Halifax Public Libraries

Adult Volunteer Opportunity
English Language Learning (ELL) Tutor

The Program

The Library's English Language Learning Program assists newcomers to settle in their new community through building English conversation skills. Through overcoming language barriers, program participants will build cultural understanding and learn about HRM, Nova Scotia, and Canada.

How Volunteers Can Help

As an English Language Learning (ELL) Volunteer, you will provide newcomers with:

- Improved ability to communicate in English
- Improved knowledge of HRM, Nova Scotia, and Canada
- Improved access to community resources
- Improved access to networks of English-speaking communities
- Increased engagement and sense of belonging in the community

The Volunteer Role

- Establish learners' goals and discuss options with your program coordinator.
- Talk informally with learners and note particular areas where help is needed, and encourage learners to identify specific goals.
- Meet weekly with an assigned learner or small learning group at an arranged time and location in a Library branch.
- Prepare suitable activities and/or topics for discussion using appropriate resources for Practice.
- Plan session time to provide structure and enjoyment for learners
- Encourage and support learners during your sessions, including providing assistance when required.
- Research appropriate learning and tutoring resources for your learner, using library materials and other resources as appropriate.
- Meet with ELL program coordinators to discuss learning difficulties and successes.
- Participate in useful tutor training opportunities where possible.
- Demonstrate clear and competent communication skills and good learning habits
- Share ideas and resources with other tutors in the program.
- Participate in additional social and learning activities, when possible.

We are looking for volunteers who:

- Are at least 18 years of age.
- Have completed high school or a high school equivalent.
- Engage well with others and are skilled at providing personalized help.
- Are passionate about welcoming newcomers into your community and are knowledgeable about local culture and life.
- Have a good understanding of the challenges and barriers newcomers face in their settlement process.
- Have a passion for working with community members and seek opportunities to build relationships.
- Communicate effectively and can adapt to changing needs and priorities.
- Are friendly, outgoing, and enjoy meeting new people from around the globe and learning about culture.
- Are objective, impartial, and non-judgmental in your work
- Understand that it is important to recognize that you are working with individuals from many backgrounds with varying needs.
- Are patient and supportive.

Time Commitment

2 hours per week tutoring time and 1-hour session preparation time per week.
A minimum 3 month commitment to the program is also required.

NOTE

All volunteers will require a Criminal Record Check. The Library will initiate the check through MyBackCheck.com and will also cover the cost.

Contact

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