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Literacy and Education

A strong foundation in education opens the door for opportunity and contributes to individual, family and community well-being. By injecting funding into often resource-strained educational institutions, TD is making a significant contribution to Canada's universities and colleges.

In 2009, TD gave over \$4.8 million dollars to post-secondary education across Canada. These funds support a range of bursaries, scholarships and programs, including an urban ecology program at Douglas College in British Columbia, a leadership fund at McGill University and "green" student bursaries at the University of Ottawa, to name a few.

The ability to learn through reading is often taken for granted. Many studies demonstrate the impact of improved literacy on a child's education, self-confidence and economic opportunities. TD supports many education and literacy programs, scholarships and literature awards to encourage reading and the distribution of books to children.

For 14 years, the **TD Summer Reading Club** (in partnership with the Toronto Public Library and with Library and Archives Canada since 2004) has encouraged millions of children in libraries across Canada to develop a passion for reading while helping maintain their literacy skills during the summer holidays.

In 2009, the program theme was "Agent 009." More than 2,000 libraries participated. Over half a million Canadian children received their own personal "spy kit" containing a colour poster, a sticker sheet and a logbook to keep track of their progress and to make the TD Summer Reading Club a fun and educational experience.

In partnership with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), we extended the program to children with vision loss by adding a Braille component to program stickers. The booklet also included Braille code deciphering for sighted children.

TD Canadian Children's Book Week

TD is proud to support the largest free book-distribution program to school-aged children in Canada. Each November, Grade 1 students across the nation receive a free Canadian storybook, in English or French, as part of TD Canadian Children's Book Week. In 2009, over 500,000 students received a copy of *Let's Go! The Story of Getting from There to Here*.

For more examples of our work in children's literacy and education, click [here](#).



Children read the winning books of the 2009 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award

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