

Community Literacy of Ontario's FEBRUARY 2009 E-COMMUNIQUE

Dear CLO members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present its **FEBRUARY 2009** Members' E-Communiqué.

Topics covered in this E-Communiqué are:

1. [MTCU Update on the Adult Literacy Curriculum](#)
2. [Addressing Canada's Literacy Challenge: A Cost/Benefit Analysis](#)
3. [Provincial Partnerships to Promote Essential Skills: Bare Essentials](#)
4. [Carol Goar, Toronto Star Article about Literacy](#)
5. [Employment Ontario New Online "Information and Referral Resource Guide"](#)
6. [New Online Discussion Group for Community Literacy Agencies](#)
7. [Federal Budget 2009](#)
8. [Kingston Literacy's "Upgrading for Parents with Pre-Schoolers"](#)
9. [Laubach Literacy Ontario's Conference 2008](#)
10. [Ontario Literacy Coalition's "Beyond the Book: Learning From Our History"](#)
11. [Demonstrations Ontario Website](#)
12. [FINAL "GO" Project Online Learning Course – Spring 2009](#)
13. [Employment Ontario - Employment Services Implementation Update](#)



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MTCU Update on the Adult Literacy Curriculum

The Adult Literacy Curriculum (ALC) Initiative is an undertaking supported by the Learning Ministries (Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration) of the province of Ontario. The goals of this initiative are to:

- Foster greater quality and consistency of instruction in the LBS Program,
- Improve outcomes for literacy learners,
- Provide more and easier transitions to enhanced personal independence, employment, credit study, postsecondary study and apprenticeship,
- Assist learners to demonstrate their achievements to next-step service providers and employers, based on the common language of essential skills.

Please see the ALC Communiqué written by MTCU for more details (available in appendix 2 at the end of this E-Communiqué).

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Addressing Canada’s Literacy Challenge: A Cost/Benefit Analysis

Here is the link to a new report from Scott Murray called: “Addressing Canada’s Literacy Challenge: A Cost/Benefit Analysis”.

This extremely valuable and important report notes that investing in literacy provides greater economic benefits than other government programs. Please see:
www.dataangel.ca/en/Literacy%20press%20release%20DataAngel%20final.pdf



Provincial Partnerships to Promote Essential Skills: Bare Essentials

The College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading, Community Literacy of Ontario, CESBA, and the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition worked together to create *Bare Essentials*, a training tool to introduce literacy practitioners to the Essential Skills.

To access this helpful training manual just click here:
www.nald.ca/litweb/province/on/clo/resource/bare/intro.htm



Carol Goar, Toronto Star Article about Literacy

Carol Goar has written an excellent article about the need for literacy and increased literacy funding in the Toronto Star. Please see: “Put education focus on ABC not PhD” at
www.thestar.com/comment/columnists/article/583780



Employment Ontario New Online “Information and Referral Resource Guide”

Employment Ontario has created a new online “Information and Referral Resource Guide”. This online tool is designed to assist service providers by providing accurate, relevant and current information on Employment Ontario employment and training services and partner ministries. Agencies can use this information to refer customers to the service provider within or outside the Employment Ontario network that can best meet their employment and training needs.

This resource can be found on the Employment Ontario Partners Gateway website at:
www.eopg.ca/eng/inforefer.html.



New Online Discussion Group for Community Literacy Agencies

Come and join Community Literacy of Ontario's new online discussion forum for practitioners in Ontario's community based literacy agencies. Here is your chance to share and learn from your fellow practitioners on a variety of topics including: funding, policy development, volunteer management, agency management, professional development and cool websites and technology. All CLO organizational members are welcome to join this discussion.

These new online discussions are provided as a free service to the literacy community by AlphaPlus Centre.

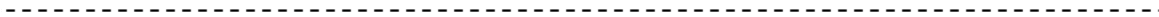
Just click here to learn how to join this new online discussion forum:
www.nald.ca/litweb/province/on/clo/forum.htm



Federal Budget 2009

Here is the link to the recently released 2009 Federal Budget: www.budget.gc.ca/2009/home-accueil-eng.asp

As well, here is an overview of the budget: www.budget.gc.ca/2009/pamphlet-depliant/pamphlet-depliant1-eng.asp



Kingston Literacy's "Upgrading for Parents with Pre-Schoolers"

Kingston Literacy's Centre for Expertise in Family Literacy is pleased to present *Upgrading for Parents with Pre-Schoolers* (UPP). UPP is a series of lesson plans, complete with worksheets and teaching resources. It is written for literacy practitioners who wish to integrate family literacy content with their LBS programs. The focus of each lesson is Essential Skills upgrading, set in the context of family life and child development, and geared to groups of mixed skill levels – basic to intermediate (LBS 1 to 4). Topics include Healthy Eating, Budgeting, Safety in the Home, Sickness and Health and more. Children's activities are included for programs that offer child care.

Get this free resource from Kingston Literacy's Centre for Expertise in Family Literacy at:
www.familyliteracyexpertise.org.



Laubach Literacy Ontario's Conference 2008

Laubach Literacy Ontario's (LLO's) 2008 Conference in North Bay was funded by the Employment Ontario Network Development Fund. And what a conference it was! Based on the theme *Learning for all Seasons – Learning for all Reasons*, 210 participants, including a record-

breaking 75 students, came together at the Nipissing University/Canadore College campus for a weekend of learning and fun from June 20 to 22, 2008.

The 25 workshop choices covered all reasons for learning – topics ranged from literacy-related topics such as learning with technology, CIPMS, Essential Skills and English as a Second Language, to life skills and job skills such as problem-solving, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and managing conflict in the workplace.

The Annual General Meeting was once again led by LLO President, Helen McLeod. She acknowledged the newly voted-in 2008-2009 Student Initiative Committee, as well as the new Board of Directors. A short documentary, *A Canadian Hero*, was screened. This documentary is about Arnie Stewart, famous for his striving to learn and his volunteer contributions to the literacy movement. The film was put together by two school-age boys and it was as impressive as it was touching. The accomplishments of several LLO members and students were acknowledged.

Margaret Maynard of Beamsville accepted the 2008 Lana Faessler Outstanding Service Award. Margaret has made significant contributions, dedicating 18 years to the cause. Students also had their time to shine with the presentation of the 2008 Arnie Stewart Individual Achievement Award. Jack Osborne accepted the award for not only his inspiring progress, but also his dedication to North Bay Literacy Council and promoting literacy in general. Kristina Ketelaar of Midland was runner-up for the award.

For more information, check out LLO's conference website page at www.laubach-on.ca/conf2008.html.



Ontario Literacy Coalition's "Beyond the Book: Learning From Our History"

Beyond the Book: Learning From Our History is Canada's first documentation of adult literacy as a historical movement. It takes a critical look at literacy from the 19th century and continues its storytelling to include present-day programming in Ontario. It celebrates the past, present and future of lifelong learning.

The Ontario Literacy Coalition is pleased to invite you to attend the launch of *Beyond the Book: Learning From Our History*. The official launch will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at the Toronto Reference Library. Refreshments will be served and there is no cost to attend. This event is open to everyone but remember space is limited.

To register for the launch of this publication and for details about the event, visit www.on.literacy.ca/history/lfoh_booklaunch.



Demonstrations Ontario Website

Have you created some terrific Demonstrations in your literacy program? Are you willing to share what you've come up with? Demonstrations Ontario needs your demonstrations. This is the very best way to keep the site fresh and useful. We'll showcase your work, refresh the Demonstrations

Ontario site, and create a dynamic and useful collection of demonstrations that everyone can take advantage of.

This year AlphaPlus is working with an expert advisory group to develop a set of clear criteria for high quality demonstrations, and we are looking at developing a peer editing and review process – we want to work with you to ensure that the demonstrations on the site are as relevant and useful as possible. Whether you are keen to submit, have questions about how to get involved, or if you are still reluctant to send us your demonstrations call or email Maria Moriarty today at mmoriarty@alphaplus.ca or 1-800-788-1120 X 106. She'll answer all your questions!

Visit the Demonstrations Ontario site at: <http://demonstrations.alphaplus.ca/>.

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FINAL “GO” Project Online Learning Course – Spring 2009

Are you curious about online learning? Are you interested in developing skills with learning technologies? Do you want to experience online learning but are unsure where to start? The Getting Online Project team is excited to offer its final *“Introduction to Online Learning”* course.

This 8 week online course has been specially designed for literacy practitioners in Canada and it will explore a variety of topics such as:

- Personal hopes and fears about online learning
- Building online learning communities
- Online learning and the literacy field

Participants will be introduced to various learning technologies including Moodle, Elluminate, and teleconferencing. The course content includes a variety of online learning activities, selected readings, posting to discussion boards, partnering with other participants on assignments, researching using the Internet, and using Internet-based assessment tools.

This final course will be offered from March 23 to May 15, 2009.

Registration for each course is limited to 15 participants. The course is free, but participants will need to purchase the course textbook for \$45.00. For further information or to register, please contact Toni Stewart by email at tstewart@capilanou.ca.

The course will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Please register as soon as possible. You can learn more about the GO project by visiting www.nald.ca/gettingonline.

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Employment Ontario – Employment Services Implementation Update

Please click here www.eopg.ca/eng/publications/ADMLetterESProvider30Jan09ENG.pdf to view a recent letter from Kevin French, Assistant Deputy Minister, MTCU, that shares updated information about Employment Ontario’s Employment Services Implementation.

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Appendix 1

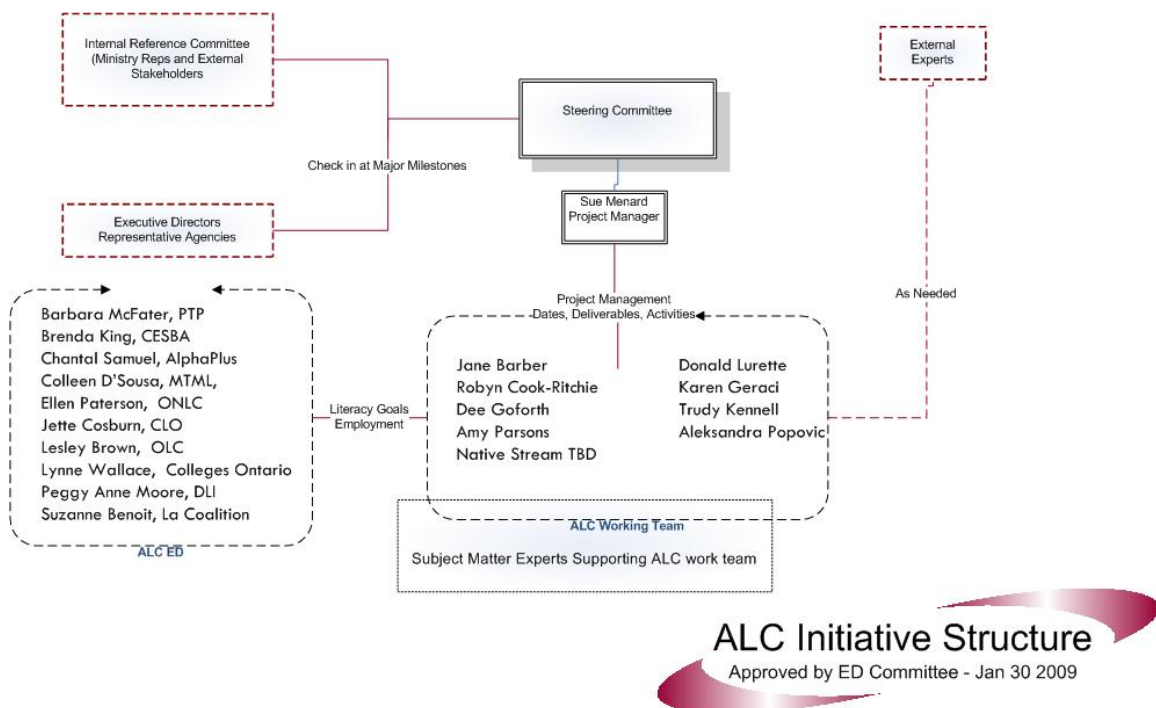
MTCU's ALC Communiqué # 1

The Adult Literacy Curriculum (ALC) Initiative is an undertaking supported by the Learning Ministries¹ of the province of Ontario. The goals of this initiative are to:

- Foster greater quality and consistency of instruction in the LBS Program,
- Improve outcomes for literacy learners,
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Project Administrative Structure

The project activities are directed by a Steering Committee with representatives from all three Ministries who have **Project accountability** which is the accountability to achieve the goals of this specific project. The project is managed by a project manager, Sue Menard. The Executive Directors of the representative agencies have **Sector accountability** which is the accountability to ensure that the goals of the literacy sector are achieved. These Executive Directors have also provided experts for the ALC Working team. The structure and membership of the project is as shown below.



¹ Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

Curriculum Basics

The work in this initiative is building upon previous research and analysis in the field. The five transition pathways, as defined in the Learner Skill Attainment Framework, are being used to categorize existing resources and research new ones. Essential Skills will be a significant part of this analysis.

Five proposed transition pathways for framework

Transition to Independence	Transition to Employment	Transition to Secondary Credit	Transition to Postsecondary	Transition to Apprenticeship
For adults with foundational/life long learning/ personal goals (basic needs, health management, personal issues and relationships, and community involvement)	For adults with employment goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•get a job,•perform better on the job•get a better job	For adults with learning goals (transition into secondary credit to work towards OSSD or OSSC for employment or for further education and training purposes)	For clients with learning goals (transition into postsecondary programming for investment in long-term career)	For adults with learning goals (transition into apprenticeship programming). Includes those already signed up as apprentices, but struggling with in-school work or test writing

The paths are linked to the Essential Skills



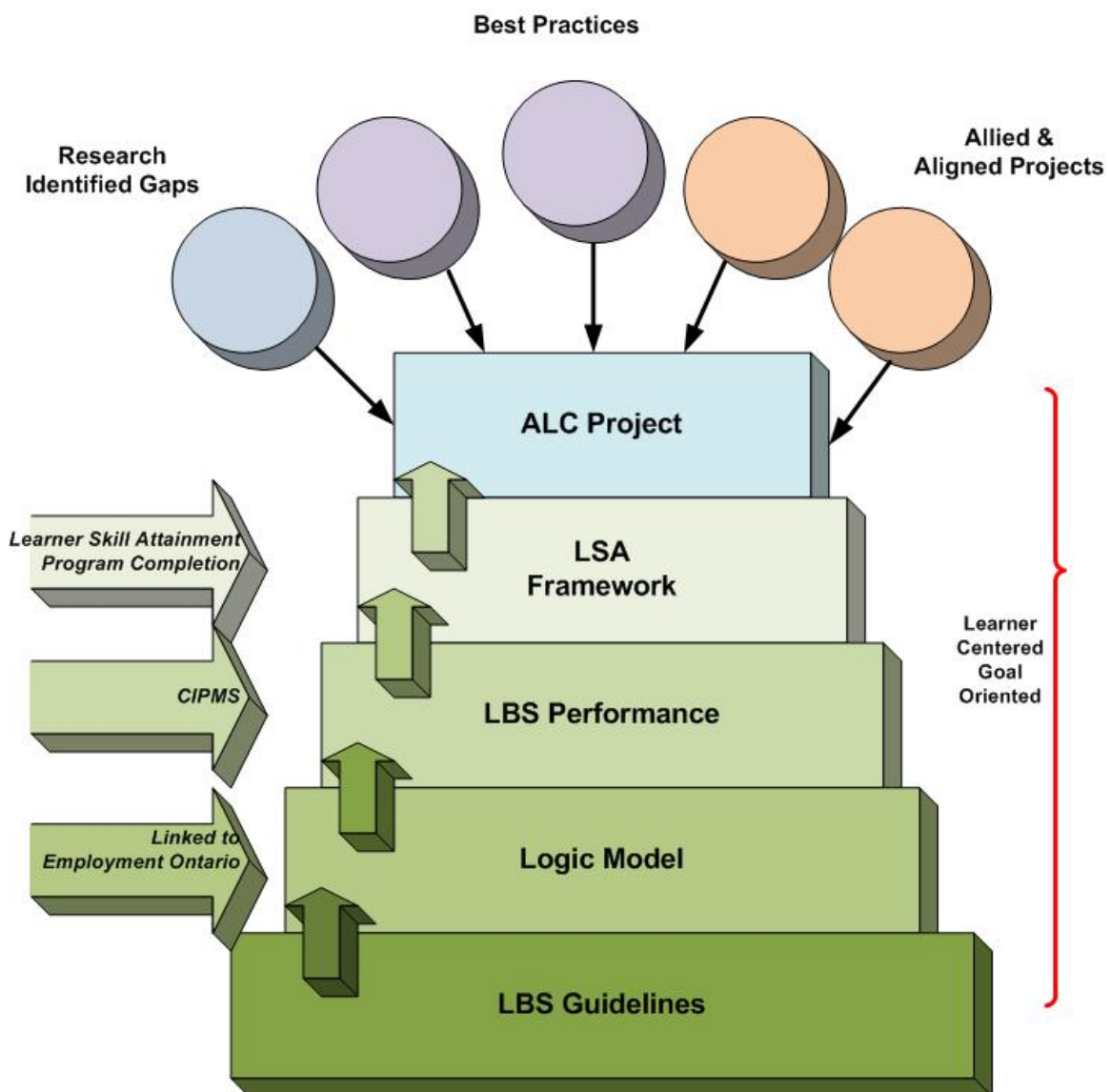
Each transition path will also have curriculum designed and developed specifically for each of the four streams, Aboriginal, Anglophone, Deaf, and Francophone.

Curriculum Principles

It is the intent of this project that the ultimate curriculum documents delivered to practitioners support the following:

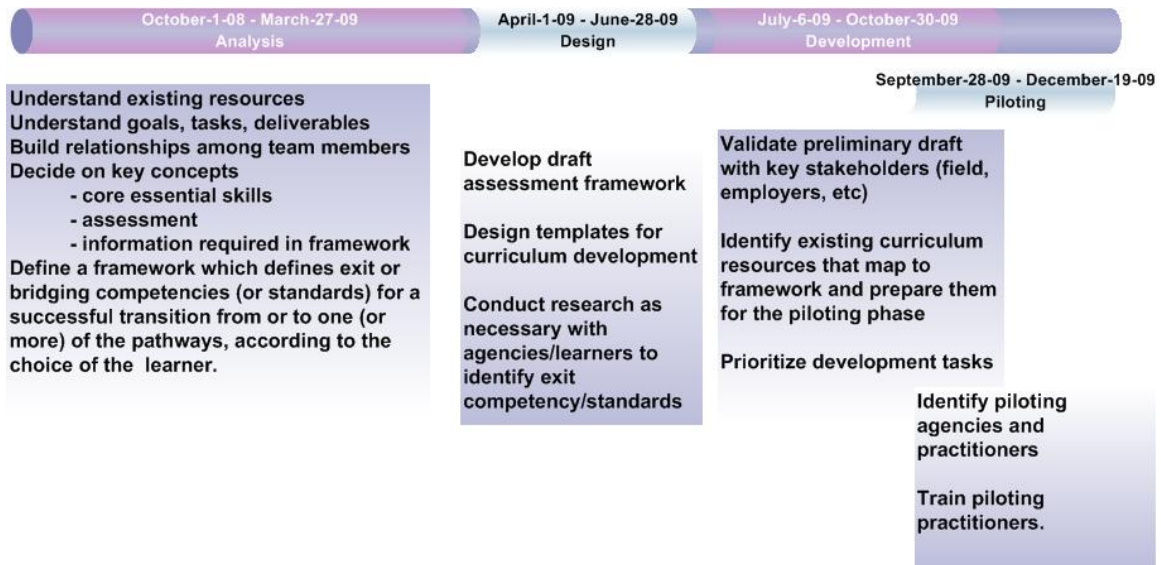
- Ability of the practitioners to select from a wide range of suggested approaches and exercises
- Practitioner's desire and ability to be imaginative and creative
- Flexible delivery with consistent reporting

Because we are building upon existing best practices in the province, we expect that practitioners will find much that is already familiar in the curriculum



Project Timelines

The first stage of this three year project includes the Analysis, Design, Development of prioritized sections of the curriculum and the Piloting of those sections.



Current Activities

The work team is currently completing the analysis phase of the project. They have defined principles, created a repository of research which will not only be used by the project team, but will also be available to practitioners once the new curriculum is piloted. They have identified existing recent research and its place in the framework.

The curriculum framework and the assessment framework, which will provide the information required in developing the actual syllabus for each transition path and stream, is being completed.

Also in progress is the continuing identification of existing research and development products which will inform work on the framework for each transition path.