




**The Calgary John Howard Society –
“An informed community active in preventing crime”**

Volunteer Tutors Needed!

Adult Literacy Program

“Almost 48% of Canadians have difficulty dealing with printed materials — They may not be able to read and understand a classified ad, find the date on a deposit slip or figure out instructions on a medicine bottle.” From: Movement for Canadian Literacy, June 2001

Did you know...?

-  About 20% or one in five adults in Alberta needs help with their reading and writing?
-  Between 50% and 70% of offenders & ex-offenders have trouble with reading and writing?
-  Ex-offenders say literacy problems or the lack of reading or writing skills mean they often cannot find a job or a place to live. For someone who has trouble reading and writing, frustration is a way of life.

The Literacy Program

The Calgary John Howard Society is a non-profit organization that assists people who have been in conflict with the law by offering alternatives to crime. Learners in our **Adult Literacy Program** are adults who have had negative experiences with education and who's needs vary from learning how to read and write to those who want to finish their high school education.

The volunteer tutor program is designed to match volunteers with learners on a 1:1 basis, so that learners can *learn at their own pace, in their own time and by their own learning styles.*

The objectives of the program are to:

- Provide opportunities to improve literacy
- Offer learners a safe, non-judgemental and encouraging environment in which to pursue their educational goals
- Contribute towards learners' increase in self-esteem and personal value
- Assist in preparing for further academic studies.

How it Works...




Learners and tutors meet once a week in the community (the library, a café, community centre, etc.) at a time that is convenient for both people. Tutors are trained to understand the needs of offenders and ex-offenders and how to tutor one-on-one with adults. Techniques for working with adult learners who are learning to read and write are taught, as are other strategies.

As a tutor, you have the opportunity to help someone discover the joys of learning. We believe in student-centred learning which leads to a partnership, as one often finds the learning is reciprocal. There is no curriculum or any one way to tutor. We welcome people from all backgrounds who can use their creativity and life experience to help in their teaching.






- Orientation and training provided
- Police Check required (no cost)
- Volunteer support and ongoing training is provided

Volunteer Tutor






Time Commitment:

-  Flexible schedule between tutor and learner
-  1-2 hours per week average
-  4-6 month commitment

Responsibilities:

-  Provide one-on-one instruction based on learner's needs
-  Meet with learner on a weekly basis
-  Encourage and promote learning
-  Track hours spent volunteering
-  Attend volunteer workshops

Qualifications:

-  Grade 12 completion is preferred
-  Interest in learning
-  Respect for individual styles
-  Excellent communications skills are a must, able to communicate in plain language
-  Patience and understanding