

A photograph of three people in a workshop or classroom setting. On the left, a woman with curly hair, wearing a blue hoodie, a light blue face mask, and white gloves, is working on a project. In the center, a man with a beard, wearing a blue plaid shirt, a black face mask, and safety glasses on his head, is looking towards the camera. On the right, another man is partially visible, wearing a blue t-shirt and safety glasses. They are gathered around a white table covered with various tools and materials. The background shows shelves with supplies and a workshop environment.

ANTIGONISH COUNTY ADULT LEARNING ASSOCIATION

AGM REPORT 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZATION ADMINISTRATOR

For many of us at ACALA, 2021-22 has been a year of perseverance, hope, and change.

Though many have spent the year online, we finally had the opportunity to come back together in person, which has given a breath of new life to our organization in recent months. Over the last ten months, we have had learners finish their GED, start new businesses, find work, and make so many positive life changes as a result of their hard work, both in class, and in life. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing learners, instructors and volunteers who continued to find new ways to learn and grow together. I look forward to a return to some degree of normalcy in the coming year as we rebuild community after two long years of distancing and remote education. Congratulations to all of our learners on meeting goals this year!

Shayla MacDonald, Organization Administrator

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

This past year has had its share of challenges but we have seen the gradual ease of COVID restrictions and we continue to progress back to some sense of normalcy. Even in the midst of a pandemic, ACALA continued to offer programming to further adult education and family literacy initiatives. Programs like tax preparation boot camps, access to information about trades and career choices, English as an additional language classes for newcomers, and family book clubs help with the development of skills and knowledge essential to thriving in our community.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the ACALA staff and volunteers who go above and beyond to support learners and their families through programming, facilitating the development of job skills, providing access to food boxes, and so much more. Our community is a better place because of you.

Kristel Fleuren-Hunter, ACALA Board Chair

Adult Literacy and GED

This year, we had 16 ALP I-II and 18 ALP III and GED learners attend our programs. Learners worked to improve communications, math, science, and global subjects, participated in special projects and the Spell Read program, and so much more. Four of our learners wrote one or more GED tests, and five completed the GED. Congratulations to our GED graduates and to all of those who have worked to meet personal and academic goals this year!



Digital Literacy


Our Digital Literacy program continued online this year with great success! It takes courage and patience to learn how to use a computer entirely through online classes. From powering up, to logging on to Zoom, to troubleshooting - our learners did it all in real time. Not only did they work on basic skills, but they participated in special projects enjoyed by the entire community. In collaboration with other ACALA classes, learners used their new skills to format an ASL holiday greeting card, build the ACALA blog space online using web applications and formatting, and so much more.

"Faces"

This year's summer program focused on healing as community members, learners, and instructors alike created reflective self portraits. Local artists Breagh MacGillivray and Eva Bertrand Brunelle facilitated painting workshops through the summer and held interactive booths during the Antigonish Art Fair and Antigonight. Self portraits were displayed during the Antigonight festival as a celebration of our community. This program was delivered in partnership with the Town of Antigonish.

ASL Holiday Card


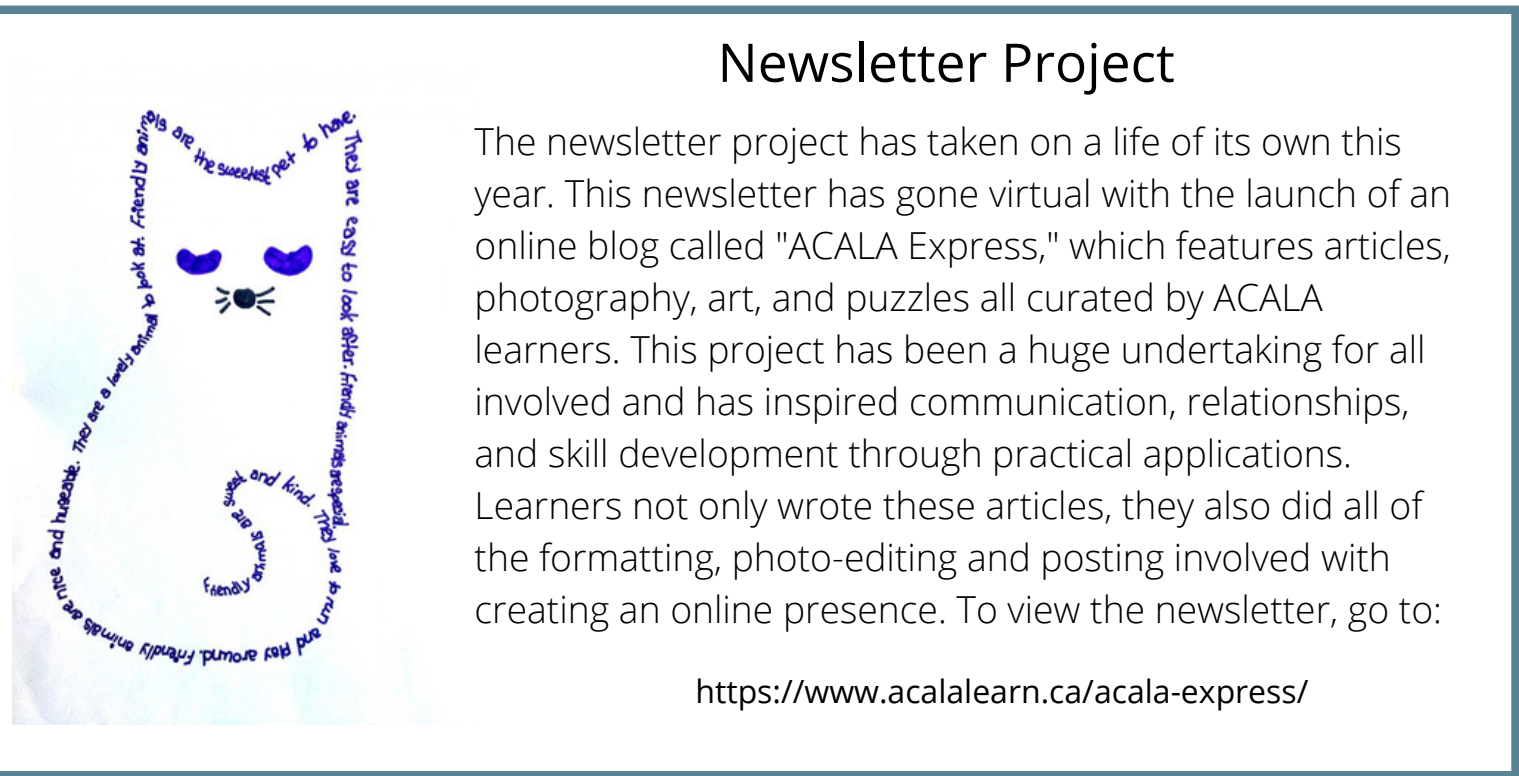
Collaboration was a huge theme this year, with learners across programs coming together to create. During the fall, the American Sign Language group, along with both the Photography and Technology classes, worked together to create a social enterprise project. Learners created and sold over 25 holiday greeting cards to raise money for ACALA learner supports!



Newsletter Project

The newsletter project has taken on a life of its own this year. This newsletter has gone virtual with the launch of an online blog called "ACALA Express," which features articles, photography, art, and puzzles all curated by ACALA learners. This project has been a huge undertaking for all involved and has inspired communication, relationships, and skill development through practical applications. Learners not only wrote these articles, they also did all of the formatting, photo-editing and posting involved with creating an online presence. To view the newsletter, go to:


<https://www.acalalearn.ca/acala-express/>



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Essential Skills for Entrepreneurship

From January to March, five learners participated in an Essential Skills program designed to improve skills for small business development. During this time, each learners made progress towards starting their own businesses, with three learners launching their businesses, and two making progress towards sourcing materials and establishing social media platforms. We would like to extend a special thanks to our hard working instructor, Bethany Dugas, as well as all of our community partners who worked to make this program a success. Congratulations to our ACALA entrepreneurs on all of your hard work.



Samir Al Taleb: The Baklava House, www.facebook.com/The-Baklava-House-

ACALA Entrepreneurs

Samir Al Taleb

Faida Fiki

Michelle Newell

Melissa MacIntosh

Priya Deepak

Face to Face

After two years of COVID restrictions effecting its completion, our Age Friendly Communities program was able to wrap up in January! Staff and residents at the RK MacDonald Nursing Home and students in Derek Druhan's class at St Andrew's Junior School worked together to learn technology and share stories virtually. This program was well positioned to help reduce isolation for seniors in our community through technology. Seniors learned to use video calling and messaging applications to communicate with students, family and community through virtual training sessions. After mastering these applications, they participated in a story sharing project with students using their newfound tech skills. This intergenerational story project was a highly positive endeavor over the COVID pandemic and provided an opportunity for students and seniors to learn from one another.



Family Book Club

Six families attended the Family Book Club program this year to read stories, participate in interactive activities, and build their family library. This program ran bi-weekly from October to June and created excellent opportunities for caregivers and children to read together and become more engaged in literacy! Families attended book club together, participated in science and art activities, and took home a copy of the book and a package of themed activities each week.

Thank you to our community partners and contributors

Funding Partners

Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Nova Scotia Department of Seniors
Employment Nova Scotia
Department of Labor, Skills and Immigration
Literacy Nova Scotia
Town of Antigonish
County of Antigonish
Antigonish Kinsmen Club

Delivery Partners

St FX Innovation and Enterprise Center
Syrian Antigonish Families Embrace (SAFE)
Antigonish Women's Resource Center and Sexual
Assault Services Association
YREACH Language Services
RK MacDonald Nursing Home
Dr JH Gillis Regional High School
The People's Place Library
Nova Scotia Works

Trades Matter

The Trades Matter event, in partnership with Apprenticeship Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Works brought the Mobile Construction Experience to Antigonish. During this event learners from ACALA, Paqtnkek, Guysborough, and the Dr. JH Gillis Regional High School were able to learn about trades and apprenticeship from practicing professionals. The MCE travels throughout Nova Scotia - primarily to middle and high schools - to give a hands-on introduction to trades professions. This event, held in October, gave adult learners in our community a rare insight into a variety of trades and was combined with presentations from Apprenticeship NS, NSCC, and Women in Trades representatives.



Learner Recognition

GED Graduates

Congratulations on all of your hard work and accomplishment.
We look forward to seeing what you do next!



Mackenzie Beaton
Rebecca Campbell-Roddick
Vic Cabeldu
Laura Macdonald

Special recognition to our GED learners who
have taken their first step in writing their
tests. ACALA is rooting for you!

Madison Farmer
Trevor Cowley
Kyle Gero

Evelyn-Lindsay Bursary Award

This award is given to ACALA learners who have
dedicated themselves to their personal learning
goals over the course of the year:

Esraa HodHod
Toni Carr

100 Women Who Care Bursary

ACALA recognizes Mackenzie Beaton with
this special one time bursary of \$1,800.
Mackenzie has shown incredible
perseverance and hard work to achieve her
goals and overcome life challenges. We
would like to thank her for representing
ACALA at the 100 Women Who Care
presentation by sharing her story.
Mackenzie, you have come so far, and we
are looking forward to supporting you and
seeing the amazing things you are sure to
achieve.



**Sheri MacGregor, Mackenzie Beaton, Cristina Silvestri at 100
Women Who Care, June 2022**

**ACALA would like to extend a special thank you to 100 Women Who Care, who awarded our
organization with \$3,800 donation**

