

The Reader

February 2009

The Newsletter of People, Words & Change



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The Reader is a publication of People, Words & Change. It is sent once a month to our volunteers and learners. We welcome articles, stories, and pictures from our members. Send to info@pwc-ottawa.ca.

People, Words & Change is a nonprofit Literacy and Basic Skills Program funded by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (Employment Ontario).

153 Chapel St., Ottawa ON K1N 1H5
(613) 234-2494 / info@pwc-ottawa.ca

Reducing World Poverty and Hunger **by Roshdy – November 2008**



Poverty is the biggest problem facing the world now. Every day and every hour or probably every minute people are losing their jobs, houses, money and sources of income.

First of all, why are people losing their income sources? The biggest problem is that natural resources around the world are limited and year after year are decreasing. We also can add something important. Technology improved a lot in the last quarter century, and computers and other machines and equipment have replaced workers' jobs. Every day we hear about inventions, companies saving money, bankruptcies, and lay offs; people are losing many job opportunities.

Second, how we can solve the problems? This is very important. Governments have responsibilities for solving poverty problems by supporting small business which can open job opportunities to the public. Also, government can help by teaching people how they can start a new business rather than giving them money such as social assistance. Experience says, "Teach me how to be a fisher. This is better than giving me a fish."

Do not forget something else which is important. All governments are spending billions and billions of dollars every day to sell or buy war materials for fighting such as airplanes, bombs, atomic bombs, submarines, and other war equipment. If we can save that huge amount of money, it would feed millions of hungry people. In the last few years, governments increased poverty and hunger by encouraging many companies to produce renewable energy from human food crops such as corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Finally, in my opinion, poverty is producing many problems such as war, terrorism, corruption, divorce, destruction of the family and society, and crime. Again, our responsibilities as governments, companies, and organizations such as the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) are to provide the right quantity and quality of food to poor and hungry people around the world. Our aim now is "Food for Every Mouth": everything related to human food should be under the control of the FAO, otherwise the big fish will eat the small fish.

Family Day . . . by Hov Tan



Hov immigrated to Canada from Cambodia 20 years ago. He currently works full time as an assembler for a high tech company. He joined PWC a year ago, and has proved to be a very motivated and hard working learner.

Family Day is an official holiday. This is a new holiday just started two years ago. In Ontario, some private companies are also giving employees a day off too. This year, the Family Day was on February 16.

On Family Day, I got up at seven o'clock. My wife got up after me. She made the breakfast while I watched TV. My son and daughter slept until eight. We ate breakfast around nine o'clock. After breakfast, my son rushed to the computer to play games, and his sister read a storybook beside him.

In the afternoon, we went to Dows Lake to see ice sculptures. When we got there, my children put on their skates. Then they started skating on the canal. My wife and I walked behind them. There weren't any ice sculptures! I took us about half an hour to get to the Bronson Bridge. We would like to buy beavertails, but there was a big line-up. We decided to get the maple sugar on ice instead. We also took some pictures while the kids were skating. The weather was very nice. We spent over two hours there, and we didn't feel cold at all. We had a very good time. We will be back again next year.



Hov's family enjoying maple sugar at Dow's Lake on Family Day.

We would be delighted to include any stories or articles by learners in our monthly newsletter! Just send it by e-mail to info@pwc-ottawa.ca. Tutors, please make sure that your learner gives permission for us to print it, and ask if it's OK for us to use the whole name, or just first name or initials – or no name at all.

Confused by Income Tax? Help is on the way! For a complete list of FREE INCOME TAX CLINICS, open the attachment that comes with this newsletter. It will take you to the Community Information Centre of Ottawa (Income Tax Clinics information).

211 Service has launched! Just click on the 211 to find out what it is all about.

Visitor Parking at Heartwood House can be confusing . . . we know all about it! Here's the scoop. Daytime visitors must park in the lower lot behind the dumpsters, or along the fence. Check in at the Reception desk and there will be no charge when you tell them you are a PWC member. Evening visitors may park anywhere in the lot, including behind the building.

People, Words & Change has a new website. Take a look!

www.pwc-ottawa.ca

We are grateful to Janet Jansen, our website designer, for our fresh, new look. The site has many new features for all of us to enjoy, including:

- **An interactive book nook for our tutors, where they can share ideas and tips, post questions, and even share ideas for good books they have read lately!**
- **Learner stories, articles and pictures**

Celebrate Adult Learners' Week in Canada, March 2 - 8

Launched by UNESCO in 2000, this Week celebrates adult learners in every country, and the joy of learning throughout life. Some special events are planned to mark the week in Ottawa.

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) invites you to take a "literacy break" during Adult Learners' Week. Join the CCL and local literacy groups for coffee and refreshments.

March 9, 2009, 11 a.m. - noon

Kaleidoscope Kids' Books

1115 Bank Street (near Sunnyside)

If you can't make it to Kaleidoscope, you can celebrate the week in your own way, by reading a book, reading to a child, or simply giving yourself a pat on the back for joining People, Words & Change. We believe in life-long learning, and we believe in YOU!

