EAST YORK LEARNING EXPERIENCE

BIENNIAL REPORT 2026

EMPOWERING ADULTS. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.



NOVEMBER 2026

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Letter from the Board Chair



The last two years have been a period of growth and new opportunities for EYLE.
We have been able to expand the number of programs we offer and have completed a planning process to move EYLE in exciting new directions.
In parallel with our successful individualized tutoring, EYLE is now offering practical workshops for adult learners.

We want to thank our generous foundation and corporate partners as well as our many loyal individual donors. We also thank Charity Intelligence for including us once again in their Top Impact Charities lists.
Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers, our thoughtful and creative Board members, and our amazing staff, Carolyn, Jo and Amanda, for the great work they are doing every day in creating a wide range of opportunities for our learners.

Letter from the Executive Director

EYLE has continued to help adults build the literacy, numeracy and digital skills they need to reach their goals and participate more fully in their communities. We are proud of the progress our learners have made and grateful to the volunteers, staff, donors and partners who make this work possible. As we look ahead, we remain focused on strengthening our impact and expanding opportunities for adult learners across our community.



About Us



East York Learning Experience is a registered charity providing free adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills programs.
For nearly 40 years we've helped adults gain the confidence and practical skills they need to participate fully in work, education and everyday life.
Learning looks different for everyone. That's why every learner receives personalized support based on their own goals, strengths and experiences.

Founded in 1987

Our Mission

EYLE's adult literacy, numeracy and digital literacy programs transform lives and enhance self-worth by empowering individuals to reach their full potential.

EYLE is a community-based provider of Ontario's Get SET (Skills, Education and Training) program, formerly known as Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS).

Get SET
Skills, Education and Training

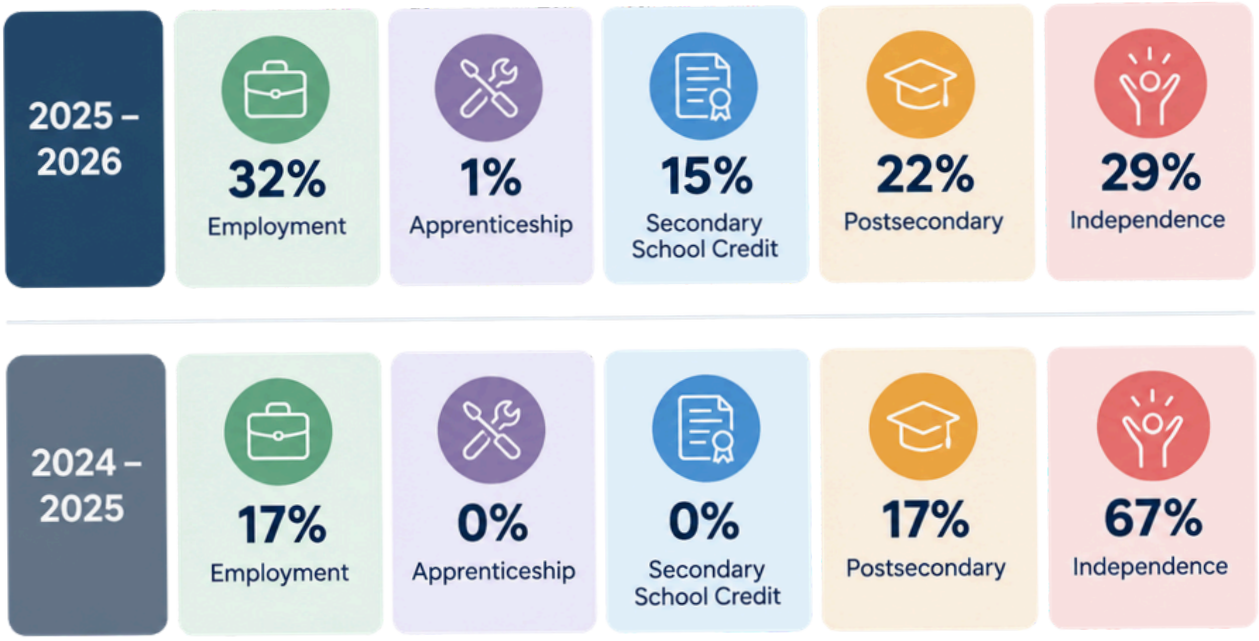
EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

Ontario

Canada

Learner Goal Paths

Learner goals became more diverse in 2025–2026, with more adults pursuing employment and further education. Independence remained an important pathway but was no longer the dominant goal.



Shift in Learner Goals

- Employment nearly doubled, increasing from 17% to 32%.
- Postsecondary increased from 17% to 22%.
- Secondary School Credit emerged as a significant pathway, rising from 0% to 15%.
- Independence decreased substantially, from 67% to 29%, while still remaining an important goal.

WHO WE SERVE

Gender

67% Female

32% Male

1% Prefer not to disclose

Age Profile

Average age: **50**

45% of learners are age 55+

18 – 24	9%
25 – 29	6%
30 – 44	27%
45 – 54	12%
55+	45%

Self-Identity

33% identify as having a disability

6% identify as Indigenous

- **5%** First Nations
- **1%** Métis

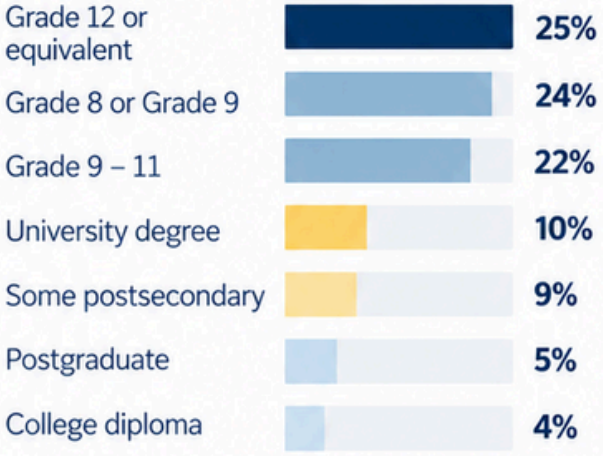
Learners may identify with more than one category. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

WHO WE SERVE

Length of Time in Canada



Highest Level of Education



Employment Experience

54% Worked in Canada

9% Worked, but not in Canada

37% No work experience

Source of Income



Outcomes at Exit

We manage 40-50 active learner/tutor pairs at any given time.

48% of learners who exited EYLE transitioned into employment or further education and training.

48% moved into employment or education and training

Learner Outcomes

Employment

13%
found employment.

Of those employed:
- **88%** full-time
- **13%** part-time

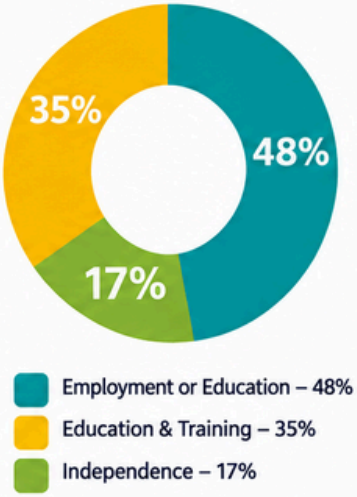
Education & Training

35%
moved into further education or training.

This includes:
- **76%** academic upgrading
- **14%** postsecondary
- **10%** ESL/FLS

Independence

17%
achieved greater independence
(e.g., improved life skills, community participation).



Key Achievements

01



Served More Learners

One-to-one tutoring continued to grow, with 15% more learners served than the previous year. This is driven by stronger outreach, community partnerships, and increased referrals.

02



Exceeded Provincial Targets

We continue to exceed Get SET provincial targets, including key measures for learner progress, service quality, and client satisfaction.

03



Volunteer Impact

Our volunteers contributed 5,200+ hours of service through one-to-one tutoring, board leadership, and other support.

04



Spring into Literacy Campaign

Inspired by our previous March campaigns, this year we launched Spring into Literacy (April 1 - April 30). Campaign and exceeded our $10,000 goal by 140%.

05



Expanded Digital Literacy & Online Workshops

Designed a Level II Computer Basics based on community need and offered 8 online workshops to over 150 participants.

Performance Indicators

01 Service Quality Score

We achieved a **7.34/6** rating exceeding the provincial target by **122%.**

02 Service Coordination

Our rating exceeded the provincial target by **130%**.

03 Learner Progress

Our rating exceeded the provincial target by **150%**.

04 Learners Served

Reached **105%** of our learner target.

05 Client Satisfaction

Our rating exceeded the provincial target by **108%**.

Financial Highlights

2025-2026

$278,884	$271,572	$7,312
TOTAL REVENUE Including interest income	TOTAL EXPENSES	YEAR-END SURPLUS

Where our Funding Came From

Grants & Donations: $275,341

Provincial Govt.
44.6%
$122,693
MLITSD funding supporting EYLE's operations, training and program delivery.

Donations
43.4%
$119,551
One-time and monthly gifts from individuals, along with corporate donations.

Foundations
10.4%
$28,724
Grants from charitable foundations supporting programs, projects and organizational needs.

Federal Govt.
1.6%
$4,373
Federal funding through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) Program.

Provincial government funding and individual donations each contribute approximately 44% of EYLE's revenue, while foundations provide about 10% and federal funding about 2%.

Community support is growing

Indiviudal donations increased 22% from the previous year

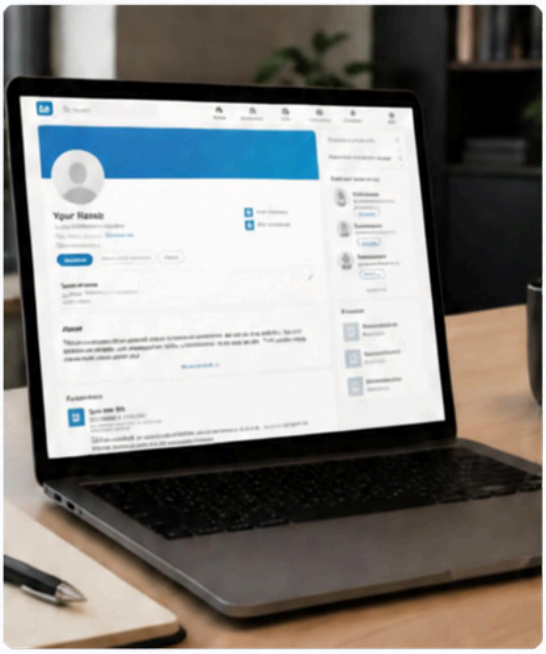
$97,669 in 2025 → $119,551 in 2026

Complete audited financial statements are available here.

Communications

01. LinkedIn

Over the past year, we strengthened our presence on LinkedIn, generating 19,232 impressions and reaching 5,402 members—helping expand EYLE's visibility and community reach.



02. Facebook

Since Sept. 2025, we have increased our followers by 10.5% with 58.5% additional visits and 13,457 views.



03. Instagram

We shared 173 Instagram posts highlighting free programs, workshops and volunteers, helping more people discover EYLE.

04. Website

We are excited to share our refreshed website. It is now more accessible to all users, especially our learners.

05. E-Link

Our quarterly newsletter continues to be distributed to learners, volunteers, donors and community partners. To subscribe, please visit this link.

Future Goals & Strategy

In 2026, EYLE launched our three-year strategic plan to guide our work and strengthen our impact. The plan builds on what we do best—providing accessible, individualized literacy, numeracy and digital learning—while identifying opportunities to reach more learners, deepen community connections and strengthen our organization for the future. We will focus on:

01. Strengthen Learner Outcomes & Program Impact

Strengthen how we track and understand learner progress, using what we learn to improve programs and demonstrate the difference EYLE makes in learners' lives.

02. Expand Digital Literacy & Life Skills Programming

Expand practical learning opportunities that help adults build confidence and independence in using technology and managing everyday tasks.

03. Grow Community Partnerships & Visibility

Increase awareness of EYLE and strengthen partnerships across the community to reach more adults and connect learners to resources and opportunities.

04. Strengthen Volunteer & Donor Engagement

Deepen our relationships with the volunteers and donors who make our work possible, creating meaningful opportunities to connect, contribute and support EYLE's continued impact.

05. Build Organizational Capacity & Operational Excellence

Improve our systems, technology and internal processes to support effective operations, a strong team and the long-term sustainability of EYLE.

Our Staff



Carolyn Poplak
Executive Director



Jo Manderson
Program Coordinator



Amanda Arney
Outreach &
Administrative
Coordinator



Monique Pho
Program Assistant: Education
(Summer Student)

With sincere thanks to Gail McCullough, our outgoing Managing Director, for over 35 years of dedicated service.

Thank You

Our Board



Shelagh Taber, Cam Walter (Chair), Christine Petch, Dan Gibson (treasurer), Yvonne Lau, Susan Bishop (secretary), David Williams (Vice Chair), Peter Chayson, Linda Kelly (Vice Chair), Feven Haddish.

Thank you outgoing board members Melissa N, Mohamed Abosnena, Jane Gadd.



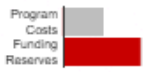
We remember with deep gratitude and affection Shirley Joy, a cherished member of the EYLE community whose dedication to adult learning and literacy spanned more than 25 years.

Charity Intelligence

EYLE continues to hold a five-star rating from Charity Intelligence, recognizing our commitment to transparency, accountability and measurable impact.
Our rating is posted below.

STAR RATING

Ci's Star Rating is calculated based on the following independent metrics:

✓+	A	High		95%
FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY	**RESULTS REPORTING**	**DEMONSTRATED IMPACT**	**NEED FOR FUNDING**	**CENTS TO THE CAUSE**
Audited financial statements for current and previous years available on the charity's website.	Grade based on the charity's public reporting of the work it does and the results it achieves.	The demonstrated impact per dollar Ci calculates from available program information.	Charity's cash and investments (funding reserves) relative to how much it spends on programs in most recent year.	For a dollar donated, after overhead costs of fundraising and admin/management (excluding surplus) 95 cents are available for programs.







Impact Partners

Karin Grueneberg
Sudhir Handa
Ruth Harper
Anonymous
Edwards Charitable Foundation
Airlie Foundation

MFS Investment Management Canada
Ecclesiastical Insurance
Rotary Club of North York
Trisura Guarantee Insurance Company
Sisters of St. Joseph
J. Rogers

Heathbridge Capital Management Ltd.
Christelle Holdings (Gerry Dilio)
Rob Mcdiarmid
Phillip A.J. Nichols
The Gervais Family Foundation
Christ Bradley
Jacma Foundation
Christopher Meyer
Thiru Sivakumaran
Karine and Matt Moody
Stephen Risk
Raj Narain
Susan Mcleod
Lynne Hardwick
M. Nixon
David Peters
G. Morrison
N Yarish
Indraneel Karnik

Spring into Literacy Supporters

April 2026

Adam Firchuk

Ben Mossman

Bernie & Jennifer Bellis

Brooke Kelly

Cam Walter

Christine Peterson

Diane Thiel

Donna J Kelly

Gary Sawayama

Herta Wisch

James Senn

Jane Murphy

Jason Kinnear

Jessica Senn

Jessica Bowman

John Meade

Jonathan Tang

Julia Chernushevich

Linda Kelly

Marcus van Dijk

Margaret Barry

Margaret Wharton

Mary Billinghurst

Matthew McArdle

Melissa Nixon

Michael Kelly

Neil and Judy Baird

Resurreccion Castillo

Rishil Sheth

Rita Weigel

Ron Slavnik

Rory Stavro-Pearce

Ujjwal Jain

William Cartar

Monthly Donors

Anne Cabildo	Margaret Barry
Ya-Yin Ko	Matthew McArdle
Leander Quiring	Anonomous
Adam Firchuk	Ben Mossman
Rishil Sheth	William Cartar
Jessica Bowman	Jonathan Tang
Neil and Judy Baird	John Meade
Marcus van Dijk	Rory Stavro-Pearce
Alexander McCaffrey	Moneira Salic
Julia Chernushevich	Udo Kaul
Anonymous	Optimo Clinics

Individual Donors

Adam Firchuk
Adam Kleitsch
Aisla Thomson
Alejandro Gomez
Alexander McCaffrey
Aman Dureja
Angela Emmett
Ann Forrest
Anshul Punetha
Ariel Aguilar
Arienne Johnson
Ashok Hingorani
Ayesha De Silva
Beatrice Boucher
Ben Mossman
Benjamin Rosenblum
Bernie & Jennifer Bellis
Bill Grainger
Bob McTavish
Bonnie Veronica Best
Brenda Dalglish
Brooke Kelly
Cam Walter
Cameron Pyper
Carol Hillyer
Carolyn Yearwood
Chris Bradley
Christina Bellis
Christine Gooderham
Christine Jonathan
Christine Petch
Christine Peterson
Christopher Kelly
Christopher Meyer
Clare Scholtz
Cory Pelletier
Dakota Lefurgey
David Peters
Dawn Bell
Dawn Nguyen
Deborah McPhadden
Deepu Joseph
Denise LaFayette
Diane Tessier-Mollica
Diane Thiel
Dominic & Patricia Blancas
Dominic Blancas
Don Weaver
Donna Jean Kelly
Douglas Bradley & Mary Killoran
Eileen Banerjee
Elaine Seto
Eleanor Harper
Ellen Bartello
Ellen Simmons
Eoghan Morishita-Miki
Erica Laframboise
F & R Mistry
Fiona Campbell
Gary Sawayama
Gary Trotter
Gerry Zhang
Gillian Wan
Govi Ravindran
Grace Wong
Gunner Hill
Hanna Wilmer
Herta Wisch
Ian Kinross
Indraneel Karnik
James Fitzpatrick
James Senn
Jane & Jim Murphy
Jane McDonell
Janice Johnson
Janis Cochran
Jason Kinnear
Jeannie Farquharson
Jennifer Bellis
Jennifer Raine
Jennifer Tweedie
Jennifer Yim
Jessica Bowman
Jessica Senn
Jim Baron
JingShan Sun
Joan MacCallum
Joanna Vadenbring
John Meade
John Oliveira
Jonathan Delsnyder
Jonathan Tang
Jonathan Yep
Joseph McGinty
Joyce Taylor
Juan Pascual-Leone
Judith Baird
Judith Flanagan
Julia Chernushevich
Justin Leary
Kaitlin Baenziger
Kaitlyn Lee
Karin Grueneberg
Karline Rhodes
Kathy Chung
Kenneth Toten
Keri Stackhouse
Kevin Sakamoto
Koray Salih

Individual Donors

Leander Quiring
Leon Edwards
Liam Oswald
Lily Leung
Linda Kelly
Linda Prussick
Liz Johnston
Louise M Granahan
Lynne Stiles
Mackenzie Dixon
Maggy Wilson
Mahmoud Azimaee
Marcus van Dijk
Margaret Barry
Margaret Kohr
Margaret Robbins
Margaret Talbot
Margaret Wharton
Mary Billinghurst
Mary Kelly
Matt and Karine Moody
Matthew Kaplan
Matthew McArdle
Mehrnoosh Behzadnia
Melissa Nixon
Michael Kelly
Michael Manion
Michaela Kuuskman
Michel Helie
Michele McDonell
Michelle Kassel
Mike Coulter
Mireille de Reland
Moneira Salic
Monique Resnick
Mykola Blonskyi
Nancy Austin
Nancy Fung
Nancy Macken
Nancy Riley
Neha Jain
Neil and Judy Baird
Neil Roszell
Nikolai Efimov
Nina Durzo
Oluwabusayo Ogundare
Omotayo Ogundare
Patrick Chen
Paul Smith
Paula Sisson
Pete Weber
Peter Southey
Philip A.J. Nichols
Phoebe Tam
Piong Li
Rachana Chhabra
Rajsimman Ravichandiran
Randy Tsomis
Rebecca Boal
Resurreccion Castillo
Rishil Sheth
Rita Weigel
Rob Halupka
Rob McDiarmid
Rob Norquay
Robert D Harries
Robert Frater
Ron Miller
Ron Slavnik
Rory Stavro-Pearce
Rushin Bandaranayake
Russell Galvin
Ruth Croxford
Sabrina Birk
Saira Paredes
Sandra Di Giantomasso
Sandra Kelly
Sandra Wilton
Sarmila Sribaskaran
Scott Glover
Scott Hutchison
Sean Strong
Sharon Kelly
Shawn Dunn
Shawn Eghterafi
Shirley Joy
Simon Kahn
Stephanie Roberts
Steve Konstantelos
Steven Craggs
Stuart Selby
Sujitha Ratnasingham
Syed Munawwer
Taylor Noj
Thiru Sivakumaran
Tim Pychyl
Tracy Morrison
Udo Kaul
Ujjwal Jain
Valerie Smith
Victoria Enge
Victoria Martin
Vijay Nandal
Virginia Barton
Wanita Watson-Rhodes
Warren Thompson
William Cartar
William Habkirk
Xiaotong Qiao
Ya-Yin Ko
Zareth Miranda
Zoey



Thank You!

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