

## COMMUNITY LITERACY OF ONTARIO MEMBERS' E-COMMUNIQUE APRIL 2019

Dear CLO Members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present our **April 2019 E-Communiqué**.

Topics covered in this e-communiqué are:

- CLO's: "More Success Stories: Experiential Learning in LBS"
- CLO's Meeting with the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Four New Curricula for LBS
- Compendium of Assistive Technologies
- Literacy as a Poverty Reduction Strategy: Frontier College's National Research Report
- Summary of the "Enhance Your Practice with Math" Webinar Series – and Our Future Plans...
- Literacy Lost: Canada's Basic Skills Shortfall
- Employment Ontario News and Information

April 2019  
E-Communiqué

### CLO'S "MORE SUCCESS STORIES: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN LBS"

Community Literacy of Ontario has consistently heard from its members about the effectiveness of using experiential learning with LBS learners. To learn more, we held key informant interviews and wrote a newsletter that explores experiential learning in eight different LBS agencies. We are pleased to share: "[More Success Stories: Experiential Learning in LBS](#)".



## CLO'S MEETING WITH THE HONOURABLE MERRILEE FULLERTON, MINISTER OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

In March 2019, CLO was very happy to meet with the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. Two CLO staff members, Jette Cosburn and Joanne Kaattari, and a CLO board member, Barbara McFater, attended this meeting.

CLO had 20 minutes to meet with Minister Fullerton, and we shared the following key messages:

1. Literacy is a critical issue for Ontario, and it is integrally linked to poverty, employment, health, civic engagement, and more. (As found in *Literacy: Why It Matters*).
2. The LBS program is an important part of Employment Ontario and it is foundational to issues that matter to citizens and to the Ministry. We shared the need to protect and enhance the LBS budget.
3. We shared the basic goals identified in MTCU's LBS Improvement and Expansion process (LBS evaluation), and the importance of restarting this process to address the needs of LBS.
4. We shared brief success stories of how LBS works on the ground. We left the Minister and her staff with several resources highlighting program successes.

The Minister was genuinely interested in, and supportive of, LBS. Key messages were shared with the Minister about the importance of literacy and the critical roles played by LBS programming. CLO team members were pleased with this meeting and we hope to follow-up again at a later date.



## FOUR NEW CURRICULA FOR LBS

During the past year, CLO researched curriculum gaps and areas of high demand from learners and practitioners. We worked with four community-based LBS agencies, who have extensive experience in curriculum development, to write, revise and adapt curricula for LBS agencies.

CLO and the curriculum development team are very proud to share the following curricula:

- **Clerical and Office Administration** (Kingston Literacy & Skills)
- **Food Counter Attendants & Kitchen Helpers** (Connections Adult Learning)
- **Health Care Preparation** (Brant Skills Centre)
- **Retail** (Sudbury Vocational Resource Centre, Educational and Workplace Training Program)

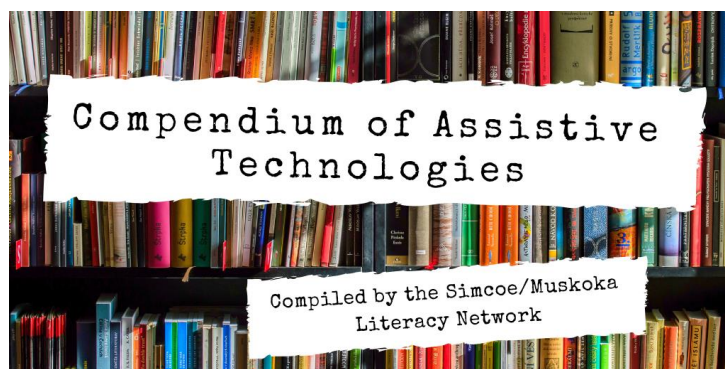
These curricula are freely available on CLO's website at:

[www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/resources/publications/#Curriculum](http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/resources/publications/#Curriculum)



## COMPENDIUM OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

The Simcoe-Muskoka Literacy Network completed revisions to their [Compendium of Assistive Technology](#), which was first published in 2011. This helpful resource is available for free download from the SMLN [website](#).

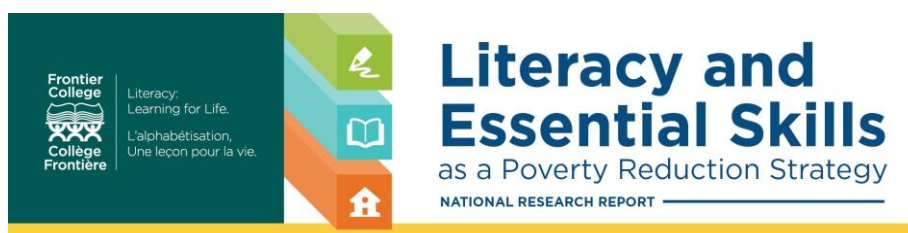


## LITERACY AS A POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY: FRONTIER COLLEGE'S NATIONAL RESEARCH REPORT

Frontier College recently released its [National Research Report on Literacy and Essential Skills as a Poverty Reduction Strategy](#). The report reveals how increased literacy enables Canadians to move out of poverty and recommends that governments recognize literacy as political priority and a human right.

People with low literacy levels are more likely to experience poverty in Canada. One in five Canadians struggle with reading, writing or math, and millions more do not have the essential skills to succeed in today's economy. The stigma surrounding low literacy, and the everyday systems and tasks that assume strong literacy skills, may affect a person's ability to find and use the services they need to lift them out of poverty.

Frontier College and its research partner, The Social Research and Demonstration Corporation, completed a comprehensive review of existing literature, and surveyed and interviewed local and national literacy associations, poverty reduction organizations, service providers, policy makers, researchers, and individuals.



## SUMMARY OF THE "ENHANCE YOUR PRACTICE WITH MATH" WEBINAR SERIES – AND OUR FUTURE PLANS...

The Online Community of Practice Webinars for LBS Committee is pleased to present a summary of the "[Enhance Your Practice with Math](#)" series of webinars held in 2018-2019. It includes information on why math matters, how to make learning math fun, and math resources.

Now, the Committee is planning our webinar series for the upcoming year. We'll be delivering webinars on the important topics of **poverty** and **apprenticeship**.

We are looking to brand this webinar series and we are seeking **YOUR** help in finding us a catchy name that you will readily recognize as online PD for LBS educators.

Use this link to select the names that you like best or suggest a new one. Leave your name and you could win a \$50 gift certificate. See: <https://forms.gle/Qa45yiZY7iWz2Dx99>



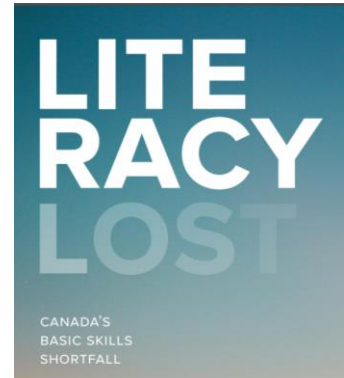


## LITERACY LOST: CANADA'S BASIC SKILLS SHORTFALL

The Canada West Foundation recently released an important report called [Literacy Lost: Canada's Basic Skills Shortfall](#).

This report highlights problems and suggests solutions related to:

- The nature of the changing workforce
- The low levels of literacy in Canada's workforce
- Literacy skills and jobs of the future
- The impact of automation



## EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO NEWS AND INFORMATION

MTCU's Employment Ontario Partners Gateway (EOPG) website provides important information for LBS agencies. Visit this site regularly at: [www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/newpostings](http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/newpostings)

Recent news on the EOPG includes:

- [Joint ADM Memo to EO/ODSP Network](#) (April 18, 2019)
  - [Notification: Vendor Market Day](#) (April 18, 2019)
  - [General Questions and Answers for Service Providers](#) (April 18, 2019)
- [Memo: Key changes to 2019-2020 Employment Ontario transfer payment agreements](#) (March 29, 2019)
  - [Questions and Answers for Service Providers](#) (March 29, 2019)
- [Memo: New reporting requirements for Labour Market Transfer Agreement-funded Employment Ontario programs](#) (March 29, 2019)
  - [Questions and Answers for Service Providers](#) (March 29, 2019)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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