



READ Saskatoon Adult Literacy Learner Receives Recognition

SASKATOON – September 8, 2011 - International Literacy Day is being celebrated in Saskatoon today and READ Saskatoon will mark the occasion by presenting this year's winner of the Kinsmen Adult Learner Achievement Award to Nooshin Nouroozi Ebrahimi.

Nooshin started with READ Saskatoon in 2003. She has progressed from very limited oral conversation skills to eloquent, articulate English. She has faced adverse challenges and obstacles in her life since coming to Canada but rather than let these barriers diminish her desire to succeed, she has used them as a catalyst for progress. Today she is a student at the University of Saskatchewan in the department of Microbiology.

Executive Director, Sheryl Harrow says, "The ability to use and understand information is fundamental to daily life at work, at home and in the community. A 2003 study found that among Saskatchewan adults aged 16 to 65, approximately 33%, struggle with the literacy skill demands of a knowledge society. We are honoured we can provide qualified staff and trained volunteers to help people, like Nooshin, achieve their hopes, dreams and potential".

Literacy affects every part of our lives and influences our health and well-being, our sense of personal security, and participation in our community and society. In the words of Nooshin: "I am Nooshin Nouroozi, who wants to be among people, help them and listen to them patiently. I want to be a nurse.

READ Saskatoon Chair, Carm Michalenko says: "Like Nooshin, we need to make sure that people in Saskatchewan can read, write and perform numeracy well enough to increase their knowledge, access jobs, and contribute to the growth of our province."

Nooshin will receive her award Friday at The Saskatoon Golf and Country Club during the READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. This annual fundraiser, with key sponsors Affinity Credit Union and Kinsman Club of Saskatoon, ensures READ Saskatoon can provide year round free programming support to our adults and families. The READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy has raised over \$150,000 for literacy in the past five years.

About READ Saskatoon:

READ Saskatoon is recognized as a leader, providing quality literacy programs to individuals, families and workplaces. For over thirty years, the organization has provided free literacy programs through a small group of highly - qualified staff and trained dedicated volunteers. Last year, this combination resulted in:

- 860 adult learners received free literacy support through a literacy program or from a trained volunteer literacy tutor.
- 221 trained volunteers provide over 31,000 hours and \$470,000 of free literacy support to individuals and our community.
- 964 children and 842 parents and/or caregivers participated in free Family Literacy programs.
- 254 staff from schools, preschools, daycares, business and community based organizations received free Family Literacy Training.
- Workplace Literacy and Employee Development Workshops were embraced and delivered at 19 Saskatoon businesses.

For more information, please contact:

Sheryl Harrow

Executive Director, READ Saskatoon

306-652-5448