

COMMUNITY LITERACY OF ONTARIO MEMBERS' E-COMMUNIQUE FEBRUARY 2017

Dear CLO Members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present our **February 2017 E-Communiqué**.

Topics covered in this e-communiqué are:

- CLO's Youth Engagement Newsletter
- The New OSAP: Grants for Adult Learners to Attend College or University
- Basic Income Consultations for Ontario
- LBS Meeting with Deputy Minister Sheldon Levy
- The LBS Program: A Few Highlights
- Support Organization Corner
- Announcing the Winner of CLO's Membership Draw
- Employment Ontario News and Information



CLO'S YOUTH ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Our [Youth Engagement Newsletter](#) is hot off our online press!

Youth are an integral part of the Literacy and Basic Skills Program. In fact, 45% of learners served by Ontario's LBS agencies are youth under the age of 29.

In response, CLO researched and wrote our Youth Engagement Newsletter with the goals of:

- Overviewing the youth employment programs available
- Sharing how LBS agencies support youth employment programs
- Showcasing effective strategies for serving youth in LBS programs
- Highlighting helpful resources for engaging youth



THE NEW OSAP: GRANTS FOR ADULT LEARNERS TO ATTEND COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

Are your students looking at their postsecondary options? Don't forget to remind them to apply for OSAP! Starting in the 2017-18 school year, OSAP will make the average college and university tuition free for students, including **adult learners**, whose family income is \$50,000 or less per year.

Even if their family earns more, the new OSAP is still there to help with generous grants and loans that will make attending college or university much more affordable.

Adult students, married students, and students with children are eligible for grants for university or college through OSAP.

Visit www.ontario.ca/OSAPpartners to find out more, and download materials to help you and your clients learn about OSAP.



The advertisement features a green background on the left with the OSAP logo (a white box with 'osap' and a checkmark) and the text 'The new OSAP See how much you can get.' Below this is the website 'ontario.ca/osap'. On the right, a yellow circle contains the text 'Free Tuition for eligible students'. The background image shows a young woman and a man sitting together, looking at a document.

BASIC INCOME CONSULTATIONS FOR ONTARIO

Have you heard the talk about "basic income" and how it is being piloted in our province? Learn more about via this [video](#) from the Government of Ontario.

You will also find helpful information via these websites:

- [Ontario Basic Income Consultations](#) (Government of Ontario)
- [A Basic Income for Canadians: What Would Change?](#) (Metcalf Foundation)



LBS MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER SHELDON LEVY

Representatives from Community Literacy of Ontario, CESBA, Literacy Link South Central, the Peel-Halton-Dufferin Adult Learning Network and COFA were pleased to attend a meeting on February 23rd with Deputy Minister Sheldon Levy and Assistant Deputy Minister Erin McGinn, on behalf of our colleagues from many of Ontario's support organizations.

The meeting was very positive and productive. We discussed the benefits of the Literacy and Basic Skills program, the need for enhanced program funding, and the need for increased recognition of LBS within the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. Our small group will be writing a more in-depth update which we will share at a later date. We all very much appreciated this opportunity to both showcase the importance of LBS programming and to also raise concerns.



THE LBS PROGRAM: A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few important statistics about Ontario's Literacy and Basics Skills program from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development's EOIS-CAMS Data for **2014-2015**. This is provincial data, which is inclusive of all regions and all LBS delivery sectors and streams.

- **LEARNER NUMBERS:** In 2014-2015, the LBS program served **43,617** adult learners.
- **EDUCATION LEVELS:** **44%** of adults in LBS have not attained a high school education. **24%** have a high school education only.
- **LBS AND POVERTY:** Lack of literacy skills is strongly linked to poverty and over **45%** of LBS learners rely upon Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program for income support.
- **LABOUR FORCE ATTACHMENT:** LBS learners experience high levels of unemployment, and **57%** of learners are unemployed. This contrasts sharply with the standard unemployment rate for Ontarians.
- **LBS LEARNERS ARE SURPRISINGLY YOUNG:** **45%** of learners served by Ontario's LBS agencies were youth under the age of 29.



SUPPORT ORGANIZATION CORNER

Literacy and Basic Skills organizations are supported by a variety of support organizations, including provincial and regional networks located in various communities across the province.



Ontario's support organizations create a variety of resources to help literacy agencies. In CLO's "Support Organization Corner" we will share some of these helpful resources.

Learning Networks of Ontario

The [Learning Networks of Ontario](#) provide a wide array of resources covering topics from marketing to instructional resources to professional development. Just click on the "[Resources](#)" section of their website to access toolkits, newsletters, project reports and more!



Eastern Ontario Literacy Networks

Ontario's Eastern Literacy Networks have created a professionally produced video called "[Occupational Health & Safety: The Literacy Connection](#)". Health and safety and injury prevention are important topics, but literacy students often face barriers to access this training due to their low literacy skills. The video shares how the networks worked together to create a health and safety course designed for clients with literacy challenges, and they also share how this course can enhance safety and employability skills.



Best Practice Interviews with LBS Programs

The Western Region Support Organizations collaborated to interview LBS champions in a series of four interviews, called "[Best Practice Interviews with LBS Programs](#)". The interviews cover the following four topics: Completion of Goal Path; Learner Progress; Service Coordination; and Suitability.



ANNOUNCING THE WINNER OF CLO'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW

We are very pleased to announce that the [West Neighbourhood House Adult Literacy program](#) was the winner of the membership draw in January. They were selected from the many membership registrations received during the 2017 membership drive. The program will receive a \$50 Chapters gift card.

If you missed CLO's membership registration drive don't despair-- there is still time to join! For more information click [here](#).



EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO NEWS AND INFORMATION

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



Recent news on the EOPG includes:

- [Interim Assistant Deputy Minister of Employment and Training Division](#) (February 24, 2017)
- [Status of Transfer Payment Agreements for 2017-18](#) (February 22, 2017)
- [Youth Employment Programming](#) (February 22, 2016)
- [SDAG Discussion Item: QSAR and QADR Automation in SP Connect](#) (February 22, 2016)
- [Open Data Initiatives](#) (February 13, 2017)
- [CaMS/2017-2 Bulletin](#) (February 2017)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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.

