

HANDS ON, SKILLS UP!

Employment-Related Experiential Learning in Ontario's
Literacy and Basic Skills Organizations
November 28 + December 4, 2017



Welcome!



- www.communityliteracyofontario.ca
- www.cesba.com
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- [@CESBAOntario](https://www.facebook.com/CESBAOntario)
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Thanks to Our Funder

This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario through the Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement.



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Gratefully yours!



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Your Presenters

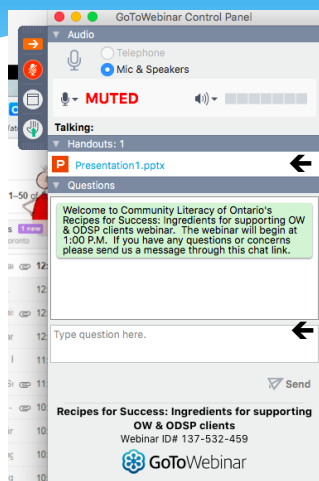
- Joanne Kaattari, Co-Executive Director, Community Literacy of Ontario
- Tamara Kaattari, Executive Director, Literacy Link South Central
- Bernadette Beaupre, Executive Director, CESBA

“Experiential learning is about so much more than just the work. The many benefits to the learners are truly incredible.”

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Housekeeping



- Slide Deck in Handouts
- Question Chat
- Recording
- Audience

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Agenda



Our Research Results

In Action!

Bonus Q&A!

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Defining Experiential Learning

“Experiential learning provides LBS learners with positive experiences – and sets them on the right path for a job that suits their skills, needs and interests.”

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A funny thing happened on the way to
the Highly Skilled Workforce Report...



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Why Experiential Learning in LBS Matters...

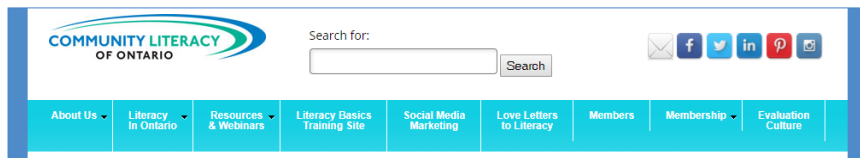
*“Providing experiential learning mean we focus
on learners’ abilities, interests, and strengths,
and we encourage them to use their skills in real-
life ways out in the community.”*

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Our Experiential Learning Initiative

1. Survey
2. Interviews
3. Webinar
4. Research Report
5. Newsletter



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Research Results: Who?

SURVEY:

- 66 LBS organizations (31% response rate!)
- All streams
- All sectors

25 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

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Research Results: What?

80% participate!

- Certificates
- Partnerships
- Volunteering
- Equipment & tech
- Occupational curriculum
- Social enterprise
- Mentoring
- Job placements

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Why?

- Employment
- Skills
- Confidence
- Vulnerability



*"We believe in our learners and support them,
until they believe in themselves again"*

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How long?



A LONG Time!

How is it funded?

- LBS
- Combined
- Community partners
- No funding
- Fundraising
- Ontario Works
- Skills Link
- Foundations
- Federal programs
- Volunteers

Benefits

- Confidence and skills – 97%
- Employment prep – 88%
- Partnerships – 77%
- Learner retention – 61%
- Recruitment – 50%

Challenges

- Financial support
- Staff time
- Coordination
- Learner motivation
- Staff
- Resources
- Outreach

Support Needs

- Funding
- Staffing
- Partnerships

- Best Practices
- Resources and Curriculum
- Equipment
- Clarity

What advice would you give?

- Small steps
- Listen
- Plan
- Prepare
- Partner
- Be careful

Would you like to increase employment-related experiential learning?

“Yes! Definitely! Adult literacy students typically need to DO something, not just sit at a desk. Experiential learning is a great fit for many of them. And many of our students need employment experience to get out of poverty.”



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Certificates

“Employers are stuck on LBS being something different from what they want or need.”

Lori Bruner – Executive Director
Brant Skills Centre - Brantford

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In-Program Opportunities

“Listen to the learners! If you have open time where the class can just chat and throw ideas around, wonderful things come out of that. Learners want to share their skills and knowledge.”

Shelley Harris – Director of Employment and Settlement
Adult Education Program, YWCA – St Thomas-Elgin

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Community Partnerships

“This is not just about volunteerism. It’s about being part of something important (like environmentalism) and a call to action.”

Jason Martell – Coordinator
Nokee Kwe, London

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Volunteer Opportunities

“Our volunteer placements help students to discover their hidden skills and talents, increase their self-confidence, and develop marketable skills for the job market. What’s not to love about that?”

Jennifer Ellis, Executive Director
Gateway Centre for Learning

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Equipment & technology

“Through experiential learning, LBS students get to know their skills and understand what they are good at. It really helps them figure out their next steps and gain confidence to build a better future.”

Ginette Comeau-Roy
Program Manager, Education and Workforce Training
Sudbury Vocational Resource Centre

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Social enterprise

*“Can you guess the only requirement of the Awesome Foundation for our social enterprise? It was **‘GO FORTH AND BE AWESOME’!** And, that’s just what we did!”*

Kathy Kennedy & Lori Farrington
Prince Edward Learning Centre, Picton

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Occupational Curriculum

“Experiential learning provides LBS learners with positive experiences – and sets them on the right path for a job that suits their skills, needs and interests.”

Martha Rudden, Manager of LBS Programs
Kingston Literacy & Skills

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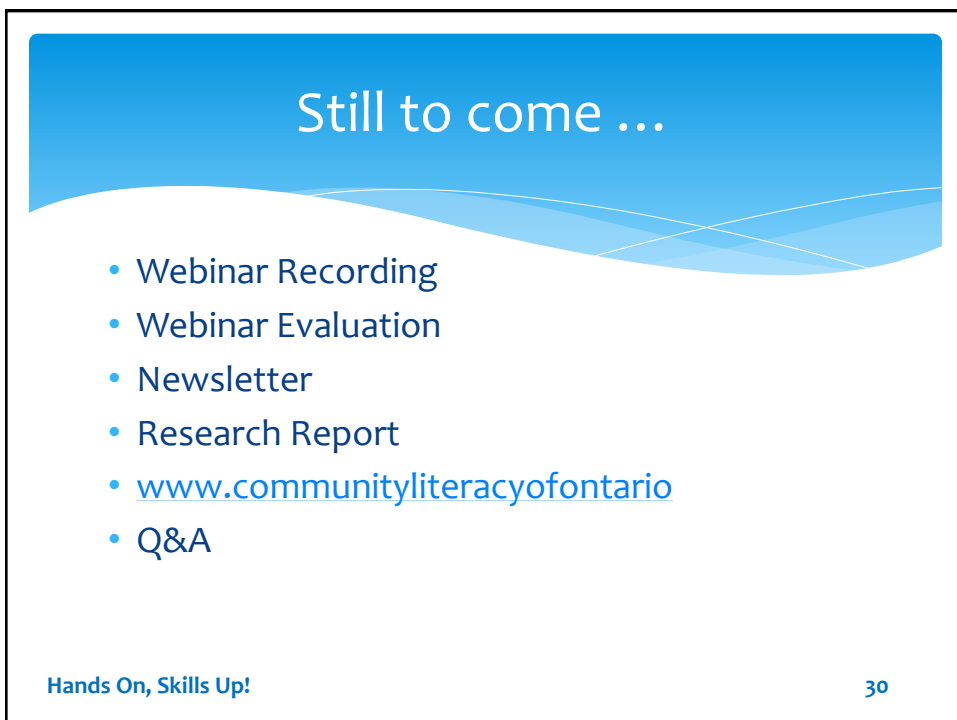
THANK
YOU

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OF ONTARIO

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Still to come ...

- Webinar Recording
- Webinar Evaluation
- Newsletter
- Research Report
- www.communityliteracyofontario
- Q&A

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