

COMMUNITY LITERACY OF ONTARIO MEMBERS' E-COMMUNIQUE MARCH 2016

Dear CLO Members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present our **March 2016 Members' E-Communiqué**.

Topics covered in this e-communiqué are:

- Recorded Webinar: Growing Numeracy Skills
- Toolkit of Resources to Support Service Delivery for Hard-to-Serve Clients in Literacy and Basic Skills Agencies
- Little Free Libraries
- Partnerships, Resources and Strategies to Engage Ontario Works Clients in Literacy Programming
- Developing a Culture of Evaluation Project Update
- 2016 Employment Ontario Leadership Awards
- Employment Ontario News and Information



RECORDED WEBINAR: GROWING NUMERACY SKILLS

In March 2016, CLO hosted a webinar called "*Growing Numeracy Skills: Resources to Support the Understand and Use Numbers Competency*". In this webinar, delivered by Joyce Bigelow and CLO, we highlight what has been blooming recently in the LBS numeracy domain.

Joyce shares many examples of practical and user-friendly resources and she also plants some new ideas on how to use these resources to support the development of numeracy skills in your literacy program.

You can access our recorded webinar via this link:

<https://vimeo.com/158385699>



TOOLKIT OF RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY FOR HARD-TO-SERVE CLIENTS IN LITERACY AND BASIC SKILLS AGENCIES

Community Literacy of Ontario has been asked by its members to provide support to Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) agencies that are delivering services to clients facing a multitude of challenges. These clients are often referred to as “hard-to-serve” or “vulnerable”.

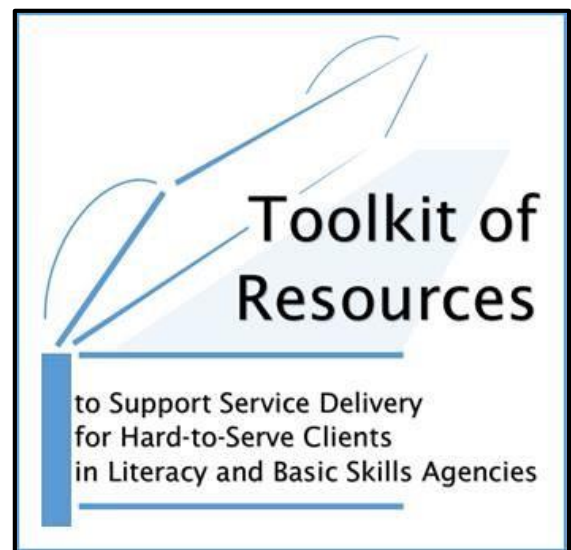
To meet our members’ request, CLO has produced this special resource, a toolkit of resources, tips and sample tools that are currently being used with success in LBS agencies across the province.

Our new *“Toolkit of Resources to Support Service Delivery for Hard-to-Serve Clients in Literacy and Basic Skills Agencies”* is intended to enhance the capacity of LBS practitioners to meet the needs of hard-to-serve clients. These resources have been obtained through discussions and research with agencies who are dealing with these “hard-to-serve” or “vulnerable” clients on a daily basis.

So take some time, grab yourself a beverage and read through this toolkit. Visit the recommended resources and think about how they could be used in your program with vulnerable clients. Consider adapting and using the sample tools to make them work to your clients’ advantage. Happy reading!

You can download our *“Toolkit of Resources”* at:

www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/Toolkit-Hard-to-Serve-Clients-LBS.pdf



LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Little Free Libraries! What’s not to love? There has always been a strong link between libraries and literacy. Several Ontario literacy organizations have created their own Little Free Libraries in order to share the love of reading and promote free access to books.

Here is a picture of the Little Free Library created by the Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy.

You can learn about these wonderful little libraries that exist all around the world at: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>



PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE ONTARIO WORKS CLIENTS IN LITERACY PROGRAMMING

In 2015-2016, Community Literacy of Ontario has been collecting and sharing information about effective partnerships, resources, and strategies to engage Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs clients in literacy programming.

Helpful Resources for Ontario Works Clients

RECORDED WEBINAR:

Recipes for Success: Ingredients for Supporting OW & ODSP Clients

In February 2016, CLO hosted a webinar called “*Recipes for Success: Ingredients for Supporting OW & ODSP Clients*”. This webinar focused on sharing resources to help practitioners engage vulnerable Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program clients in LBS programming.



To access a recording of this webinar, visit: <https://vimeo.com/156291615>

The Importance of Volunteering

Volunteering is an excellent way for OW or ODSP clients to demonstrate their abilities, learn new skills, make connections that can lead to employment, and build their resumes. Opportunities to volunteer can be found through:

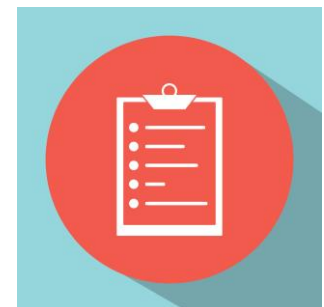
- The Ontario Volunteer Centre Network at www.ovcn.ca/
- Volunteer Canada at <http://volunteer.ca>
- Spark Ontario at www.findmyspark.ca/



Statistics Canada Study: The Association between Skills and Low Income

In its new study, Statistics Canada clearly demonstrates the strong co-relation between low skills and low income.

Read the results of this important study here: www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/160224/dq160224a-eng.htm?cmp=mstatcan



DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF EVALUATION PROJECT UPDATE

In March 2015, Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) in partnership with Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) received funding from the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade to work on an exciting project titled, *Developing a Culture of Evaluation*.

As we are approaching the one year anniversary of the project, the half-way marker, CLO and LLSC would like to provide you with a snapshot of the work that has already taken place and the work that will be happening in the coming months. You can freely access all project information and products at www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/evaluation-culture/



RESEARCH

Early in the project, research was conducted through key informant interviews, a provincial survey and internet research. The results of this research culminated in two important documents:

1. A Literature Review: www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/evaluation-culture/evaluation-resources/
2. A Research Summary: www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/evaluation-culture/evaluation-resources/



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The Evaluation Culture Club is a dynamic online evaluation lab, a place to share and increase our understanding of evaluation and to build a culture of evaluation. Visit <https://evaluationclub.contactnorth.ca/> to see what's new, to check out the resources or to share your suggestions, concerns or overall thoughts on evaluation!



ONLINE CLINICS

This project is hosting 10 online clinics that focus on topics to help non-profits foster a culture of evaluation. All clinics are being recorded and are available on CLO's project website at: www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/evaluation-culture/online-clinics/.

Four clinics have been delivered to date:

- November 4, 2015 – Culture of Evaluation
- December 2, 2015 - Ask the Non-Profit
- January 6, 2016 – Evaluation Fitness Resolutions
- February 3, 2016 – Ask the Funder



The remaining six online clinics have been tentatively scheduled. Watch your inbox for details!

- April 6, 2016 - Evaluate for Funding
- May 11, 2016 – Ask the External Evaluator
- June 1, 2016 – Topic TBD
- October 5, 2016 – Topic TBD
- December 7, 2016 – Topic TBD
- January 11, 2017 – Topic TBD



ONLINE MODULES

And if all this activity isn't enough – we have more! Lots more! Starting with eight insightful online modules that will be available on CLO's website in March/April 2016. These modules are in the final stages of development and will be a significant evaluation resource for small non-profits.

Stay tuned for more details but to whet your appetite, the module topics are:

- Introduction to Evaluation
- Planning for Evaluation
- Data Collection
- Analyzing the Data
- Communicating the Results
- Taking Action
- Case Study: The Evaluation Cycle in Action
- Trends in Evaluation



WEBINARS

And to provide you with even more evaluation training opportunities, we will be delivering six webinars starting in June 2016 and finishing in January 2017.

Watch your inbox for details or visit our website at:

www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/evaluation-culture/evaluation-webinars/.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT...

For more information about the project, please contact Community Literacy of Ontario at info@communityliteracyofontario.ca or Literacy Link South Central at amc@bellnet.ca.



2016 EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Calling all Nominations! This is a reminder that the closing date to nominate an Employment Ontario service provider for the 2016 Employment Ontario Leadership Awards is **Thursday, March 24, 2016 by 5 p.m.**

The awards ceremony is scheduled for May 2, 2016. All EO service providers, nominees and nominators are encouraged to attend.

Find out how you can participate and submit your application here:
www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/leadership_awards.html

Don't miss your chance to get recognized for the hard work you do!
Nominate your employees or colleagues for a 2016 Employment Ontario Leadership Award today!



EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO NEWS AND INFORMATION

MTCU's Employment Ontario Partners Gateway (EOPG) website provides a wealth of important information for LBS agencies. Be sure to check this site regularly at:
www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/newpostings

**EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO**
Ontario's employment & training network

Recent news on the EOPG includes:

- March 14, 2016: [Entering Essential Skills for Employment and Education \(ESEE\) data in EOIS-CaMS](#)
- March 11, 2016: [ADM Letter to the EO Network: New consolidated Visual Identity and Communications Guidelines for Employment Ontario Service Providers](#)
- March 8, 2016: [SP Connect Guides and Resources](#)
- March 1, 2016: Learner Gains Research Project / [Questions and Answers for Service Providers](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This E-Communiqué was researched and written by Joanne Kaattari and Jette Cosburn. For more information about Community Literacy of Ontario, visit our [website](#).

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

