A Far Different Future by **ALFRED MCCRAE**

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During the years of every person’s life just after graduation, most young people begin to wonder what they would like to do in life. What field of study or school of trade would interest them most and be the greatest benefit to themselves and the people around them. A secondary education for a young woman who has an inborn desire to help those around her? She may decide that a fulfilling career in the healthcare field is just right for her. Possibly as a surgeon or maybe an emergency room nurse. A charismatic young man may find himself leaning toward an education in the law fields as a lawyer, or possibly even a politician. Another stark reality in Canada today is one of young people being literally forced into a workplace before completing their primary education. Although this may sometimes be the result of young minds being caught up in the moment, most cases as such are through no fault of their own. Still other instances are to do with a system that refuses to recognize accomplishments in other areas such as alternative learning and certain private schools. In such instances, much like myself people find employment and either have no time to pursue an education or there is little room or reason to think about it or even care. Striving for a different and better future through education is a responsibility that is often overlooked in these difficult scenarios.

Keeping this viewpoint in mind, which I myself have often been subjected to, I ask every person to think very critically about prioritizing their primary education. From my own personal experiences I have found that a lack of recognized credentials is very restrictive in almost any job market, even including the minimum wage sectors of labor and service. This severely hinders the job markets that one will be deemed adequate for employment in. This area alone is one of vast improvement in an individual’s potential future where the prospect of ever more gainful employment is nearly assured with the obtaining of a diploma. The very act of obtaining a diploma, or equivalent holds a multipurpose key as it were. Opening doors to better employment opportunities and/or further education, this facet should be one of great emphasis. Relaying all possible information to any persons who have not yet achieved a primary education that assistance is available to them is a splendid way to help them better and brighten their futures. Even for those whom would say they just “dropped out” of high school, there are people who will help you make your education a priority; no matter what age or walk of life.

Getting one’s primary education is also akin to acquiring the keys to the next locked gate, so to speak. College, university, trade school, these institutions can seem to be locked away or out of reach for those who have never gotten a diploma or its equivalent. Being a drywall installer and finisher myself, I would tell anyone that it’s a very exhausting job. With no education you can expect such, a dirty and exhausting job that is on the lower end of the pay spectrum; A form of employment that not many would view as a viable career. This is why every Canadian should make a good effort at a basic education. Speaking purely from my own life experience, I would love to acquire a trade in the construction sector. I have over these last months dedicated myself to a different course in my life; I don’t want to be a drywaller for the rest of my days. Thoughts of a real career that pays well, along with personal desire, have led me to the decision to better myself for the future. The desire to further my knowledge in the construction sector has helped shape my path in continuing to pursue an education.

Yet another key element in the Adult Learning Program that has helped me and so many others immensely is the wealth of knowledge the teachers and government faculty have imparted to the classes. The programs and guest speakers that are often scheduled as part of the curriculum have helped me to decide on a rather particular region of study in the trade schools. Through the course of these academics I have decided on the brick layers or masons course of study. The differences this will make in my life will most likely alleviate a whole host of the stresses on not only my financial aspects of life, but will also impart and introduce new ideas and strategies, not only in the construction sector, but in my life in general. Helping someone structure their life through the offering of the Adult Learning Program will assist anyone that is at the point in their life when they truly desire to make a different, and much more gainful future for themselves and consequently their communities where they live. This program is an undeniable ace in the hole for so many Canadians each year.

For me to conclude on a positive note, the entire focus that the Adult Learning Program encompasses must directly benefit and help to empower any and everyone who is ready to take the next big step; That of finishing ones primary education. This program achieves this goal to the letter. This conclusion is immediately complimented by the knowledge and understanding of the teachers and the management. They are all very accepting and encouraging of all students to do their best and work towards the furthering of themselves. For some people the full advertising of this program may be what sparks the desire for a different, more prosperous future. Perhaps it will be more of a personal testimony like these very essays being read by one person that strikes the tinder of a passion for further education. Although as in all aspects of personal life, you must be the change that you wish to see.