

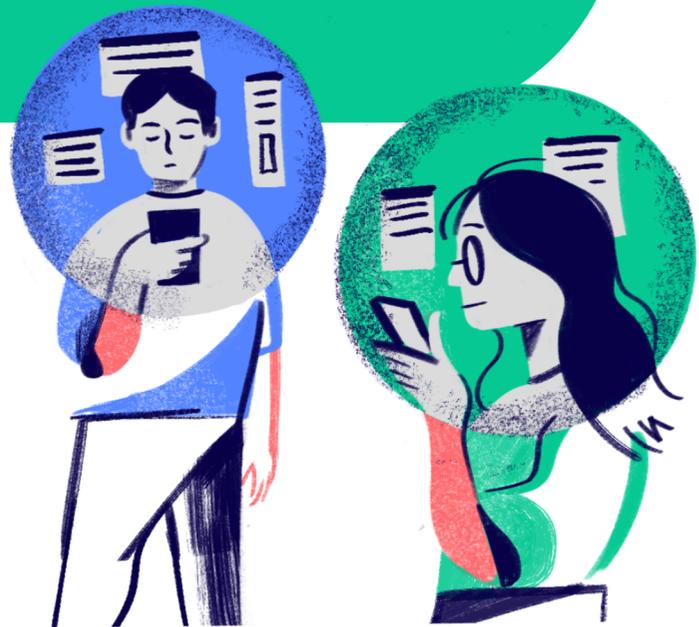
Canadian Centre for
Safer Communities



Centre canadien pour des
communautés plus sûres

September 8th is *International Literacy Day*

*What does literacy have
to do with community
safety and well-being?*



DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 2 Canadian adults have **inadequate** literacy levels, in French or English

1 in 5 have the **lowest** literacy proficiency, which means that:

- *Some can understand short, simple sentences at most*
- *Some can understand short texts and organized lists when information is clearly indicated, find specific information and identify relevant links.*

Older adults and **migrants** have lower literacy proficiency than younger adults and non-migrants

People with low literacy & numeracy skills face more barriers to well-being due to...

Difficulty parsing out misinformation & making informed democratic decisions

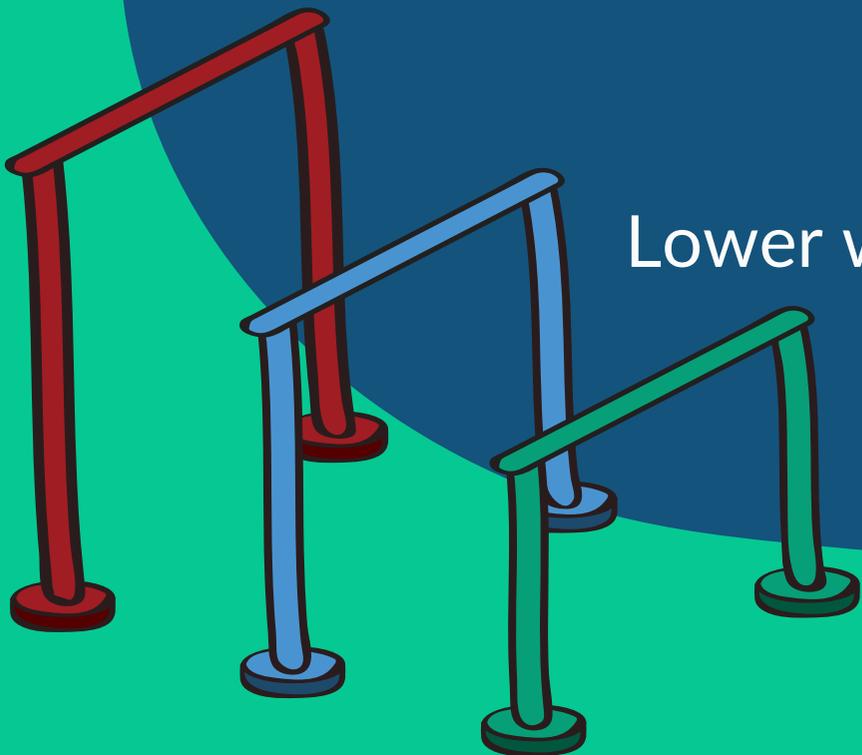
Lower civic engagement

Issues with managing health & obtaining healthcare

Challenges in finding employment, in a landscape where 1 in 5 jobs is at risk of becoming automated

Lower wages & struggles with financial planning

Lower life satisfaction & trust in others



Low educational achievements are statistically linked to chronic offending

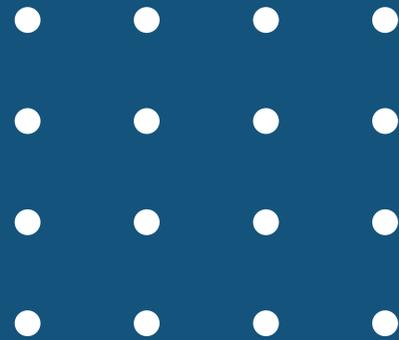
75% of Canadians who enter correctional facilities do not have a high school diploma

However, regular reading for pleasure can be a protective factor, as it fosters empathy and personal development

Among youth aged 12-16, those who regularly read for pleasure exhibit lower levels of illegal behaviors, substance use, and running away from home



For these reasons, improving literacy levels within a given community can contribute to its overall safety and well-being



Luckily, many organizations already deliver programs which help improve Canadians' literacy and critical thinking skills



United for Literacy
Book Clubs for Inmates
Exeko
Your local library!



A network diagram background consisting of a dark blue field with a pattern of light blue lines connecting small circular nodes. The nodes are arranged in a complex, interconnected web, with some nodes having multiple connections. The lines are thin and the nodes are small, creating a subtle, technical aesthetic.

The Canadian Centre for Safer Communities brings together urban, rural, and Indigenous communities across Canada to foster community safety and well-being through training, research, and knowledge exchange.

Head to our website to learn more about our services!

www.ccfsc-cccs.ca

Sources

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