

CLO'S September 2006 Members Only E-BULLETIN

Dear CLO Members,

We are sure you have heard that the federal government has announced various funding cuts. The program cuts have been categorized in four areas - value for money, unused funds, efficiency, and non-core programs.

Cuts to adult literacy falls under the "Value for Money" part of the budget. The cuts to Human Resources and Skills Development for literacy amount to \$17 million and falls under "Improved Targeting of Adult Learning and Literacy Skills Program." At this point, it is not yet entirely clear what "improved targeting" will mean. When we hear more details, we will be sure to let you know.

Here is the official government link for more information:

http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/media/nr-cp/2006/0925_e.asp

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Here as well is a link to a press release from ABC CANADA:

http://www.abc-canada.org/media_room/news/fedcuts.shtml

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Lesley Brown, ED of the Ontario Literacy Coalition has prepared the following information on the cuts:

As I am sure most of you already know, the federal government announced a spattering of overall cuts to programs today. Here is the link to find out about what programs are being cut. Note the government language is on finding efficiencies and cutting programs not needed.

http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/media/nr-cp/2006/0925_e.asp

Amongst those touched is literacy at 17 million for this year. This has been labelled "Improved Targeting of Adult Learning and Literacy Skills Programs". What this means is that the federal government is getting out of the business of literacy in the provinces and territories and will only direct funding to literacy at a national level. This probably won't have any direct impact on literacy programming in Ontario, but it will impact some networks, programs, coalitions and service agencies that operate on a provincial or territorial level, and seek project funding through the local/regional stream of MTCU/ALLESP proposals.

So the only provincial funding will be accessible for those proposals that we just completed for the September 8 deadline through the local/regional stream. The federal partners are pulling out of co-funding that initiative. The province has never had a large budget for this, and has depended heavily on the co-funding they receive from the federal level. Projects that can justify a national perspective may be considered.

I will get more clarification about this when I talk to Donna Kirby from ALLESP tomorrow, and then give another update.

From Lesley Brown, OLC

Community Literacy of Ontario
80 Bradford Street, Suite 508
Barrie, ON L4N 8N7
705-733-2312 (t) / 705-733-6197 (f)
www.nald.ca/clo.htm