

COMMUNITY LITERACY OF ONTARIO
MEMBERS' E-COMMUNIQUE
NOVEMBER 2010

Dear CLO Members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present its **NOVEMBER 2010** Members' E-Communique. Topics covered in this E-Communique are:

1. Ensure that Your Literacy Agency is Listed in MTCU's New "Find An Employment or Training Service" Section of its Website
2. Literacy Funding Update
3. Capacity Plus – A Best Seller!
4. CLO's AGM 2010
5. CLO's Board of Directors for 2010 – 2011
6. CLO's Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework Overview Training
7. Laubach Literacy Ontario's Literacy Awareness Day - Rescheduled
8. Employment Ontario News and Information
9. MTCU's Service Delivery Advisory Group – November 2010 meeting

VERY IMPORTANT!

ENSURE THAT YOUR LITERACY AGENCY IS LISTED IN MTCU'S NEW "FIND AN EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING SERVICE" SECTION OF ITS WEBSITE

MTCU provides a new online database listing of all Employment Ontario service providers under its "Find an Employment or Training Service" section of its website. All Employment Service providers are currently entered into this online database, however, not all Training Service providers are currently listed.

To ensure that your agency is getting maximum exposure, visit MTCU's "Find an Employment or Training Service" at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/search.html and verify that your literacy agency is listed.



If your agency is not listed, (or to find out more information about this online database) just follow MTCU's instructions in this memo: www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/20101015_memo_change_mtcu_website.pdf

LITERACY FUNDING UPDATE

In September 2010, CLO launched "*Literacy: A Great Investment*". We have received a very positive response to this resource. It is available at: www.nald.ca/clo/a_great_investment.htm.

As mentioned in the business plans (released today – November 30th – by MTCU) "*funding and service commitments for 2011-2012 will remain consistent with the base operational funding (excluding the one-time funding received from the 2009 Budget Initiative) and service commitments for 2010-2011*".

CLO is concerned to hear that MTCU is unable to commit to any continuation of enhanced funding at this time. However, Minister Milloy very much values the LBS program and he is very aware of the need for enhanced funding. He is actively encouraging his Cabinet counterparts and the Minister of Finance to include additional funds for literacy in the provincial budget, which is normally released in March. However, the large provincial deficit and competing priorities particularly from health, K to 12 education, and social service programs mean that there will be considerable competition for scarce provincial resources in the upcoming budget. Accordingly, whether enhanced funding for literacy will continue or not, is unknown at this time. Additionally, the federal government has indicated that its stimulus funding for the provinces will end effective March 31, 2011.

It will be important for the literacy community to continue to ask both the provincial and federal government for support for literacy. In "*Literacy: A Great Investment*", CLO asks the provincial government to continue its enhanced funding for LBS. CLO also believes it is important to find a permanent solution to the literacy funding issue and we are requesting that a new LBS funding mechanism that truly covers program costs be implemented as soon as possible by MTCU. The evaluation of the LBS program currently taking place is the first step in this process. It is also important to ask the federal government to continue to provide much needed stimulus funding to **Ontario and to allocate our province's fair share of EI funding relative to the size of Ontario's** contribution. See page 6 of "*Literacy: A Great Investment*" for more information. Please do what you can to increase awareness amongst MPPs and MPs of the need for literacy funding. CLO will continue to promote the need for enhanced funding for literacy at the provincial and federal levels using this resource. We will also use other strategies, such as making submissions to the Minister of Finance during the budget consultations. We are also sharing information with other organizations.

To help you use "*Literacy: A Great Investment*" at the local level, CLO has collected ways in which this resource has been used by various programs in their own communities to increase awareness about literacy and the need for funding. Community-based literacy programs shared "*Literacy: A Great Investment*" with:

- Local MPPs and MPs
- EO agencies
- Social service agencies
- Ontario Works offices
- Other ministries
- Municipal councillors
- Other literacy agencies
- Health Units
- Business community
- Local Training Boards
- Early Years Centres
- Chamber of Commerce
- Other funders
- Corporations
- Economic development
- Community Futures Corporations
- Local service clubs

Community-based literacy programs also used "*Literacy: A Great Investment*" to:

- Hold meetings with local MPPs and MPs
- Encourage their boards of directors and volunteers to forward it to their own stakeholders
- Educate the public by displaying it at community fairs and events
- Conduct presentations to their municipal councils, service clubs, and other stakeholders
- Develop media kits to promote literacy to the local media
- Add content to their own newsletters, promotional materials and annual reports
- Post the PDF of "*Literacy: A Great Investment*" or a link to CLO's site on their own websites

CAPACITY PLUS – A BEST SELLER!

Community Literacy of Ontario's "CAPACITY PLUS: Organizational Capacity Resource Guide for Ontario's Community Literacy Agencies" was released in August 2010 and has been circulated in hard-copy format to CLO's member agencies. Copies are also available online on CLO's website www.nald.ca/clo/resource/capacity_plus_book_02.pdf.

Capacity Plus has become an instant "best seller" with an incredible **9,955 copies** being downloaded from our website between August 11 and 31, 2010 alone!



CLO'S AGM 2010

Community Literacy of Ontario held its AGM and Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework Overview Training on November 10, 2010 in Toronto.

We were pleased to welcome 81 participants to this event. This included 62 literacy practitioners from 44 different community-based LBS programs from all regions of Ontario – from Red Lake in northwestern Ontario to Chatham in the southwest to Ottawa in the east. This event was also attended by staff from Laubach Literacy Ontario, seven regional literacy networks, AlphaPlus Centre and the Ontario Community Support Association.

Members heard the report from CLO's chair, overviewed CLO activities, reviewed the financial statements, approved changes to the bylaws, and elected the new board of directors. We were delighted to have Barb Simmons, **Director of MTCU's Service Delivery Branch, as our guest speaker.** Thank you for coming, Barb!

CLO honoured three retiring CLO board members: Carynne Arnold, Chris Benninger and Bert Providence. We are so grateful for your strong commitment, hard work and ongoing support for CLO! As well, our Office Administrator, Joan Beaudry, was recognized for 10 years of dedicated service to CLO. Thank you Joan for all you do!

Prior to the AGM, five table groups were held on a variety of important topics: (1) Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada; (2) Literacy and EO Partnerships; (3) Succession Planning in Nonprofit Organizations; (4) Volunteer Management in Literacy Agencies; (5) Online Resources for Literacy Instruction. As well, a resource fair was held where participants brought a wide variety of useful resources from their programs.

On November 9th, CLO hosted "**Let's Talk Literacy**". This evening was facilitated by Elizabeth Debergh and Debra Barrett and over 40 participants came together for a lively discussion on a wide variety of topics, including: program funding; workforce literacy; program capacity; innovative programming; useful resources; learner management; and effective partnerships.

CLO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2010 - 2011

We are proud to present the CLO board of directors for 2010-2011:

Central Ontario

- ✓ Debra Barrett, Street Haven Learning Centre
- ✓ Barbara McFater, PTP Adult Learning and Employment Program

Eastern Ontario

- ✓ Keith Harford, Prince Edward County Learning Centre
- ✓ Teresa Kerr, Trent Valley Literacy Association

Northeastern Ontario

- ✓ Susan Hughes, Literacy Council of South Temiskaming
- ✓ Lynne Zuliani, North Algoma Literacy Coalition

Northwestern Ontario

- ✓ Johanna White, Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre

Southwestern Ontario

- ✓ Elizabeth Debergh, Wellington County Learning Centre
- ✓ Lorraine Bergstrand, Haldimand Norfolk Literacy Council

Members-At-Large

- ✓ Sue Davidson, Capacity Builders / Ontario Community Support Association
- ✓ Marsha Roadhouse, Quinte Adult Day School

At the directors meeting after the AGM, CLO board members elected the following Executive:

- Chair – Barbara McFater
- Secretary – Marsha Roadhouse
- Vice-Chair – Elizabeth Debergh
- Treasurer – Lynne Zuliani

CLO'S ONTARIO ADULT LITERACY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW TRAINING

On November 10, 2010, CLO held its face-to-face Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF) Overview training session in Toronto. In order to increase access to the training, CLO also held two OALCF Overview training sessions online on Centra on November 17th and 25th. Between these three CLO training sessions, practitioners from a total of 81 community-based agencies have taken the OALCF Overview training.

We will post an online recorded version of this training session on the CLO website in mid-December to further increase access. This recorded version of the training will be freely accessible to any LBS agency.

The Overview training introduced community-based practitioners to the key concepts and features of the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework. The Overview training was a foundational piece to the OALCF Implementation training that will take place in the spring of 2011.

LAUBACH LITERACY ONTARIO'S LITERACY ACTION DAY - RESCHEDULED

In light of the recent "Literacy at Queen's Park" event hosted by the Ontario Literacy Coalition, LLO has decided that holding a similar event in such close proximity would not have as great an impact. **LLO's Literacy Awareness Day has been postponed to Monday, February 28, 2011 and will be held at Queen's Park.**

LLO hopes that by rescheduling it to February, more information about funding and capacity issues will be available. If the enhanced funding for literacy is not continued, the timing will be excellent for making a strong case for the impact of that decision. Also, this date is closer to budget consultation time and the impending provincial election. Visit LLO's website at www.laubach-on.ca/ for more information.

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO NEWS AND INFORMATION

MTCU's Employment Ontario Partners Gateway (EOPG) website provides a wealth of information on the latest developments. See: www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/newpostings

Recent EOPG updates include:

- Various updates, bulletins, FAQs and links to online training on EOIS-CaMS (Employment Ontario Information System / Case Management System)
- LBS Service Delivery Agency Information Form
- Letter to OALC Partner Organisations and LBS Support Agencies
- Memo on Service Provider Privacy Obligations
- Privacy Tip Sheet for Service Providers

MTCU'S SERVICE DELIVERY ADVISORY GROUP NOVEMBER 2010 MEETING

CLO serves on MTCU's Service Delivery Advisory Group (SDAG). SDAG meets between three and four times per year. The most recent meeting was held on November 19, 2010. Information shared at that meeting can be accessed on MTCU's Employment Ontario Partners Gateway website at: www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/stakeholder/sdag.html

Highlights of the November SDAG meeting included:

- [Overview of Privacy in Relation to ES](#)
- [Update on Employment Ontario Information Systems](#)
- [Second Career Survey Results](#)
- [Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework Initiative](#)
- [Labour Market Agreements](#)