

# *In the L♥♥p*

**February 11, 2025**

The [Surrey White Rock Literacy Task Group's](#) bi-weekly newsletter helps you stay in the loop on literacy news, events, and resources. Please share as widely as you like.

## **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

- ♥ February is [Black History Month](#).
- ♥ Canada Revenue Agency is offering [free webinars](#) on tax credits and benefits for older adults ([February 12](#)), Indigenous people ([February 26](#)), newcomers ([March 12](#)). Recordings of webinars for other audiences are also available.
- ♥ [Book Tastes](#): Drop in to White Rock Library for a summary of books from library staff and share your own favourites. Next event [February 14](#).
- ♥ Kwantlen [TALK](#) (Third Age Learning at Kwantlen) Winter/Spring session classes start [February 18](#). See the [list of courses here](#).
- ♥ [Freedom to Read Week](#) ([February 23-March 1](#)) is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom.
- ♥ Fraser Heights First Memorial is hosting a free Community Education Day on [February 26](#). Drop in and ask business reps about estates, downsizing and other topics relevant to older adults. Poster attached.
- ♥ The Digital Learning Stories project invites adult learners from literacy programs across Canada to contribute creative works about their experiences using digital devices. These submissions will form an online book. Deadline for submissions is [February 28](#). See attached *Learner's Guide for Digital Learning Stories*. For the Facilitator's Guide or questions: Kara Manso, Basic Digital Literacy Program [kmanso@laboureducation.org](mailto:kmanso@laboureducation.org)
- ♥ Surrey Libraries has a new [Writer in Residence](#) program. Free 45-minute writing consultations available.

## RESOURCES/PRO-D/NEWS

- ♥ [49th Shelf](#) “has one purpose: to make it easier for readers to discover Canadian books.” Check out their [Black History Month Picks for 2025](#).
- ♥ [Simple English News](#)
- ♥ [SOLARO](#) is a student self-directed learning resource that can augment the curriculum in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science for grades 3-12. Solaro is free for Surrey residents [by using your library card](#).
- ♥ Stories through photos: [Badger admiring art wins wildlife photographer of the year public vote](#)
- ♥ CharityVillage Connects podcasts are relevant to the Canadian non-profit sector. Their latest podcast: [Navigating the Stormy Waters of Political Uncertainty: Government Relations for Nonprofits](#).
- ♥ [Inclusive Peoples Coalition](#) (IPC) works to connect, organize and share information about 2SLGBTQ+ events & activities in the Lower Mainland. IPC supports cultural literacy while linking allies & advocates with marginalized communities.

## LITERACY – IN ALL ITS VARIATIONS

A dash is a [punctuation mark](#) often used to denote numerical ranges, such as in an obituary (eg., 1936-2025). Yet that dash represents an entire lifetime. Here is Linda Ellis’s poem [\*The Dash Between\*](#).



## Ask an expert! Community Education Day

**Fraser Heights First Memorial**  
**14835 Fraser Hwy, Surrey**  
**In our Tea Room**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025**  
**10:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.**

### 10:00 A.M. MEET WITH:

- Pre-Planning Advisor for Funeral & Cemetery
- Senior Living Community Representatives
- Family Caregiver Advocate
- Downsizing Real Estate Specialist
- Estate Planner
- Downsizing & Estate Clearing

### 6:00 P.M. MEET WITH:

- Pre-Planning Advisor for Funeral & Cemetery
- Lawyer
- Dementia Care Specialist
- Downsizing Real Estate Specialist
- Estate Planner
- Downsizing & Estate Clearing
- Mortgage Broker/Reverse Mortgages

Contact **Sherry Cameron** for more information:  
[Sherry.Cameron@DignityMemorial.com](mailto:Sherry.Cameron@DignityMemorial.com) - 778-838-0735

**Fraser Heights First Memorial**  
14835 Fraser Highway, Surrey, BC, V3R3N6  
604-589-2559

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# SHARE YOUR DIGITAL LEARNING STORY

## BE PART OF OUR ONLINE BOOK OF ADULT LEARNERS' STORIES

The Basic Digital Literacy Program at the Labour Education Centre is collecting stories from learners in adult literacy programs across Canada for a one-of-a-kind online book.

We want to highlight your creativity, challenges, and successes as you have learned to use digital devices like computers, smartphones, and tablets.

These stories will be put together in a book and shared online for everyone to enjoy.

### We're Looking For:

- **Short Essays**
- **Poems**
- **Visual Art**

### How to Get Started:

Please read the guidelines on the next pages to learn more, or talk to your instructor in your adult learning program.



# Guidelines to share...

## YOUR DIGITAL LEARNING STORY

### What Can I Submit?

- **Short Essays:** Tell your personal story or share your thoughts and experiences using your a digital device. Approximately 600 words or less.
- **Poems:** Any style or length about your digital journey.
- **Visual Art:** Drawings, digital art, or photos of your artwork that reflect your experience using your device. Please include a few sentences to describe your art and what it means to you.

### What Should My Submission Be About?

You can write or create art about any of these topics:

- What challenges have you faced while learning to use your phone, tablet or computer?
- Has it been easy or hard for you to use digital technology?
- How do you feel about using your device now compared with in the past?
- Other stories of fun, frustration, triumph or struggle related to digital devices.

### Who Can Submit?

- Adult learners in literacy or digital literacy programs anywhere in Canada.
- Group submissions (created with others) are also welcome.

### What Do I Need to Include?

Make sure your submission includes:

- Your name.
- The name of your adult literacy/basic education program.
- A short bio (1-2 sentences about yourself).
- A title for your submission
- Contact information (email or phone number).
- Name of the city or town where you live.

## How Do I Submit My Story?

Creating your story might take a few steps:

1. Contact Kara to let her know your idea for your story as soon as possible.
2. Need help to draft your story? Ask Kara **OR** your instructor in your program.
3. By **February 28th, 2025** send your final draft by email to [kmanso@laboureducation.org](mailto:kmanso@laboureducation.org)  
Text submissions: Send as a Word document or PDF.  
Visual art: Send as a JPEG, PNG, or PDF (high quality, if possible).

## What Happens After You Submit?

- We will ask you to sign a copy of our media consent form to give us permission to share your work.
- We will review your work and let you know if we have any questions.
- Stories that fit our guidelines will be added to our online book – it will be like a small book you can read on your computer. It will be available on our [Learner Website](#) and you can share (as a PDF) with others.
- This book will be covered by a Creative Commons license ([CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](#)) which means your work cannot be sold or used to make money. This free online book can only be shared for non-profit or educational use.

## Important Information

- Your personal information: Please let us know if you don't want your name or bio included in the book. If you don't want your full name shown, you may use initials instead.
- Original Work: Submissions must be your own work.
- Editing: We will not make any changes to your work without asking you.
- Respectful Content: Your work should not include anything offensive or inappropriate.

## Need Help?

If you have questions or need help, email Kara at [kmanso@laboureducation.org](mailto:kmanso@laboureducation.org) or call [437-422-6813](tel:437-422-6813)



## Some Ideas for Writing

You can use one of these prompts to get started. Feel free to come up with your own idea if you have something else in mind! Just remember, it should be related to learning or using digital technology.

The first time I used a computer/smartphone, I felt...

One of the biggest challenges I faced while learning digital skills was...

I struggled with technology when...

I got through a difficult situation with a digital device by...

I felt proud when I learned how to...

A digital skill that changed my life is...

I wish my kids/grandkids/the younger generation understood...

The first time I successfully used [a device or program], I...

Learning how to [send an email, join a video call, etc.] made me feel...

Since learning digital skills, I have been able to...

Using technology has helped me connect with...

I think technology is making the world...

Learning how to use [specific device or tool] has made my life easier because...

My confidence with digital devices has grown since I...

I get so frustrated when...

One piece of advice I would give someone just starting their digital journey is...

I never thought I would use [a fitness tracker, self-checkout, smartphone], but...

A funny thing happened when I was trying to learn...

Teaching someone else a digital skill made me realize...

One surprising thing I discovered about technology is...

Dear tech companies, I want you to know...

If my device could talk, it would say...

I wish I could tell my younger self...

