

2022-2023

Annual Report

Our Mission

People in Hamilton will have a better quality of life through lifelong learning.



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Thanks to Our Volunteers

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What We Do

As Hamilton's adult learning network we provide educational planning services for youth and adults wanting to upgrade or retrain. We work with people to develop plans that are individual and goal oriented. Plans could include referrals to skills upgrading, completing high school, getting into post-secondary, apprenticeship training or other training.

We work closely with our adult education partners across the city to develop the annual [Literacy Service Plan](#). This plan identifies key issues and actions that we work on throughout the year.

We also support employers with our [Workplace Education Services](#). We can help employers identify skill gaps and create a customized training plan to increase employees' skills now and for the future.

We also offer [Clear Writing](#) training and consulting services. We offer workshops, document editing as well as a 12-week online course through the Learning Networks of Ontario. For more information about our services please visit www.abea.on.ca.

Want to get literacy, education and employment updates all in one place? [Subscribe to our monthly newsletter.](#)

From the Executive Director

Sara Gill

ABEA turned 40 this year! In February 1983 the Adult Basic Education and Literacy (ABEL) Committee was formed. The objectives of the committee were to

- identify various community agencies involved in adult basic education and literacy
- improve communication among these agencies
- speak with a common voice on the issues of adult basic education and literacy
- advocate for increased resources and initiatives in adult basic education and literacy

We were incorporated as the Adult Basic Education Association of Hamilton-Wentworth in March 1986. We continue this work today and feel proud to work alongside our community partners to further the work of adult education in our community.

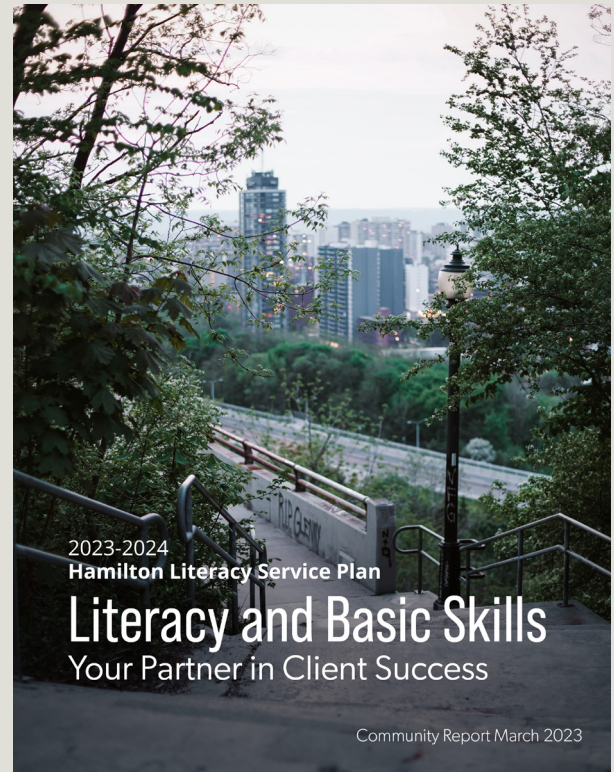
Educational Pathway Planning

We offered this service in-person, in partnership with community programs and remotely in 2022-2023. We made over 2,160 contacts with people to provide educational pathway planning, skills check-ins and outreach services (up 26% from last year). We also continued our [monthly newsletter](#) to share upgrading, education and employment program updates and events with almost 200 community partner subscribers.

Thank you to our ongoing referral partners – NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment and Training, Goodwill Career Centre, VPI Inc., Ontario Works and Mohawk College.

“ABEA is a major asset for the Hamilton community.”

— Community Partner



Literacy Planning

Through the Literacy Community Planning (LCP) committee we worked on key issues facing our community with a focus on 5 audiences

- A.** Job Seekers
- B.** Employers
- C.** Learners
- D.** Literacy Practitioners
- E.** Community Partners

For more information about these issues and how we responded, please see our [Literacy Service Plan 2022-2023 Community Report](#).

Hybrid Conference for Literacy Practitioners

In November 2022 we hosted our first hybrid conference for literacy practitioners. The theme of this year's conference was using technology to serve learners with multiple barriers to education and employment. It was very important to us to ensure that participants had a positive experience regardless of how they were able to attend. We received positive feedback and will continue with this model this year.

4th Annual Adult Learner Conference

In February 2023 we hosted our 4th annual adult learner conference. This virtual conference featured 7 sessions related to key topics like services for job seekers, funding programs for training, information about housing and mental health supports.

Career Pathways Project

In November 2020 we received funding from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to develop career ladder frameworks for the local manufacturing and healthcare sectors. This was in partnership with the learning networks and planning boards in Hamilton, Niagara and Grand Erie as well as Fedcap Canada. In 2022-2023 we continued this work to develop career pathways for an additional 8 sectors. This tool features in-demand, entry level jobs and the skills and training needed to get these jobs. It also links to mid-level jobs and the skills and training needed to move into these jobs. This tool is a great resource for job seekers, education and employment practitioners and employers to support workforce development in our community.

Skills for Success Projects

In October 2022 we were funded by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to expand and enhance local planning and coordination. The purpose of this work was to further integrate Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) into the workforce development system to support clients to reach their goals. We worked on 4 initiatives

1. Workplace literacy – supporting employers to identify skills upgrading needs
2. LBS services to support Better Jobs Ontario – providing support for those interested in applying for training funding
3. LBS services to support apprenticeship – coordinating LBS services with apprenticeship stakeholders for pre-apprentices and apprentices
4. LBS services to support underrepresented groups in the labour market – working with youth and newcomer-serving organizations to better integrate LBS into programming

ABEA is also facilitating the provincial Community of Practice group for the Better Jobs Ontario initiative. The Skills for Success work is continuing in 2023-2024.



thank
you

Thank you so much to ABEA's Board of Directors for their insight, guidance and support over the last year. I'm excited about our continued progress on our strategic plan for 2021-2024. We continue to build relationships and work collaboratively with our community partners across the city and across the province to support skills upgrading, training and education.

Sara Gill, Executive Director

Workplace Education Services for Employers



Do you have skill gaps and retention issues in your company?

We're the adult learning network in Hamilton. We help people and employers create upgrading and training action plans.

A successful employee is more likely to stay on the job, reducing employee turn over. But sometimes skills gaps in communication, math or digital technology get in the way.

We can help you build a customized training plan through an organizational needs assessment.

Connect with us today!

 **905-527-2222 x 1**

 **director@abea.on.ca**

 **<https://abea.on.ca/workplace-education-services/>**



Our Community Partners/Networks

Employment Ontario - Literacy and Basic Skills Service Providers

CNIB – Deafblind Community Services Literacy Program

Collège Boréal

Community and Continuing Education - Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Hamilton Literacy Council

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre – Native Learning Centre

Mohawk College – Academic Upgrading, Deaf Empowerment Program

St. Charles Adult & Continuing Education Centres – Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

Employment Ontario – Employment Services

Skills Development Flagship Committee

Employment Assistance Resource Network (EARN)

Our Future Hamilton – Community Partner

Ontario Works

NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment and Training

Learning Networks of Ontario

Congratulations to our Leaders in Literacy Award Winners 2023!

Lynne Livingstone Memorial Award

Jessica Rose

Kim Brooks Memorial Lifelong Learning Award

Colleen Woolsey

Excellence in Adult Teaching Award

Katherine Gebel, Patrick Cross and Bruce Belcher

The CIBC Murphy Investment Group Individual Early Literacy Education Award

Sadia Bukhari

Agency Early Literacy Education Award

Cornerstone Preschool Child Care Centre

The Hamilton Spectator Adult Literacy Learner Award

Balqis Saeed Saad Alshaibani – St. Charles Adult & Continuing Education Centres

Sarah Shamim – Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Fisher Bennett – Hamilton Literacy Council

Rashard Cooper – Mohawk College

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Job Seekers



Explore In-Demand Jobs!
Plus - learn about the skills you'll need and training options

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Ontario

Thinking about training for a job?

Get skills training and financial support when you qualify for **Better Jobs Ontario**.

ABEA is the adult learning network in Hamilton. We offer free educational planning services.

We'll work with you to

- find training programs you're interested in
- explore the skills you'll need for the training
- develop a plan
- connect with an Employment Service to support you with your application

Connect with us today!



Call: 905-527-2222
Text: 289-275-1685



pathways@abea.on.ca



www.abea.on.ca
www.ontario.ca/page/better-jobs-ontario



In partnership with Workforce Planning Hamilton

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This Employment Ontario program is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.