

Literacy Project Funding Announced

The Government of Canada is providing \$15,000 in funding for a literacy project in Swift Current.

Federal cabinet minister Ralph Goodale announced the funding Monday for the Business Education Program Development Swift Current project. The government is funding this project through the National Literacy Secretariat.

Under this project, Cypress Hills Regional College will collaborate with the Action Swift Current initiative and other local business organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate a workplace literacy survey.

The project will promote and focus on a collective and collaborative approach to workplace education; explore skills-training opportunities currently available; and explore the expansion of current programs and innovative training opportunities.

“By improving their literacy skills, these people will also be able to improve in all aspects of their life,” Goodale said.

Literacy skills are linked to work skills, health and self-esteem. Higher literacy skills among Canadians enable them to participate more fully in the economy and our society.

For instance, literacy skills help determine the kinds of jobs we find, enable parents to read to their children and help us understand technical jargon, allowing us to use tools and equipment safely.

The National Literacy Secretariat works in partnership with provincial and territorial governments, business, labour and the volunteer community.

The goal of these partnerships is to increase public awareness of literacy, help people share information, improve access to literacy programs, develop learning materials and advance research on literacy.

This project supports the Government of Canada’s Innovation Strategy and more specifically Knowledge Matters, a policy paper that addresses the national challenge of ensuring that Canadians possess the skills and knowledge required to fully participate in the knowledge-based economy.

Funding for this project was provided for in the February 2003 federal budget.

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