



The Silver Lining of COVID-19 in KLC

Located in The Pas, Kelsey Learning Centre (housed within University College of the North) continues operating in a pandemic response red zone and community lockdown since early Fall. Remaining open in orange-restricted operating practices, the Adult Learning Centre has had to pivot in its' daily operations, flex and change its' delivery practices from Spring 2020, in order to meet learner demands and stay true to our learners' requests of face to face classroom instruction. Our adults cannot, and do not wish to, take part in remote learning because of lack of access to devices or reliable internet. With no public transportation in the community, paper packages were not successful for learners to complete the credits required for the Manitoba Mature Student High School Grade 12 Diploma.

Despite the challenges, dangers, limitations and barriers created by operating an ALC in a COVID-19 outbreak zone; for our learners who dream of completing their schooling there is a silver lining emerging in this sector. Face to face, socially distanced classrooms have led to a forced reduction of class sizes, leading to an increase in teacher and learner engagement. Cohorts have created micro communities within ALC classrooms and mid-term grade levels have reached an all-time high for students who attend regularly. These micro communities become a safe space for support, learning, and a place of connectedness that keep our adults resilient and engaged, despite the widespread fear and uncertainty in response to COVID-19. We look forward to the 2021 graduation and will continue to focus on the screening, social distancing and sanitization practices that have kept us safe to date.



"Being able to interact with my teachers has helped me gain a better understanding of my course work."

Brenda, KLC Gr. 12



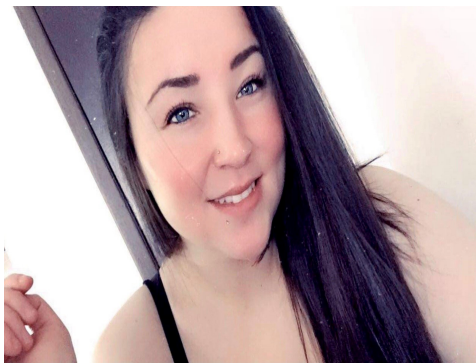
"I believe the importance of having the face to face learning is important because you get the visual, the support of the teacher. You do not have the outside distractions in the classroom. As a student working full time, and raising a family, it is so nice and refreshing to have that support inside the classroom. And learning is more productive for me this way."

Tish, KLC Gr. 12 (evening program)



"Face to face instruction has given me a stable foundation to grow and learn." *Rushawn, KLC*

Gr. 12



"Brooke helps me with everything in the Stages program, I need time with her in the classroom. I feel safe at school. As a busy mom, I would never finish school without being able to see her and talk to her. Her support in the classroom means the world to me."

Rilelee, KLC Upgrading Program



The ability to have face to face classes gets me out of the house. I can now finish my grade 12 and move on with my career. In class, I can use the dedicated time to focus. It sure beats trying to complete homework packages during the late night hours, all while trying to balance kids, home-life and school.

Santana, KLC gr 12