

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.

May 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>

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Did you know...

- In any given year, 1 in 5 Canadians will experience a problem with their mental health.
- In Canada, 1 in 3 will experience a mental health problem in their lifetime.



Upcoming Webinars – for more information or to register click the links

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

- Tuesday, June 13th, 2017; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EST

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

Charity Village Webinar: Difficult Clients – Dealing with Responsive Behaviours

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

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

Past Recorded Webinars – for more information or to view the webinar click the link

Project Read Literacy Network Webinar: Mental Health Guide <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Witi6BgujwA>

CLO Webinars:

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

- Service Coordination in Literacy & Basic Skills – Trials and Tribulations
- Put Your Best Facebook Forward
- The Art of the Tweet

Upcoming Events

Literacy Northwest: June 7 & 8 2017 – Regional PD Event in Thunder Bay at the Holiday Inn Express, 1041 Carrick Street

Topics include:

- Bursting Myths about Blended Learning and e-Channel
- EDU: Adult Education Strategy update and focus group
- Local Employment Planning Council (pilot) project updates
- 2016-17 LSP Process Evaluation and year-end LBS data review/ discussion
- Common Assessment Bootcamp

Contact the LNW office at 1-800-461-9294 or 1-807-622-6666 for more information and/or registration details.

MAESD Information Updates

To view all MAESD information updates please visit:

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

Literacy & Basic Skills Evaluation Report Available

In November 2016, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) had Cathexis conduct an evaluation of Ontario's LBS program. The evaluation was looking to assess the program's relevance, delivery, effectiveness and efficiency between April 2012 and March 2016.

To view the evaluation report, please visit:

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/lbs-eval-report-2016-en.pdf>

To view Deputy Minister Sheldon Levy's letter to the EO Network in response to the LBS evaluation report please visit:

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/lbs-memo-dm-to-eo-en.pdf>

New Ontario Budget Announced

It was announced in April 2017 that the 2017 Ontario Budget provides greater opportunities for Ontarians to train and upgrade their skills and education. The introduction of the Ontario Lifelong Learning and Skills Plan represents a substantial new commitment to adult learners and workers in Ontario. The Northern Networks congratulates Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne and Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development Deb Matthews for their strong leadership in recognizing the value of literacy, numeracy, and digital skills as key elements in building a highly skilled workforce. The Northern Networks look forward to working with government staff on expanding and improving the LBS program and enhancing the broader adult education system to ensure the demands for accessible, good-quality and innovative services is addressed.

Changes to the Annual LSP Process Coming This Fiscal

Over the past few months, and over the next few months, the Ministry is looking into revising the Literacy Services Planning process. With input from regional networks, MAESD is trying to make the new LSP process more user-friendly and more in line with the needs of the agencies. Stay tuned for more details!

Regional Network Information Updates

Literacy Link South Central

New Promotional Video Released

Literacy Link South Central is pleased to release their new promotional video “Can you see it?”, which demonstrates the many ways literacy skills are used in everyday activities.

To view the video please visit:

<http://www.llsc.on.ca/news/introducing-our-new-video>

Project Read Literacy Network

Mental Health Guide Now Available

Project Read is excited to announce that their Mental Health Guide is now available for download. The guide contains the following:

- Information about mental health
- Information about adult learners & mental health
- Information about specific mental health conditions & disorders
- General suggestions and strategies for supporting learners who may be living with a mental health issue
- Specific learning strategies for learners who may be living with specific mental health conditions or disorders
- Handouts for learners to help them self-manage learning strategies
- Contact information for learners who need mental health services

The learning strategies provided in the guide can benefit you and your learners in several ways:

- Can help certain learners to maximize what they do
- Can help learners learn to self-manage their challenges
- Some strategies may benefit all learners
- Your workload can decrease with the tools provided
- Seeing others try strategies can benefit all learners as they learn about diversity and about developing problem-solving skills and resiliency

To view the guide please visit:

<http://www.projectread.ca/pdf/MentalHealthGuide2017.pdf>

The Mid North Network

Revised Certificate of Qualification General Carpenter Workbook

In March, it was brought to our attention that there were some errors in the brushing up your math skills section of the Certificate of Qualification General Carpenter booklet. The booklet has since been revised and the new version is posted on the Northern Networks website.

To view the revised booklet please visit:

<https://www.northernliteracy.ca/article/-150.asp>

Other Support Organization Information Updates

AlphaPlus

May 2017 Newsletter Available

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

- Client catch-up: Evernote and the Dixon Hall learners
- Spring Webinars
- Two-minute tutorial: Google Hangout access simplified
- Project announcement: Environmental scan
- Upcoming AlphaPlus presentations

To view AlphaPlus' newsletter please visit:

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

Ontario Native Literacy Coalition

March 2017 Newsletter Available

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

- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) in LBS
- Featured Program
- Program Changes and Welcome to New Practitioners
- 2017 Conference & AGM June 15 - 17
- Nominating Letter to Members 2017
- Ontario Native Literacy Coalition Resources
- Updates from MAESD
- Helpful Resources
- Announcements & Events
- Let's Speak Our Language

To view ONCL's newsletter please visit:

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

Laubach Literacy Ontario

May 2017 LLO Express Available

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

- LLO/ONLC Conference 2017
- Featured Resource - WorkWise
- Literacy Uplift

To view LLO Express please visit:

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

Launch of New Charitable Foundation: Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation

On May 18th, the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation was launched. The mission of the foundation is "To ensure that ALL Canadian children are skilled, confident readers by the time they complete grade school – thus making Canadian children the most literate in the world."

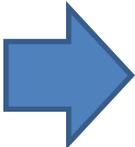
Key areas of focus will include:

- Outreach and support to organizations currently working in the field of childhood literacy
- Direct funding enabling childhood literacy in under-resourced schools and communities
- Financial support for research and dissemination of findings on childhood literacy from birth onward, including vocabulary acquisition and early reading
- A board literacy awareness campaign providing information on the key factors which influence and inspire a love of reading in early childhood
- A special focus on charities that support obstetricians and pediatricians in helping young parents develop literacy in their children, and those charitable organizations especially targeting community physicians in areas with disproportionate literacy gaps.

To learn more about the foundation please visit:

<https://www.childrensliteracy.ca/>

TRY THIS...



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF GOOGLE FOR NONPROFITS? THIS PROGRAM OFFERS ACCESS TO GOOGLE'S SUITE OF FREE PRODUCTS AND TOOLS, WITH ADDITIONAL SECURITY FEATURES. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOOGLE FOR NONPROFITS PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#).

Performance Management Framework Corner

Report 64 Suitability Indicators

Did you know?

- There are 12 suitability indicators, but only 10 count.
- OW/ODSP/Crown Ward/ No source of income are counted as one
- On average, if a learner has 3 criteria, the agency is on the right track. Not every learner will have 3, some more, some less.
- If a learner says they have <grade 12 they automatically have a history of interrupted education.
- If a learner says they have more than 6 years out of education, they automatically have a history of interrupted education.
- To understand how your suitability percentage is determined, follow this formula:
 - Take your numerator and divide by 10 (10 suitability indicators)
 - Divide that answer by the denominator
 - Example: If your numerator is 65 and your denominator is 15 ($65/10 = 6.5$; $6.5/15 = 0.43$ or 43%)
- The provincial target to meet is 30%. If your agency is below the 30% you must
 - Inform learners they can check more than one indicator
 - As an instructor ensure all relevant indicators are checked off
 - Redirect marketing strategies to promote the LBS program to those who fit the suitability criteria

Provincial Target
30%

Board Development

What's Your Style?

Avoid having one of the following “meeting participation style” labels apply to you:

- **Last in, First Out:** This guy or gal arrives after the call to order, chair's remarks and minutes, interrupts the speaker and establishes the fact that he or she is busier than everyone else. This is reinforced by his or her early departure.
- **The Follower:** Rarely expresses an opinion until the majority opinion becomes clear. Then joins in. This person is never on the losing side.
- **The Historian:** Loves to reminisce, has a good memory and tells others how it used to be in the good old days. Can always be counted on to slow things down.
- **The Finger Pointer:** This member sees no need to address remarks to or through the chair, prefers to differ with people rather than ideas, and makes his or her remarks personal, often pointing and shaking a finger for added emphasis.
- **Too Busy to Read:** When a major written plan, report or proposal is open for discussion, this person announces that he or she hasn't had time to read it, follows this confession with the word “but” and then offers an opinion about the unread item. Although too busy to read important association matters, this person usually knows the latest sports scores.
- **The Joker:** This is the member with the quick wit, the tease, the punster who can make a play on words and is always good for a laugh. Often though, he or she finds it hard to stop, and would rather be amusing than right or positive.
- **The Risk Avoider:** This member realizes that you can't be wrong or lose if you never take a risk. “Let's play it safe,” “let some other group go first” and “wait a while” are solutions for every situation.
- **The Morning After:** This guy or gal goes along with the majority and has little or nothing to say until the next day or the next meeting. It's impossible to tell whether this inspiration comes from dreams, spousal input or merely a slow functioning mind.



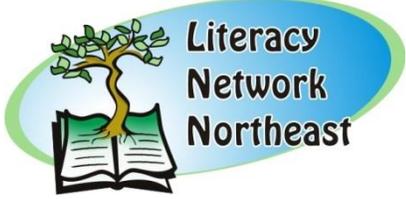
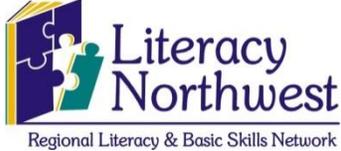
The Five Basic Actions of Mental Health First Aid

(ALGEE)

1. **Assess** the risk of suicide and/or harm – “assess” means evaluating the situation to decide how best to help (if there is low to no risk continue with the following basic actions)
2. **Listen** non-judgementally – tips for non-judgemental listening include:
 - Accept the person as they are
 - Make no moral judgement about their situation
 - Demonstrate empathy
 - Listen without interrupting
 - Pay attention
 - Ask appropriate questions to make sure both people are clear on what is being said
 - Listen to the words and the tone of voice and look at the body language – all will give clues about how the person is feeling
 - Check understanding of what is being said by restating what the person has said
 - Summarize facts and feelings
 - Be attentive
 - Keep eye contact comfortable – don’t stare or avoid eye contact
 - Keep an open body position – don’t cross your arms across your body
 - Sit down even when the other person is standing – it seems less threatening
 - Try not to sit directly opposite and facing the other person to reduce the appearance of aggression or invasion of personal space
3. **Give** reassurance and information – help the person feel hope and optimism, realize that they have a real medical condition that has effective treatments
4. **Encourage** the person to get appropriate professional help – help the person identify the most appropriate professional service that can help for their particular mental health problem
5. **Encourage** other supports – encourage them through self-help strategies or by reaching out to family, friends and other supports

Your Northern Networks

Website: www.northernliteracy.ca

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

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