

The Literacy Foundation Donates \$10,000 to Centre d'Éducation Populaire de l'Estrie to Open Student Teaching Café

Montreal, April 1, 2021 – The Literacy Foundation's *Alpha Bursary* program awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Centre d'Éducation Populaire de l'Estrie (CEP de l'Estrie) for its outstanding student café project. The purpose of the *Alpha Bursary*, which rewards an innovative project in basic education or literacy, is to increase literary skills among Quebec's population.

The call for proposals was intended for community and literacy organizations in Quebec united by their desire to see literacy rates progress. This edition of the *Alpha Bursary* program drew considerable interest from many of these organizations and a selection committee comprised of community members was called on to review the ensuing influx of projects.

The Student Café: A Comprehensive Learning Space

What the centre's trainers really want with the student café space at the CEP de l'Estrie is to see students at the forefront of their learning process. Besides learning how to read, write, calculate and speak correctly, participating learners can develop numerous transferable and essential skills that will help them achieve their personal goals on the daily.

"Adults that come to our centre need something concrete, they need to be immersed in practical, meaningful learning scenarios that mirror what it's like out there in the *real world*. By opening this student café, we can create both an environment that's tailored to their needs and a space where both *customers* and *workers* can learn. These groups will shoulder the responsibilities and make decisions at the café with a team of trainers by their side to help them along their learning path. The café project focuses on active literacy, one that's engaging and in constant motion," explains **Natalie Durocher, Executive Director at CEP de l'Estrie**.

More specifically, the real purpose of the project is to engage learners to promote the transfer of both basic and essential literacy skills, encourage them to take full ownership of the project to develop their autonomy, create a stimulating physical space to foster discussion and learning and, lastly, to bolster a sense of belonging to the organization. This new, permanent project, which was designed to be self-sustaining, will be open to roughly 50 adult Quebecers and immigrants with low literacy skills and who are furthest from the labour market.

About the Literacy Foundation

Founded in 1989, the Literacy Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support adults and children so that they can develop their ability to read and write. The Foundation is active in all regions across Quebec.

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