

# Northern Network News

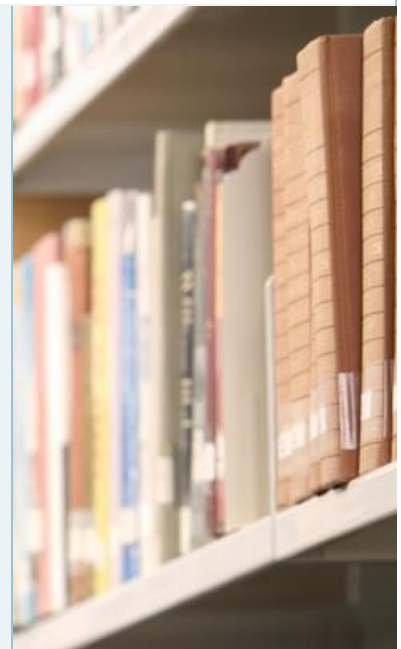
The Northern Networks (LNN, LNW & MNN) are working together to consolidate and share information to help ensure that all of our service providers are kept informed.

Information will be compiled into a friendly e-news format and shared bi-weekly/monthly (depending on the topic and timelines) with you all. This way we can also update service providers about recent discussions on the [www.northernliteracy.ca](http://www.northernliteracy.ca) forums.

March 2016

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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>

## LNO: Clear Writing Course - April 6<sup>th</sup> to June 28<sup>th</sup> 2016

Deadline to Register - March 27<sup>th</sup> 2015.

In this course you will learn how to put the Learning Networks of Ontario Clear Writing Guidelines into practice. This course is open to anyone who

- Wants to improve their personal and work-related writing skills
- Can commit 3 to 5 hours per week to learn and complete assignments
- May want to use the course completion certificate as a first step to becoming recognized as an LNO Clear Writing Editor, Facilitator or Consultant

To register for the online course or for more information please contact Sara Gill at 905-527-2222 or [edassist@abea.on.ca](mailto:edassist@abea.on.ca) or visit the following link and click on "LNO Clear Writing": [www.learningnetworks.ca](http://www.learningnetworks.ca).

## Ilitaqsiniq - Nunavut Literacy Council: The Miqqut Program Webinar

Wednesday, March 30, 2016 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM (EST)

Join the Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life Literacy Innovation Award Top Winner, Ilitaqsiniq - Nunavut Literacy Council for a presentation on The Miqqut Program. The Miqqut Program is a non-formal culture-based model of adult learning, developed by Ilitaqsiniq - Nunavut Literacy Council that supports participants to re-engage with learning, work and community. Skilled Elders teach Miqqut participants the skill and art of creating traditional and contemporary Inuit clothing while also supporting literacy, work-readiness and well-being.

Ilitaqsiniq - Nunavut Literacy Council works to support literacy and essential skills development in Nunavut's official languages. They work to apply the principles of adult learning, community development and capacity building and embed literacy and essential skills in non-formal culture-based learning programs.

To register for this webinar please visit the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2006366101445851396>

## Save the Date: 2016 Employment Ontario Leadership Summit

Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

The 2016 Employment Ontario Leadership Summit will be held on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency on King in downtown Toronto. Participants will have the opportunity to learn, network and share positive solutions with colleagues and representatives from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. All individuals in leadership and planning roles providing Employment Services and Literacy & Basic Skills programming are encouraged to attend.

When program and registration details become available, the information will be shared.

## MTCU Information Updates

To view all MTCU information updates please visit:

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

### Learner Gains Research Project Launched in January 2016

The Learner Gains Research Project is an 11-month project, funded by MTCU, that will explore options to further test the Essential Skills for Employment and Education (ESEE) assessment tool. This project will collect data that will provide additional lines of evidence to inform Phase II-B of the Performance Management Framework (PMF) implementation. Approximately 30 service providers from across all regions and LBS delivery streams will be asked to participate in order to target a representative sample population of 1,800 learners. This project will support the LBS program by providing a better understanding of the experiences and progress of learners.

### Literacy and Basic Skills Program Evaluation Update

MTCU is undertaking an evaluation of the LBS program, and has hired an independent evaluation firm, Cathexis Consulting Inc., to conduct this evaluation. The evaluation is expected to be completed in summer of 2016 and the findings will be used to inform continuous improvement of the LBS program. Between the months of January-March the following evaluation consultations will take place:

- Key informant interviews with LBS support organizations and service providers
  - The intent of interviews with LBS support organizations is to understand the services and support they are providing, how community needs are identified and responded to, and their perspectives on the leadership of LBS by MTCU.
  - The intent of interviews with LBS service providers is to understand what

supports they are receiving and still need, the impact of key changes to the program, including the introduction of the OALCF, accuracy and usefulness of reporting requirements and their perspective on MTCU's leadership of the LBS program.

- Interviews with representatives of community services and education/post-secondary programs – to understand how partners work with the LBS support and delivery network
- Survey of LBS service providers – to understand service providers' delivery challenges and successes, as well as their perspectives on the LBS program, the OALCF, and the effectiveness of the LBS program in supporting learners to complete their goal paths, gain competences and improve their outcomes
- LBS learner surveys – to capture in-depth information about perceptions, expectations and experiences of learners with the LBS program and its delivery
- 15-20 in-person consultation visits to service provider sites – to understand the alignment of service delivery with components of the OALCF, with a focus on information and referral processes and materials, and learner assessment practices and processes
- LBS learner discussion groups or interviews – to understand the types of activities they have done in the program and what is and is not working well

## SP Connect: Signing Your Agreement Online

You can now electronically sign your legal agreement online using SP Connect! You will be notified via email that your agreement is ready for review. Log into SP Connect to review your agreement when you are ready to submit. There are 3 easy steps to submit your agreement:

- Start by confirming you are the signing authority. (the signing authority must be set up as the Service Provider Submission Authority in order to sign your agreement online)
- Provide your consent and electronically sign your agreement.
- Confirm and submit your electronically signed agreement to the ministry.

The ministry will also electronically sign your agreement and send you an email notification once the agreement is active in the system.

## Corrections to French LBS Detailed Service Quality Report

Report 64 Literacy and Basic Skills Detailed Service Quality Report, has been updated to include corrections to French terms in the report as well as its associated detailed reporting user guide. The English version of the report is unaffected by these changes.

## Ontario Human Capital Research and Innovation Fund (OHCRIF): Call for Proposals 2016-2017

The objective of the Ontario Human Capital Research and Innovation Fund is to support research and innovation projects that identify better ways to help people prepare for, return to or keep employment and become productive participants in the labour force. The purpose of the 2016-17 Call for Proposals is to fund research and review projects that improve knowledge in the areas of postsecondary education, labour market, and employment and training policy. The deadline to submit a proposal is **Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 2016**.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/ohcrif.html>

# Regional Network Information Updates

## **QUILL: New Resources on the Task-Based Activities Portal in 2015**

In 2015, there were 426 new activity additions made to the task-based portal. These tasks were added by QUILL, Project READ, Literacy Northwest, ABEA, Centre FORA and Literacy Link South Central. The largest number of tasks are in A1.1, A1.2, A2.1, A2.2, A3, B2.1 and D2, while the smallest number of tasks are in B1.3, C1.3 and C2.3.

To see the portal, please visit: <http://taskbasedactivitiesforlbs.ca/>

## **Literacy Link Niagara Joins Forces with Niagara Workforce Planning Board**

As of April 1, 2016 Literacy Link Niagara will be co-located with Niagara Workforce Planning Board, at the Stokes Community Centre, 36 Page St. in St. Catharines. These agencies will share space and expertise while remaining separate, incorporated bodies. Literacy Link Niagara provides connects, supports and collaborates with local adult literacy agencies across the region of Niagara. These agencies help clients upgrade and build the skills necessary to move on to further education, training or employment. Niagara Workforce Planning Board leads in the creation of innovative labour market solutions by providing authoritative research, identifying employment trends, targeting workforce opportunities and initiating development projects. This partnership will ensure that adult upgrading and skills development programs align with emerging industries and labour market trends in Niagara.

## **Northern Networks Website Update**

On Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, LNN hosted a webinar entitled Data MIA presented by Robyn Cook-Ritchie. For those of you who could not attend, this webinar was recorded and has now been uploaded to the members' only section of the website. This webinar reviewed some of the key reports generated by CaMS and how you can use them in your delivery agency to understand and improve performance management. Agencies also learned about data management, integrity and analysis in relation to the five core measures for Phase II-A.

## **Other Support Organization Information Updates**

### **Community Literacy of Ontario**

October, November, December 2015 & January & February & March 2016  
Members E-Communiqué Available

To view CLO's member e-communiqués please visit:

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

Topics covered in the **October 2015** e-communique:

- Join our Online “Evaluation Culture Club”
- Key Facts About Canada’s Charities from Imagine Canada
- Western Region Best Practices Interviews with Programs
- Partnerships, Resources and Strategies to Engage OW Clients in Literacy Programming
- Update on CLO’s Training Day & AGM 2015
- Delayed Implementation of Ontario’s Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)
- Employment Ontario News and Information

Topics covered in the **November 2015** e-communique:

- Our “Developing a Culture of Evaluation Research Report”
- You’re Invited to our “Ask the Non-Profit” Online Evaluation Clinic!
- Family Literacy Videos for Adult Literacy Learners
- Partnerships, Resources and Strategies to Engage OW Clients in Literacy Programming
- Federal Government Ministerial Mandate Letters
- Employment Ontario News and Information

Topics covered in the **December 2015** e-communique:

- Compendium of Project Resources to Support LBS Agencies
- You’re Invited to our “Evaluation Fitness Resolutions” Online Clinic!
- Participate in Ontario’s Pre-Budget Consultations
- Literacy and Poverty – An Important Conversation
- Register Your Family Literacy Day Event with ABC Life Literacy Canada for a Chance to Win!
- Partnerships, Resources and Strategies to Engage OW Clients in Literacy Programming
- Happy Holidays from the CLO Staff!
- Employment Ontario News and Information

Topics covered in the **January 2016** e-communique:

- CLO Webinar Opportunity: Supporting Ontario Works Clients in LBS Agencies
- Information and Resources to Support Syrian Refugees
- Learning Disabilities Resources
- Partnerships, Resources and Strategies to Engage OW Clients in Literacy Programming
- Employment Ontario News and Information

Topics covered in the **February 2016** e-communique:

- New Resource! Tips for Success: Helpful Resources for Supporting Ontario Works Clients in your Literacy Program
- National Volunteer Week Information and Resources
- Recorded Webinar: Social Media Risk Management
- Social Media Risk Management Webinar Highlights
- Partnerships, Resources and Strategies to Engage Ontario Works Clients in Literacy Programming
- Ontario Budget 2016
- Hire a Student this Summer!
- Employment Ontario News and Information

Topics covered in the **March 2016** e-communiqué:

- Recorded Webinar: Growing Numeracy Skills
- Toolkit of Resources to Support Service Delivery for Hard-to-Serve Clients in Literacy and Basic Skills Agencies
- Little Free Libraries
- Partnerships, Resources and Strategies to Engage Ontario Works Clients in Literacy Programming
- Developing a Culture of Evaluation Project Update
- 2016 Employment Ontario Leadership Awards
- Employment Ontario News and Information

## **Community Literacy of Ontario**

### **December 2015 & January 2016 Newsletters**

To view CLO's newsletters, please visit:

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

### **December 2015: A Compendium of Project Resources to Support LBS Agencies**

In the fall of 2015, CLO invited Ontario's literacy and basic skills support organizations to share their project work, resources and training through this special resource. In particular, support organizations were asked to highlight the 2014-2015 project work that was funded by MTCU through the Service Delivery Network Development Fund (SDNDF). This resource contains information on all of the SDNDF projects that were taken on by LBS support organizations in 2014-2015. There are also individual links to check out the project work and results supports that are now available.

### **January 2016: Information and Resources to Support Syrian Refugees**

Since Ontario is welcoming thousands of refugees from Syria, CLO has compiled this list of websites that contain valuable information and resources on how you can help. Please let CLO know of any additional resources that would be useful.

## **Laubach Literacy Ontario**

### **December 2015 & February 2016 LLO Express Available**

To see the LLO Express please visit their website:

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

Topics included in the **December 2015** LLO express include:

- Family Literacy Day
- Basic Computer Skills Tutorial
- Tax Time Tool Kit

- LLO Bookstore News
- Order Your Calendars
- Conference 2016

Topics included in the **February 2016** LLO express include:

- 2016 Census Promotion
- ONCA on Hold
- Project Resources
- Open Culture – Free English Lessons
- LLO Office News

## Laubach Literacy Ontario: Call for Presenters

Deadline for Applications: Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 2016.

For more information please visit their website:

<http://www.laubach-on.ca/getinvolved/facts/news/call-for-presenters-2016>

Laubach Literacy Ontario and Ontario Native Literacy Coalition are planning a 3-day conference and AGM at Mohawk College in Hamilton from Thursday evening, June 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday afternoon, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2016. They are looking for presenters to provide workshops and invite you to submit an application based on one or more of the workshop categories listed below:

- Serving learners with multiple barriers
- Recruiting/ retaining learners
- Marketing the agency
- Volunteers
- Culminating Tasks, Learner Gains, CaMS
- Resources (print and online)
- Native Stream
- Learners' choices (computer workshops, budgeting, first aid, fundraising, confidence building, speaker from a college re further education)

## AlphaPlus

### Milestones and Digital Technology: Assessment and Reporting Practices Reports

In 2014-15, AlphaPlus was involved in a research project examining current assessment practices related to the OALCF Use Digital Technology Milestones, the alignment between the Milestones and program learning and reporting trends. This SDNDF project "Assessment Use and Reporting: Investigating Data Integrity Issues" gathered information from assessors in LBS programs by way of an online survey and in-person interviews focused on the digital technology Milestones as well as assessment and reporting practices and their impacts on programming. This project developed four brief research reports that are now available to download.



To learn more about this project and to download the research reports please visit:

<http://www.alphaplus.ca/en/news/news/800-milestones-and-digital-technology-assessment-and-reporting-practices-reports.html>

## **AlphaPlus**

### **Education Collections on iTunes**

Many programs are now using ipads in adult literacy classes and AlphaPlus would like to point you to Education Collections of Apps on iTunes. Grouped into categories these collections will make it easier for you to search through apps that might be applicable and useful for your students.

To learn more, please visit: <http://www.alphaplus.ca/en/featured-technology/815.html>

## **ABC Life Literacy Canada: April is National Poetry Month**

### **Calling All Literacy Practitioners!**

Do you use poetry in your adult or family literacy program? If so, ABC Life Literacy Canada would like to hear about it! This March, they are collecting stories and resources about using poetry in the classroom so they can share them with the field in a special edition newsletter in April in celebration of National Poetry Month.

Please contact Carissa at [cdigangi@abclifeliteracy.ca](mailto:cdigangi@abclifeliteracy.ca) to share your stories.

# Your Northern Networks

Website: [www.northernliteracy.ca](http://www.northernliteracy.ca)

 <p><b>Literacy Network Northeast</b></p>	 <p><b>Literacy Northwest</b> Regional Literacy &amp; Basic Skills Network</p>	 <p><b>mn</b> The Mid North Network <small>for the Contribution and Development of Adult Learning</small></p>
<p>303 Fifth Avenue Timmins, ON P4N 5L5</p> <p>Phone: 705-267-5663 Toll-free: 800-489-7614</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:director@literacynet.ca">director@literacynet.ca</a></p>	<p>1116 Waterford Street Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5R1</p> <p>Phone: 807-622-6666 Toll-free: 800-461-9294</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:admin@literacynorthwest.on.ca">admin@literacynorthwest.on.ca</a></p>	<p>214 Shaughnessy Street Sudbury, ON P3E 3E7</p> <p>Phone: 705-560-4774 Toll-free: 800-489-7614</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:mnndirector@vianet.ca">mnndirector@vianet.ca</a></p>



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