

## **My Path to Education ~ Pamala Pick**

Hello my name is Pamala Pick. I am 39 years old and in 2013 I decided that after working in a low paid job that had no prospects of advancement, I needed a change. I decided it was time for me to return to school. I am a single mother of two children. While I was sitting at home one night, I realized that I was being such a hypocrite because every day I was preaching to my children about staying in school, and about how education would be the road to their future. The light turned on and I started my journey towards a better future.

I started the Adult Learning Program (ALP) at Kingstec Campus in September 2013. It has been a long and challenging journey for me as I have had a lot of personal struggles to overcome, including being a single mother trying to balance my home life and school life. It was challenging but the faculty at Kingstec has been so supportive and has been truly amazing. Without them standing by my side, this journey may have been harder to undertake.

The ALP program has given me a path towards success in my future. I will be graduating on June 13<sup>th</sup> with my Nova Scotia High School Diploma for Adults, and in the fall I am enrolled in the Community Disability Supports program that is offered at Kingstec. I am looking forward to beginning a career that will be fulfilling and give me a sense of accomplishment in my life. Since returning to school I have gained self-confidence, leadership skills and a sense of well-being.

This experience has changed my life, and I can now walk into a room and hold my head high. I have become a passionate advocate for adult education and it has changed my life in such a positive way that I hope I can one day help someone else change their life.

I would like to thank Literacy Nova Scotia for this award and for promoting literacy within our province, for there are a lot of people that are in need of Adult education programs such as the one that I have attended. Thank you for helping me to realize my dreams and for the work you do for all Nova Scotians.