

COMMUNITY LITERACY OF ONTARIO MEMBERS' E-COMMUNIQUE JANUARY 2011

Dear CLO Members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present its **JANUARY 2011 Members' E-Communiqué**. CLO, along with literacy programs and our colleagues in literacy, Laubach Literacy Ontario, Ontario Literacy Coalition and the regional and sectoral literacy networks, are all working in various ways to increase government awareness of the need for a funding increase for literacy. This e-communiqué shares some of the current activities.

Topics covered in this E-Communiqué are:

1. [CLO's Funding Survey Results – December 2010](#)
2. [CLO's Letters to Minister Milloy, MTCU and Minister Finley, HRSDC](#)
3. [Laubach Literacy Ontario's Second Annual Literacy Awareness Day](#)
4. [Ontario Government's Pre-Budget Consultations](#)
5. [Federal Government Consultations on the Budget and Economic Priorities for Canada](#)

CLO'S FUNDING SURVEY RESULTS – DECEMBER 2010

In December 2010, Community Literacy of Ontario surveyed the province's community based literacy agencies about the impact on programming should enhanced funding not continue in 2011-2012. A total of 68 community-based literacy agencies responded and very serious impacts were identified by agencies. CLO is bringing these impacts to the attention of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and others.

If enhanced funding for literacy does not continue in 2011-2012, community-based agencies indicated that they will have to take these steps:

- Provide LBS instruction to fewer learners = 92.6% of agencies
- Discontinue purchasing technology for learners = 82.4% of agencies
- Reduce marketing and promotional activities = 80.9% of agencies
- Discontinue some types of programming = 77.9% of agencies
- Lay off staff = 77.9% of agencies
- Discontinue purchasing resources / learning materials for learners = 77.9% of agencies
- Increase learner waiting lists = 76.5% of agencies
- Decrease hours of operation = 73.5% of agencies
- Spend more time on fundraising and less on program delivery = 67.6% of agencies
- Decrease support for volunteers = 63.2% of agencies
- Engage in fewer partnership activities with other service providers = 57.4% of agencies
- Close program site(s) or locations = 22.1% of agencies
- Our agency will be at risk of closing = 11.8% of agencies
- Move to a cheaper location = 7.4% of agencies
- Our agency will close = 1 agency

CLO'S LETTERS TO MINISTER MILLOY, MTCU AND MINISTER FINLEY, HRSDC

Attached please find a letter from Community Literacy of Ontario written to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, John Milloy, requesting that new funding for Literacy and Basic Skills programs be included in the Ontario 2011 budget.

The letter outlines some of the impacts if this funding does not continue and we hope it will help Minister Milloy make the case to his cabinet colleagues about the critical need for a funding increase for LBS programs in the Ontario budget.

Attached also find CLO's letter to Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, requesting that economic stimulus funding provided to Ontario under the **Government of Canada's** Strategic Training and Transition Fund be continued. The STTF partially funded the two-year provincial literacy budget initiative.

CLO has also mailed out a print copy of "*Literacy: A Great Investment*" to all provincial MPPs and federal MPs from Ontario. You can access this helpful resource at: www.nald.ca/clo/resource/literacy_a_great_investment.pdf

LAUBACH LITERACY ONTARIO'S SECOND ANNUAL LITERACY AWARENESS DAY

Laubach Literacy Ontario is pleased to invite you to the Second Annual Literacy Awareness Day, which will take place **February 28, 2011**. We will be heading to **Queen's Park with adult** literacy students, practitioners and volunteers to speak to Ministers, MPPs, the media, and all who will listen about the issue of adult literacy in Ontario.

LLO's event last year successfully raised the issue of adult literacy at the highest levels provincially, and to highlight the amazing work and dedication of our community-based literacy programs, learners, practitioners, and volunteers.

Literacy Awareness Day will begin with a press conference stressing the importance of literacy. This will be followed by pre-scheduled meetings that give literacy students, volunteers, and practitioners the opportunity to meet with Ministers and MPPs directly.

The Luncheon Reception is being held in Room 228 in the Legislative Building (Queen's Park), from 12 noon – 1:30 pm at Queen's Park.

Community-based programs and all literacy support organizations in Ontario, as well as MPPs from all three political parties have also been invited. The Honourable John Milloy will be one of **the guest speakers along with LLO's President and at least one adult literacy student.**

CLO board and staff are pleased to attend this event to show our support. We hope many others programs are able to attend as well.

Attached please find more information from Laubach Literacy Ontario on this event and also registration forms if you plan to attend.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT'S PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

The Ontario Ministry of Finance's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs is holding **PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS**.

The Committee is holding public hearings in London, Windsor, Thunder Bay, Timmins, and Ottawa during the week of January 24, 2011; and in Toronto on January 31 and February 1, 2011.

Several regional networks have made presentations to the Standing Committee. For example, Tamara Kaattari of Literacy Link South Central and Lesley Brown of the Ontario Literacy Coalition presented at the London consultation and Annemarie Wesolowski of Literacy Network Northwest presented at the Thunder Bay consultation.

CLO's Chair and Executive Director of PTP, Barbara McFater, will be presenting to the committee in Toronto on February 1st. Another CLO board member, Elizabeth Debergh of the Wellington County Learning Centre, presented at her local consultation. Thanks to all those who made these important presentations!

People can also send in their input into the Ontario budget 2011 via a written submission. Community Literacy of Ontario has prepared a written submission and we have attached it to this e-communiqué.

Literacy agencies are strongly encouraged to send in a submission to the pre-budget consultations regarding literacy funding.

You can submit your written input to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs to:

Sylwia Przezdziecki
Clerk, Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Room 1405, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A2
Telephone: (416) 325-3515 / Facsimile: (416) 325-3505
E-mail: sylwia_przezdziecki@ontla.ola.org

The deadline for written submission is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

For more information on the budget consultation process, you can visit this website:
www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/fallstatement/2010/chapter6.html

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS ON THE BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PRIORITIES FOR CANADA

The Federal Government is engaged in an online consultation about the budget and economic priorities for Canada. The Ministry of Finance is asking Canadians to share their economic priorities by answering four questions about the federal budget.

You can give your input to the Federal Government via this link: www.fin.gc.ca/prebudget-prebudgetaire/1-eng.asp