



EAST YORK LEARNING EXPERIENCE

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CHARITY INTELLIGENCE 2025

**TOP 10 CANADIAN
IMPACT CHARITY**

CHARITY INTELLIGENCE 2025

**TOP 5 TORONTO
IMPACT CHARITY**

Community News

On November 4, 2025 Charity Intelligence (CI) released its 2025 Top 10 Impact Charities to help Canadian donors find charities making the greatest impact.

EYLE has been recognized as one of Canada's Top 10 Impact Charities and one of the Top 5 Charities in Toronto.

EYLE's profile is [here](#).

CI's mission is, through rigorous and independent research, to help donors be informed and give intelligently - strengthening transparency and results across Canada's non-profit sector.

Thank you to our learners, volunteers, staff, and supporters for helping us make this possible!

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Community
News

Letter from our
Chair

Tutor Resources

Workshops &
Trainings

Volunteer
Appreciation
Event

Donor Highlight

Learner Success
Story

Letter from our Chair - Cam Walter

Welcome to the EYLE Fall E-Link.

Every time I walk into East York Learning Experience I am excited by the positive and supportive learning happening in the building.

Our centre provides such a welcoming environment for adults working to improve their reading, writing, math or computer skills.

I've been a tutor at EYLE for six years and for the first time now am privileged to be acting as Chair of the Board.

The commitment and dedication of our volunteer tutors, our amazing staff and our enthusiastic students is a winning combination, helping our learners move forward on their literacy journey.

It is my great pleasure to welcome Carolyn Poplak as our new Managing Director. She brings over 20 years of non-profit leadership to EYLE.



We continue to be ranked by the independent watchdog Charity Intelligence as one of the best charities in Canada.

Whatever your link with EYLE, we welcome you to stay connected with us.



Best Volunteer Program Semi-Finalist

EYLE is a semi-finalist for the Charity Village Best Volunteer Program Award. This highlights the amazing work and commitment that our volunteers provide directly to individuals in our community.

Winners will be announced on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at the 5th annual virtual Charity Village Conference & Awards! Stay tuned!



Impact Snapshot

We're proud to exceed provincial targets again this year!

- Customer Satisfaction
- Learner Progress
- Learners Served
- Service Coordination



- **125** students for 1:1 tutoring
 - **5,000+** volunteer hours
 - **7** online workshops
 - **7** in-person digital literacy classes
 - **16** new tutors onboarded
-



Tutor Resources

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an exciting tool in literacy education—helping learners strengthen reading and writing skills, build digital confidence, and explore new ways of learning.

As AI continues to evolve, several organizations are developing practical resources to support literacy instructors in using these tools effectively.

EYLE will be offering a new workshop too!

EYLE WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHT Oh My! What is AI?

Open to volunteers and students—perfect for anyone curious about the world of AI.

Monday, November 24th 6:30 – 8:30 PM **Register [here](#)**



AI Resources - MTML

Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy:
AI in Literacy – A Learning Toolkit

The AI in Literacy Toolkit helps literacy instructors build their skills and confidence using AI for teaching and learning. It offers practical guidance, examples, and activities to explore how AI can enhance literacy instruction.

👉 [Explore the Toolkit](#)



AI Resources - CLO

Spotlight on Community Literacy
Ontario Resources

Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) and Laubach Literacy Ontario (LLO) have released 20 new AI resources for Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs, launched in celebration of International Literacy Day 2025 and its theme Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era.

👉 [Explore the Resources](#)



**EYLE'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY DECEMBER 22ND – FRIDAY JANUARY 2ND**

WE REOPEN MONDAY JANUARY 5TH, 2026

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Online Workshops

Financial Literacy
Nov 10 | 6:30-8:30

Oh My! What is AI? **NEW**
Nov 24 | 6:30-8:30

Internet Safety (2 Parts)
Jan 12 | 6:30-8:30
Jan 19 | 6:30-8:30

Time Management
Feb 24 | 6:30-8:30

Soft Skills for Employment
March 9 | 6:30-8:30



In-person Trainings

Computer Basics
Oct 22nd – Nov 26th

Computer Basics II **NEW**
Jan 14th – Feb 4th

Smart Phone Skills
Feb 5th – Feb 26th

iPhone Skills
Nov 6th – Dec 4th

Visit us [here](#) for updated online workshops and in-person trainings.



Volunteer Appreciation Event

What a night! Over **25 volunteers—both new and seasoned—** joined us for our August Volunteer Appreciation Event. Although the rain moved us indoors, it didn't dampen the spirit.

Everyone had the chance to hang out, socialize, and kick things off with a fun icebreaker activity that was an absolute blast.

The evening was filled with laughter, shared stories, and thoughtful conversations about how we can best support our students. It was wonderful to see our volunteer community come together.

Special 'thank you' to our outgoing Chair Raj Narain. Thank you for all the compassion, wisdom and laughter you continue to bring to EYLE.



Our Board of Directors

Chair: Cam Walter
Co-Vice Chair: David Williams
Co-Vice Chair: Linda Kelly
Treasurer: Dan Gibson
Secretary: Jane Gadd

Directors-at-Large:
Christine Petch
Melissa Nixon
Mohamed Abosnena
Shelagh Taber
Susan Bishop

Donor Highlights



Ecclesiastical Insurance

We are excited to share that EYLE has been selected as one of the recipients of a \$5,000 Give for Good grant from Ecclesiastical Insurance!

This funding is made possible through Ecclesiastical's charitable owner, Benefact Trust, whose mission is to create lasting, positive change by giving back to communities in need.

Thank you

Special thanks to our many private donors who make one-time, annual or monthly donations. Your support is vital to the success of our program.

Did you know?

The #1 reason EYLE donors give is **our direct impact on the community we serve** [2025 Survey].

Our Funders

Ecclesiastical Insurance
Edwards Charitable Foundation
Heathbridge Capital Management LTD.
MFS Investment Management Canada Limited
Rotary Club of North York
Trisura Guarantee Insurance Company
Scott Glover



Follow us online



Donate here





Nalinee's Story

I have worked in a bakery, dollar store, cleaned houses, put up drywall, worked with machines in a shop, and taken care of my family but did not know how to read. I watched people work and I learned – no one knew I couldn't read. I've been fooled by others because I couldn't read. I had wanted to be a doctor, but that couldn't happen. I grew up in an abusive home and was kept out of school by my father. I came to Canada when I was eighteen, met my husband and continued to work as I could. I'm on my own now, caring for my mom and other family members, including my grandson.

I got help through my worker, who asked me "What would you like to do? I said, "I would like to pick up a newspaper and read it. My kids will see that!" The worker helped me find EYLE.

All the things I went through in my life have helped me. And for me the church is comforting. I push myself. Even if it's late at night, I start my reading homework. Take it one day at a time and each day you will read a bit more. I think other senses (such as listening, paying attention) seem to kick in when you can't read.

Focus on the exercises and have the determination – don't let things hold you back. I wish I'd known about this program.

When I'm reading now, I'm recognizing some words. I used to have to spell out each piece (letter or word part). Don't feel ashamed. Get help and speak up.

So, surprise! Now I can go to the grocery store and read labels and at home read some of the mail. You will find some of it is hard, but it gets easier day by day.

My grandson and I read together every night before he goes to bed.

Thank you for reading!
