



# ALDA



## UPDATE



# Express!

Winter 2008 Edition

Adult Learning Development Association

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I moved to Vancouver when I was fourteen. I started at a new high school and thought life would be different. I was wrong, it was exactly the same as before. I did not get the help that I needed from my teachers and I constantly struggled with my reading and writing. In Grade 11, I moved out on my own and continued my schooling. That same year I found out that I was pregnant. I wanted to continue with school, but since I did not have enough support, I dropped out. Two years later I had another child and really enjoyed my role of being a mother. As much as I loved this responsibility, I knew that I wanted more for my life and my children's. My brother saw an ad for ALDA in the newspaper and thought it was perfect for me since they help people with learning disabilities. ALDA showed me that I was not limited in the things that I could do. I became more confident in myself, something I had never felt before. Seeing that other people lived with similar difficulties made me feel less afraid and alone. The confidence I felt



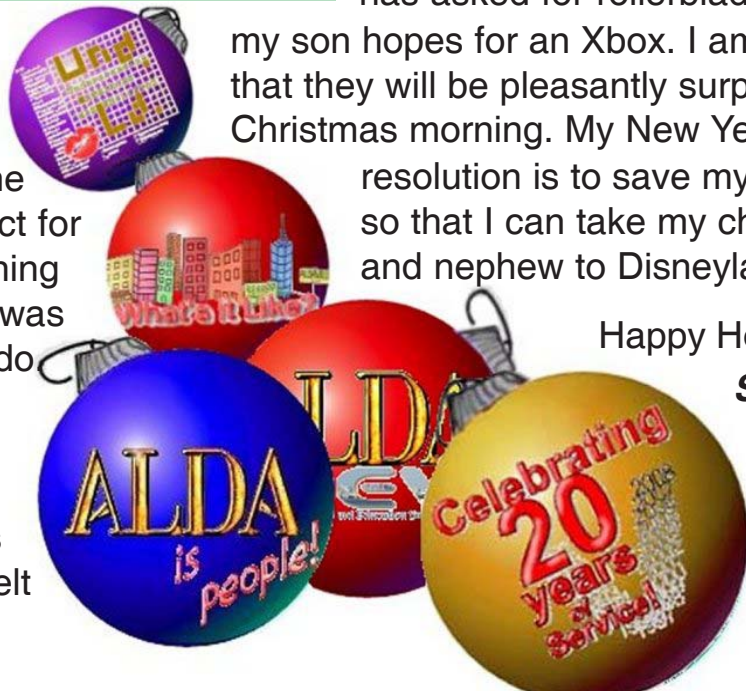
allowed me to take more responsibility for my life and helped me to apply skills that I did not think I had. Through all my struggles I knew I could depend on the support of ALDA to keep me going. It has been a lot of work and a hard journey, but I

believe that I've met my goal. I have a job, a place to live, a good support network, and ultimately a better life for my children. This year for the holidays I will be spending it with family and friends. My children are really excited about Christmas! My daughter has asked for rollerblades and

my son hopes for an Xbox. I am sure that they will be pleasantly surprised Christmas morning. My New Year's resolution is to save my money so that I can take my children and nephew to Disneyland.

Happy Holidays!

**Sharon**



**Helping people with unique learning needs develop greater independence!**



## Thanks to our Mentors!

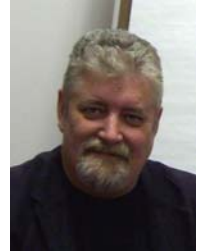
On behalf of ALDA, I would like to express my thanks to the ten people who made this years Mentorship Service a success! Mentors play an important role at ALDA and in the community by providing guidance, support and encouragement to adults and older youth who are faced with the daily challenges of a learning disability or learning difficulty. Because of their willingness to share their personal experiences and hours of their time, we have been able to make the ALDA Update Express possible. We hope that readers, members, and clients have enjoyed each edition, and can appreciate the personal stories and contribution that our mentors have made throughout the year. Once again, many thanks to our mentors and we look forward to their continued support in the New Year! If you would like to help out as a mentor please do not hesitate to call.




*Darci Chandler  
Executive Director*

## Twenty Years in a heartbeat


The end of our Anniversary year is at hand and it amazes me how fast it has gone. I cannot help but feel a mix of pride, accomplishment, and a touch of sadness, when I look back over the many years I have been priveleged to be a part of this organization, working with great people who have since moved on. Since its earliest days ALDA has had the spark of many generous individuals too numerous to list, who all helped get it to today. I must gratefully acknowledge three. Our Board Chairman Sylvia Minch, who as a founding member has been here since day-one in 1988 and continues to cheerfully volunteer on the Board of Directors to the present. Gladys Gooch, our Treasurer for over a decade who keeps us fiscally organized and efficient, and Lorraine Conn, whose energy and enthusiasm guided our little ship for many years until her retirement, but who willingly continues to volunteer on a regular basis with help and encouragement. We would not be here without them. ALDA truly is people! Here's to another Twenty!



*Dave McNea  
ALDA CEO*



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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm  
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### Share what you know!

ALDA's Mentorship Service can always use your input. If you are an adult with life experience then you qualify! Our members, participants and clients love to hear what its been like for you, where you're at now and where you'd like to be eventually. They gain valuable insight into how to handle the small things in life that can be so hard to master when you have a learning disability.

The impact can be very subtle... yet tremendous!



## Call 604-683-5554