

The Survey Results Are In

In November and December the Training and Learning Centre of Renfrew County (TLC) partnered with Canada Post to survey more than 2300 individual households in the areas of Renfrew County furthest away from our three current locations Eganville, Barry's Bay and Pikwakanagan. We wanted to know three things: a) if people knew of TLC and what it offers; b) whether people could benefit from improving basic skills (reading, writing, using numbers, working with computers); and c) whether or not having a mobile learning lab come closer to where people live would encourage them to improve their essential skills.

More than 150 people took the time to complete our survey. While this may seem like a small number compared to the total number of surveys we sent, it is actually a high percentage return rate for surveys of this kind. Thank you to everyone who helped us out. We learned a lot.

There were three cash prizes offered (\$100, \$50 and \$25) and these are waiting for you if you have the following winning numbers: 1st prize – 3374460, 2nd prize – 3374579, 3rd prize – 3375727. Please call TLC at 613-628-1720 to claim your prize. Over the coming months, we will share the survey results with you in this column.

It's not fair to ask you to tell us about your training needs, if you don't even know about TLC and its services. Imagine our surprise to find out that after 20 years of serving Renfrew County, 50% of those who responded told us they were not aware of TLC, or what it has to offer!

So TLC still has a lot of awareness-building to do. How many places do you know of that offer **free**, highly professional yet personal training to eligible clients who want to get more comfortable with computers, working with numbers, reading complicated material, or writing more effectively? TLC will help you figure out which skills you want to improve and work with you to design a learning plan that is specific to your own goals. You tell us what you want to learn and what days and hours you can attend. We may also be able to provide financial support towards transportation and childcare.

So please share the word with family and friends who are struggling to get a job, a better job, or who just want to get more control over how they work with written information, manage budgets or use computers. TLC can help!

Next month: What prevents people from improving their skills.