



## *March 2016 Newsletter*

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the March newsletter. It's hard to believe the spring is officially here, especially as the first day of spring has brought more snow to Fort St. John!

This month, Literacy Society has been part of the Settlement fair organized by SWIS (Settlement Workers in Schools). It was a great day where the newcomers had a chance to learn about Canadian taxes, hear about programs Library has to offer, find out Labour Market Demands in Northern B.C. and much more. The newcomers could also 'shop around' few tables set up by the local service providers such as Employment Connection, City of Fort St. John, Northern Lights College, Literacy Society and SUCCESS.



Our English classes have become very busy with students this month. We have welcomed new students to the Beginners class, 2 of which were Syrian refugees landing in FSJ at the end of February. The other students came from Ethiopia and Afghanistan.

The Intermediate classes have also seen registration of new students but we will be sorry to say good bye to one of our long coming students Solomon. Here is his story:

*'My name is Solomon. I've been in Fort St. John since 2011. I found this evening ESL class through Success in 2013. This program is the best way to study English for me. There are a lot of content and good teachers. I am able to speak, read, listen and write English very well because of my job. I am a hotel manager at this time. I am always meeting hotel guests and making deals with many companies with regards to the hotel. However, there is one problem with this situation. I am using the same words and sentences all the time. My English was not progressing, but staying at the same level. After attending this class, I learned various things and made friends. Now I know much more about Canadian history, culture, and Fort St. John. We usually study English and go out once a month. We enjoy many activities, such as, bowling, skating, theatre, dinner and eating. Those experiences made me more Canadian. Also I met great teachers. Angela and Renee helped me with writing a resume and practice how to do job interviews. I especially liked the conversations regarding all kinds of subjects. IELTS and LINC were very useful for me also. I'd like to say thank you to the Literacy Society for everything. I will be leaving very soon, but I'll remember you forever and will keep in touch with you.'*

Our evening class teacher that teaches intermediate classes is experienced ESL teacher who currently works as Principal at the Charlie Lake Elementary school. Here is what she says about the class:

*'The evening intermediate class has an interesting group of students from various places around the world. As the teacher I find learning about the cultural differences these people bring to class makes a great learning experience for me as well as the other students. Our learning focuses on Canadian content in regards to everyday tasks, conversations, work experiences, holidays, celebrations and personal needs such as, writing resumes, and banking. The four areas we like to centre skill growth in are the usual, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Once a month we try to pick one evening class to go out for a different experience at restaurant or cultural event.'*

Literacy Society is also excited about the April Trade Show that will take place from April 8- April 10 at the Pomeroy Sport Centre as well as Tutor training workshops that will be held on April 9, 16 and 23 and certify all our tutors and potentially some new ones.

Wishing you all a nice Easter!

***Your FSJ Literacy Society Team***

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