



The problem is literacy

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School board to discuss black-focused schools

Jan. 17

Underachieving students and high dropout rates are a literacy problem, not a racial one. A recent report by TD Canada Trust stated that low literacy rates hamper life skills and affect business – leading to increased high-school dropout rates, crime and unemployment.

The Movement for Canadian Literacy estimates that 9 million out of 33 million Canadians lack the literacy skills needed for daily living.

Low literacy rates affect all cultures and socio-economic classes and are not due to low intelligence. Rather, low literacy is a result of ineffective teaching methodologies.

Whole language and phonics are based on the premise that reading is visual. This couldn't be further from the truth, as reading is auditory. MRI technology provides the hard evidence through scans of brain activity that whether reading silently or aloud, it is the brain's auditory function that is engaged.

As an educational and developmental psychologist, I have built a successful practice providing remediation for students who experience low literacy and learning disabilities.

Every child has the ability to learn, some just learn differently. Higher literacy levels will improve society, lower dropout rates, reduce crime and make businesses more profitable.

Debby Chesnie Cooper, Toronto

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