

Northern Network News

The Northern Networks (LNN, LNW & MNN) are working together to consolidate and share information to help ensure that all LBS service providers are kept informed.

Information compiled into a friendly e-news format will be shared monthly or quarterly, depending on the topic and timelines.

This way we can also update service providers about recent discussions on the www.northernliteracy.ca forums.

April 2017

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Training Opportunities

Please check the events section on the website for an up-to-date listing and more details.

<http://www.northernliteracy.ca/index.php/service-providers/latest-events>

Northern Networks: Recorded Webinar

The Northern Networks have partnered with Literacy Link South Central to offer a free webinar entitled **Young at Heart: Working Together to Increase the Skills of Ontario's Youth**. In this webinar we will:

- Profile youth resources that have formed the basis of successful LBS programming
- Offer ideas on how to talk to other organizations about the needs of youth and how LBS can help
- Provide an overview of ways to market to, engage and retain youth in LBS programming

If you were unable to attend this webinar or wish to view it again, it is posted on the Northern Networks website and the Learning Networks of Ontario website.

Northern Networks website:

<https://www.northernliteracy.ca/docshare/Main/DocumentIndex>

Learning Networks of Ontario website:

http://www.learningnetworks.ca/ResourcesPublications/Submission%20Forms/YoungatHeart_workingtogethertoincreasetheskillsofOntario%E2%80%99syouth.mp4

AlphaPlus: Tech Tuesday Webinar: Managing Online Resources with Diigo

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

Do you have a list of websites you want to reference in a Word document? How about a bunch of links stored away in various emails in your inbox? In this webinar, we show the simple organizing power of bookmarking tools Diigo. This tool allows you to amalgamate, simplify, organize and share your collection of links. This webinar will also reveal useful links from the AlphaPlus Web Index, to add to your own collection of resource links.

To register for this webinar please use the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3099192706734305793>

Project READ: Mental Health Guide for Practitioners Training

Registration is Now Open

Project READ Literacy Network, with funding from the Trillium Foundation, has created a guide for adult education facilitators to offer suggestions and strategies for supporting learners living with mental health issues. Now, a webinar on this material is open for registration. This guide includes information on mental health conditions and disorders, general suggestions for supporting learners, specific strategies for guiding learners to maximize what they can achieve, and tools to help learners self-manage their own learning strategies. The webinar will provide an overview of the information available in the guide, training on how to navigate the guide to find the information you need and instructions on using the learner tools provided.

To register for **Tuesday, April 18th @ 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**, please use the following link:

<https://projectread.clickmeeting.com/599992676/register>

To register for **Thursday, April 20th @ 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**, please use the following link:

<https://projectread.clickmeeting.com/631862891/register>

To register for **Monday, April 24th @ 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**, please use the following link:

<https://projectread.clickmeeting.com/843972982/register>

To register for **Wednesday, April 26th @ 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**, please use the following link:

<https://projectread.clickmeeting.com/843771585/register>

ABC Life Literacy Canada: HSBC Family Literacy First Webinar

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST

Join ABC Life Literacy Canada to learn more about their FREE family literacy program, HSBC Family Literacy First. Learn about the ten independent modules each with a story and various activities, designed to bring families together to celebrate and practice their literacy skills.

In this webinar the following questions will be answered:

- What do the modules cover?
- How does the program improve family literacy?
- How can my family or organization get involved?

To register for this webinar please use the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3782892126645724163>

Charity Village: Supercharge Your Listening Skills Webinar

Thursday, April 27, 2017 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST

Listening is much more than simply hearing – instead, listening has deeper and fuller dimensions. In this webinar you'll learn how to:

- Prime yourself for better listening – and potentially prime others to do the same
- Learn how to listen to connect – to put people at ease and to build better relationships
- Learn how to listen to understand – to obtain clarity and a fuller picture than what you might initially hear
- Tips and strategies you can put to use in your office right away

To register for this webinar please use the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8673673775039337217>

AlphaPlus Tech Tuesday Webinar: Supporting Learners with Online Assessments and Digital Tools

Tuesday, May 9th, 2017 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST

Navigating online surveys is becoming more common for learners as programs assess clients and gather feedback. This webinar introduces a lesson plan that contextualizes survey and assessment scenarios as learning activities to support learners in building self-efficacy to complete these independently. At the same time, it provides programs with valuable information about clients' use of digital tools and their preferences of using these for learning. The lesson plan integrates customizable surveys in SurveyMonkey and Google Forms.

To register for this webinar please use the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4470528897636755970>

ABC Life Literacy Canada: Money Matters Webinar

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

Learn about ABC Life Literacy Canada's free introductory financial literacy programs for increasing your students' confidence in managing money. The program has been adapted for three communities: adult learners, Newcomer and New Canadians, and Indigenous communities.

To register for this webinar please use the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3717586633359545091>

Literacy Northwest: Mark Your Calendars

June 7 & 8 2017 – Regional PD Event in Thunder Bay

More details and registration link will be available soon!

AlphaPlus Tech Tuesday Webinar: Creating Digital Learner Surveys Using Google Forms

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST

Join guest presenter Charlotte Parliament, Literacy and Essential Skills Program Coordinator at Simcoe County District School Board, and AlphaPlus Technology Consultant Monika Jankowska-Pacyna to talk about how they built, shared and now collect learner satisfaction survey data using Google Forms. During this webinar we'll discuss:

- How to set up surveys using Google Forms
- Sample surveys created by Simcoe County District School Board
- Extracting instructor and learner feedback data
- Tips for creating meaningful, easy-to-use forms

To register for this webinar, please use the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7495450312394330883>

Charity Village: Difficult Clients: Dealing with Responsive Behaviours Webinar

Thursday, June 15, 2017 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST

The information presented in this webinar will be generally applicable to all non-profit professionals and leaders who interact with the general public as part of their work. This webinar will cover the following learning objectives:

- Highlight the prevalence of workplace violence
- Review the Individual Client Risk Assessment Tool
- Understand the 5 steps in developing a prevention program

To register for this webinar, please use the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1855541699613326594>

MAESD Information Updates

To view all MAESD information updates please visit:

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/newpostings/>

Effective March 2017 New Service Provider & Support Organization Guidelines

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) has updated the service provider and support organization guidelines to:

- Include updates in service coordination referral options; and
- Reflect the change in terminology from “Aboriginal” to “Indigenous”.

To view the updated guidelines, please visit:

http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/lbs_administration.html

EO Service Provider Open Data Portal

The Employment and Training Division continues to move forward with a number of Open Data initiatives that will enhance accountability, encourage civic engagement and drive innovation across Ontario. One such initiative is the launch of the EO Service Provider Open Data Portal. This portal will give EO service providers confidential access to draft Open Datasets prior to their public release. Service providers will have opportunities to provide feedback and suggestions for revisions that can be incorporated into the public version of the datasets and supporting documentation. This portal is available to all service providers as of March 31, 2017. Service providers will have to register to access the portal.

To read the full memo please visit:

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/adm-memo-eo-sp-open-data-portal-en.pdf>

EOIS-CaMS Release 7.0

The Ministry is pleased to announce that EOIS-CaMS Release 7.0 is expected to be launched on April 10th 2017. With this release, LBS monthly reports which currently run on the second Monday of the month will now be available on the first Monday of the month. This new report schedule will take effect on April 3rd 2017 and affect report 60A, 60B, 60D and 64.

To read the full memo please visit:

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/eois-cams-bulletin-2017-4-en.pdf>

EOIS-CaMS Bulletin: System Performance

The purpose of this bulletin is to update the EO network about actions the Ministry is taking to improve EOIS system performance and support communications. Since the beginning of February 2017 the Ministry has received an increased number of reports from the EO network citing system performance issues. The bulletin outlines steps the Ministry has taken to date and next steps.

To read the full memo please visit:

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/eois-bulletin-2017-5-en.pdf>

Regional Network Information Updates

Literacy Link South Central

February 2017 PMF Newsletter Available

Literacy Link South Central is committed to providing performance management assistance to LBS service providers. Through this newsletter, LLSC shares tools, resources and information gathered from partners around the province that can be used to impact your organization's

performance management. This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the 2016 annual report of the office of the auditor general of Ontario.

To view LLSC's performance management newsletter please visit:

<http://www.llsc.on.ca/about-us/resources>

Literacy Link South Central

March 2017 Literacy Links to Employment Newsletter Available

Literacy Link South Central is pleased to share the most recent issue of the Literacy Links to Employment newsletter. This issue, which is part of a newsletter series originally developed in 2015 to share information about LLSC's efforts to connect immigrants with literacy and language upgrading programs, highlights LLSC's recent "Working Together: Perspectives on Immigrant Employment" event.

To view LLSC's Literacy Links to Employment newsletter please visit:

<http://www.llsc.on.ca/about-us/resources>

Literacy Link South Central

March 2017 Innovation Newsletter Available

Literacy Link South Central is pleased to share the most recent issue of the Innovation Newsletter, where they explore new concepts and practices in adult literacy. LLSC invites you to put aside some time to enjoy several stories of innovative LBS initiatives, and that you feel inspired and excited by these think-outside-the-box opportunities!

To view LLSC's Innovation newsletter please visit:

<http://www.llsc.on.ca/news/new-innovation-newsletter>

Literacy Link South Central

Differentiated Instruction in LBS Programs Report Available

LBS programs have been buffeted by change – the introduction of a new curriculum framework, EOIS-CaMS, performance management and the list goes on. In this paper, LLSC will take a moment to get back to the heart of LBS programming: teaching adults how to improve their skills. Since no two adults learn the same, the application of differentiated instruction is critical to working effectively with adult learners.

To view LLSC's Differentiated Instruction paper please visit:

<http://www.llsc.on.ca/sites/default/files/Differentiated%20Instruction.pdf>

Literacy Link South Central

The Future is Here Paper Available

In March 2017, futurist Richard Worzel was invited to speak at Fanshawe College, in London Ontario, as part of their REDTALKS series. The topic for this session was “Re-Imaging the Future of Education”. As a futurist, Richard Worzel claimed he doesn’t predict the future, he plans for it. With this lens, LLSC enthusiastically listened for nuggets of information that could inform literacy programs on how to plan for the future. They were surprised that, as much as he talked about a 50-year forecast for education, much of what he anticipates for the future is already part of literacy programming today.

To view LLSC’s The Future is Here paper please visit:

http://www.llsc.on.ca/sites/default/files/The%20Future%20Is%20Here_1.pdf

Literacy Link South Central

Check Your Skills Resource Now Available

Literacy Link South Central has produced a resource (pads of paper) called “Check Your Skills”. The tool provides a tiny snapshot of literacy/essential skills needed in the trades. This tool is intended for use by service providers, in any field, who work with clients that may have apprenticeship as a goal. This resource is meant to be a conversation starter around the literacy and essential skills needed in the trades.

To view LLSC’s Check Your Skills resource please visit:

http://www.llsc.on.ca/sites/default/files/New%20apprentice%20checklist_Final%20%202017.pdf

Literacy Network Northeast

Essential Skills for Personal Success

Literacy Network Northeast developed a resource in 2008-2009 called Essential Skills for Personal Success. This resource is regaining popularity; therefore LNN is considering applying for funding to reproduce this resource in English, to update this resource and to create this in French. We would appreciate it if you took a few minutes to answer a short survey to better help us to achieve our goals of this project.

To view more about the Essential Skills for Personal Success resource please visit:

<https://www.northernliteracy.ca/article/-156.asp>

To complete the survey please use the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7CNTG3S>

The Mid North Network

Data Interpretation Tip Sheet Now Available

Collecting data takes time and energy so we want to use the data well. This guide produced by the Mid North Network has been written to help staff use data provided to them each year: to help you learn about the types of data being presented, think about your reasons for looking at the data that has been collected all year and use it appropriately with planning and decision-making.

To view the tip sheet please visit:

<https://www.northernliteracy.ca/docshare/Main/DocumentIndex>

Northern Networks

Resources Posted to the Member's Only Section of Website

As most of you are aware, the Northern Networks post resources to the members' only section of the website. In 2016-17 alone, we have posted the following documents:

- SQS Tool (English & French) as well as the Instructions
- OW Survey Results
- Beginner's Guide for Program Coordinators of Literacy Organizations webinar
- Young at Heart webinar & resource guides
- Speaking the Language: Working Effectively with Learners/Clients with Lower Literacy Level Skills webinar & slide deck
- Gamification in LBS and Beyond Final Report
- CLO's Youth Engagement Newsletter
- Differentiated Instruction Report
- Innovative Work in LBS Newsletter
- CLO's OALCF Implementation – Agency Work Plan Form
- CLO's OALCF Implementation Tracking Tool

Please take a moment to fill out this quick survey on the members' only section of the website as well as the resources posted there:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBJRQ2W>

Northern Networks: Blended Programming Guide Now Available

Throughout 2016-17, the three Northern Networks collaborated and coordinated efforts to:

- Support the implementation of strategies to increase referrals and identify potential opportunities for blended LBS and ES services and network supports
- Showcase eligible youth-focused LBS programming and resources
- Promote and support LBS + ES blended programming activities
- Gather and compile input to develop an LBS + ES blended programming guide and evaluation report

The Northern Networks would like to thank everyone that shared their knowledge and experience to inform the development of this guide, which highlights a growing number of diverse partnerships, innovative programming and exciting tools and resources presented for your consideration and exploration. We look forward to supporting continued efforts across the EO North Region to strengthen and expand LBS + ES partnerships and programming to enhance outcomes for EO clients.

To view the guide please log into the members' only section of the NN website:

<https://www.northernliteracy.ca/docshare/Main/DocumentIndex>

After viewing the document please fill out the following survey by April 18th:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XNBKNDQ>

Other Support Organization Information Updates

AlphaPlus

March 2017 Newsletter Available

Topics included in the **March 2017** AlphaPlus newsletter include:

- Technology Coaching clients in action: Google Drive
- Tools in the field: Google Slides
- Technology We Love! LiveBinders
- Spring webinars

To view AlphaPlus' newsletter please visit:

<http://www.alphaplus.ca/en/news/alphaplus-news-archive.html>

Ontario Native Literacy Coalition

December 2016 Newsletter Available

Topics included in the **December 2016** newsletter include:

- Music and Literacy Learning
- Featured Program
- Submitted from Programs
- Updates from MAESD
- Helpful Resources
- Announcements and Events
- Let's Speak Our Language
- Membership Application

To view ONCL's newsletter please visit:

<http://oncl.ca/newsletter/>

Community Literacy of Ontario

February & March 2017 Members E-Communiqué Available

Topics covered in the **February 2017** newsletter:

- 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

Topics covered in the **March 2017** newsletter:

- Detailed Reports on Well-Being in Ontario
- Literacy Nipissing: Cowboy's Story
- Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- Statistics Canada's Census 2016 Data
- National Volunteer Week
- Hurrah for Ontario's Literacy Volunteers!
- Support Organization Corner
- Survey of the Provincial Support Organizations for Literacy Newsletters
- Employment Ontario News and Information

To view CLO's e-communiqué please visit:

<http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/resources/e-communiques/>

Community Literacy of Ontario

Youth Engagement Newsletter Now Available

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 this 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

To view this report please click the following link:

<http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/YOUTH-Newsletter-Feb-2017.pdf>

Community Literacy of Ontario

Service Coordination Newsletter Now Available

Service coordination is a top priority for Literacy and Basic Skills agencies to help meet the varied needs of the learners in your programs. And based on the needs of individual learners and the makeup of your communities, service coordination can be very different from learner to learner, and from community to community. CLO is very pleased to present this newsletter that shares highlights of their research and features existing best practices, successes and challenges related to service coordination.

To view this newsletter please click the following link:

<http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/resources/newsletters/>

Laubach Literacy Ontario

March 2017 LLO Express Available

Topics covered in the **March 2017** newsletter:

- CLO/LLO Literacy Discussion Forum
- PSOL News Bulletin
- Featured Resource – Workshop Schedule and Evaluation Summary
- LD@HOME
- LLO/ONLC Conference 2017 – Training Needs Survey
- LLSC Newsletter
- Using Gamification in Developing LBS Curriculum and Beyond

To view LLO Express please visit:

<http://www.laubach-on.ca/teach/news/LLOExpress>

Contact North: Using Gamification in Developing LBS Curriculum and Beyond Report

The world around us is changing, increasingly integrating and relying on technology. Gaming – that is the action and practice of playing video games – is on the rise. According to the 2015 Essential Facts about the Canadian Video Game Industry, an incredible 19 million (or 54%) of the Canadian population are gamers. Learning too, is constantly evolving both in terms of content and in the way it is delivered to its intended audiences. A growing trend in learning communities is to integrate gamification – the concept of applying game mechanics and game design techniques to engage and motivate people to achieve their learning goals. The purpose of this paper is to review aspects of gamification to be used when possible and appropriate, for curriculum development, and to enhance LBS service delivery by its incorporation in other program elements.

To read this report in English please visit: <https://e-channel.ca/practitioner/resources/using->

To read this report in French please visit:

<https://apprentissageenligne.ca/practitioner/resources/la-ludification-dans-le-programme-afb-et-au-dela>

Provincial Support Organizations for Literacy Second Newsletter Available

Provincial Support Organizations for Literacy (PSOL) is a coalition of Ontario's provincial literacy and basic skills support organizations. This coalition was officially formed in April 2016 to increase the capacity of Ontario's LBS service providers to understand and implement emerging provincial and federal initiatives and policy. This newsletter is the second newsletter produced by PSOL and highlights the important work of PSOL members.

To see this newsletter please visit:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/4f3e54d1401/7243e62a-ecb2-4a9f-a6d4-c104aae5fd2d.pdf>

New AODA Requirements Need Your Attention

The latest phase of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) includes important new obligations for smaller organizations (1-49 employees):

- **Employment Standards:** All organizations with at least one employee are required to review and revise their HR practices, policies and procedures to have processes in place to determine an employee's accommodation needs.
- **Information and Communications Standards:** Upon request, organizations must provide information and communications in accessible and supportive formats to individuals with disabilities, both at no extra cost to the individual and in a timely manner.

The compliance date for meeting these new standards was January 1, 2017.

Far North East Training Board: Launches New Websites

Employers and job-seekers alike have new tools at their disposal thanks to the official launch of a series of new regional jobs-matching sites by the Far North East Training Board, your Local Employment Planning Council and the Timmins Economic Development Corporation. These partners have re-launched [JobsinTimmins.com](#) and added it to a broader network of northeastern Ontario regional job sites which now include:

- [JobsinCochrane.com](#)
- [JobsinKirklandLake.com](#)
- [JobsinTemiskamingShores.com](#)
- [JobsinKapuskasing.com](#)
- [JobsinHearst.com](#)

- JobsinChapleau.com
- JobsinJamesBay.com

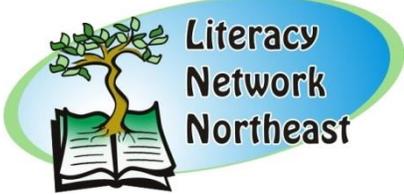
Like JobsinTimmins.com, the new websites are not only bilingual, but also mobile friendly. They are free for employers and job seekers and contain no advertising.

Press Release: GED Tests Now Available in Chapleau

FormationPLUS is proud to announce that for the first time GED (General Educational Development) tests will be administered locally in Chapleau. The GED Testing Program is administered by the Independent Learning Centre (ILC). The Ministry has designated the ILC as the sole provider of the GED testing services for the province of Ontario. In previous years, clients from the North had to travel to Sudbury, Sault Ste-Marie or Thunder Bay to complete the GED test. Adults wanting to obtain a certificate of high school equivalence will no longer have to travel long distances to write the GED test. Success on the GED test demonstrates that the participant has the “educational maturity” equal to, or above, the level of a high school graduate. Successful completion of the GED test can open many doors for the participants, whether to higher education or employment. The GED test dates in Chapleau are June 1 and 2 2017. The registration deadline is May 5, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. For more information please contact Julie Connelly at 705-864-2763 or formationplus@vianet.ca.

Your Northern Networks

Website: www.northernliteracy.ca

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<https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Networks-1070710236337547/>



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Your Gateway to Skills for Work, Learning and Life.

**To support and promote the delivery
of quality literacy and essential skills training
for adults in Northern Ontario.**

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