



**PGFL**

Peter Gzowski Foundation for Literacy

# 2023 Annual Report



## **Introduction**

The Peter Gzowski Foundation for Literacy (PGFL) is pleased to present this annual report.

The PGFL, created with an endowment from the federal government, was established following the death of Peter Gzowski in 2002. The PGFL supported the Peter Gzowski Invitational (PGI) golf tournaments, which Peter created in 1986 to raise awareness and funds for literacy. The PGFL continued support for the PGIs until 2022.

In 2022, we recognized the Foundation's endowment could be used in other ways to continue to support literacy activities. The Board of Directors decided to end the PGIs and, beginning in 2023, to carry on Peter's vision by using the PGFL endowment funds to provide grants.

I personally want to thank the Board of Directors for their efforts over the past year to forge a new and exciting path for the PGFL. The Board of Directors developed the grant guidelines and application process, held a nation-wide call for proposals, reviewed 36 applications and awarded 10 grants. This was an incredible feat for a volunteer group.

Thank you to Eric Plato for bookkeeping services, Ashley Ibrahim and Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP for corporate support and Tracy Guinchard, REP Here In Canada, for technical support.

Thank you all.

**Brigid Hayes**

**Chair, Peter Gzowski Foundation for Literacy**



## **Peter Gzowski Foundation for Literacy Board of Directors**

### **Brigid Hayes – Chair**

Ottawa, ON – Consultant, strategic planning and policy development adult literacy and skills. Formerly, Canadian Labour and Business Centre and the National Literacy Secretariat, HRSDC.

### **Fiona Bramble – Director**

Victoria, BC – Founder-CEO, REP Here In Canada and managing editor of Here Magazine. Member of Creative BC Magazine Advisory Committee and the Greater Victoria Alliance for Literacy. Former ELL educator.

### **Meghan Dillon – Secretary**

Toronto, ON – Intellectual property lawyer, specializing in trademarks. Formerly worked in book publishing, negotiating author contracts.

### **Alison Gzowski – Director**

Toronto, ON – Gzowski Family representative for the Board, writer, editor, producer, and event organizer for non-profits.

### **Deb McInnis – Director Moncton, NB**

Executive Director of the United Way of Greater Moncton and Southeastern NB Region. Formerly Executive Director for Laubach Literacy New Brunswick. Member, Greater Moncton Literacy Advisory Board, and a volunteer for the Children's Wish Foundation for over 25 years.

### **Leah Patry – Treasurer**

Toronto, Ontario – Enjoyed a more than 25-year career in finance, the majority of which was spent as a global equity portfolio manager at one of the country's largest pension funds. Most recently provided financial expertise to institutional clients within the global asset management division of one of the country's chartered banks. Currently, Chair of the Friends of Bon Echo, a fundraising and advocacy group for the provincial park.



## **Remembering Peter Gzowski**

### Founder of the Peter Gzowski Invitational (PGI)

For three hours a day, five days a week, for 15 years, millions tuned in to CBC Radio's Morningside to listen to Peter Gzowski talk with Canada from coast to coast to coast. His insightful yet informal interviews with everyone from the Prime Minister to a chili sauce expert was one reason the award-winning broadcaster, author and journalist was often referred to as Mr. Canada. What many might not know is the legacy he left outside of his broadcasting life.

The Peter Gzowski Foundation for Literacy (PGFL) recognizes and honours the work of the late Peter Gzowski in raising awareness and funds for literacy. Peter devoted the last 16 years of his life to raising awareness of adult literacy issues. The PGFL supported his PGI ("Peter Gzowski Invitational") fundraising events, held across the country for 37 years, ending in 2022.

The PGFL continues to support Peter's legacy and his passion for, as he once put it, "playing for a better world," by providing grants to literacy groups to support their work.



## PGFL Granting Program

The inaugural year of the PGFL Granting Program was launched April 3, 2023. Applications were accepted until May 8, 2023.

The PGFL Granting Program is open to registered charities delivering adult or family literacy services at the local level. Three types of projects were supported in year 1:

Projects that:

1. **build capacity** within an existing literacy program:

- Curriculum development
- Tutor or practitioner training
- Development of a new approach within an existing literacy program
- Efforts to expand the program to reach new learners

2. describe and evaluate existing programs to share and promote **promising practices**:

- Evaluation of an existing practice
- Research into what works and why
- Sharing of promising practices

3. support **operational expenses**:

- Costs associated with operations including salaries, rent, IT, office supplies, personnel and volunteer recruitment.

The call for proposals resulted in 37 applications, 36 of which went forward for review, with a total request of \$707,000. Ten projects were funded at \$20,000 each for a total expenditure of \$200,000.



## **PGFL Grant Recipients – 2023**

### **CanLearn, Edmonton, AB**

[canlearnsociety.ca](http://canlearnsociety.ca)

The grant will enable the “Expanding the Basic Math for Adults” program to reach and work with more adult learners who need help acquiring foundational numeracy and math skills.

### **Community Learning Network (CLN), Edmonton, AB**

[calp.ca](http://calp.ca)

CLN will create an interactive digital training resource “Stepping into Writing” based on Kate Nonesuch’s methods for teaching writing to adult foundational learners for use by Alberta practitioners and volunteers.

### **Friends of the Campbellford/Seymour Carnegie Library, Campbellford, ON**

[trenthillslibrary.ca](http://trenthillslibrary.ca)

The grant will provide resources to expand services at Trent Hills Library to adults with limited literacy skills living in this rural region. Services include digital literacy, improving online and offline reading skills and a book club for emergent adult readers.

### **Literacy Council York-Simcoe (LCYS), Newmarket, ON**

[skillsupgrading.ca](http://skillsupgrading.ca)

The grant will provide operating expenses to the LCYS Skills Upgrading Centre to maintain current programs. The funds will enable LCYS to provide consistency in programs while it develops a three-year strategic plan and continues its successful fundraising effort.

### **Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, Vancouver, BC**

[mpnh.org](http://mpnh.org)

The grant will fund the Family Literacy Outreach program which serves vulnerable immigrant and refugee adult mothers with young children with holistic family literacy support. Participants generally transition to more structured English language or employment programs.

**Literacy Central Vancouver Island (LCVI), Nanaimo, BC**

[literacycentralvi.org](http://literacycentralvi.org)

LCVI will build capacity within its adult and Indigenous literacy programs. The project will be conducted with the advice of Indigenous elders and include curriculum available on an Open Learning platform with tutors trained in cultural safety and trauma-informed practices.

**Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council, Sioux Lookout, ON**

[siouxhudsonliteracy.com](http://siouxhudsonliteracy.com)

The Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council operates Good Learning Anywhere (GLA), the provincial Indigenous e-learning network. Building on GLA courses already offered to federal inmates in Ontario, the grant will enable GLA to expand its offerings and to explore delivery outside Ontario.

**The Learning Centre Literacy Association (TLCLA), Edmonton, AB**

[tlcla.org](http://tlcla.org)

TLCLA will enhance its current literacy materials to make them relevant for the “21st century marginalized community adult learner”. Curriculum will be evaluated based on feedback from instructors. Training materials for instructors and tutors will also be updated.

**United For Literacy, Atlantic Region, Corner Brook, NL**

[unitedforliteracy.ca](http://unitedforliteracy.ca)

United for Literacy will bring its Community Literacy Catalyst model to Corner Brook to address the literacy needs for the Indigenous community. Working with community partners, needs will be assessed, and community-informed programming developed.

**Victoria Literacy Connection Society (VLC), Victoria, BC**

[victoriacconnection.ca](http://victoriacconnection.ca)

The grant will enable VLC to recruit specialized volunteer tutors with the necessary skills in both teaching English and computer/technology. As a result of the program, learners will have knowledge of their device and be able to communicate in English their understanding and skills in using those devices.