Speaking Notes – November 15, 2013

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**Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning (NSSAL) Volunteer Award**

It is my pleasure to introduce the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning (NSSAL) Volunteer Award.

We have a long and proud tradition of volunteering in Nova Scotia and know that our strength as a province depends on helping each other. Volunteers are essential to the success of community learning programs, the adult learners who participate in the programs and the communities where such programs take place.

The Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning – Community Literacy Volunteer Award was created in 2001 as a way for the Skills and Learning Branch to recognize exemplary volunteers for their valuable work and commitment to supporting learners in Nova Scotia.

This award is presented to an individual who has been nominated by his or her peers as a volunteer who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in the field of community literacy. **For 2013, the NSSAL Community Volunteer Award goes to Phil van den Heuvel.**

Phil began volunteering with the Dartmouth Learning Network (or DLN) eight years ago and continually looks for ways to enhance DLN’s programming. Whether he introduces new teaching methods into the classroom or ensures that every learner understands they have it within themselves to reach their goals.

Phil was instrumental in establishing the organization’s GED Prep program – from course design to recommendations on teaching resources. When a group of learners were preparing to write their GED tests in September, Phil volunteered two evenings a week all summer to help them prepare. This was at a time when most volunteers (and many of us) take a break to enjoy the good weather.

Phil’s colleagues at DLN describe him as an integral member of the organization’s team who has given over **1,000** hours of his time to help learners achieve their goals. He is certainly an example of a volunteer who has gone ‘above and beyond.

I would like to ask Phil to come forward now to receive his award and call on **Minister Regan** to present it>

< ***Phil van den Heuvel to say a few words>***