

# Literacy



**is the ability to understand and use printed information in daily activities, at home, at work and in the community.**



## How Literacy Is Measured

### Prose Literacy:

The knowledge and skills needed for understanding and using information from texts

### Document Literacy:

The knowledge and skills required for locating and using information in various formats – schedules, maps, tables & charts

### Numeracy:

The knowledge and skills required for applying arithmetic to numbers in printed materials

### Problem Solving:

The process of solving problems for which no routine procedure is known to the person

**2003 Averages**

**Prose**

**Document**

**Numeracy**

**Problem Solving**

**Can**

281

281

272

274

*276 points out of a possible 500 is considered the minimum score appropriate for a modern, information economy.*

## The Problem

Nine million Canadians between the ages of 16 and 65 would score below 276 points.

**42%** of the working age population of Canada can't read adequately.

Some **80%** of Canadian seniors (over 65) would score below 276, the upper cut-off for Level Two.



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