



The Update

What's New at OCCL?

Our Annual Membership Drive

Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy (OCCL) is a community-based literacy network that is governed by a board of directors. We serve as an umbrella group to assist literacy agencies in Ottawa meet the diverse needs of adult learners in a variety of quality and supportive environments.

Did you know that OCCL has served and supported the adult literacy community since 1984 by:

- offering information and referral, outreach and networking
- helping literacy agencies to build capacity
- building partnerships in the community
- promoting best practices in service delivery
- coordinating service planning and project management
- providing professional development for literacy practitioners

Membership renewals for OCCL are due on April 1. You'll find information on the benefits of being a member and a membership form enclosed with this edition of **The Update**. There is no need to fill in the form if your contact information hasn't changed. Just send us your cheque and you're good to go!

We appreciate the support of our members and encourage you to renew your membership as soon as possible. If you'd care to make a donation to the Coalition, we will issue charitable tax receipts for any donation of \$10 or more above the membership fee.

Additional forms can also be accessed on our website at:
www.occl.ca/membership.htm

A Fond Farewell

Marcia Aronson, Chair of OCCL's Board of Directors, has retired from the Ottawa Public Library and will be leaving her position as Chair of the Board in June.

Marcia will be remembered by the Coalition for her leadership, compassion and tireless efforts to improve adult literacy services in Ottawa. Board meetings ran smoothly and efficiently guided by her warm and caring manner. She championed the development of *Getting to Know the Library*, in English, French and American Sign Language and was instrumental in procuring funding for it. The members of the Local Planning & Coordination Committee (LPCC) will remember Marcia's enthusiastic presentations on the Golden Oak Books chosen annually for adult learners by the Ontario Library Association to promote the love of reading.

We will miss you, Marcia, and wish you every happiness in your upcoming retirement. We know you will move on to new and exciting adventures.

Dates to Remember.....	page 2
Sustainable Funding for Literacy Agencies.....	page 3
National and Provincial News.....	page 7
Local Program and Conference News.....	page 13



DATES TO REMEMBER

OCCL's mission is to support, promote and strengthen adult literacy services in Ottawa through communication, research and public education.

Please direct any comments or questions to:

Executive Director: MaryWiggin
Community Coordinator:Maureen McGovern

Address: 107-211 Bronson Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6H5

Phone: 613-233-3232

Fax: 613-233-0299

Website: www.occl.ca

E-mail: abcline@occl.ca

Board of Directors

Chair: Marcia Aronson

Treasurer: Gordon Metcalfe

Community Rep: Wendy Siebrasse

Literacy

Reps: Kim Oastler

Brenda Gaitens

Louise Lalonde

Local Planning & Coordination Committee

Co- Chairs: Jan Goatcher
Claire Snasdell-Taylor

Members:

Lynn Desjardins Louise Lalonde
Nicole Dupuis Maria Makrakis
Brenda Gaitens Kim Oastler
Chris Girard Carol McMurchy
 Simone Edwards - Forde

NOTE: Articles and items published in **The Update** do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy but are intended to share information and ideas related to adult literacy

March 31, 2011 - AlphaPlus Project Reference Group Meeting
Heartwood House
153 Chapel Street

April 1, 2011 2011-2012 OCCL Memberships are due

April 13, 2011 - LPCC meeting
La Cité's Centre des métiers Minto

May 11, 2011 - LPCC meeting
Heartwood House
153 Chapel Street

June 8, 2011 - LPCC meeting
(1:00 - 3:30 p.m.)
OCCL's AGM
(4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)
Heartwood House
153 Chapel Street

Family Literacy Day 2011

Thanks to everyone who made Family Literacy Day 2011 a great success in Ottawa.

To read about the many events and activities that occurred throughout the week of January 23-27, visit our website at:

www.occl.ca/familyliteracy



Sustainable Funding for Literacy Agencies

The fiscal year is drawing to an end and there is a lot of concern about funding for literacy agencies in Ottawa and across the province. Over the last two years the provincial and federal governments have invested an additional \$90 million in literacy and essential skills training. In return for the additional funding agencies had to increase the number of learners they served; the service providers in Ottawa rose to the challenge and did an outstanding job!

In order to accommodate more learners, agencies hired more staff, did renovations, rented new spaces, bought computers and more. But now with no additional funding available for 2011/2012, the agencies face difficult choices. For example, many will have to reduce staff time or even lay off staff. And fewer instructors will mean fewer learners can be served.

Literacy service delivery agencies and support organizations, such as the regional and provincial networks, have been working hard to get sustainable funding for literacy onto the political agenda. Dozens of letters have been sent to politicians, there have been meetings with MPPs, and presentations and submissions to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs during the pre-budget process.

The Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy (OCCL) sent a submission to the Standing Committee. We've included it here. The document includes OCCL's report, *Increased Literacy Funding Pays Off!* which describes the impact of the additional funding in its first year. We also sent our pre-budget submission to local MPPs. We received limited feedback from Premier Dalton McGuinty and MPPs, Lisa MacLeod and Madeleine Meilleur

Mary Wiggin met with staff in MPP Bob Chiarelli's office and provided an overview of literacy services in Ottawa. MPP Yasir Naqvi invited literacy representatives to meet with him. On March 4, Mary Wiggin and Jan Goatcher (John Howard Society of Ottawa) and Claire Snasdell-Taylor (Algonquin College), who are the Co-Chairs of the Local Planning and Coordination Committee, met with Mr. Naqvi to discuss the funding situation. He found OCCL's pre-budget submission very useful and offered to send a personal letter to Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance along with a copy of the submission.

Mr. Naqvi is cautiously optimistic that there will be more funding for literacy in the future although not at the levels we've seen in the last two years. The provincial government will present their budget on March 29. We'll keep you up to date on any developments related to literacy.



OCCL's Pre-budget Submission

Pat Hoy, MPP, Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

January 31, 2011

Dear Mr. Hoy,

I am writing to the members of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy, the nine service delivery agencies in the city funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and over 2,000 learners participating in programming offered by those agencies.

In 2009, to bolster the province's economic recovery and to support the transition to a fully integrated employment and training system, the Ontario Budget Initiative invested an additional \$90 million over two years for literacy and essential skills training. The adult literacy field and the more than 60,000 adult learners across the province who are upgrading their literacy and essential skills want to thank the provincial government for the opportunities this investment has provided.

However, this funding will end on March 31, 2011. Along with many colleagues across the province, I would like to make the case for sustaining this increased investment by sharing with you the attached document called **Increased Literacy Funding Pays Off!** which our network prepared in the spring of 2010. It is based on the results of a detailed survey the service delivery agencies in Ottawa completed about the variety of ways they used the additional funding in the first year it was available, 2009/2010. The results were outstanding!

The return to former levels of funding will mean that many agencies will have to lay off staff and reduce learners' access to literacy and essential skills training. Currently the additional funding is helping an additional 13,000 Ontarians access the training they need to contribute to the provincial economy and to their communities. The investment is directly related to strengthening Ontario's economic growth, productivity and competitiveness by enabling more residents to contribute to the economy that will ensure the continued prosperity of our province.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with you and the members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Mary E. Wiggin
Executive Director



Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

Increased Literacy Funding Pays Off!

On March 26, 2009, the Province of Ontario announced that it would expand training and literacy programs. The 2009 Ontario budget detailed the scope of this expansion, noting that \$90 million over two years (2009/2010 and 2010/2011) would be provided to Literacy and Basic Skills agencies to increase their capacity to help adult learners develop the Essential Skills they need to secure employment and access further education and training.

The additional field support funding has had a major impact in the City of Ottawa. Literacy agencies in the Anglophone, Deaf/Deafblind and Francophone streams used the funding to raise awareness of the services they offer and increase their capacity to serve learners:

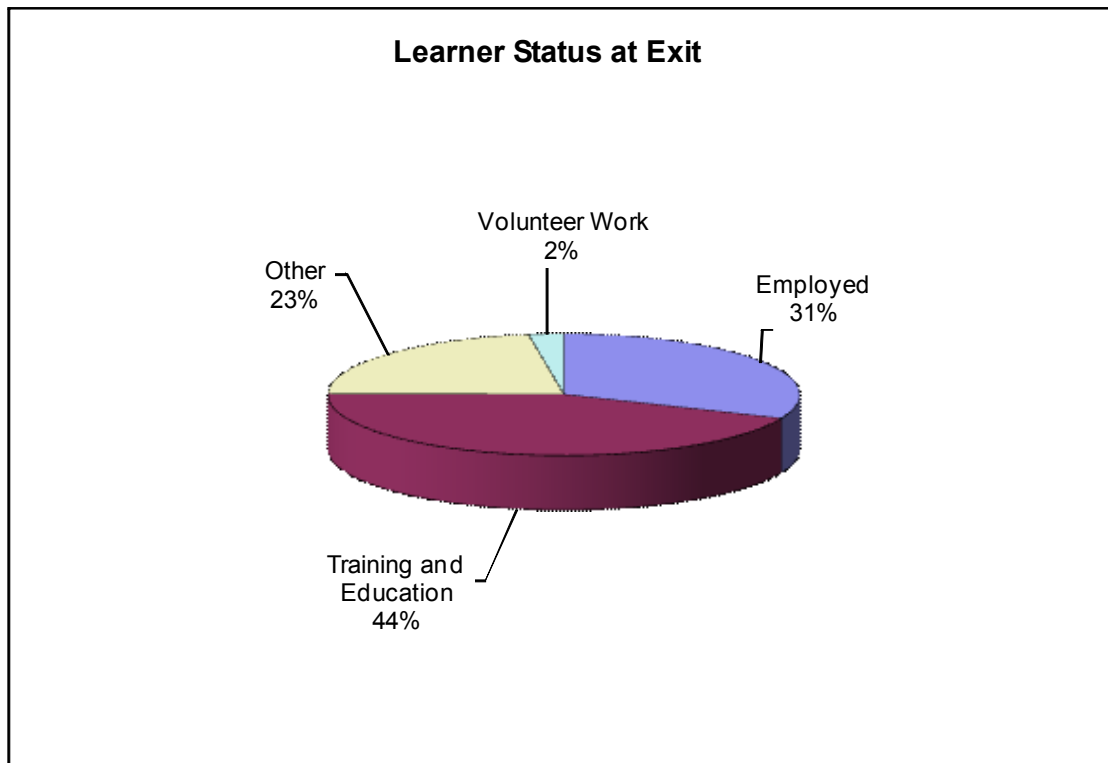
- 90% increased hours of service
- 40% increased the number of learning options/locations
- 70% offered new additional programming and curriculum
- 90% expanded classroom space/computer resource areas - over 85% of learners had access to online learning
- 100% hired new staff in order to offer increased services
- 100% did outreach to other Employment Ontario stakeholders including apprenticeship and employment services
- 100% purchased new resources such as teaching materials, technology and computer software

The response from the community to these changes was overwhelmingly positive. Literacy agencies in Ottawa served a total of **2,567** learners in 2009/2010, an increase of **500** learners or **20 percent** over the previous year.



Increased Literacy Funding Pays Off!

Of the 1,037 learners who exited literacy and essential skills programs in 2009/10, 771 or 77% moved on to further training and education, employment or volunteer work. The other 1,530 learners remained in programs and continued to improve their skills.



Literacy agencies are working hard to build stronger linkages with Employment Ontario partners that will lead to more referrals of clients from employment services and apprenticeship to literacy and essential skills programs. As a result clients will have the opportunity to increase both their employability and their ability to find and keep jobs.

There is a clear and direct link between literacy and employability and a skilled workforce and productivity. But it is also important to recognize that adult learners across the province are not just potential workers. They are volunteers, parents, homeowners, tenants, caregivers, taxpayers and so much more. Stronger literacy and essential skills allow individuals to participate more fully in society

Ottawa's literacy agencies met the province's requirement to expand capacity and in doing so revealed a higher demand for their services. Withdrawal of the additional field support funding would bring support for many agencies back to 1997 levels. The need for these services and the positive results they produce have been demonstrated – increased literacy funding pays off – let's not lose the momentum.

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL NEWS

Canadian Literacy and Learning Network (CCLN) New President and CEO

The Canadian Literacy and Learning Network (formerly Movement for Canadian Literacy) has appointed Eileen Dooley as their new President and CEO.

Eileen has a wealth of experience in the public sector. Serving as the Vice President, Community Services for United Way/Centraide Ottawa, Eileen led the transition to an organization focused on community impact.

A graduate of the Communications program at the University of Ottawa, Eileen's professional experience includes almost 10 years on Parliament Hill, and work in the field of international development. Her extensive volunteer experience includes the United Way, the University of Ottawa's Community Service Learning Advisory Board, the Children's Aid Society and a number of other community-based organizations.

Federal Government Launches the Facebook and Mobile Applications

“How Canadian are You Eh?!”

This month the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney, launched a fun and educational Facebook application that tests your knowledge of Canada's history, values, symbols and political institutions. The quiz can be downloaded to mobile devices like iPhone, Blackberry and Android. The 20 questions are randomly selected from a bank of 122 questions, allowing the quiz to be played more than once.

The initiative is part of an on-line resource called “Fun Path to Learning” that was launched in April 2010 by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The educational tool draws from material in the new citizenship study guide *Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship* and aims to help students from grades five to 12 learn about Canada's history and political institutions through games and activities.

Links to the app can be found at www.citizenship.gc.ca/youth.

NALD Launches Mobile Application for Fast, Easy Access to Literacy Resources

Accessing information through the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) just got a little easier. NALD, Canada's literacy and essential skills network, has launched a mobile application that links users to its popular Headlines, Contacts and Websites sections.

A hot button on the front page of NALD takes users to the mobile site which can also be accessed by visiting <http://m.nald.ca/>. Once access to the front page is obtained, users may choose from national or provincial/territorial information by clicking on the appropriate field and the appropriate icon. For mobile service in French, go to <http://m.bdaa.ca/>.



NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

Report from the National Literacy Trust - United Kingdom

Text Messaging Can Boost Literacy Among Pupils, Research Suggests

According to new research the use of “textisms” can improve literacy among pupils by giving them extra exposure to word composition outside the school day it was claimed. Often critics have suggested that text messaging can blur the boundaries between colloquialisms and standard English, with some teachers claiming that slang is now found in children’s school work.

However academics from Coventry University said there was “no evidence” that access to mobile phones harmed children’s literacy skills and could even have a positive impact on spelling.

In the latest study researchers recruited 114 children aged nine and 10 from primary schools in the Midlands. The research, to be published in the *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning* next month, found evidence of a “significant contribution of textism use to the children’s spelling development during the study”. This study, which took account of individual differences in IQ, found higher results in test scores recorded by children using mobile phones after 10 weeks compared with the start of the study.

According to the report, the association between spelling and text messaging may be explained by the highly phonetic nature of the abbreviations used by children and the alphabetic awareness required for successfully decoding the words. The report, funded by Becta, the government’s education technology agency stated: “It is also possible that textism use adds value because of the indirect way in which mobile phone use may be increasing children’s exposure to print outside of school.”

Professor Clare Wood, senior lecturer in the university’s psychology department, said: “We are now starting to see consistent evidence that children’s use of text message abbreviations has a positive impact on their spelling skills. There is no evidence that children’s language play when using mobile phones is damaging literacy development.”

To read the full article which appeared in *The Telegraph* on January 20, 2011 go to:

www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8272502/Text-messaging-improves-childrens-spelling-skills.html

International Adult Learners' Week in Canada

Celebrating Adult Learners
April 2-9, 2011

Visit www.unesco.ca for more information



NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL

WHAT'S OUT THERE FOR EMPLOYERS?

The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum-Forum canadien sur l'apprentissage (CAF-FCA) is committed to ensuring employers have the supports they require so they can successfully hire and retain apprentices. As part of its broader Employer Engagement Strategy, CAF-FCA conducted a project on employer support mechanisms to identify "what's out there" and what more could be done to support employers. In consultation with the provinces and territories, CAF-FCA created a catalogue with links to all the relevant incentives and programs that currently exist across Canada. Federal and provincial/territorial tax credits available for employers who hire apprentices are included. Check out the federal/provincial/territorial areas to discover the many exciting and beneficial programs, incentives and tools available right across the country!

Promoting Apprenticeship:

The Apprenticeship Board in Nova Scotia holds employer breakfast forums to promote the value of apprenticeship training with employer champions invited to speak about their experiences.

Creating How-To-Train Materials and Promoting Mentoring among Journeypersons:

In Alberta, the Employer Visits Program educates industry on the importance of mentorship with staff visiting more than 12,000 employers in a typical year. Saskatchewan partnered with the Construction Sector Council to upgrade the mentoring skills of journeypersons and to create a mentoring training tool for use by the entire construction industry.

Tax Credits and Wage Subsidies:

Find out what the Federal and Provincial/Territorial governments have to offer you. You may be surprised to discover the governments of New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon and Newfoundland and Labrador also offer a wage subsidy for employers.

Background Training for Pre-Apprentices and Essential Skills Assistance:

The Northern Essential Skills Training Initiative in Manitoba and the Screening for Success program in New Brunswick are two examples of this kind of support.

Maintaining Flexibility:

Prince Edward Island provides relevant training at a time convenient to employers and, in the Yukon, staff tries to streamline the process so employers are not overwhelmed by too much paperwork.

For more information about all the great benefits of apprenticeship training and how it can help you, visit:

www.caf-fca.org/en/employers/



Summer Institute 2011: Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills

The third in a series of national summer institutes on workplace literacy and essential skills will take place June 27-29, 2011, at Dawson College in Montreal. The theme for the institute is **Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills: Embedding Practice, Preparing Providers**. Hosted by *The Centre for Literacy* with support from nine international partners including key national organizations such as NALD, ABC Life Literacy Canada and the Canadian Literacy and Learning Network, the annual event contributes greatly to the body of knowledge that exists on the subject of adult literacy and workplace essential skills.

Keynote speakers

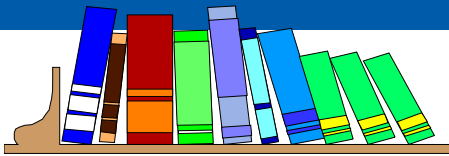
Ann Kelly, PhD, is at the School of Education and Professional Studies, Adult & Vocational Education, Griffiths University in Australia. Previously, she worked in a technical and further education institution managing a range of adult literacy activities. She implemented the first centrally funded workplace literacy programs in Queensland and developed a vocational graduate certificate in adult literacy and numeracy to prepare teachers to work in the adult literacy/numeracy field.

Anne McKeown is Professional Development Manager for the London Strategic Unit at the National Research and Development Centre for adult literacy and numeracy in the UK. Her background is in teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and teacher education in adult Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN). Her recent research includes examining the role of unions in workplace ESOL and looking at programs for pre-service LLN teacher education.

The Centre for Literacy's summer institutes have informed policy and practice in Canada and abroad for more than 20 years. When a small group of policy-makers, practitioners and researchers in a field meet and work together for three days in a participatory setting, there is valuable sharing of ideas, information and experience.

For more information on the Summer Institute, go to:

www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/sites/default/files/CFL_SUM_INSTITUTE_2011_WEB_FINAL_0.pdf



**Family Literacy Day
Ottawa Public Library
January 23, 2011**

The Ottawa Public Library (OPL) hosted a family literacy event featuring *Aboriginal Experiences*, a First Nations storytelling and dance group, who delighted an attentive audience of parents and children with their native stories and colourful costumes depicting different animals.

The **Suzanne Pinel Book Awards** were presented at the library event. Agencies serving children at risk were invited by the Family Literacy Day Planning Committee to apply to receive a \$750 gift certificate to purchase books at Kaleidoscope Kids Books. This year three awards were presented thanks to a generous contribution from **TD Bank**. The 2011 winners were:

- **Christie Lake Kids**
- **Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre**
- **Parent Resource Centre - Growing Up Downtown**

Congratulations!

The library is a member of the Family Literacy Day Planning Committee. They helped to develop *How to Organize a Book Drive* and *How to Run a Book Drive* which are available on the OCCL website at:

www.occl.ca/familyliteracy

OPL distributed bookmarks in 2011 with the following Family Literacy Tips:

Begin reading now- Read 15 minutes a day with children - it's never too late, or too early to start.

Get out the board games- Playing games is a literacy activity and a fun way to spend an hour or two with your family

Read while you're in the car- Pass the time listening to audio books.

Make waiting time, reading time- Share a book in the doctor's office waiting room or while you ride the bus.

Involve the whole family in reading- Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters - everyone loves to be read to.

Label your world- Put magnetic letters or words on the refrigerator for everyone to play with.

Make your next birthday party a book affair Choose a book theme, put books in grab bags or create books as a craft.

Use the library regularly- it will open the whole world up to your family.

Create a library at home- Check out yard sales, rummage sales and Friends of OPL bookstores for great deals on books.

Be a reading role model- Read in front of your children and they will begin to copy you.



Looking for Great Reads for Your Kids?

Check out the lists created for children of all ages on the OPL website:

<http://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/main/interest/learn/parent>



Peer Resource Review

Recognizing Life's Work : Helping Learners Connect their Essential Skills from Home to Work

Reviewed by: Emily Knights, Literacy Instructor at the John Howard Society (JHS) of Ottawa Literacy Program

Summary:

Recognizing Life's Work (RLW) was developed by the Quill Learning Network in Walkerton. It takes 12 common leisure activities and identifies the essential skills required for each one.

The 12 identified activities are: Computers for Personal Use, Crossword Puzzles, Entertaining/Socializing, Fishing, Gardening, Housecleaning, Household Financial Management, Household Food Management, Household Scheduling and Organizing, Pet Care, Playing Board Games/Cards, Reading for Pleasure.

For each activity, a checklist of the nine Essential Skills (ES) is provided and the resource breaks down which essential skills are needed, how the essential skill is used and the level of complexity of the task. The resource then provides two learning activities, one low level and one high level for the leisure activity. It also provides an occupation matching chart, which lists occupations that require the use of the same essential skills as the leisure activity and breaks down how that skill is used in each occupation. Labour Market Information about each occupation is provided. Finally, fictional case studies tell stories of individuals using the transferable skills from their leisure activities to gain employment and/or succeed in the workplace.

Thoughts:

- The resource covers a wide range of leisure activities and learners reported having participated in at least one leisure activity found in *RLW*.
- It is easy to read and follow
- Most activities/occupations fall within ES levels 1-3.
- Some of the activities given were appropriate for Level 1 LBS learners.
- The occupations listed for each activity are realistic goals for learners given their educational background and skills.
- They provide suggestions for finding authentic materials to use for future learning or to use to supplement the material provided.
- At JHS, we have used it as inspiration for creating demonstrations. It has been useful in creating demonstrations for learners with employment goals; however it has been even more useful for learners with personal independence goals. These demonstrations were modeled after the learning activities found in the resource.
- Volunteer tutors said it was useful for ideas for developing other learning activities.
- The resource can be used with all learners, and adapted to their skill level.

This resource can be accessed for free on an E-Reader platform from Quill Learning Network:

<http://www.quillnet.org/e-resources/rlw.htm>



Conferences & Training

2011 Transliteracy Conference

In response to requests from Literacy and Basic Skills organizations for more training and hands-on experience related to e-learning, the Adult Learning Centres Grey-Bruce-Georgian are holding a second Transliteracy Conference. It will take place from June 27 to June 29, 2011 at Kempenfelt Bay Conference Centre in Barrie. Organizers will be surveying this year's registrants and some of the workshops will be designed based on needs and input.

Early Bird Rates (if paid by March 15, 2011)

- \$ 675.00 for one person
- \$1250.00 for two people from the same organization
- \$1800 for three people from the same organization

Cost includes conference fee, dinner on Monday and Tuesday, breakfast and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday. Accommodation at the Kempenfelt Centre (Monday and Tuesday night) is included in the conference fee. HST is included in the conference fee. Rates are based upon two participants sharing a room. More information is available on the Transliteracy Info blog:

<http://transliteracyinfo.blogspot.com>

Programs for Newcomers to Canada

The Ottawa Public Library (OPL) can help Newcomers to Canada learn English and French, prepare for the Ontario Driver's Test and the Canadian Citizenship Test, find information about education, family issues, housing and other settlement services.

Library Settlement Workers (LSWs) are available to assist at many library branches. Visit the OPL website for information on programs and services available.

<http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/main/library/service/newcomers/default/programs>

Dress for Success Information Session

(Open to those currently working in the Social Services Sector)

Where: Pinecrest-Queensway Employment Services, 2525 Carling Ave. (Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre)

When: Friday March 18 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

To register: Contact Christine Walker at c.walker@pqchc.com or at 613-228-3880, ext. 4758

Find out what *Dress for Success* is, how this program can support your clients and how to make a referral.



Local Program News

It's a Wrap!

Keep your eye out for upcoming profiles about some of Ottawa's adult literacy programs in *The Wrap*, a four-page pull-out section delivered Wednesdays, as part of the Ottawa Citizen's Flyer Force delivery, and Fridays, to home delivery subscribers

AlphaPlus Project

OCCL is a partner with AlphaPlus on a project called *Getting to Know Moodle in ASL*. This project will result in two e-channel/e-learning resources for Deaf, Deafblind and hard-of-hearing literacy learners and their instructors:

- A 30-40 minute captioned video inASL that introduces Moodle (a web-based learning environment) and includes practical examples from an online Moodle course
- A short online Moodle course on Essential Skills where learners can apply the knowledge learned in the video. The course will introduce the nine Essential Skills as well as assess learning gains through essential skills.

The project is scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2011. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will provide funding.

Congratulations to **Literacy Link Eastern Ontario (LLEO)**
on their 20th anniversary!

Annual AGM and 20th Anniversary Celebration will take place at the Day's Inn in Kingston, Ontario on Thursday, March 24.

Email Donna Page at donna@lleo for more information.



St. Nicholas Adult High School

St. Nicholas Adult High School has been serving the Ottawa community for over 20 years. They have two locations, **893 Admiral Avenue** (West) and **20 Graham Avenue** (Central). The school is operated by the Ottawa Catholic School Board and is open to **all adults of age 18 or older**. The school serves adult students in Ottawa who want to earn the necessary credits to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma or to obtain pre-requisites for post secondary education or training.

Here are some of the programs they offer:

In Class Learning: Adults attend day school at either campus and complete their credits in class with the support of a classroom teacher.

Online Learning: Adults can obtain credits online on their own schedule. The Virtual Academy - (www.virtualacademy.ca/) offers over 30 different courses at a variety of levels.

Accreditation for Prior Learning: Adults can earn credits for life and work experience (up to 12 credits for those who entered secondary school before September 1999.) Adults can also write assessment tests to earn up to 16 Grade 9 and 10 credits (for those who entered secondary school after September 1999).

Credits @ Work: Provides employed adults, who are unable to attend day school, the opportunity to earn credits toward their high school diploma while at work receiving their regular pay. Some day school students may be able to earn co-op credits in the afternoon or evening (through both unpaid and paid employment).

Introduction to Construction and Renovation Training Program: Ideal for adults seeking work in Ottawa's construction and renovation industry. They can develop these skills while earning high school credits.

Introduction to Hairstyling: Provides opportunities for adults to learn the essential skills of hairstyling, while earning high school credits. Some spaces available for apprenticeship dual credit opportunities through Algonquin College (for students aged 18 - 21 yrs).

Contact St. Nicholas for registration dates and times.

WEST: 893 Admiral Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1Z 6L6 **Tel:** 613-228-8888 **Fax:** 613-228-9967

CENTRAL: 20 Graham Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 0B7 **Tel:** 613-234-2768 **Fax:** 613-234-8125

EMAIL: NicholasAdult.High@ottawacatholicschools.ca

WEBSITE: www.adulths.ottawacatholicschools.ca



Resources

Quick Reads - 2011

Now in their sixth year, *Quick Reads* have introduced people to the joys of reading by providing short, beautifully written books by bestselling writers and celebrities. The 2011 titles are:

- *Bloody Valentine* by James Patterson
- *Clouded Vision* by Linwood Barclay
- *Follow Me* by Sheila O'Flanagan
- *Jack and Jill* by Lucy Cavendish
- *Kung Fu Trip* by Benjamin Zephaniah
- *Men at Work* by Mike Gayle
- *My Dad's a Policeman* by Cathy Glass
- *Strangers on the 16:02* by Priya Basil
- *Tackling Life* by Charlie Oatway
- *Trouble on the Heath* by Terry Jones

These exciting, dramatic and funny stories are ideal for adults who've stopped reading or find reading tough, and for regular readers who want a short, fast read. *Quick Reads* have helped hundreds of thousands of people to pick up books and enjoy reading again.

Follow Me and *Clouded Vision* will be available from Canadian publisher, Grass Roots Press (www.grassrootsbooks.net) They are also able to order the other 2011 titles.

For a brief description of the 2011 Quick Reads books and the authors, visit the following site and click on the picture of each book.

www.quickreads.org.uk/about-the-books/new-books-for-2011



Essential Skills Resources

Understanding Essential Skills for Apprenticeship Trades

On the Essential Skills website, there are new and improved profiles that explain the Essential Skills for Success for a number of jobs. These descriptions are easy to follow and read. You can download them in pdf format at:

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/apprenticeship/index.shtml

You'll learn how Essential Skills are used on the job for the following trades:

- Automotive Service Technician
- Carpenter
- Cook
- Hairstylist
- Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
- Machinist
- Plumber
- Sheet Metal Worker
- Welder

If you prefer you can order these publications from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) at www.hrsdc.gc.ca/publications. The documents are also available on demand in alternative formats (large print, Braille, Audio Cassette, Audio CD, e-Text Diskette, e-Text CD or DAISY) by contacting 1-800-622-6232. If you have a hearing impairment and use aTTY, call 1-800-926-9105.

Improving Vocabulary

Have a look at the *Building Vocabulary Workbook*, featured on the NALD library. This is available for free in a downloadable pdf format. This resource is designed to improve vocabulary. It has 24 lessons with a variety of exercises to help an individual learn new words commonly used in the Canadian workplace.

www.nald.ca/library/learning/hrsd/vocabulary_workbook/vocabulary_workbook.pdf

ESI DVD series: Agents on a mission to investigate Essential Skills

ESI: Essential Skills Investigation is the title of a DVD series produced by the BC-~~uk~~on Essential Skills Guiding Team with assistance from a variety of different sponsors. Each time a DVD was created, a host of different sponsors signed up as benefactors.

Not to be confused with the popular TV series CSI, but certainly taking on a similar look, the satiric series was designed as a promotional tool to help increase awareness of the central role Essential Skills play in the workplace.

The DVDs are available through Bear Image Productions of Chilliwack, B.C. For more information about the series and for an order form, visit www.saset.ca and click on Essential Skills on the menu on the left. The videos are available in English and French.



Internet Resources

The Learning Hub

is a free online upgrading program
available to adult learners across Ontario.

To find out more about The Learning Hub and how it works, visit

www.learninghub.ca

Check out the *2011 Grass Roots Press* catalogue for new resources for adult learners
and literacy instructors at:

www.grassrootsbooks.net/catalogue2011.pdf

OCCL Website (www.occl.ca) Activity Report

Listed below are the top downloads from our site for the months of
December 2010, January and February 2011.

December 2010

1. Community Works Handbook & Guide
2. Literacy & Essential Skills Awareness Guide
3. OCCL Newsletters

January 2011

1. December 2010 Newsletter
2. Family Literacy Day Challenge
3. Community Works Handbook & Guide

February 2012

1. Literacy Outreach Package
2. Literacy & Essential Skills Awareness Guide
3. Hire Learning Modules



Literacy and Technology

Just Ask AlphaPlus!

Are you uncertain and/or maybe a bit overwhelmed by the new and ever-changing technology and online tools you are exposed to every day? Considering using some of them but not sure where to start? Where do you go if you have specific questions about integrating new and innovative technology into your teaching and learning?

Just Ask allows adult literacy educators to quickly connect with AlphaPlus staff by using their online chat or leaving a message when they are not online. Click on the **Just Ask** button located in the right sidebar of the AlphaPlus website. A chat window opens, allowing you to have a live chat with the staff to leave a message for a quick follow-up. Visit: <http://alphaplus.ca/>

Join AlphaPlus for a Webinar on March 16 Digital Technologies & Adult Literacy:

What do we know, what are we learning, what can be taught and how will we teach?

Maria Moriarty and Matthias Sturm will share results and findings from two learning technology initiatives. The first initiative is a review of literature looking at the use and integration of digital technology in teaching and learning.

The second initiative focuses on the development of a 'digital technology use' competence within the context of a curriculum framework and the skills essential for employment and training for adult learners.

You will need to sign in 15 minutes before the session starts. To find out more about the webinar and how to test and set up your computer prior to the webinar visit: <http://alphaplus.ca>. Scroll down the page and click on -

Digital Technologies & Adult Literacy - Webinar on March 16.

What is a SMART Board?

A SMART Board is an interactive whiteboard connected to a computer that allows users to deliver dynamic and interactive lessons, navigate the internet, write notes in digital ink, and save work – all with the simple touch of a finger. Introduced by a Canadian organization called SMART Technologies (<http://smarttech.com/ca>) in 1991, over 1.8 million SMART Boards are now used worldwide in education, business, government and military settings.

Ottawa LBS/AU programs using the SMART Board include the *Ottawa Catholic School Board*, the *Deafblind Literacy Program at CNIB* and *ALSO (Alternative Learning Styles & Outlooks)*.

Moi, j'appendis uses **Brightlinks**, an Epson product, which is the equivalent of the SMART Board.

www.epsonbrightlink.webengager.com/



HOTLINE STATISTICS

Contacts	December	January	February
Calls from learners	3	11	5
On behalf of learners		2	5
Learner follow-up		3	1
Volunteering	1	1	2
Literacy Outreach/Community	43	55	68
OCCL Admin	99	87	75
Workforce Development	13	13	20
Provincial and National Activities	52	32	34
Literacy & Basic Skills/Academic Upgrading	81	206	149
Employment Ontario	75	94	71
Resources/Projects/Project Follow-up	10	39	95
Professional Development	6	6	4
Family Literacy	117	189	89
Events	3	6	0
Total	503	744	618
Referrals*			
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board		2	2
Ottawa Catholic School Board	1	1	1
PWC	1	1	2
ALSO		3	
Algonquin College (CCP)	1	1	2
ILC Web site			
ELTOC			2
ACElinks			
John Howard Society			
Sage Youth			
Moi, j'apprends		1	
Adult High			
St. Nicholas Adult			
ACElinks			
Renfrew County Upgrading Program		1	
Language Assessment Centre		1	
Ottawa Public Library			
No referral		5	2
Newcomer Information Centre			
Total	3	16	11
* At times we make more than one referral per call. The total number of referrals therefore may be higher than the total number of calls received.			
OW related calls:	2	4	1