

I Could Not Imagine My Life Without Education.

I am who I am because of adult learning. With the support of Literacy Nova Scotia early on in my adult learning journey, I was able to support other learners. This made me want to pursue higher education.

~ Nicole Webb, 2010-11 LNS Scholarship Winner



I loved elementary school and I had wonderful teachers that instilled a love of reading and learning in me that really changed my future. I left school because in Cape Breton you went to school or you went to work. I was bullied, so I left school after barely completing grade 9. I went to work and landed amazing jobs with incredible mentors. I saw that people with education were treated well and admired. I wanted to learn and be treated with respect.

Fast forward seven years, and I found myself walking by a bus shelter with a picture of George Canyon and a message from the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning (NSSAL) saying I could go back to school for free. I called the number, and two weeks later, I was enrolled in the Nova Scotia High School Diploma Program. I was finally back to learning and I couldn't be happier.

I went on to Saint Mary's University for my Bachelors of Science in Psychology, and then to McGill University for graduate studies. I quickly realized that studying anything that did not involve helping people was not for me. Then I found myself at Dalhousie University studying disability management. I was eager to advocate for inclusion and education for "everybody with everybody." In November 2017, I graduated with my Masters of Education from Mount Saint Vincent University, and plan on pursuing a PhD in the coming years. I think the best way to describe how education changed me is to quote Malcolm Forbes: "The purpose of an education is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

Adult learning brought me to Dartmouth Learning Network in 2008 as a tutor for other adult learners. I also do a lot of contract work for different disability nonprofits, and I recently landed the role of Regional Coordinator for the Rick Hansen Foundation School Program. This is all due to adult learning. I have endless opportunities now and have the knowledge and confidence to create my own future.