

Staying Strong and Moving Forward



2020
ANNUAL
REPORT

Financials

Statement of Financial Position	2020	2019
Current Assets	1,114,105	840,842
Liabilities	844,115	594,863
Net Assets		
Endowment fund	580,724	580,724
Internally restricted funds	130,404	130,404
Unrestricted	228,186	120,231
Total	939,314	831,359
Total Net Assets and Liabilities	1,783,429	1,426,222
Statement of Operations	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Fees for service and clinical program funding	724,205	894,990
Literacy programs	409,899	470,887
Special projects	2,000	8,000
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Government assistance	172,250	
Fundraising, events, donations and gifts in kind	97,696	130,494
Capacity building	131,642	122,953
Casino	72,233	67,310
Investments and other	51,888	63,058
Amortization of deferred contributions related to property and equipment	8,960	6,419
Total	1,670,773	1,764,111
EXPENSES		
Salaries, wages and sub-contractors	1,287,273	1,394,493
Gifts in kind and fundraising	36,485	64,452
Projects	21,229	37,892
Office administration	218,913	233,340
Amortization	8,960	6,419
Total	1,572,860	1,736,596
Change in fair value of endowment fund investments	10,042	(41,628)
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	107,955	(14,113)

Thank you to CanLearn's major donors, funders and sponsors

**Alberta Government • Anonymous Donor • Birdies for Kids • Calgary Foundation •
 Calgary Learns • Calgary Flames Foundation • CanLearn Board of Directors • Cisco
 Systems, Inc • FCSS Calgary • Jack and Louise Lee • Kinsmen Club of Calgary • Nickle
 Foundation • Peter Gzowski Foundation for Literacy • Prosser Charitable Foundation •
 Rotary Club of Calgary West • TD Bank**



Chair and CEO Message

Dear CanLearn Family,

We are pleased to share a glimpse of our challenging, yet triumphant 2019/2020 operating year. You will be amazed and inspired in the pages that follow. We are happy to report that CanLearn and our clients are staying strong and moving forward. Despite a water leak in our office in February, a global pandemic that began in March, and the lockdown that followed, CanLearn has had a resilient year.

COVID-19 provided a pressure test of our relevancy, sustainability, and resiliency. We learned that when we need help, there is a strong core of support. Our staff, contractors, volunteers, board, partners, funders, and donors responded to our call to action and rallied by us. Our funders offered us flexible solutions, and our clients adapted quickly to our virtual offerings. Our staff was forced into the world of online meetings, which was great for our professional growth and the accessibility needs of our clients.

To all of you, our deepest thanks for the role that you played. Here are a few inspiring and pivotal moments from 2019/2020:

- October: Lauren Mayell's Strive to Thrive concert raised \$10,000 for CanLearn programs and service subsidies.
- March: Contacted all major funders, moved approved programs online, as well as updated our hazard assessments, business continuity plan and emergency procedures.
- April: Reorganized our team so more people were working directly with clients.
- May: Held board and senior staff emergency strategic planning, thanks to funding from Family & Community Support Services (FCSS). We revised our operating plan to quarterly vs. annual priority actions and updated our mission statement to reflect our work in mental health.
- June: Prepared the office and staff for the relaunch of our in-person assessments with new protocols, procedures, upgraded laptops, and - thanks to funding from the Calgary Foundation - began our transition to the Cloud.
- July: Secured funding for counselling, which allowed us to open this service up to the larger Learning Disability and ADHD community.
- August: Prepared to launch our CALL Adult Literacy Program, thanks to funding from Calgary Learns.

A major crisis like COVID-19 can make or break organizations; CanLearn pulled together and moved ahead. Our staff, board, volunteers, donors, and funders stepped up in remarkable ways this year. To every single one of you, please accept our deepest thanks for your help in unlocking potential so all can learn. A special thanks to the Board members that will be leaving us: Christin Elawny, Alanna Wall, Barry Sinclair and Susan Chesney. Through your efforts we were able to become a stronger organization.

Friends, we miss seeing you in person; what a test 2020 has been for all of us. Please know that all of you are in our thoughts and our hearts. We are in this together, and we will continue to unlock potential one person, and one family at a time.

Please stay safe and healthy until we meet again,

Warmest regards,

Krista Poole, CEO and Danny Chiarastella, Board Chair

CanLearn Board

Danny Chiarastella – Chair
Deanna Shymkiw Yeo – Treasurer

Directors

Lisa Chen
Susan Chesney
Christin Elawny
Linda Johnson
Heather MacBeath
Sally Mansour
Krishna Peesapati
Michael Peters
Grant Scales
Barry Sinclair
Helen Squance
Alanna Wall



Clinical Impact

241 Assessments – Psycho-educational, ADHD, Autism, Gifted

277 Clients served

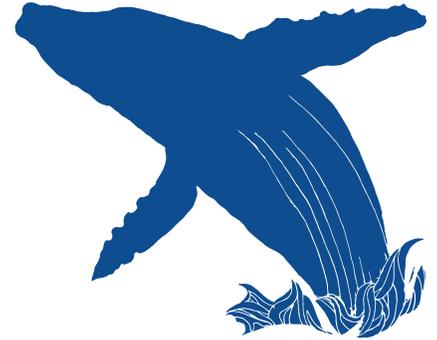
36 Attention Clinic Clients

19 children

17 adults

96%

Of clients report a **positive experience** at CanLearn



321 students learned strategies to improve their social-emotional well-being.

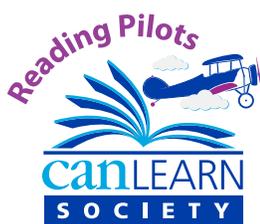
89% found the program to be helpful and 97% were satisfied with the program.

"Phenomenal service that should be carried on for many, many more years and kids in the future!"

Parent of child in Friends

"Everything was great! I was so impressed! Thank you very much – Huge help!"

Parent of child in Friends



17 struggling readers learned strategies to improve their reading and develop the confidence that helped them discover the joy in reading.

"When [her parents] put her in Reading Pilots she wasn't reading at grade level and she never wanted to read at home. Now, [we] never see her without a book."

An uncle one year after his niece participated in Reading Pilots

"Those reading strategies really work. They are amazing!"

Father of a student after two lessons



19 adults with ADHD learned skills to become more productive, organized and in control. It also allowed them to connect with others with ADHD.

"The course was incredible and I got so much out of it... I was super impressed with the excellence in communication and efficient delivery of course material through the mail. The content was everything I needed and I feel far more prepared... I feel more capable, worth, and have more personal pride than I ever have."

More Than Just Making Lists Participant



This program helped **39** children and their parents to build self-regulation skills in a fun, positive and caring setting.

95.5% of families found the program helpful.

90% of the participants were satisfied

with the program.

We enjoyed, "*Creating a dialogue to discuss emotional regulation as a family and being able to grow together.*"

We enjoyed, "*building self-awareness around emotions and social skills [and building] a toolkit that can be used for reinforcing important messages and working on skills as a family.*"

"*We were so happy to have been a part of the Calm Kids program. We've already recommended it!*"



Success Story

My daughter was diagnosed with ADHD towards the end of grade 2. What followed was a whirlwind of appointments with psychologists, pediatricians, and behaviour therapists. I watched as my daughter's self-esteem plummeted while trying to navigate through heartbreaking struggles with friendships, schoolwork and the ability to show up for extracurricular activities. My family embraced the ADHD diagnosis and we were determined to learn as much as we could to support my daughter. We soon felt emotionally exhausted from spinning our wheels looking for support.

When CanLearn was first recommended, I had not heard of the term "ADHD Coach". We were in the midst of a pandemic and the homeschooling was not going very smoothly, so I needed practical advice on how to help my daughter. I thought that I would reach out to CanLearn and maybe do a couple of sessions with an "ADHD Coach".

Our CanLearn ADHD coach right from the beginning was able to condense the vast amount of information we had amassed and boil it down to the very basics for us. She was able to explain what was happening in my daughter's brain and gave us very specific, tailored tools on how to keep her emotionally regulated. This led to a deeper understanding of how it felt to be a person with ADHD and how we could help. She gave us homework and held us accountable. She was able to teach me how to teach my daughter, which made homeschooling better and we could start to feel ourselves moving forward, finally.

Our ADHD coach has set a new path for my family. We were able to embrace the ADHD diagnosis, and start to see the gifts that come from it. My daughter feels supported as she navigates grade 4 and now asks to talk to our ADHD coach when challenges come up. My family is finally getting the support that we need through CanLearn. We have just begun understanding ADHD and our ADHD coach has been the key to all our small, but important, victories.



ADHD Coaching is an evidence-based method that can create and manage change. **101** children, families and adults worked with an ADHD coach to set goals and make changes that allowed them to thrive.

"I particularly liked the accountability, the strategies given and the frequency of the appointments. [My coach] was very helpful and easy to communicate with."

ADHD Coaching Client

[My coach used] a strength-based approach and [I learned] how to use technologies effectively."

ADHD Coaching Client

Financial Assistance Fund

\$117,000

The **Financial Assistance Fund** allowed CanLearn to provide assessment services, ADHD coaching and group interventions to financially vulnerable clients.

60

Clients received subsidized clinical services and programs – **26** children and **34** adults.

36

Hours of **pro bono** work by clinicians and practicum students.



Literacy Impact



86 parents and **111** children ages 3-8 learned strategies to support literacy learning within their family life.

Feedback from parents:

"I learned how to interact and do things with my boys that I never thought were possible. The best thing about this program is how understanding you guys are of families."



103 parents and **121** children ages 3-5 learned skills to foster emerging literacy in their children and their own literacy skills.

Feedback from parents:

"This program has a heart. Educator continues to develop what group needs and to come up each week with new materials to stimulate each parent and child. The group become a family for us. Every week, we look forward to the next meeting."



13 amazing volunteers helped **292** children in **16** daycare centres to develop a love for reading and receive their favourite books to keep and share them with their family.

Feedback from childcare providers:

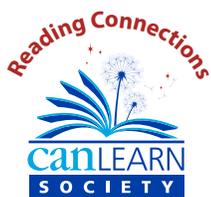
"Children loved 'It's Not A Box' book. We use a lot of recycling so anytime we brought boxes to the classroom the children would comment... 'It is not a box!'"



96 children in grades 1 & 2 having trouble in the process of learning to read improved their early learning skills through intentional and explicit but also playful instruction.

Parents' Feedback:

"Thank you so much for such a wonderful program, my daughter enjoyed it immensely and was sad it is over. It is truly something that is developing passion for literacy but is also fun!"



82 adult learners improved their foundational learning skills, developed their confidence, improved their functional reading and writing skills necessary for daily life and built a more optimistic view of the future. **20** learners worked in small group (Taking Charge) and **62** learners received individualized one-on-one support.

Participants' Feedback:

"The fact that the instructor is taking the time to get to know who we are as learners is what I liked best about the program."

Working with my instructor was the best part of my week."



P4L (Potential for Learning)

24 youth with challenges in learning, self-regulation and behaviour domains increased their confidence, social-emotional skills and growth mindset and began to engage more in learning at school. We are very thankful to Calgary West Rotary Club who not only provided the funding for the program but also engaged 10 amazing, dedicated and caring club members as volunteers to share their life experiences of hard work, perseverance and self-determination with the youth on a weekly basis.

Outcomes

98% participants were satisfied with the programs

93% participants found the programs helpful

92% children improved their reading skills

85% adults improved their reading and writing skills

91% participants are using what they have learned in the program in their everyday life.

92% participants found the programs relevant to their needs.

90% participants feel confident or highly confident about their learning after participating in the program.



Awards

2020 PGI Learner Award Recipient

Blaine Taylor

Our annual PGI Learner Award celebrates the achievements of adult learners who, often at times against considerable odds, take their future into their own hands and take advantage of the adult learning opportunities available to them at CanLearn.

The award is named in honour of writer and CBC broadcaster Peter Gzowski.

Blaine Taylor (age 65) was nominated for the award by his instructors in the Reading Connections and CALL Programs who wanted to acknowledge and celebrate his significant progress as well as his powerful determination, persistence, and commitment to learning.

Blaine shared the following story about his learning journey with us:

"After several months of involvement with the Can Learn Society, I have come to fully realize that Can Learn is where I belong. It's a good fit for me I love it there.

I love it because it is an amazing organization. The staff is well trained, professional, and dedicated. They are sensitive to the needs of the students. They totally grasp that we require a comfortable setting in which to learn. I, as a student appreciate that, and I respect them for it. Also, it is FUN to work with them.

I look forward to my weekly Zoom meetings with Jayne. I enjoy our relaxed banter as it guides me into my reading and writing assignments. The assignments are challenging but productive and satisfying. Through meeting these challenges, my reading and writing skills are improving. Being an avid reader of fiction and nonfiction actually adds to the overall quality of my life. It is empowering.

In conclusion I also acknowledge that I can only benefit from Can Learn through the efforts I put into it. I can only harvest what I sow.

I am reading, learning, and experiencing life at a deeper more fulfilling level. I will continue to do so. Although I am not sure where this endeavor is leading me, I am certainly enjoying the journey. Que sera sera!"



2020 Gzowski Award Recipient

Lauren Mayell

For her contribution to Literacy and Learning for holding the Strive to Thrive Concert to benefit CanLearn, and raising over \$10,000 for our attention and learning services.

Carolyn Meier Helping Hand Award

Jessica Vanysse and Tina Chadha were the recipients of the Carolyn Meier Helping Hand Award in 2019. Jessica volunteers in the library and was the 40th Birthday archivist. Tina donated hundreds of hours to lead the Uncorking Potential event.



Dick and Jean Pettifor Memorial Award

Congratulations to Dr. Anne Price. This award from the Psychological Association of Alberta is given for outstanding career achievements in, or contributions to, the field of psychology.



