



Council of the Federation Literacy Award

**2017
Newfoundland and Labrador
Call for Nominations**

INTRODUCTION

Literacy skills are the essential building blocks for the development of a vibrant society and economy. These foundational skills are embedded in activities in the home, school, community and workplace. There is a continuum of development ranging from learning to read through to reading to learn a variety of other skills and perspectives on life. At the end of this continuum is the complex set of skills necessary for daily life, employment, citizenship, and personal advancement and enjoyment in our modern and diverse society. Today, the broad definition of literacy includes a variety of skills: reading text, document use, writing, oral communications, numeracy, thinking skills, computer use, working with others and continuous learning.

It is clear that Canada's provinces and territories are repositories of innovative principles, practices and programs that reflect the very highest ideals in literacy best practices, and serve the varying needs of many different types of learners.

The Council of the Federation (established in 2003 by the 13 Premiers in Canada to acknowledge the leadership role that provinces and territories play in revitalizing the Canadian federation) has identified a number of key initiatives of importance to Canadians, one of which is literacy. In order to bring recognition to achievements in literacy in every province and territory, Premiers, in July 2004, agreed to create a Council of the Federation Literacy Award. The award recognizes outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy. Beginning in 2005, 13 Council of the Federation Literacy medallions have been presented annually, one for each province and territory. The Council of the Federation Literacy Award covers the entire spectrum of the field, including family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy and is given to recognize the excellence of educators, volunteers, learners, community organizations (including non-governmental organizations) and businesses in each province and territory.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR AWARD

For 2017, Newfoundland and Labrador nominations for the Council of the Federation Literacy Award are being accepted for the category of **Adult Literacy Learner**. This award category is for people who have faced difficulties in life because they could not read or write well in English. They have taken steps to improve their reading and writing skills, and this has helped to better their lives and prepare them for post-secondary education and/or employment.

The Newfoundland and Labrador award will be presented in fall 2017. The winner will receive a Council of the Federation Literacy Award engraved medallion and a certificate signed by the Premier. Nominations are now open, so please take this opportunity to tell us about an Adult Literacy Learner who has demonstrated excellence and leadership in the field of adult literacy.

The award recipients for each province and territory will be announced in a news release by the Council of the Federation in September 2017.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Anyone may nominate an individual and nominees may also nominate themselves. Nominees in the Adult Literacy Learner category must be residents of Newfoundland and Labrador who are 18 years of age or older and have participated in an adult basic literacy, workplace literacy or Adult Basic Education program for at least six months. He/she will have made outstanding progress, helped others along the way and have a strong recommendation from an instructor or tutor. He/she may have overcome adversity to reach this achievement.

In this package, you will find the information required to make your nomination, including a nomination form. Past winners are not eligible.

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

The requirements for the award are outlined in the pages that follow. Attach the completed nomination form from this package to the front of your submission along with two letters of support. At least one of the support letters should be from an instructor or tutor.

1. Using a maximum of 3 pages, provide a clear and detailed rationale for why the nominee should be considered for this award. Submissions should be typed (double-spaced) on letter-sized (8.5"x11") white stationary. Pages should be numbered, and bound only with a paper clip; not stapled or otherwise joined.

Answers to the following questions about the nominee should be included in the submission:

- What was your life like before you improved your literacy skills? Did you have any problems and challenges because of your difficulty with reading and/or writing?
 - Why did you decide to improve your literacy skills?
 - How did you get help? Which program did you join? When did you join? Are you still enrolled or did you complete it?
 - Describe what it was like to improve your reading and writing skills. How did the instructors and/or tutors help you? Give some examples of your experiences while enrolled in the program.
 - How has improving your literacy skills changed your life? What things do you enjoy doing now that you could not do before? How has it helped you do new things for yourself, your family, your employer and/or your community?
 - How has improving your literacy skills prepared you for post-secondary education and/or employment?
 - Have you helped and encouraged others to participate in an adult literacy program? If so, how?
2. Obtain two letters of support that show why the nominee deserves the award. At least one of these letters should be from the nominee's instructor or tutor. Each letter must be a maximum of 1 page in length, typed or clearly hand-written in dark ink.

3. Complete the nomination form found at the end of this nomination package. The nomination cannot be considered unless the nomination form is signed by the nominee, thereby indicating her/his consent.
4. Attach the completed nomination form to the front of the submission. Attach the two letters of support to the back of the submission.

AWARD RULES

The completed and signed nomination form must accompany each submission. A selection committee will evaluate all submissions based on the eligibility criteria outlined in this nomination package. Entries will be assessed solely on the content and quality of the written submission. Decisions are final.

Do not send books, videos, or other such materials.

Submissions will not be returned.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Council of the Federation may publish or publicize information contained in any submission without compensation to the nominators or the nominees.

Please note: Submissions without signed nomination forms will not be accepted.

Entries must be received on or before **May 31, 2017**.

Submissions are to be mailed to:

COF Literacy Award Selection Committee
c/o Literacy and Institutional Services Division
Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour
Attention: Heather Legge, Program and Policy Development Specialist
3rd Floor, West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR NOMINATION FORM
COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION LITERACY AWARD**

CATEGORY: ADULT LITERACY LEARNER

NOMINEE INFORMATION (Please print clearly. Nominee must sign below.)

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

NOMINEE'S STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

I accept the nomination for the Council of the Federation Literacy Award and agree to all award rules stated in the nomination package. By ticking the boxes and signing below, I confirm that:

The information provided is accurate and I consent to the use and exchange of this information for the sole purpose of evaluating and selecting award recipients.

If I receive this award, I also consent to having my name, community, summary of achievements and photograph released to the media and included in Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Council of the Federation publications for publicity purposes associated with the award.

If unsuccessful, I would like my nomination to be considered again in 2018.

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

DATE

NOMINATOR INFORMATION (Complete if the nominator is someone other than the Nominee)

NOMINATOR'S NAME _____

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL _____