



## Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

**Memo No.**  
2024-M-086

### Memorandum to Council

**Subject:** Adult Literacy Network

**Agenda Date:** May 9, 2024

**Attachments:**

### RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami hereby receives memo 2024-M-086

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize staff to receive calls for the literacy program and pass personal information on to the Temagami Public Library staff for their coordination and administration of the Literacy program.

### INFORMATION

Individuals in our community who lack basic skills may find themselves facing challenges such as unemployment, low-paying jobs, political exclusion, and the risk of passing these struggles on to future generations. Low levels of literacy can hinder economic growth, reduce the effectiveness of government services, and diminish overall quality of life for residents.

A literacy program can enhance the economic development of a labour force by equipping individuals with the essential skills needed to access better job opportunities, increase productivity, and contribute more effectively to the workforce. The definition of adult literacy goes beyond just reading and writing, encompassing proficiency levels and the ability to engage with written material. While a century ago, simply being able to sign one's name was considered literate, today's standards are much higher. Literacy now includes not only reading and writing but also mathematical skills and the ability to apply these skills in practical situations, such as managing personal finances.

Literacy skills are crucial for individuals to fully participate in society, achieve their goals, and reach their full potential. This involves not only being able to comprehend written texts but also being able to access, evaluate, and utilize information from a variety of sources in different contexts.

The Temagami Public Library has appointed a board member to collaborate with me on an adult literacy initiative. **This program will consist of a small group of volunteers who can provide support on an as-needed basis, such as assistance with job interviews, resume writing, continuing education opportunities, and navigating government programs.** The Library Board has agreed to provide a space for volunteer / participant interaction. I have agreed to create a public information campaign to attract volunteers, facilitate a basic training program and provide access to a vulnerable sector check and to utilize multiple channels to reach out to potential participants, such as social media, local community organizations, and word-of-mouth referrals, can help increase awareness and participation in the program.

I am requesting that the council allow staff to receive phone calls and pass personal information on to the Temagami Public Library staff, as having a contact with regular business hours would help ensure the program's success.

**Respectfully submitted by**  
**John Shymko - Economic Development Officer**