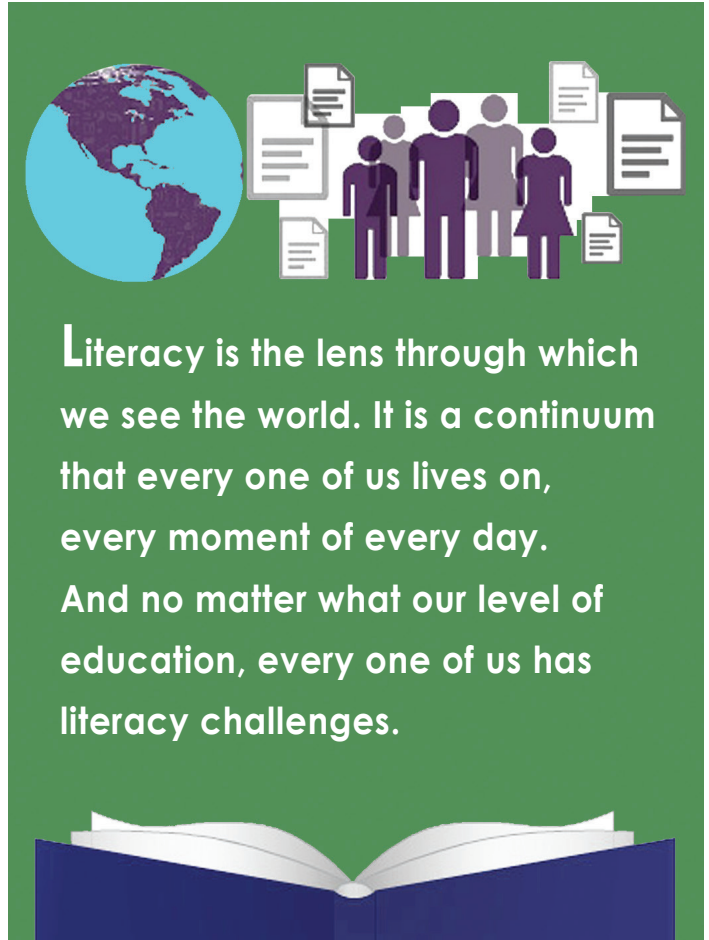


Words, numbers, symbols - these are the building blocks that create our world. Literacy happens when we pick up a can of tuna off a grocery store shelf, or a prescription at the drug store. It happens when we try to make sense of a bus schedule, or use a banking machine. Literacy happens when we fill out a passport application or use a cell phone. Every aspect of our daily lives can be connected back to literacy.

By not giving literacy the attention it deserves in our communities, we make the world a more difficult place for all of us to live and work. When we create product labels that are difficult to read, charts that are hard to understand, or forms that are challenging to fill out, we create unnecessary challenges and frustration for countless people of every age, background and education level.



When we increase literacy, we create jobs, improve health, reduce crime, build stronger families and make safer communities.

Improving your literacy helps you be a smarter shopper, a safer driver, a better parent and a happier person.

When we choose to make literacy a priority in our community, good things happen. No one solution or program, or any agency or organization can do this alone. Everyone has a role to play. It's time to begin a new conversation about literacy, essential skills and lifelong learning opportunities.

Literacy flows through all aspects of modern life.



Just as a rising tide brings up all the boats, literacy has the ability to raise the level of everything it touches. When we choose to make literacy a priority, the benefits run deep and wide.

Investing in literacy returns dividends to every part of society. Like any long-term investment, success cannot be measured immediately. Literacy must become a permanent part of the fabric of our communities. Like fitness, literacy needs to become our regular regimen. By adding literacy to our lives, and making knowledge part of our daily diet, we improve the long-term health of society and ourselves.



Literacy isn't simply a set of skills; it's a way of thinking. Literacy is the ability to understand the rapidly evolving world around us, and to have the ability to move confidently through it.

We encourage you to bring literacy to the forefront of whatever you do. Become a champion of literacy, and share the message that knowledge is power, and that literacy is the door to opportunity. By embedding literacy in everything we do, the quality of every outcome improves dramatically.

What is literacy?

Literacy is the ability to access, use, and understand information.

What is Literacy Nova Scotia?

Literacy Nova Scotia (LNS) is a non-profit organization that has supported the literacy and essential skills field since 1992. LNS provides leadership to advance literacy and ensure that all Nova Scotians have equal access to quality literacy, essential skills, and lifelong learning opportunities. LNS works to ensure that these opportunities are available wherever and whenever there is a need or interest. LNS supports the adult literacy field in the broadest sense. It supports community sector, college, school board, workplace, and workforce programs. LNS understands that literacy extends beyond reading and writing; it is all the skills needed for accessing and using information.

What do we do?

- **Information sharing** – LNS eNews, factsheets; Literacy Action Week; website and database; NSPGI for Literacy.
- **Research** – Adaptation of existing research and dissemination; research and surveys on current issues such as learners' needs, professional development, and the state of the field; and preparation of briefs to government.
- **Supports to learners** – PGI funded financial awards; PGI grants to organizations; Learn Line; The Learning Beacon online ezine; Adult Learners' Week; projects directly affecting learner support.
- **Supports to practitioners and organizations** – professional development offerings; NSSAL Professional Development Fund; NSSAL Community Grants, NSSAL IT Fund, PGI grants to organizations, Computers for Schools, Practitioner Training and Certification Program, LNS Resource Hub.

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This factsheet is based on and contains content from "The Literacy Manifesto" by Decoda Literacy Solutions.