

## COMMUNITY LITERACY OF ONTARIO MEMBERS' E-COMMUNIQUE SEPTEMBER 2013

Dear CLO Members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present our **SEPTEMBER 2013 Members' E-Communiqué**.

Topics covered in this e-communiqué are:

1. CLO's "Literacy and Employers: Working Together" E-communicue
2. CLO's Donation to the Terry Fox Foundation
3. A New Staff Person for CLO!
4. Make Magic Happen in Your Community: Register for CLO's AGM & Training Day!
5. Shelley Harris – Ontario's Winner of the 2013 Council of the Federation Literacy Award
6. GreenIT – Websites That Make a Difference
7. PIAAC is Coming! Results of an International Survey on Foundational Skills to be Released in October 2013
8. Important Information on the Labour Market Agreement and the Canada Jobs Grant
9. Employment Ontario News and Information



### CLO'S "LITERACY AND EMPLOYERS: WORKING TOGETHER" E-COMMUNIQUE

What? Literacy organizations and employers work together? If you follow some recent media reports you may think this rarely happens. You may believe that employers and literacy organizations speak different languages and value different things. You may be wondering, what could they have in common and how could they possibly work together? In fact, there has been considerable talk recently suggesting that training organizations are not well-linked with employers.

#### Community Literacy of Ontario begs to differ!

We have written an e-communicue called "*Literacy and Employers: Working Together*" to explore some of the positive ways in which community-based literacy agencies and Ontario's employers work together in communities across Ontario. You can access the free online version of the helpful E-Communiqué here: [www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/communiqué.htm](http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/communiqué.htm)



## CLO'S DONATION TO THE TERRY FOX FOUNDATION

Earlier this year, we asked our members to fill out a survey about your needs and issues. We asked about literacy and youth, employers and Ontario Works; we asked about your support needs with regards to the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework and EOIS-CaMS; and we asked about your key needs and issues.

And you answered! Despite your busy schedules, 53 community-based literacy agencies took the time to answer our survey. Instead of holding a draw for a prize, CLO committed to donating to a cancer charity to thank our members for responding. Here is a picture of CLO's own Jette Cosburn, giving our donation to the Terry Fox Foundation!



## A NEW STAFF PERSON FOR CLO!

CLO is pleased to announce that we have hired Meg Harmer as our new Social Media Marketing Assistant for our Social Media Marketing project (which is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation).

Meg is young, talented, dynamic and extremely knowledgeable about social media marketing.

**Welcome to Team CLO, Meg!**



## MAKE MAGIC HAPPEN IN YOUR COMMUNITY: REGISTER FOR CLO'S AGM & TRAINING DAY!

CLO members: join your peers for CLO's 2013 AGM and training day. This event will be held in Barrie, Ontario on **Tuesday, October 29, 2013**.

CLO will be holding two exciting workshops designed to inspire you and enhance your organization's impact: *"Dreaming Big: Making Magic Happen in Your Community"* and *"Partnerships and the Power of Synergy"*. In addition, Barb Simmons, Director, Service Delivery Branch, MTCU, will give an update to CLO's members during our AGM. We will be using the hashtag **#CLOlearn** for this event.

The fee for this event is \$50 for members and includes workshop costs, lunch and breaks. Participants are responsible for their travel and accommodation expenses. The cost for a non-member is \$65.00. Registration information is available at:

[www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/meetconf.htm](http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/meetconf.htm). You can also register online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/CLO2013AGM](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CLO2013AGM)



## SHELLEY HARRIS – ONTARIO'S WINNER OF THE 2013 COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION LITERACY AWARD

Hip, hip hurrah for community-based passion, creativity and excellence! Congratulations to **Shelley Harris – Ontario's Winner of the 2013 Council of the Federation Literacy Award!**

Shelley Harris is manager of education and employment, the community-based literacy program at the [YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin](#), which has a long history of leadership in community building. She is one of 13 winners – one from each province and territory – announced by the Council of the Federation on September 6, 2013. This year, the category for Ontario's award was for an individual who has used their work in literacy to build a stronger, healthier community.

See: <http://news.ontario.ca/tcu/en/2013/09/ontarios-2013-council-of-the-federation-literacy-award-winner.html>

Shelley sent CLO this note to share with her fellow community-based literacy programs: *"I'm so proud to have the chance to showcase the amazing work we do in literacy. We want to give voices to those who may be at risk of being left behind. We want adults, youth, natives, and newcomers to have the opportunity to learn or re-learn skills and to connect with others. Everyone benefits when we all have the chance to become confident, skilled, and contributing members of their communities."*



## GREENIT – WEBSITES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Community Literacy of Ontario is a partner in the *TechTogether* project. The *TechTogether* project is hosted by GreenIT (the social enterprise of Green Communities Canada) and funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. GreenIT is redesigning the CLO website (watch for the unveiling at our AGM!) and we are very impressed with their services.



Numerous member agencies have contacted us for advice regarding cost-effective website development. Therefore, we are pleased to share information on the website development services of our partner, GreenIT.

*GreenIT offers quick and easy website development to Canadian non-profits. You want a professional site to tell your story to the world, and you want it now - with a minimum of fuss, bother, and expense. GreenIT can do that for you.*

*You provide the content. You choose the style, layout and colour scheme. We build you a website that is fully-featured, dynamic and great-looking.*

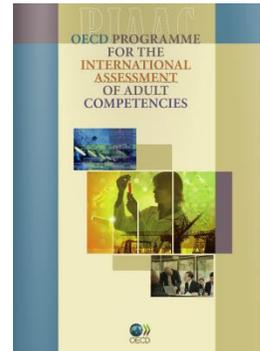
*Website packages start at \$1500 and GreenIT has special group rates for nonprofits! Choose the package that is right for you. For more information visit <http://gccgreenit.ca/website/> or for a consult please contact Doug Tilley at [dtilley@greencommunitiescanada.org](mailto:dtilley@greencommunitiescanada.org).*



## PIAAC IS COMING! RESULTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY ON FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS TO BE RELEASED IN OCTOBER 2013

(Source: CMEC: Council of Ministers of Education, Canada: [www.cmec.ca/463/Programs-and-Initiatives/Assessment/Programme-for-the-International-Assessment-of-Adult-Competencies-\(PIAAC\)/Overview/index.html](http://www.cmec.ca/463/Programs-and-Initiatives/Assessment/Programme-for-the-International-Assessment-of-Adult-Competencies-(PIAAC)/Overview/index.html))

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) is an international survey that measures the foundation skills of adults between 16 and 65 years of age. PIAAC will assess their literacy and numeracy skills and their ability to solve problems in technology-rich environments. **The results from the international and Canadian reports will be released on October 8, 2013.**



This assessment has been designed to determine what activities adults do in their daily lives, such as reading, finding information, and using computers and technology, and to learn about their education and work experience. This information will help provide a clear picture of the challenges adults face in each participating country in order to develop a more skilled work force in the 21st century. PIAAC is a collaborative effort of member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including Canada.

PIAAC is the most comprehensive survey of adult skills ever undertaken. There are 26 countries participating, including Canada. PIAAC in Canada is a collaborative effort between CMEC, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and other federal agencies and departments. Statistics Canada manages the implementation of the survey.

All provinces and territories are participating, and approximately 25,000 Canadians are taking part in this assessment. The large sample size will allow reporting results for each province and territory, as well as for the Aboriginal, immigrant, and official-language minorities across the country.

The information collected from PIAAC will be of importance to those responsible for a range of government programs and services, from education and training to regional economic development and public health. PIAAC will explore the links between skills and effectiveness of education, employability, wages, and health. It will also answer the following key questions:

- How effective are education and training systems in preparing Canadians for today's workplace?
- Are there clear differences among countries that point to better-performing education systems?
- How are Canada's education and training systems adapting in the face of changing skills demands?
- What are the training needs of Canada's workforce?
- Have foundation skills improved over time in line with changes in education and training systems?
- In our modern IT world, how important are computer and problem-solving skills?
- Which fields, industries, or occupations are investing the most in the skills of their workforce?

To learn more about PIAAC visit:

- CMEC: [http://www.cmec.ca/463/Programs-and-Initiatives/Assessment/Programme-for-the-International-Assessment-of-Adult-Competencies-\(PIAAC\)/Overview/index.html](http://www.cmec.ca/463/Programs-and-Initiatives/Assessment/Programme-for-the-International-Assessment-of-Adult-Competencies-(PIAAC)/Overview/index.html)
- The Canadian Literacy and Learning Network: [www.literacy.ca/research-and-resources/piaac/](http://www.literacy.ca/research-and-resources/piaac/)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: [www.oecd.org/site/piaac/](http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/)
- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities: [www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/lbs\\_2013\\_piaac\\_memo\\_v8\\_rev2.pdf](http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/lbs_2013_piaac_memo_v8_rev2.pdf)



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE LABOUR MARKET AGREEMENT AND THE CANADA JOBS GRANT

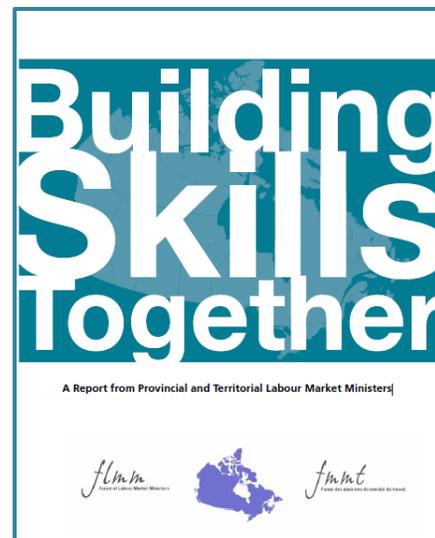
Two very important resources on the Labour Market Agreement and the Canada Jobs Grant were released in September 2013.

### 1. Building Skills Together: A Report from Provincial and Territorial Labour Market Ministers

The “*Building Skills Together*” report details the critical importance of skills and training; the success of the current programming under Labour Market Agreements; and concerns about the federal Canada Job Grant proposal. This important report was released on September 25, 2013. A copy can be downloaded: <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/labourmarket/BuildSkills.html>

### 2. Communique from the Provincial and Territorial Labour Market Ministers

This communique urges the Federal Government to reconsider its proposed changes to skills training and labour market funding. This document was released on September 24, 2013 and can be accessed at: [www.flmm-fmmt.ca/CMFiles/FINAL%20ENGLISH\\_PT%20FLMMCommunique.pdf](http://www.flmm-fmmt.ca/CMFiles/FINAL%20ENGLISH_PT%20FLMMCommunique.pdf)



## EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO NEWS AND INFORMATION

MTCU's Employment Ontario Partners Gateway (EOPG) website provides a wealth of important information for LBS agencies. See: [www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/newpostings](http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/newpostings)

Recent news on the EOPG includes:

- October 1, 2013: [Memo: Update on the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies \(PIAAC\) initiative](#)
- September 24, 2013: [Youth Employment Fund \(YEF\): An Overview](#)
- September 24, 2013: [Youth Employment Fund \(YEF\): Guidelines Overview](#)
- September 13, 2013: [CaMS/2013-2 Bulletin](#)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This CLO E-Communiqué was researched and written by Joanne Kaattari. For more information about Community Literacy of Ontario, please visit our website at: [www.communityliteracyofontario.ca](http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca).

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CLO receives core funding from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. We are a proud part of the Employment Ontario network.

