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**LITERACY AND BASIC SKILLS UPDATE**  
***COMMUNITY LITERACY ONTARIO***

***OCTOBER 18, 2016***

**Employment and Training Division**  
**Ministry of Advance Education and Skills Development**

# Overview

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## Current Initiatives

- Transformation of Employment and Training Services
- Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy
- Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Program Evaluation
- Learner Gains Research Project

## Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Program Highlights: 2015-2016

- Program Budget and Results
- Performance Management: Service Coordination
- Goal Paths and Demographics
- Learner Exit
- Community-Based Agency Demographics



# Transformation of Employment and Training Services

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Transformation and integration of cross-government employment and training services with Employment Ontario, driven by a vision of building a skilled, resilient and productive workforce for the 21st century

- Opportunity to realign programming based on evidence and focus on better outcomes for clients.
- Supports the Poverty Reduction Strategy by removing barriers to the most distant from the labour market and focusing resources on those who need them most.



# Transformation Program Goals

## Get people back to work quickly

- Lighter touch interventions targeting those with stable employment histories

## Re-skilling for sustainable employment

- Prepare people to get, keep, and advance in jobs, for long-term success

## Broadening access to labour market participation

- Intensive employment interventions, literacy, essential skills and language training, with connections to wrap-around social supports

## Addressing skills gaps and mismatches

- Work with employers and sectors to address economic needs



# Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy

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- In August 2015, the Premier appointed an Expert Panel to develop a strategy to help the province's workforce adapt to the demands of a technology-driven knowledge economy.
- The panel consulted broadly with educators students, business/industry, labour, not-for-profits and intermediary organizations, representatives of diverse workers, and regional economic representatives before making recommendations to government.
- The government released the report, *Building the Workforce of Tomorrow: A Shared Responsibility*, on June 23, 2016.
- The September 12, 2016 Speech from the Throne confirmed the government's commitment to moving forward with the recommendations.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development is leading the Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy going forward.



# Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Evaluation

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- Over the past few years, a number of changes were made to the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program, including the implementation of the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF), the introduction of the Performance Management System, and further development of distance literacy training (e-Channel).
- In late 2015, the ministry conducted an evaluation to obtain evidence that would help to better understand the effects of the recent changes to the program on delivery and outcomes.
- The evaluation solicited input from all key stakeholders, including LBS service providers and support organizations, regional networks and former and current learners.
- The evaluation is now complete. Report findings are under ministry review and expected to be completed by late Fall 2016.



# Learner Gains Research Project (LGRP)

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- Over the past few years, the ministry has been exploring options for a suitable assessment mechanism/tool to measure a learner's progress pre- and post program intervention.
- The ministry is currently conducting an 11-month (January-November 2016) Learner Gains Research Project (LGRP). College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading (CSC) has been contracted to lead the project.
- The LGRP will support the LBS program by providing a better understanding of the experiences and progress of learners.
- Phase 1 ended on June 30, 2016 with the completion of pre-testing of learners.
- LBS program participants will administer the Essential Skills for Employment and Education (ESEE) post-test to learners who completed the pre-test during the Phase 1. The post-test data will be gathered until November 30, 2016.
- The final report, including a full analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and recommendations will be submitted to the ministry in December 2016.



# Learner Gains Research Project (Cont'd)

## Community Agencies participating in Learner Gains – 17 Service Providers across 22 sites

Adult Language and Learning - Chatham	Le Collège du Savoir-Brampton	Georgian Learning - Collingwood	Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre – Fort Erie
Alexandra Park- Toronto	North Bay Literacy Council - North Bay	Adult Learning Centre - Owen Sound	Hamilton Native Learning Centre - Hamilton
Atikokan Literacy - Atikokan Adult Learning Centre	Saugeen Shores Adult Learning Centre - Port Elgin	The Canadian Hearing Society - Société canadienne de l'ouïe– Toronto	Kenamatewin Native Learning Centre - Kenora
Community Learning Alternatives (Hastings County and District) – Trenton & Belleville	Bruce Peninsula Adult Learning Centre - Wiarton	South Essex Community Council - Leamington	Kingston Literacy & Skills – Napanee and Kingston
Conseil d'Alpha de Toronto- Toronto	Walkerton Adult Learning Centre - Walkerton	Centre Moi j'apprends – Cornwall, Rockland, Ottawa and Hawkesbury	La Boite à Lettres de Hearst - Hearst
L'ABC Communautaire - Welland			



# Literacy and Basic Skills Highlights 2015-2016

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The following slides will provide an overview of 2015-2016 year end outcomes in the LBS program based on data collected from the Employment Ontario Information System-Case Management System (EOIS-CaMS) and the e-Channel Interim Reporting Solution.



# Program Budget and Results

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- The LBS program is supported through provincial funding and by federal funding received through the new Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement.
- In 2015-2016, the ministry budgeted \$85.4M for the LBS program with a target of more than 44,000 learners being served.
- For the current fiscal year (2016-2017), the ministry has budgeted \$84.8M with a target of almost 43,000 learners being served.



# Performance Management: Service Coordination

Top 5 Referred In	Provincial	Community Sector
Informal Word of Mouth/Media Referral	7789	2579
Other – structured/formal referral	4791	1330
EO – Employment Service Provider	1878	821
EO – LBS Provider	2178	801
Ontario Works	1817	790

Top 5 Referred Out	Provincial	Community Sector
Other – structured/formal referral	902	326
High School	581	114
General Educational Development	232	98
Service for Indigenous Peoples	79	67
Independent Learning Centre	80	47



# Goal Paths and Demographics

## GOAL PATHS:

In 2015-16 there were over 42,000 learners in the LBS program:

- **Education: 52 % of LBS learners**
- **Employment: 31% of LBS learners**
- **Independence: 11% of LBS learners**
- **Apprenticeship: 5% of LBS learners**

## DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

- **30% of the LBS learner population was under the age of 30**
- **61% of the learner population was female**
- **38% of the learner population was male**
- **Less than 1% of the population chose other for gender**
- **25% of the LBS learners reported Ontario Works (OW) as the source of income**
- **22% of LBS learners reported being Employed or Self Employed**
- **17% of the LBS learners reported Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) as their source of income**



# Learner Exits

In 2015-2016, almost 14,000 people exited the LBS program.

- 34% of learners were employed following program completion.
- 31% of learners proceeded to further education such as obtaining their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, moving to postsecondary education, continued academic upgrading, etc.
- 12% of learners enrolled in further training programs

## Exits per Goal Path:

- Education - 44%
- Employment - 39%
- Independence - 10%
- Apprenticeship - 7%



# Community Based Agency Demographics

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- There are over 140 community based agencies delivering LBS programming.
- In 2015-2016, community based agencies served almost 14,000 learners.
- As of the end of June 2016, community based agencies have delivered LBS training to over 7,400 learners across the province.
  - Over 6,800 learners were served in person and over 540 were served through e-Channel.



# Questions

