LEARNING CENTRE CALGARY

Newsletter

FALL 2026

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

We learned, we grew, we succeeded!

In June, we honored **15 dedicated learners** who have now completed their program at our Learning Centre. Our biggest graduation yet! It was awe-inspiring to see the true impact this program has on our children, as so many shared their appreciation and experiences from their time here.

Our graduation ceremony not only acknowledged our young learners, but our older ones too! We had **7 tutors** graduate from their course and practicum, the 'Program in Remedial Tutoring for Dyslexia'. This is a long journey that goes beyond the training. It is confidence in the approach, connecting with their learners and working in partnership to make strengthening their literacy skills a reality.

These remarkable achievements don't happen in isolation; our learners and tutors succeed because of the many relationships and commitments of others in the Learning Centre community.

A special segment of the graduation ceremony recognized the commitment and long-service contributions of our Learning Centre team. Thelma Gregan, our Tutor Trainer, has **guided** the Centre since its inception in the fall of 2012, together with **Kim Parkyn** and **the Board of Directors**. Bridging her wealth of knowledge as Halifax's Centre Director and Trainer, together with Kim's commitment as Director helped shape the Calgary Learning Centre. Two of our original tutors, **Krista Virtue** and **Christine LaCrampe**, still here today, have gone above and beyond by serving as mentors and providing essential organizational support.

While this graduation ceremony was one of celebration, it also marks change and evolution. The dedication and passion of **Gina Coates** have led her from Tutor Trainee to Centre Director (since 2025). While never truly leaving, Thelma has handed over the Tutor Training responsibility to the very capable hands of **Zoe Mitchell** from the Halifax Learning Centre to lead our tutors. You will continue to see Kim at the Centre in various volunteer roles, including as a member of our Board of Directors.









"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together. So, Calgary … on you go on you grow."

A favorite quote and wish from Thelma, spoken at the graduation ceremony

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

What an incredible journey this has been!

I became involved in our Learning Centre in 2022 after noticing the incredible difference this tutoring made for my daughter. It is hard to believe how quickly the past 4 years have flown by, and how much has grown and changed. I am so grateful to our entire Team and beyond for making this all possible.

The last year has been busy, to say the least! In addition to our regular tutoring sessions, and multiple training weekends with Zoe, so much more has happened. May was extremely busy, with 9 of our tutors taking part in a workshop in Halifax, closely followed by a Training Weekend in Calgary, which included an Information Session on the Tutor Training we provide. June didn't slow down, as we geared up for our biggest graduation yet! Once summer hit, after a brief pause to catch my breathe, Global News rolled out our National Marketing Campaign and helped spread the word about our Learning Centre and our cause. In mid-August this year, we began a new class of tutors and ramped up preparations for our September opening.

It is heartwarming to see familiar faces continue their journey, and exciting to welcome new children and families, tutors, and supporting volunteers through our doors! Thank you to everyone for your contributions! I am delighted you are part of our growing community and helping us thrive as we build our children's literacy skills.

With appreciation,

Gina

Centre Director



Familiar faces

Gina Coates
Centre Director, since 2025

Zoe Mitchell
Tutor Trainer, from the Halifax Centre

Thelma Gregan
Tutor Trainer since the centre began in 2012

Kim Parkyn
Volunteer and Board member

Krista Virtue and Christine LaCrampe
Original tutors, Senior mentors

The year in brief

- **May**
  Halifax workshop for 9 tutors, then a Calgary training weekend
- **June**
  Our biggest graduation yet
- **Summer**
  Global News rolls out our national campaign
- **Mid-August**
  A new class of tutors begins
- **September**
  The Centre opens for the new term

MESSAGE FROM OUR FUNDRAISING CHAIR

Keeping our Centre viable and thriving

I believe it is important to provide a bit of background regarding the financial side of our Centre. The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation supports several learning centres throughout Canada and was instrumental in establishing our Calgary chapter with a number of generous grants for which we are very grateful. Beyond the support during startup years, it is expected that each Centre largely becomes self-funding.

Our Centre has been expanding over the last several years. We are excited to offer our Tutoring program to more children with dyslexia through a growing number of amazing volunteer tutors. Given the demand for our services we would love to make our program accessible to many more children.

The Scottish Rite Learning Centre is fortunate to have many friends and supporters who understand the importance of the work our Tutors do. Having one of my children complete the program last summer, I know it can be life-changing. Unfortunately, we have to also recognize that offering tutoring services at the current scale and quality is not feasible over the long term with the existing financial supports.

While our Tutors offer their time for free, their training is extensive, rigorous and comes at a considerable, often recurring, cost. The **annual** training cost per Tutor can run up to **$2,500** with total cost for the Centre approaching **$50,000** for the upcoming year for training alone.

Going forward, our Centre will need to rely more on direct fundraising to offset the increased cost and keep the Centre viable and thriving. We estimate we need to raise an additional **$25,000** over the next 12 months. This is in addition to existing activities like our Casino and Golf fundraisers. We will need your help to make this a reality!

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Ben Ritman
Fundraising Chair

FUNDRAISING

Our first call to arms

Our Centre will need to rely more on direct fundraising to keep going. Here is what is ahead, and how you can be part of it.

$2,500
most a single tutor's annual training can cost

$50,000
total training cost, approaching, for the upcoming year

$25,000
additional to raise over the next 12 months

Two events planned for the rest of 2026

CASINO

November 19–20

Elbow Casino

More information to follow.

WESTJET TICKET RAFFLE

November–December

Win a pair of roundtrip tickets anywhere WestJet flies

Draw date: December 31st, 2026.
More information to follow.

SPONSORED BY WESTJET

How you can help

1. **Give.** Financial contributions can be made directly to our treasurer's email at tsrlccalgary@outlook.com or through Canada Helps on our website.
2. **Volunteer your time.** Front desk, fundraising committee, and more.
3. **Pick up the tab.** Several families helped pay for Tutor training lunches.

ESPECIALLY FOR FAMILIES

Helping every session run smoothly

Drop-off and pick-up

All children must be escorted to the front desk and signed in for lessons. The same goes for pick up. Children are not to leave the Learning Centre without being signed out by a previously approved guardian.

Photos

We would love a family photo on file that includes those who provide drop-off and pick-up. This will make it easy for all of our Front Desk Volunteers.

Attendance policy

Please ensure you are adhering to our attendance policy. Regular and prompt attendance at tutoring sessions is essential. Inconsistent attendance hinders your child's progress.

Because we have a list of children awaiting tutoring, the Learning Centre must restrict services to only those children who attend regularly, and your child is expected to attend Tutoring sessions on a regular basis. If your child is unable and/or unwilling to attend, or if your child, for whatever reason, is chronically or frequently late for the sessions, the Learning Centre will have to consider terminating the tutoring. It is expected that attendance at the Learning Centre will take precedence over extra-curricular activities.

Planned absences should be called into the Centre **24 hours or more in advance** of your child's tutoring time unless there is an emergency or illness, in which case, prompt notification of the Centre will be appreciated.

Have a story to tell about how the Learning Centre has changed your life? We want to hear from you!

Stay connected and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Facebook

Instagram

UPCOMING DATES AND CONTACT

Mark your calendar

NOV 19–20

Casino fundraiser

Elbow Casino. More information to follow.

NOV–DEC Raffle

WestJet ticket raffle

A pair of roundtrip tickets anywhere WestJet flies. Draw date [to be confirmed].

SUMMER 2027

Golf Tournament

2026/2027 special dates (subject to change)

Wed, Nov 11, 2026	**Remembrance Day** · Centre closed
Mon, Dec 21, 2026 – Sat, Jan 9, 2027	**Winter Holiday** · Centre closed
Mon, Jan 11, 2027	**Centre reopens** · Regular tutoring resumes
Sat, Feb 13 & Mon, Feb 15, 2027	**Family Day** · Centre closed
Sat, Mar 27 – Mon, Mar 29, 2027	**Easter weekend** · Centre closed
Sat, May 22 & Mon, May 24, 2027	**Victoria Day** · Centre closed
Thurs, Jun 17, 2027	**Last tutoring day** · Before summer break
Mon, Jun 21, 2027	**Centre closes** · For the 2026/2027 term
Mon, Sep 13, 2027	**Centre opens** · For the 2027/2028 term

No scheduled closures during school board spring breaks. Any break then is decided by the tutor and family.

Get in touch

Gifts and donations

tsrlccalgary@outlook.com
or through Canada Helps on our website

Follow us

Facebook and Instagram:
@srcflearningcentrecalgary



Centre

2915 21 St NE, Calgary AB

srflcc@gmail.com

Thank you for being part of our community.

Together we are building our children's literacy skills. On you go, on you grow.