

## Did You Know?

# Almost 1/2

our population does not have the literacy skills to get and keep a living wage job

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The ability of firms to compete will increasingly depend on the basic skills of the average worker; workers with high literacy skills are better able to apply the most efficient production technologies



# 1 in 4

adults in Waterloo–Wellington 16 years and over fall into the lowest level of literacy

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Statistics Canada showed that a 1% increase in adult literacy levels would generate a 1.5% permanent increase in the GDP per capita; In Canada, this would amount to about

# \$32 billion

a year that could be re-invested

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# 1 in 4

adults can't read dosage directions on over-the-counter or prescription medicines or complete job applications or medical forms

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# 79%

of people entering Canadian prisons don't have their high school diploma

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## Benefits of Upgrading Your Skills!



Helps you find work  
or keep your job



Makes it easier  
to help your children



Helps you to  
reach your goals



Gives you freedom  
to grow and succeed

## FAQ about Literacy

### 1. How do I access Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs?

Call Project READ for program information, assessments, and referrals to appropriate programs.

### 2. Are Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs part of *Employment Ontario*?

Yes

### 3. Can a learner be enrolled in more than one *Employment Ontario* program at a time?

Yes, they can even be enrolled in more than one LBS program at a time, as learners may have different levels and needs.

### 4. How long does it take to complete a Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program?

The length of time a learner is in the program depends on their pace of learning, the level they are starting at, their commitment to learning and their individualized training plan goal.

### 5. Are the LBS programs free to attend?

Yes

### 6. Are Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs full-time or part-time? Can I study at home?

LBS programs are offered on a full-time and/or part-time basis. You can study at home using the Online Learning programs found in the Directory of Programs.

### 7. What is blended learning?

Blended learning is a mix of face to face instruction and online learning and resources within the class or group environment.

### 8. What is the difference between Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) and English as a Second Language (ESL)?

LBS programs are for learners who speak English as a first language. If English is not your first language, you need to have a current Canadian Language Benchmark Level of 6 or higher in listening and speaking to be eligible to attend LBS classes.

### 9. I can read, why do I need these programs?

Most people can read and write at least a small amount. Literacy programs provide support for adults learning how to read, write, communicate, use math, digital literacy skills and more to reach their goals. All training is based on individual needs.