

A LITERACY CRISIS

According to the latest National Adult Literacy Survey, 42% of Canadians between 16 and 65 have not reached the level of literacy considered necessary to thrive in modern society, and 15% function at the lowest literacy level. Nearly one out of every six Canadian children lives in poverty.

In Afghanistan, the literacy rate is only 28% for people over 15. With the highest proportion of school-aged children in the world, almost half have no access to education. Afghan schools have very limited resources and books are rare.

Lack of access to books is recognized as a leading cause of illiteracy in children.

For a disadvantaged child to own a book to read, re-read and share with her family is tragically rare. A book that helps develop her reading and thinking skills, together with a better understanding of other cultures, may be rarer still. A Canadian all-volunteer charity that provides that book free of charge is priceless.



If Canadians found it important enough to stock their homes with books, more of their children would soar in school, and in life, too.

—*Globe and Mail*



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**THE INSTITUTE FOR
CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE**
**INSTITUT D'ÉCHANGES
INTERCULTURELS**



Helping at-risk children read
and own their first new books

ABOUT ICE

The Institute for Cross-cultural Exchange (ICE)/Institut d'échanges interculturels (IEI) is a Canadian charity that promotes family literacy and understanding between cultures. With the help of its literacy partners, ICE has provided books and related literacy materials to thousands of disadvantaged children and their families in Canada and Afghanistan. Administered and staffed by volunteers, 95% of donated funds go toward the printing and the shipping of books to children who most need them. To learn more about ICE, and the books we offer, please visit www.iceeducation.org.



95% of donated funds go toward the printing and the shipping of books to children who most need them.

In 1998, Hoopoe Books began publishing traditional children's stories from Afghanistan, collected by Afghan author Idries Shah. These centuries old Teaching-Stories address universal themes such as overcoming difficulties, building self-esteem, conflict resolution and more. They also develop mental flexibility and thought patterns that are incompatible with extremist beliefs.

To date, ICE has donated English language versions to thousands of Canadian children with the help of dozens of well-established literacy partners including Calgary Reads, YWCA, Aboriginal Head Start – Morning Sky Health & Wellness, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Saskatchewan Literacy Network, and Raise-a-Reader.

We have also formed partnerships in Afghanistan and distributed thousands of Dari/Pashto editions to schools, orphanages and libraries throughout the country. In most cases, the books will be the first that the children have ever seen or owned. By repatriating these desperately needed books to Afghan children we hope to restore and help preserve a priceless cultural legacy threatened by decades of poverty and conflict.



The literacy rate in Afghanistan is only 28% for Afghans over 15 years old.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

ICE is able to provide these materials to children here and abroad thanks to tax deductible donations and grants – from concerned businesses, foundations and individuals – which offset production and shipping costs. Although the books are distributed to children through established literacy partner programs, ICE itself depends upon grants, personal donations and the help of volunteers. To donate or to volunteer, and help us reach even more disadvantaged children, please get in touch with our head office. Contact information is on the back panel of this brochure.



These beautifully illustrated stories resonate with children. They encourage a love of literature that can affect children positively throughout their lives.

