



Rotary Club of Calgary - Because of you, our community rises

You are helping us write thousands of success stories. **You** help learners succeed by giving them an excellent education, ensuring they can overcome any barriers to a fulfilling career. The Rotary Club of Calgary and Bow Valley College established a relationship in 1999, undertaking projects that target the improvement of adult literacy. Your generosity helps support Bow Valley College's quest to achieve its vision of becoming the number one community college in North America. We have prepared this Impact Report to provide an overview of the extensive impact of your commitment. **Thank you.**

Saima Umran, 2016 Student Recipient of The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary

Sentiments of gratitude from your award recipient at her graduation:



"It was such an honour to receive the Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary! I came to Canada from Pakistan having some background in accounting field, but I stayed at home for almost eight years. In 2013 I started English as a Second Language program at Bow Valley College and right after continued in the Business Administration Diploma Majoring in Accounting. I am happy to say that recently, I finished my diploma and just graduated! I want to say thanks to the Rotary Club of Calgary for the scholarship. Thank you for this wonderful gift, your support really helped me to succeed."

Successful Outcomes – Because of You!

Scholarships and bursaries play a crucial role in our students' lives, often making the defining difference for a successful program completion. Your student awards make a difference in the lives of many.

Here is an update from your past recipients and their words of thanks.

Anita Dagher, 2016 Student Recipient of The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary



When Anita Dagher made the decision to go back to school after more than a dozen years working as a hair stylist, she admits to having more than a few butterflies: *"I wasn't really happy with what I was doing so I decided to go back to school and that was scary but I jumped in with both feet."* The single mom with two boys – aged 6 and 9 – was making a reasonable living, but says she knew there were bigger challenges out there for her. So in 2013, Anita returned to school

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for the first time in 15 years, taking upgrading classes at Bow

Valley College. After completing her upgrading, she remained at BVC, taking the Business Administration Diploma. But the re-education of Anita Dagher was taking a financial toll.

Fearing she might have to quit school and go back behind the stylist chair, the award gave her the boost she needed to complete her classes. *"I was living paycheck to paycheck. When I received that award, not only did it help with the day-to-day, it helped with my son's birthday party – I really didn't know how I was going to pay for it and it was so important to him."* Anita successfully completed her diploma, and soon after managed to land a job as a recruiter and business development specialist at an employment agency. But she notes it's likely she never would have found the challenging career she had been looking for without the support she received from donors.

"If I didn't have that financial support, I might not have been able to finish – all that time I put in could have been for nothing. It's quite humbling to receive money. It helped me stay in school. I just want to say one more time thanks so much."

Ralph Boyce, 2012 Student Recipient of The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary

Ralph Boyce doesn't know if it was chance or fate that brought him to Bow Valley College. Fed up working dead end jobs in his hometown of Mississauga, Ralph decided to change his future with the toss of a dart.

Covering his eyes, he lofted three darts at a map of Canada – one struck B.C., another Prince Edward Island, and the third smack dab on Calgary. He applied to schools in all three locations but it was Bow Valley College who called first, and before long Ralph had packed up his belongings and headed west. *"I didn't want to be a lifer, schlepping tables – I knew I could be more,"* the 38-year-old says. But uprooting one's life doesn't come cheaply. Ralph arrived in Calgary with few supports, nowhere to stay and tuition due: *"I came with a suitcase, and that's it. It was pretty dire – I had basically just moved here and I didn't have anyone to lean on."* But some much needed financial breathing room

was soon on the way, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary.

This support allowed Ralph not only to stay in school, but to thrive. *"That financial award was a life saver, it allowed me to pay some debts, buy some of my books and to go on to do my program."*

After two years, Ralph completed his Business Administration Diploma and then moved on the Law Enforcement program where he has one more year to go, with designs on opening his own private investigations company. While Ralph is proud of the drive that has led him to where he is, he also knows he didn't get there alone.

"It's strange – thank you doesn't really cut it but it's all I can give. It was an honour to have people who didn't even know me go out of their way to boost me up. If I didn't have that help, I wouldn't be where I am right now."

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Jessica Fietkau, 2013 Student Recipient of The Rotary Club Literacy Bursary



Sometimes education takes a detour.

Such was the case with Jessica Fietkau, a single mom from Didsbury who had dreams of making a better life for her kids through school.

But as she began high school upgrading classes at Bow Valley

College in 2013,

hoping to eventually

take human

resources classes to

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It’s strange when you get
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help with her existing work, the costs of taking care of her young family while making the daily drive into the city was forcing her bills

to skyrocket.

As Jessica puzzled over how she could afford to continue going to school, a lifeline in the form of the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary arrived when it was most needed. *“One of my teachers nominated me for it – it was nice to know someone knew how hard I was working. It would have been very difficult to keep going.”* Just as she neared the completion of her high school upgrading, Jessica’s estranged father died, putting her education on hold as she tried to come to terms with his death. *“We weren’t close – I just wish I would have known him better,”* she says.

Despite her loss, Jessica wasn’t ready to throw in the towel, and is enrolled to return to Bow Valley College in the fall, not only to finish the class or two she still needs for her high school, but to pursue a new passion as well. Finding work at a seniors’ facility in Didsbury, Jessica says she wants to stay at Bow Valley College to study Health Care in hopes of growing her opportunities in her new field. But she knows the new course she’s charted had some crucial help along the way. *“I guess the least I can say is thank you. It’s strange when you get unexpected help – it’s a good feeling.”*

Wubit Gesaso, 2014 Student Recipient of The Rotary Club Literacy Bursary



*“I can’t even find the words –
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I would just say
God bless you!”*

It’s the dream any mother has for her kids: provide them with a better life than she had growing up. So when Wubit Gesaso, an Ethiopian who had arrived in Canada in 2003, decided to pursue a higher education, the single mother had only her three young children in mind.

“For my life, I wanted as a Canadian to speak good English and to not only have a better life, but to help my kids have a better education,” says Wubit, who began taking English as a Second Language classes at Bow Valley College in 2012. But two years later, as she worked on completing her high school education, financial support began drying up, forcing her to consider leaving school. *“I had finished my funding but I still had classes to finish,”* Wubit recalls. *“I had to pay for my kids to be in daycare so money was very tight.”*

But the help she needed wasn’t far away. Wubit was chosen to receive the Rotary Club Literacy Bursary, which helped bridge the financial gap she had been facing. With her high school classes behind her, Wubit, whose children are now 6, 7 and 8 years old, plans to return to Bow Valley in the upcoming fall to take a Practical Nurse Diploma. *“Nursing is like my passion and to help people, it’s kind of my dream,”* she says.

As Wubit prepares to embark on her next educational chapter, she continues to think of the kindness of others who helped her achieve those goals. *“I was so stretched financially and it helped me a lot. I can’t even find the words – thank you doesn’t seem like enough. I would just say God bless you!”*

The Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary

Often young adults are overwhelmed and intimidated by the mere thought of the extra responsibility and cost associated when making the decision to return to school, not to mention fears of failure. Although the payoff at the end of their schooling is great, more often than not, the journey can be challenging and changes the lives of everyone within the family. Thank you for your generous support for our learners who have returned to learning to take High School Upgrading at Bow Valley College. Your generous support pays a double-dividend in terms of helping students overcome financial barriers to learning, and providing encouragement that their hard work is recognized and will pay off.



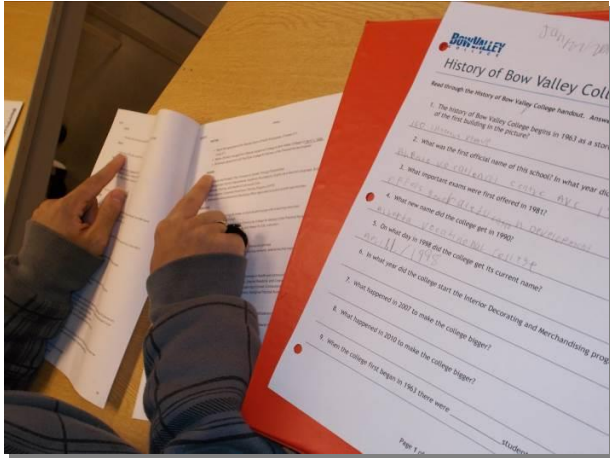
You Make the Difference



Lorne Larson presenting Rotary Club Literacy Bursary to students at Bow Valley College, at the Centre of Excellence in Foundational Learning Awards Ceremony on March 16, 2017

Advancements in Technology Improve Adult Literacy Learning Programs

Adult literacy programs at Bow Valley College (BVC) continue to support and build confidence in adult learners thanks to donors like you! Our *Centre for Excellence in Foundational Learning* delivers these vital programs that are unique to BVC, and Calgary as a whole, to reach out and accommodate underserved learners - fully implementing this funding. Their success is due in part to your investment in the *Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE)* courses and **we thank you for your support!**



Both need and demand for these adult literacy courses are high. Most importantly, we see the very real literacy outcomes for our learners, which in many cases are life-changing for them, made possible with your generous assistance.

Your support helped us deliver fundamental literacy programs to **50 adult learners** this past year who benefited from seven ABLE course offerings over three semesters, putting them on a path to learning and improving their lives.

Your generosity continues to make a significant difference in the lives of adult learners at Bow Valley College. With your help, the College supports a diverse and vibrant student body, creating educational opportunities for learners from all walks of life. We hope this report provides a view of the learners whose lives you are improving with your giving.



The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary

Your generosity recognizes the accomplishments of students and supports their success! This year we were pleased to have you once again at the Celebrating Student Futures ceremony at Bow Valley College, presenting The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary to your recipients. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our learners.



Lorne Larson presenting The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary to students at Bow Valley College, at the Celebrating Student Futures event on May 31, 2017.

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the award. Thank you for helping me to achieve my dream."

Katrina Timmons, student at BVC

"Thank you for this great honour. This award enabled me to concentrate more on my studies and greatly contributed to my success. I cannot thank you enough! "

Dawn Wessel, student at BVC

Giving History

For 17 years, The Rotary Club of Calgary has been investing in the community through education at Bow Valley College and providing support to Bow Valley College students, making positive changes in so many lives.

	Years of Giving	Total Giving
Rotary Club Literacy Bursary	2010 -2017	\$ 122,750
Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary	2006 - 2017	\$ 72,000
Speech-Assisted Reading and Writing	2009 - 2015	\$ 20,980
Adult Basic Literacy Education	1999 - 2016	\$ 5,900
Homework Support Project	2015	\$ 13,850
Bert Foster Christmas Fund	2015	\$ 365
Total		\$ 235,845

How you are changing lives and communities forever

By contributing to Bow Valley College, you help students triumph. Your generosity makes a difference, helping our students to pursue their studies and launch or enhance their careers. You alleviate some of the financial burden that many of our students face, helping them pay for child care, or tuition, or simply continue with their studies. You help us achieve our vision to be an innovative world-class college, rooted in communities, enabling people to Learn a Better Living™ and live a better life.

THANK YOU!

Terms of Reference for the Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary

Amount: \$500 each
Number of Awards: 6 awards per semester
Consideration: Nomination

Criteria:

- Available to Calgary Campus students only
- Full- or part-time students registered in a Basic Education Literacy program (Grades 1-9)
- Financial need
- Commitment to continue your education

Terms of Reference for the Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary

This award is provided to students who have completed Bow Valley College Academic Upgrading or ELL and who have been accepted in a full-time School of Business program at Bow Valley College. Recipients have demonstrated that they are motivated, have overcome barriers, are working to their full potential, and interested in entering the business world.

Amount: \$1,500 each
Number of Awards: 4 awards
Consideration: Application

Criteria:

- Financial Need
- Motivated, working to full potential and interested in entering the business world
- Overcome barriers or hardships
- Consistently demonstrates effort and positive attitude
- First consideration given as an entrance award for students who have completed Bow Valley College Academic upgrading or ELL who have been accepted in a full time School of Business program at Bow Valley College
- Second consideration given to any full-time student in a school of Business program who has completed at least one term of their program at time of application