

Literacy Awareness Day



Laubach Literacy Ontario (LLO) organised a Literacy Awareness Day on November 23rd 2009 at Queen's Park, the legislative building. It was sponsored by CUPE Ontario and Honda Canada. The purpose of this event was for MPPs to be more aware of literacy and encourage them not to stop the new funding the Ontario government is offering for programs that support literacy.

Students, executive directors, instructors and volunteers from many programs were all involved. From PTP Barbara McFater, Anne Marie Williams and I attended this event. We were scheduled to meet with Bruce Crozier, the MPP for Essex and the deputy speaker, to discuss the funding and students' experience as well as programs available. Unfortunately, he was called away on legislative business, so we met with his assistant instead.

We met with his assistant for thirty minutes. We told him about our program and what we offer. Also, we said that before this year's extra funding, we have not received additional core funding in ten years. Barbara went into more details in regards to the funding we receive. She explained that if the additional funding is cut some of the programs will be affected. He asked if past students return to PTP and whether or not they can be accepted back into the program. We told him that PTP accepts anyone who is interested and there is no waitlist. He also asked what the statistics of students attending are and whether or not we have the same amount of male and female students. Additionally, he asked what the purpose of me coming to PTP is and whether I am enjoying the program or not. I told him my reasons for being at PTP are to upgrade to get my GED and go into apprenticeship at the end of the program.

After this meeting we did a debriefing with Lana Faessler, LLO executive director. We discussed with her what we talked about with Bruce Crozier's assistant. She was disappointed that we did not meet with Bruce Crozier but with his assistant, but was happy that we still were given the time to speak with someone.

At the reception, we had the chance to speak with other volunteers, executive directors, students and instructors about programs they offer. Also Sue Bannon, LLO president spoke of LLO history. Gary Porter, LLO board member and former literacy student, spoke about how being a part of LLO changed his life.

Being part of this event made me realize the importance of literacy and that there are a lot of programs that support literacy. I also found out what the mandatory requirements are to be accepted in colleges, university and apprenticeship. I am now even more confident about wanting to continue my education and to pursue an apprenticeship.

Ansella F.