CLO'S November 2006 Members Only E-BULLETIN

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present our November 2006 E-bulletin. CLO's monthly e-bulletin will:

- Serve as a monthly summary of current information of interest to member programs
- Be sent to paid CLO members only
- Include web sites of interest to CLO members

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CLO's November 2006 E-BULLETIN contains information on:

1. CLO's Board of Directors for 2006/2007

2. Canada-Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA)
     - Service Delivery Advisory Group

3. CLO's "Success Indicators for Independence Goals" Project

4. The "Community Learning Program" of the Ontario Public Service

5. Free Microsoft Software

6. Canadian Agricultural Skills Services (CASS) – Opportunity for training assistance

7. Interesting Websites/Links

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1. CLO's Board of Directors for 2006/2007

CLO held its Annual General Meeting on October 12, 2006. This well-attended event featured displays, informal networking on topics such as: Essential Skills; Fundraising and Manitoba's Certification Materials. Participants also were also treated to a "Beyond Functional Literacy: Engaging Learners Through Critical Thinking Workshop" presented by Garfield Gini-Newman.

An important part of any AGM is the election of an organization' s board of directors for the upcoming year. CLO is delighted to have a committed and energetic board that is representative of community literacy agencies from across Ontario. The following is a list of CLO's 2006/2007 board of directors.

> Central Ontario – Barbara McFater, Bert Providence and Cheryl Reid
> Eastern Ontario – Carynne Arnold, Linda Conley
> Southwestern Ontario – Chris Benninger
> Northeastern Ontario - Sheila Marshall, Denise Tremblay
> Northwestern Ontario – Barbara Duguay

Member-at-Large - Joyce Bigelow, Lindsay Kennedy

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following retiring 2005/2006 board members: Heather Hufton; Shelley Lawrence; Valerie Sadler, and Johanna White. Your dedication and commitment to CLO is truly appreciated.

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2. Canada-Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA)
     - Service Delivery Advisory Group

CLO would like to share the attached PowerPoint presentation that ONESTEP delivered at its Annual General Meeting in September. It is an outline of the reorganization of the Labour Market Training Division after the integration of Service Canada through the LMDA process. It contains very useful information that will give agencies a good sense of what Employment Ontario means in an overall way.

As part of the Employment Ontario focus, MTCU has revamped its website and to encompass of the employment and training services offered through the Ontario government. You may wish to visit the site to ensure that your agency is listed. If you notice any information that needs to be changed, CLO has received the following to help you through the process:

MTCU Search Feature, IPS/211 database edits to existing records
If anyone notices that information about a service provider contains an error, there is a built in feature at the top of the specific service provider template page called "Update info". Any user can click on this and will then be able to note changes and submit the request. The request will go to findhelp who will validate the information on the database. The specific steps are as follows:
1. From the "Find services in your area" page
(http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/search.html), select the location and service category of your organization. Click on OK to begin the search.
 2. When the results page appears, find your organization and click on the title.
 3. A page will then appear containing all of the information concerning your organization. To update any of the information, click on the link "Update info" at the top of the page.
4. Complete the "Update information" form.

MTCU Search Feature, IPS/211 database - Addition of missing records
If anyone notices that a service provider listing is missing, flag this using the same "update info" feature. (PLEASE NOTE - because the listing doesn't exist, the person flagging the omission will have to use the "update info" feature of an existing record. For example, if a Job Connect provider in Cornwall is missing, the user would have to go in to an existing Job Connect record to flag the omission.) There is a "Notes" box in the template that appears when you click on "update info", and in this box write a note saying that a listing was missing. Find help will contact the person who submitted the note to gather all the service provider info needed, validate that the service provider is delivering the service they say they are, and then post the info on the database. That record will then be subject to the normal review and update process being used by find help

MTCU Search Feature, IPS/211 database - deletion of records

If anyone notices that a service provider listing that should not be listed, flag this using the same "update info" feature. Go into the record that should not exists, and use the "Notes" box in the template that appears when you click on "update info". Flag that the record should be deleted and we'll do some validation to make sure that the listing isn't needed, then make the correction to the database.

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3. CLO's "Success Indicators for Independence Goals" Project

CLO is delighted to announce that it has received approval from MTCU for its "Success Indicators for Independence Goals" project. Through this project CLO will research and identify success indicators and transition markers in the goal of "independence" that are needed to demonstrate foundations for learning relevant to Document Use, Reading Text and Numeracy. Furthermore, CLO will assess where independence fits within the Essential Skills and identify how identifying and measuring success in the domain of independence can be expressed/articulated to the Essential Skills scale. This project will tie in with MTCU's overall strategy for learner skill attainment. We have emailed the job call to our members and posted this information on AlphaCom.

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4. The "Community Learning Program"

The Ontario Public Service has launched a new volunteerism initiative: "The "Community Learning Program". This new initiative is a one year pilot program with six Ministries and 8,000 employees. It will allow Ontario Public Service staff up to one paid work day per year to learn more about volunteerism, gain a broader understanding of the role that the voluntary sector plays in supporting individuals and communities, and provide an opportunity to develop skills and/or competencies in support of their individual learning plan.

This exciting program will provide opportunities for:

- o OPS employees who have not been involved in volunteerism to develop a connection to the voluntary sector while furthering their learning and development goals.
- o OPS employees who already have a connection to the voluntary sector to expand their support while furthering their learning and development goals.
- o OPS employees to work in teams to organize an event that supports their learning and promotes positive outcomes for organizations that rely on volunteerism to achieve their goals.

Participating ministries include the ministries of Community and Social Services, Citizenship and Immigration, Culture, Tourism, Environment, and Health Promotion.

Opportunities can vary from one person or a team. Such examples of events are:

Example: Agency A is holding its most important yearly fundraising event. Individuals will contribute to their area of interest including coordinating activities and logistics with others, assisting with registration of participants and filling out tax receipts.

Example: Agency B is hosting a fair to promote the various initiatives underway to support recent immigrants. Individuals will promote and support the event by providing information to supporters on the various initiatives and how they can get involved, selling cards, collecting donations and liaising with the public. Some customer service and working with the public experience is required. Training will be provided in one group orientation prior to the event.

Why Community Literacy Agencies might choose to participate:

- o **Potential pool base** – The six participating ministries have a combined total of approximately, 8,000 employees spread throughout the province.
- o **Connected individuals** – Many OPS employees volunteer their own time and skills in the voluntary sector. This is an opportunity for those employees to continue developing their skills with minimal additional training or supervision on the part of your agency.
- o **Partnership Building –** Further enhance the partnership of building and sustaining healthy communities between the OPS and community agencies
- o **Education** – It is an opportunity to educate and build relationships with skilled public servants.

Interested OPS employees will contact their local volunteer centre, who in turn will have the name of the local regional literacy network.

We recognize that there may not be a lot of "one day" volunteer opportunities, but agencies may want to think creatively to encourage new volunteers and meet your needs at the same time.

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5. Free Microsoft Software

Microsoft Canada has partnered with TechSoup Stock to provide an expanded software donation program to all eligible Canadian charities and nonprofits. The enhanced I CAN Software Donation Program will enable registered charity and nonprofit organizations that meet the general giving guidelines to have access to the most current productivity applications available. For more information, visit: http://www.techsoup.org/stock/canada/ms_ican_program.asp . Your program may be eligible to take advantage of this special promotion.

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6. Canadian Agricultural Skills Services (CASS)

Our colleagues at Project Read have passed along some very interesting information to CLO and we are happy to share it with our members:

Successful farm business managers have always recognized the need for continuous learning to adapt new production and business practices and prosper in an ever changing marketplace.   To help producers respond, the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) is available to assist qualifying producers and their spouses develop the skills and knowledge they are looking for to increase their farm profitability and net family income. CASS is designed to help farm families acquire skills and training for the road ahead.

CASS provides qualified applicants with no-cost access to a professional advisor who will meet with you and focus on understanding you existing skills, plans and goals, and provide you with a clear path on how to achieve them. Depending on their net family income, participants may also receive financial assistance to complete their training activities. Financial benefits range from $8,000 - $16,000 for qualified participants, depending on their averaged net family income and other eligibility requirements.

CASS is a Renewal program under the federal-provincial-territorial Agricultural Policy Framework. The Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training (CON*NECT) delivers CASS in Ontario, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. You can get more information about the program visiting the website at www.ontario.ca/cass or by calling the CON*NECT CASS Centre at 1-877-830-0200.

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7. Interesting Websites/Links

MTCU announcement re: Support for Literacy
http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/nr/06.11/hstcu1116.html

HRVS.ca offers practical tools and information on human resources management for non-profit organizations. http://www.hrcouncil.ca/index_e.cfm

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www.nald.ca/clo.htm