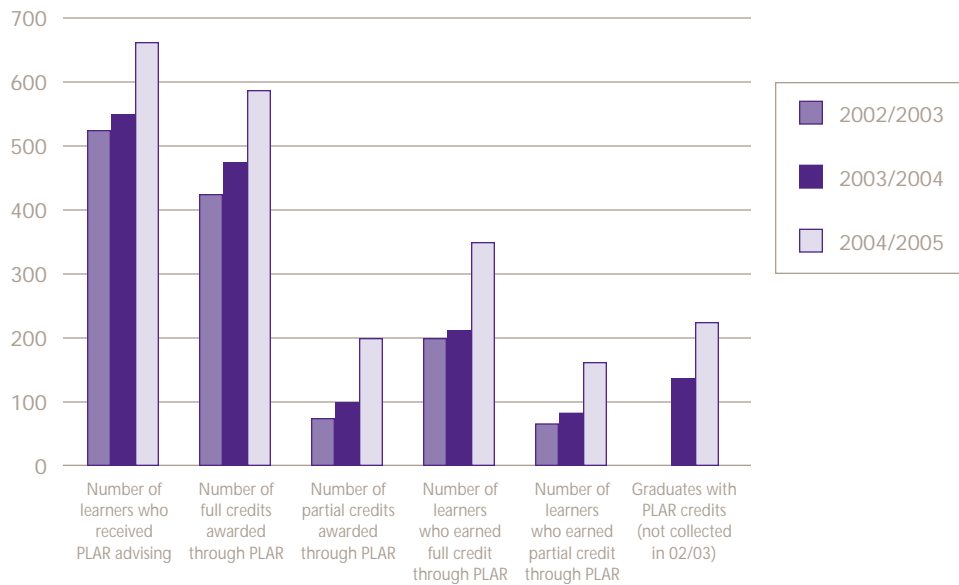
Adult Learning Centre Site Visit Profile

ALL developed a standardized *Site Visit Profile* document for use during routine visits to adult learning centres. The *Profile* serves as a guide when ALL staff visit ALCs and ensures consistency when addressing pertinent areas of ALCs' operations and programming, while maintaining the flexibility needed to capture the uniqueness of individual ALCs. Using the *Site Visit Profile*, ALL staff visited all ALC programs located across the province.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is a process used to identify, document, assess and recognize skill and knowledge. Credit may be given so that adult learners avoid unnecessary repetition of learning, enabling them to move forward with increased confidence in themselves and their abilities.

In 2004/2005, 48 adult educators completed the PLAR Foundations training, bringing the total number of adult educators who have completed this training through Adult Learning and Literacy to over 240. Consequently, the number of learners benefitting from PLAR continues to increase, as the graph below illustrates.



McLeod Adult Learning Centre and Boeing Canada Partnership

McLeod Adult Learning Centre and Boeing Canada formed a unique partnership to serve the learning needs of Boeing employees. With instruction provided at the worksite, 31 Boeing employees completed at least 1 course for high school credit. Of these, 10 employees earned a Mature Student High School Diploma, with all 10 diplomas consisting of 1 or more credits awarded through PLAR.

The Manitoba Prior Learning Assessment Network recognized this innovative partnership venture with the 2004/2005 *Pursuit of Excellence in the Assessment and Recognition of Learning (PEARL)* award.

"I am a single mother of two small boys, and I work full time. I feel blessed to have this opportunity to better myself...."

Cyndi
Horizons Learning Centres, Winnipeg

Northern Adult Learning Centres

In 2004/2005, northern Manitoba was served by 3 ALC programs operating 26 sites, allowing adult learners access to education in their own communities. The presence of these ALCs supports and strengthens the Manitoba Government's *Northern Development Strategy*, a long-term plan to develop the human and natural resources of northern Manitoba.

In recognition of the unique challenges northern ALCs face in providing educational opportunities to their learners, funding to this region was increased 8%, from \$1.42 million in 2003/2004 to \$1.53 million in 2004/2005.

Northern ALC learners continue to experience success in their educational endeavors. The following was noted for the 2004/2005 program year:

- ◆ 16% increase in course completions
- ◆ 11% increase in the number of learners who completed at least 1 course for credit
- ◆ 13% increase in the number of high school graduates

"This experience has shown me that I can achieve what I set my mind to do....Thank you for helping me achieve something that means so much to me."

Terri
Fieldstone Ventures Education and Training Centre, Ashern

Rural Adult Learning Centres

ALCs in rural communities are helping adult learners overcome the problems created by distance and accessibility to programs. Rural learners formed 29% of the provincial ALC population, a 7% increase from 2003/2004, for a total of 2,543 learners attending 27 ALC sites. Of these, 318 learners graduated with a high school diploma, 33 more than in 2003/2004.

"From the very first time I stepped foot on this Aboriginal foundation, I was destined for success. I was really worried I wouldn't accomplish much, especially with my past history going to school. I was proven wrong....Now I have my mature student high school diploma!! Hurray!! My next step is...continuing on to post-secondary where there will be more doors open for me...."

Tracy
Urban Circle Training Centre Inc., Winnipeg

Aboriginal Participation at Adult Learning Centres

ALCs are important sites of learning for Manitoba's Aboriginal population and play an important role in meeting the objectives of the Manitoba Government's *Aboriginal Education Action Plan 2004-2007*.

In 2004/2005, 54% of ALC learners self-identified as Aboriginal; 77 of 78 ALC sites reported Aboriginal learners, with 18 sites indicating an Aboriginal learner population of 100%.

Funding to urban ALCs with an Aboriginal focus increased 8%, from \$3.59 million in 2003/2004 to \$3.88 million in 2004/2005.

Stand-Alone Adult Learning Centres

Upon meeting specific criteria under *The Adult Learning Centres Act*, a not-for-profit corporation may apply to operate an ALC without an educational partner.

In keeping with Aboriginal self-governance and determination principles, two Aboriginal organizations were registered to run their ALCs as independent, or "stand-alone," entities. In their applications for stand-alone status, Yellowquill College and the Aboriginal Community Campus of the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development demonstrated the confidence and capacity to meet the requirements of *The Adult Learning Centres Act* in delivering ALC programming to their community of learners.

"After receiving 96% on my final Provincial English exam, I applied to Winnipeg Technical College where I am presently in the Production Arts Program....I look forward to what the future may bring."

Jason
St. Norbert Adult Education Centre, Winnipeg

Technology and Equipment Funds

ALCs use computer technology in a variety of courses as one of several means to meet a course's learning outcomes, providing access to adult learners who may not otherwise have this learning opportunity. In 2004/2005, ALCs' plans for technology upgrades were incorporated formally into the annual review for registration process, and funds were dedicated to assist them with carrying out their approved plans.

ALL allocated \$345,000 in technology and equipment "refresh" grants to ALCs in 2004/2005.

III. Registration and Funding Information for 2004/2005

Under *The Adult Learning Centres Act*, the registration of an ALC is done on an annual basis. Registration is subject to meeting the requirements of the Act, fulfilling the accountability requirements established by the Registrar of ALL, and having sufficient funding for the operation of an ALC.

A registered ALC may be funded wholly or partially from ALL's funding allocation, or it may be funded entirely by sources other than ALL.

ALC Funding Allocation for 2004/2005 \$13,529,400	
Total Number of Registered ALCs for 2004/2005 44	
Funded ALCs 43	Non-funded ALCs 1

IV. ALC Statistical Information for 2004/2005

Adult Learning Centres submit statistical data to Adult Learning and Literacy on an interim and year-end basis. The gathering of statistical information is essential to the development, promotion, provision, and monitoring of adult education in Manitoba. The statistics provide a quantitative description of the ALC programs and the adult learner populations that the programs serve.

For 2004/2005, ALL received 78 site-specific Year-End Statistical Returns from 44 registered ALCs.

"My personal goal of attending the adult learning centre was to receive my grade 12....and I succeeded."

Dennis
Long Plain First Nation Training Centre,
Portage la Prairie

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEARNERS ATTENDING ALCS IN 2004/2005 = 8,745

Statistical Information: Work, Family, and Language Status

ALC learners provide information on their work, family, and language status on a self-declared basis. It appears most ALC learners are feeling comfortable providing these details; however, because of the optional nature of its collection, the information must be considered an approximation of the ALC learner population. General trends or patterns may be indicated.

For 2004/2005, ALC, reported the following statistical information regarding their ALC learners:

"I had been hoping to complete my grade 12. The fact that I am 42 years of age made this a real challenge. I have a niece [who] is 17 years old and just graduated. I very much wanted to show her that you are never too old to learn.... The chance to work one-to-one with my teacher...made this goal possible."

Roy
Frontier School Division Adult Program,
Churchill

Employed either part- or full-time	37%
Employment Insurance recipients	6%
Social Assistance recipients	26%
Single parents with child(ren) under age 12	21%
Speakers of English as an Additional Language	25%

"My experience of attending the Adult Learning Centre is a positive one. The structure and flexibility... have helped me to...complete my grade twelve.... I especially appreciate...PLAR....[It] provides the opportunity for completion in a shorter time frame without repetition of prior proven knowledge."

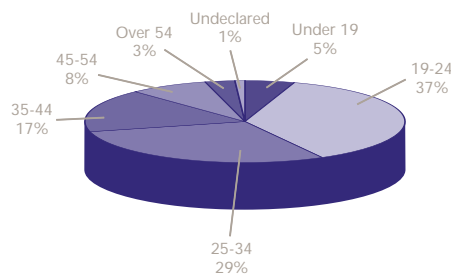
Edith
Ste. Anne Adult Learning Centre, Ste. Anne

Statistical Information: Age, Gender, and Education History

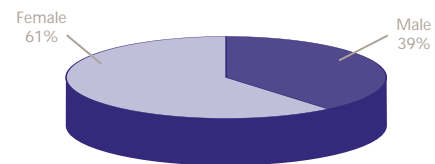
ALCs are required to collect from their learners the information for the categories of Age, Gender, and Education History.¹ The figures below represent the average percent of the overall adult learner population for each category.²

Overall, the statistical information confirms the diverse and complex nature of the ALC learner population.

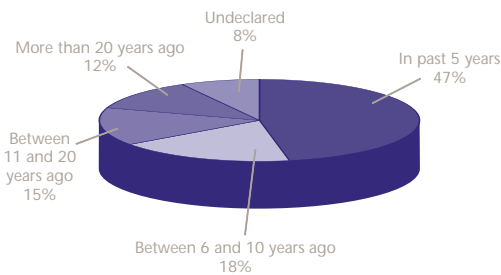
Average Age of ALC Learners



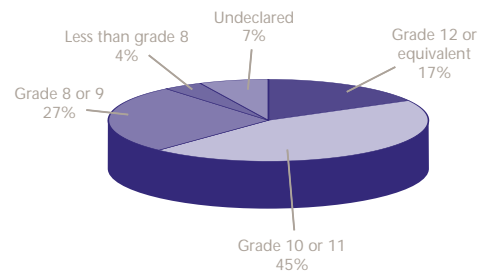
Gender of ALC Learners



Education History: When ALC Learners Last Attended School



Education History: ALC Learners Last Completed Grade



"My first year in school taught me that with a little patience and perseverance, I can accomplish anything I put my mind to."

Anne
Keewatin Adult Learning Centre, Thompson

"I attended Jobworks during the 2004/2005 school year, with the intent of earning my Mature Student High School Diploma. I did earn my diploma, but more than that, my time spent at Jobworks turned out to be a pivotal moment in my life....My experience at Jobworks helped me rebuild my confidence and open some doors that were shut previous to my academic success. The door that I chose to walk through has me attending my first year in the faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba...."

Trevor
Jobworks Employment Education Programs, Winnipeg

¹An *Undeclared* option remains available for reporting purposes.

²Because of rounding, percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.