

Community Literacy of Ontario's SEPTEMBER 2008 E-COMMUNIQUE

Dear CLO members,

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to present its SEPTEMBER 2008 Members' E-Communiqué.

Topics covered in this E-Communiqué are:

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Update on Employment Ontario

In late August, Community Literacy of Ontario participated in the SDAG (Service Delivery Advisory Group) meeting with MTCU. At that meeting, MTCU told the group that they will be holding information sessions for all MTCU-funded delivery agencies. It is our understanding that these sessions will be held in various regions all across Ontario and will be at the end of September 2008.

MTCU is planning to send out more information directly to stakeholders via email this week (or early next week) about these sessions and about Employment Ontario implementation in general. As well, please watch the Employment Ontario Partnerships Gateway website for more information (www.eopg.ca).

These regional meetings will outline the new *Employment Services* model (remember, LBS is under *Training Services*, which is being implemented after *Employment Services*). These meetings will also talk about the performance management framework for *Employment Services* under *Employment Ontario*.

MTCU will also be sending out a capacity assessment survey in September. **This survey will only go to Employment Service deliverers, not to Training Services deliverers.** However, this information will be available at www.eopg.ca so it will be important for those of us in literacy to see this survey and understand MTCU's thinking on capacity assessment for *Employment Services*, as it will undoubtedly inform the development of *Training Services* (which LBS is under) in the coming years.

Please watch the EOPG website (www.eopg.ca) for further information. There will be a great deal happening this fall in the area of Employment Services under Employment Ontario that we can learn from in the LBS community.

As well, there are some recent updates on other topics on the Employment Ontario Partners Gateway website, including *Employment Services* (ES) Update to Stakeholders: www.eopg.ca/eng/.

Also, Service Delivery Advisory Group information from the June 19, 2008 meeting has been posted: <http://www.eopg.ca/eng/sdag.html>

Recorded Version of CLO's Online Workshop on the Essential Skills

In May 2008, Community Literacy of Ontario's delivered three online training sessions on Centra on the Essential Skills.

Now, LBS agencies can access the recording of this highly regarded training event in three easy steps:

1. Click here: <http://e-channel-login.ca/main/e-channel-organizations/index.jhtml?default=true>.
 2. Then, click on "Public Recordings" at the top left hand corner of the screen.
 3. You will then see three recorded workshops, one of which is CLO's "*Essentially Yours*" workshop. Just slip on your headset, grab a cup of tea, and click "playback, and listen and watch this interesting workshop on the Essential Skills at your leisure.
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CLO's 2008 Annual General Meeting

Community Literacy of Ontario is pleased to announce that its 2008 Annual General Meeting will be held on **November 4, 2008 at the Delta Chelsea** in downtown Toronto (33 Gerrard West).

An informative workshop on E-Channel Strategy will be held, along with peer-based networking and table discussions on key topics.

Watch for more detailed information later in September.

Laubach Literacy Ontario's Social Enterprise Project

Laubach Literacy Ontario received a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to help six adult literacy agencies set up revenue-generating businesses – or "Social Enterprises" - in their communities. This "Social Enterprise" program will establish pilot projects in existing agencies in

North Bay, West Nipissing, Hamilton, Midland and Kitchener-Waterloo, in addition to LLO. The program focuses on strengthening the capacity of and building long-lasting sustainability of non-profit adult literacy programs.

The businesses can generate revenues by offering a variety of programs and services to people of all ages. In addition to offering the potential to create much-needed funding, the projects can offer many side benefits for the agencies' and their students and for the communities as a whole – these include employment and training opportunities, and community development.

Imagine being able to take on such projects as additional adult skills upgrading, teaching computer skills, developing food service ventures like small cafés or bakeries or storefront businesses. These “storefronts” might include used book, clothing or furniture stores – whatever the research shows is needed and will work in the individual communities, and whatever will best support each agency’s mission and goals.

The 18-month grant for the “Social Enterprise” project will establish pilot projects in the Midland Area Reading Council, Hamilton Literacy Council, North Bay Literacy Council, Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing Adult Learning Centre, The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region-Kitchener, in addition to LLO itself.

(Source: LLO’s website at www.laubach-on.ca/)

Literacies Journal Online

Check out Literacies Journal online. At www.literacyjournal.ca/ you will find interesting and innovative articles, discussions, a blog podcasts, and a literacy café for literacy practitioners from across Canada.

As their byline says, Literacies is a place *“to connect, collaborate and create”*.

Human Resources Toolkit

The Ontario Association of Youth Employment Centres has produced an excellent online toolkit that provides resources on recruiting, screening, hiring, record keeping, and providing orientation to new staff.

You can browse through the toolkit online at:

www.oayec.org/members/resource_library/hr_toolkit/?load=hr_toolkit_online

Parents Matter Website

For literacy agencies who offer family literacy programming or who work with parents as part of their regular LBS program, you may find the new *“Parents Matter”* website to be helpful. This

website provides resources for parents, multilingual resources sheets and links to parenting sites, family resource centres, and materials for parent education.

This website was developed by the Canadian Association of Family Resources Programs and as such contains Canadian content and context.

You can access this website at: www.parentsmatter.ca/index.cfm.

Tutor Training Resource

The Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy (www.occl.ca/) has developed a training resource for agencies to train literacy tutors to assist adult learners with their job search skills. This resource is called "*Ongoing Training for Literacy Tutors: Preparing for Job Search Success*". It is part of the OCCL's "*Hire Learning*" training series.

You can download this excellent training guide here:
www.occl.ca/pubs/ongoing/ongoingl/cover.htm

Closure of AlphaCom

As was already announced by AlphaPlus, the AlphaCom discussion system will be closing effective August 31, 2008.

Community Literacy of Ontario has been an active user of AlphaCom and we are sorry to see it go. AlphaCom was one useful venue for community based practitioners to share information, strategies, problems, tools and ideas with one another.

We are not sure what the future holds in terms of electronic communication for literacy agencies. AlphaPlus is exploring several options. Technology is quickly advancing in these areas and more user-friendly options for electronic communication definitely exist.

The board of directors and staff of CLO promise to keep our ears to the ground about options and report back to our members about ways in which electronic discussions might be continued. At this point, we have no plans for the future, other than to say we value this way of communicating with our members and hope to find an alternate method.

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