

Katimavik and CL Brant

This year for the first time, CL Brant became involved with the Katimavik program. As part of our work with them a Katimavik volunteer, Alexandra Daclag, became involved with CL Brant's Literacy Program. Her interest was in developing her teaching skills with people who have intellectual disabilities and learning more about computers. Her goals included being accepted, enhancing her communication skills, building her confidence and developing her computer skills.

The highlight of this experience for Alexandra has been in getting to know people, learning about their lives and being on equal terms with others. People participating in the Literacy Program are eager to learn and genuinely want to be there. When she has time she researches different learning styles for people. Everyone is an individual and everyone learns differently. Alexandra helped others learn their alphabet, develop math skills and participate in courses on the Learning Hub. Alex assisted one young woman with G-1 driver training. Alexandra said it bothers her somewhat that there is a waitlist for the program and not enough staff or computers to fill this need.

Alex commented that Brantford is far more accepting of peoples' differences, than she is used to. Alexandra said "Community Living staff have been very accepting and approachable. I have developed many relationships here at the Dunn. There is a nice variety of jobs within this building." Alex said she would recommend this experience to others saying "As I became comfortable, it felt like community, the sense of belonging."

It has been our pleasure to work with Alex and the Katimavik group. The experience has been very positive. Alex has blossomed in her confidence and it shows in the people she is teaching. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours. To learn more about the Katimavik program, please go to their website at <http://www.katimavik.org/>.