

CLO'S JULY 2008 E-COMMUNIQUE

Dear CLO members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present its JULY 2008 Members' E-Communiqué.

Topics covered in this E-Communiqué are:

1. CLO's "Foundational Skills for Lifelong Learning" component of the Learner Skill Attainment Framework Now Available Online
2. CIPMS Online, Self-Study Training Module on "Literacy Basics" is Now Available!
3. MTCU's Integrated Local Labour Market Planning
4. Stakeholder Survey of the Employment Ontario Partners Gateway Site
5. Training Opportunity for Literacy Practitioners: GO Online Learning Courses
6. Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing's English and Math Links
7. AlphaPlus is Seeking Participants in a Demonstrations Ontario Advisory Group
8. Laubach Literacy Ontario's June Expressions E-Magazine
9. Literacy Forum Archives of The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada Launched
10. Salaries and Benefits in Community Literacy Agencies
11. Announcing the Date and Location of CLO's 2008 AGM



CLO's "Foundational Skills for Lifelong Learning" component of the Learner Skill Attainment Framework Now Available Online

Community Literacy of Ontario received funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in January 2007 for a project called "*Success Indicators for Independence Goals*." This was one of 17 projects funded by MTCU to aid in the development of a Learner Skill Attainment Framework for Literacy and Basic Skills programs that will be designed to allow programs to communicate learner gains in a reliable, valid and more transparent way.

CLO's project focused on the learner pathway of Foundation Skills for Lifelong Learning. Success indicators for independence goals are difficult to develop and difficult to measure effectively. How, for example, can independence goals such as "increased self-esteem" or "self-motivation" be effectively measured? However, CLO's project had the demanding task of assessing just that.

Please visit www.nald.ca/litweb/province/on/clo/resource/foundind/project_report.pdf to view the final project report and CLO's Foundational Skills for Lifelong Learning component of the Learner Skill Attainment Framework resulting from this very innovative project. This material is still considered draft as work is still being conducted on the LSA framework.

CIPMS Online, Self-Study Training Module on "Literacy Basics" is Now Available!

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to announce that *The ABCs of CIPMS* module has been added to our highly regarded Literacy Basics website at www.nald.ca/literacybasics.

This self-study online training module includes an introduction to performance management and also looks closely at how the Continuous Improvement Performance Management System can be systematically implemented in Ontario literacy agencies. The module features tips and tools along with many downloadable forms that have been developed by a number of literacy delivery agencies. These forms can be customized for use as needed. MTCU's "Agency Assessment Guide" and accompanying "Agency Assessment Tool" are also available in their entirety.

The *ABCs of CIPMS* online training module also includes success stories, resources and tools collected from various literacy agencies across Ontario as well as a number of questions for reflection to help readers think about how they can incorporate ideas and strategies in their agencies.

The *ABCs of CIPMS* module can help prepare you to understand key concepts related to CIPMS. It will also provide you with strategies to effectively collect and analyze program data and use that data to identify areas of strength as well as areas for improvement. The module, and the accompanying tools and resources, provide information and ideas about how to plan, prepare for and implement CIPMS in literacy agencies.

MTCU's Integrated Local Labour Market Planning

MTCU has recently approved an overall framework for Integrated Local Labour Market Planning (ILLMP) and will be releasing detailed information on the framework in summer 2008.

A recent letter (date June 27, 2008) from Kevin French, Assistant Deputy Minister, MTCU, updated Employment Ontario stakeholders about the ILLMP:

"This is an integrated process that strengthens key partnerships involved in identifying and prioritizing labour market needs in communities across Ontario. It involves working collaboratively with other ministries, municipalities and Services Canada to support the development of locally coordinated focus on customer needs. To help all those stakeholders work together, we have developed a preliminary ILLMP framework. It will be available soon on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway website at www.eopg.ca.

Integrated local labour market planning supports Employment Ontario's emphasis on integrated service delivery. Its goal is to customize a labour market planning process to each of our planning zones province-wide.

Seven areas across Ontario began field-testing this framework in June. Over the next several months, Local Board, acting in a secretariat role in Peterborough, Durham, Timmins, Thunder Bay and Niagara, will help establish Labour Market Planning Committees comprising community leaders who have an understanding of and commitment to labour force development. Demonstration pilots will also be undertaken in Windsor and Ottawa where local boards do not currently exist. All seven demonstration pilots will work closely with, and be supported by, local liaison teams with Ministry staff and our partner ministries. They will test the ILLMP framework and identify best practices and lessons learned to inform our implementation strategy going forward.

We will be working with our stakeholders and Employment Ontario service providers to keep you informed of developments and how this process can support service delivery planning, coordination and customer service”.

Stakeholder Survey of the Employment Ontario Partners Gateway Site

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is interested in hearing the opinions of all Employment Ontario stakeholders about how it could improve the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway website (www.eopg.ca).

MTCU sees the EOPG site as one critical method of providing service provider partners and other stakeholders with clear and up-to-date information on Employment Ontario and its transformation. As such, the ministry is inviting all stakeholders to take part in a brief online survey that will aim to capture how the site is currently used and what features stakeholders would like to see in the future. Your input will help MTCU to create a site that is easy to use, with the content that is most relevant to you.

Via this survey MTCU is hoping to build better tools to support its service providers during Employment Ontario's transformation and beyond.

Your answers will be kept strictly confidential and the survey will take no more than five minutes to complete. **Responses are due by July 25th**. To fill out this survey please click on: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=PKqE86tGPG7_2fZuFdHsDdbQ_3d_3d

Training Opportunity for Literacy Practitioners: GO Online Learning Courses

Are you curious about online learning? Are you interested in developing skills with learning technologies? Do you want to experience online learning but are unsure where to start? The Getting Online (GO) Project team is excited to offer an ***Introduction to Online Learning*** course that has been specially designed for literacy practitioners in Canada. This 8-week online course will explore a variety of topics such as:

- Personal hopes and fears about online learning
- Building online learning communities
- Online learning and the literacy field

Participants will be introduced to various learning technologies including Moodle, Elluminate, and teleconferencing.

The course will be offered three times on the following dates:

- October 6 to November 28, 2008
- January 12 to March 6, 2009
- March 23 to May 15, 2009

Participants in the course will be supported by facilitators who are skilled in working with people who are new to online learning technologies. To participate, you will need:

- A computer with internet access
- A headset with a built-in microphone or a microphone and speakers
- Basic word processing skills and technical ability to send emails and browse the internet

Registration for each course is limited to 15 participants. Course fees are \$55.00 which includes all course materials. For further information or to register, please contact Deborah Morgan by email at deborah_morgan@elit.ca. Courses will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

“Getting Online: Distance Education Promising Practices for Canadian Literacy Practitioners” (or the GO Project for short) is an innovative national project designed to research trends, technologies and promising practices in online learning in Canada.

The GO Project is hosted by Athabasca University. It brings together various project partners including Community Literacy of Ontario, Writing Out Loud (Alberta) and Capilano College (British Columbia). GO is funded by the National Office of Literacy and Learning (Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program of the Government of Canada).

Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing’s English and Math Links

The Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing (located in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario) has compiled a valuable listing of websites for teaching English and Math. Please click on these links to learn more.

- English links: www.westnipissinglearn.com/English%20Links.html
- Math links: www.westnipissinglearn.com/Math%20Links.html
- Work skills links: www.westnipissinglearn.com/Essential%20Skills.html
- ESL: www.westnipissinglearn.com/ESL.html

AlphaPlus is Seeking Participants in a Demonstrations Ontario Advisory Group

During the next several months - September 2008 to March 2009 - AlphaPlus will be working with an advisory group composed of experienced adult literacy practitioners from all four adult literacy sectors in Ontario, to:

- Clarify basic criteria for quality demonstrations, based on existing information and materials on the Demonstrations Ontario web site (<http://demonstrations.alphaplus.ca/>).
- Solicit a minimum of three demonstrations from each sector. These will be added to the Demonstrations Ontario web site.

The advisory group will meet for six to eight one-hour sessions via teleconference and/or Centra between September 2008 and March 2009.

If you would like to participate please contact: Maria Moriarty at AlphaPlus by email: mmoriarty@alphaplus.ca or by phone at: 1-800-788-1120/ 416-322-1012 ext. 106.

Laubach Literacy Ontario's June Expressions E-Magazine

LLO's June "Expressions" E-Magazine for literacy students and practitioners is available online at: www.laubach-on.ca/Trainingpost/emagjun08.pdf.

Articles include:

- Open Space Technology
- Logic Model
- ACE: Academic and Career Entrance
- Deaf Literacy
- Hiking in Ontario

Literacy Forum Archives of The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada Launched

Toronto, July 4, 2008 – The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) today launches its Literacy Forum archives (www.literacy.cmec.ca), a diverse collection of webcast stories, experiences, and expertise on literacy. Ministers of education from across Canada, under B.C.'s leadership, have united in their commitment to help the many Canadians who struggle with literacy skills every day.

In April 2008, the CMEC Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum, a first-of-its-kind event, was simultaneously webcast to 3,000 participants at nine sites across Canada. Literacy.cmec.ca is the information hub of CMEC's Literacy Action Plan, *Literacy – More than Words*. It contains important perspectives and information for anyone working to overcome literacy challenges.

"Education ministers across Canada are united in their goal of improving literacy skills for the nine million Canadians who struggle with low literacy. We have highlighted the importance of strong literacy skills and are now working aggressively in our communities to support our learners," said B.C. Minister of Education Shirley Bond. "The inspirational and informative materials in the Literacy Forum archives will provide an excellent resource to support local literacy efforts across the country."

Literacy.cmec.ca currently holds keynote presentations from leading Canadians in government, business, and literacy research such as

- Former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson
- Former Premier of New Brunswick Frank McKenna
- Canwest Global VP David Asper
- Early childhood development expert Dr. Fraser Mustard
- Adult literacy expert Dr. Paul Bélanger

Over the coming months, the site will grow to include more experiences and resources that were featured during the forum. Each of the participating sites focused its presentation on a key aspect of the literacy challenge: Aboriginal literacy, lifelong literacy, literacy and the workforce, building literacy in communities, and the economic benefits of literacy.

"Literacy is a priority for Canada's education ministers," said Kelly Lamrock, New Brunswick's Minister of Education and Chair of CMEC. "Through these forum archives, we are continuing this pan-Canadian dialogue on literacy and moving forward on the national literacy agenda."

The Literacy Forum archive collection will continue to grow throughout the summer to showcase highlights from many of the more than 100 literacy presentations and activities seen at the forum.

(Source: Council of Ministers of Education, Canada)

Salary and Benefits in Community Literacy Agencies

Community Literacy of Ontario receives many requests for information on salaries and benefits in community literacy agencies in Ontario.

Just a reminder... CLO conducted a survey on this exact topic in 2007 and the results are summarized in our September 2007 OurVoice Newsletter at:
www.nald.ca/litweb/province/on/clo/newslet/sept07/1.htm.

Announcing the Date and Location of CLO's 2008 AGM

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to announce that its Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 4, 2008 in Toronto.

Participants will also enjoy:

- An informative E-Channel Workshop
- Table discussions on key topics of interest to literacy
- Networking with your peers

More information on this event will be circulated in the coming months.

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