

COMMUNITY LITERACY OF ONTARIO MEMBERS' E-COMMUNIQUE SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear CLO Members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present its **SEPTEMBER 2009** Members' E-Communique. Topics covered in this E-Communique are:

1. MTCU Update on the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum
2. CLO's November Capacity Institute
3. Interactive Literacy Map of Canada
4. Congratulations To Jean Doull, Winner Of The Ontario 2009 Council Of The Federation Award
5. Literacy and Health Web Resources from the North Bay Literacy Council
6. Tuning Up Your Organization's Website
7. MTCU's Service Delivery Advisory Group August Update
8. Webinars from the Charities Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency

MTCU UPDATE ON THE ONTARIO ADULT LITERACY CURRICULUM

The September 2009 update from Patti Redmond, Director, Programs Branch, Strategic Policy and Programs Division of MTCU on the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum can be found in Appendix One.

CLO'S NOVEMBER CAPACITY INSTITUTE

Community Literacy of Ontario's jam-packed, informative and fun *Organizational Capacity Institute* for community literacy agencies is being held on November 5 to 6, 2009 in beautiful downtown Kingston.

Registration forms will be emailed out to our member programs early in the week of September 14, 2009. Many valuable workshops are planned including: Risk management; Development of policies and procedures; Financial check-up for non-profits; Technology and nonprofits; and HR standards. Watch your inbox next week for more details about this exciting opportunity!

INTERACTIVE LITERACY MAP OF CANADA

The Canadian Council on Learning has prepared an interactive map of Canada regarding prose literacy levels across our country. Please check out this impressive new tool at: www.ccl-cca.ca/cclflash/proseliteracy/map_canada_e.html

CONGRATULATIONS TO JEAN DOULL, WINNER OF THE ONTARIO 2009 COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION AWARD

A long-time community-based literacy practitioner, **Jean Doull**, has been awarded the Ontario 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award. **Congratulations Jean!**

Premier Dalton McGuinty honoured Jean for her important work in adult literacy and skills training. For 25 years, her tireless efforts have helped bring literacy services to Sarnia-Lambton. Jean worked for the Organization for Literacy in Lambton and her contribution to literacy training has touched thousands of Ontario adult learners, helping them to achieve their goals and participate more fully in community life.

The [Council of the Federation Literacy Award](#) was created by Canada's Premiers in 2004 to recognize the valuable contribution made by Canadian literacy leaders. See: <http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2009/08/ontario-honours-literacy-leader.html>

LITERACY AND HEALTH WEB RESOURCES FROM THE NORTH BAY LITERACY COUNCIL

The North Bay Literacy Council has produced some extremely helpful resources for adult students on health and literacy. These resources are available on their website at: www.northbayliteracycouncil.ca/ (click on the "Health and Literacy" tab). Topics include: Talking to your doctor; Health words; Health problems; Mental health; Community resources; Student resources; Lessons plans; and Making a binder about you. This resource is highly recommended!

TUNING UP YOUR ORGANIZATION'S WEBSITE

As websites become an ever-more common way for stakeholders to access information about your organization, here is a great link to help you assess and tune-up your website. From the YFactor: "*Four Factors for Non Profit Website Success*": www.yfactor.com/Public/Default.aspx?l=853&n=Four+Factors+for+Non-Profit+Website+Success.

MTCU'S SERVICE DELIVERY ADVISORY GROUP AUGUST UPDATE

Information from the August 2009 meeting of MTCU's Service Delivery Advisory Group (SDAG) is now available on the Employment Ontario Partners Gateway website at: www.eopg.ca/eng/sdag.html.

Updates on Second Career and the **Employment Services** funding module are included. Please note that Literacy and Basics Skills programs are funded under **Training Services** and as such, this module does not apply to us. Community Literacy of Ontario attends SDAG meetings on behalf of our members.

WEBINARS FROM THE CHARITIES DIRECTORATE OF THE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY

The Charities Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) launched a pilot project in February 2009 to test the use of webinars as an additional communication channel. These hour-long webinars are now available for viewing at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/chrts/cmmnctn/wbnrs/wbcsts-eng.html. They are available in both high-speed and dial-up format and cover two topics: *"Registered Charity Information Returns – Introducing the new T3010B"* and *"Gifting and Receipting"*.

Due to the popularity of these webinars, the CRA will hold additional webinars this fall. The topics are not yet posted, but please click here for more information: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/chrts/cmmnctn/wbnrs/menu-eng.html

APPENDIX ONE

MTCU UPDATE ON THE ONTARIO ADULT LITERACY CURRICULUM

Ministry of Training, Colleges and
Universities

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MEMORANDUM TO: Regional Directors and Managers,
Service Delivery Managers, and
Staff Leads for the LBS Program

FROM: Patti Redmond
Director
Programs Branch
Strategic Policy and Programs Division

DATE: September 4, 2009

SUBJECT: Update on the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum

I am writing to introduce the initiative to create the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum (OALC), which will result in an important new tool to support effective provision of literacy services through Employment Ontario. I also wish to inform you of several planned OALC activities that will be occurring over the next few months.

In response to a government Platform Commitment, work began through the Programs Branch, Strategic Policy and Programs Division in mid-October, 2008 on the OALC. A project manager was hired by the ministry and a work team was formed of consultants from organizations representing the LBS delivery streams—Francophone, Anglophone, Native and Deaf—and sectors—community, college and school board—as well as Employment Ontario staff with specialized knowledge of literacy and the LBS Program.

The OALC 'package' that the work team is currently developing is learner-centred, goal-directed and transition-oriented, and will be an important component of an integrated Employment Ontario system. It will include the competencies adults need to function successfully in the workplace and the community and to "learn how to learn" in order to be flexible and adaptable in response to change. It will also include a learner assessment framework that supports measurement and reporting of learner skill gain based on the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Essential Skills.

When completed and implemented by agencies delivering the LBS Program, the OALC is expected to foster greater quality and consistency of instruction. It is also expected to lead to improved outcomes for literacy learners, including more and easier transitions along five key pathways: employment, enhanced social and civic participation, entry to credit study for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), entry to post-secondary study, and entry to apprenticeship.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has partnered with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to ensure that the curriculum and assessment approach will play an important role in enhancing learner pathways among the foundation skills programs of the three ministries.

Piloting of the curriculum will take place in selected LBS agencies in all delivery sectors and streams from January through March, 2010. Training for LBS agencies and practitioners in the final OALC package will occur in fall, 2010. The new curriculum will be implemented in Employment Ontario agencies delivering the LBS Program beginning January, 2011.

Over the next few months there will be two major OALC activities. First, selected internal and external stakeholders will receive a draft sample of the curriculum and will be asked to provide comment. Second, an application process will be conducted to identify LBS delivery agencies that will become sites for the January to March pilot of the curriculum.

Ongoing information about the piloting process will be provided to Employment Ontario Service Delivery Managers and staff leads for the LBS Program to ensure they are up-to-date on the activities that are planned for their regions.

If you have questions at this time about the OALC or any of these activities, please contact Harold Alden, Senior Program Consultant, Programs Branch, Strategic Policy and Programs Division. He can be reached by telephone at 416-326-5461, or by email at harold.alden@ontario.ca.

Patti Redmond