



Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

The Update

December 2013

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Dates to Remember

January 8, 2014	LPCC Meeting - New Location Heartwood House 404 McArthur Avenue
January 15, 2014	Family Literacy Day Committee meeting Heartwood House 404 McArthur Avenue
January 27, 2014	<u>Family Literacy Day!</u>
February 5, 2014	Discussion Session on Goal Pathways Moi j'apprénds 226-235 Donald Street
February 12, 2013	LPCC Meeting Heartwood House 404 McArthur Avenue
March 19, 2013	Board & LPCC Meetings Heartwood House 404 McArthur Avenue

In the News

Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

PIAAC is an initiative to assess the skills and competencies of adults aged 16 to 65 years old in 24 countries. In Canada, PIAAC was led by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada and Statistics Canada. Ontario invested \$2.7 million to participate in the survey and more than 5,000 Ontarians were surveyed. The results were released on October 8, 2013.

What's new in PIAAC?

A new domain: “Problem-solving in Technology Rich Environments

A new level: “Below Level 1”. In earlier studies people who were unable to complete the assessment were left out of the survey results. In Canada, 4% of those surveyed for PIAAC fell into this category.

Ontario Highlights

- Ontarians are among those most equipped to deal with the skills demanded in a digital environment
- Ontario scores above the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average for proficiency in problem-solving, with Ontario performing close to the highest ranking countries
- With 8 in 10 adults in Ontario using a computer to complete PIAAC, Ontario is above the OECD average for participation in the problem-solving assessment
- Ontario performs above the OECD average in literacy
- Ontario performs on par with the Canadian average for numeracy but below the OECD average
- The proportion of Ontarians at the lowest levels of Literacy (level 1 and below) is at the OECD average while the proportion of Ontarians at the lowest levels of numeracy (level 1 and below) is higher than the OECD average
- Data was collected from respondents who are Aboriginal persons, living off-reserve, in large urban areas only.

Next Steps

PIAAC data will provide useful evidence to help inform training programs and policies moving forward and address any gaps. For more information, visit www.piaac.ca

Family Literacy Day (FLD) 2014

The Ottawa Family Literacy Day Committee is sponsoring the *Suzanne Pinel Book Awards/Le Prix du livre Suzanne Pinel* again with support from TD. Three programs serving children and families at risk will each receive a \$750 gift certificate to purchase books from **Kaleidoscope Kids Books** or **Au coin du livre**. The awards will be presented at the Family Literacy Day Kick-Off event that will take place at the Nepean CentrepoinTE branch of the Ottawa Public Library on Sunday, January 26. Suzanne Pinel herself will present the awards.

The Committee is also sponsoring the Family Literacy Day Challenge/ Journée de l'alphabétisation familiale: Un défi. Programs serving children 0-6 can participate by registering an FLD activity. Participating programs will be entered into a draw to win one of several \$50 book certificates.

For background information on Family Literacy Day and downloadable resources visit **ABC Life Literacy's FLD** site.

CNIB Library introduces Direct to Player

Starting in December 2013, the CNIB Library will be rolling out an easier and faster way to get DAISY audiobooks called "Direct to Player". This new way of downloading will allow users to get DAISY audiobooks directly on their players, without having to use a computer or wait for a CD in the mail. **Find out more...**

Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF)

Resource Review from the Alphaplus Blog on the OALCF

Moving Forward is a set of curricula and resources related directly to the Independence Goal Path. It was developed at **Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO)** in close consultation with adult literacy practitioners and community partners. The resource consists of five modules, *Household Dangers; Time Management and Organization; Managing Your Money; Food and Nutrition; and Communication*.

A graphic consisting of the words "Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework" written in a red, handwritten-style font. The text is arranged in a circular pattern, with "Ontario" at the top, "Adult" on the right, "Literacy" at the bottom, and "Curriculum Framework" on the left.

Ottawa Public Library (OPL)

Family Literacy Day Celebration **Célébration pour la Journée de l'alphabétisation familiale**

When: Saturday, January 26, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Where: Nepean Centrepointe Branch, Ottawa Public Library
Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive

Come celebrate Family Literacy Day and enjoy a bilingual storytelling performance for families by Sylvie Belleau / Venez célébrer la Journée de l'alphabétisation familiale et profiter de contes animée pour toute la famille par Sylvie Belleau. Programme bilingue pour famille.

Makerspace

The Ottawa Public Library and the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa are working together to launch a “makerspace” that will create a hands-on learning experience and collaborative environment for the public exchange of ideas in pursuit of innovation. It will be housed at the Nepean Centrepointe Branch and is scheduled to open early 2014. To find out more, click [here](#) .

Local Programs

OCCL is moving!

OCCL will be relocating to new office space at **404 MacArthur Avenue** (Heartwood House) early in the new year. We'll send out more information once we have a firm date.

Holiday Hours

OCCL's office will be closed for the holidays

Monday, December 23 to Wednesday, January 1 inclusive

The office reopens **Thursday, January 2**



Looking for a Career in the Skilled Trades?

The Power of Trades program offers one-on-one meetings for anyone looking for more information about the skilled trades. If you have learners/clients who would like to meet one of the YMCA-YWCA specialists to discuss their career path in the trades, please request a referral from the staff of any employment or settlement service provider in Ottawa-Gatineau.

For more information please contact poweroftrades@ymcaywca.ca

Resources for LBS Coordinators and Practitioners

ACE Distance Faculty Share their Favourite Websites

For math in everyday life - <http://www.learner.org/interactives/dailymath/>

For developmental math - <http://www.hippocampus.org/HippoCampus/Arithmetic>

For communication – www.chompchomp.com and <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl>

Project Read - Diabetes Essential Skills Kit (DESK)

The **DESK Learning Modules** developed at Project Read contain 12 learning modules that address six common barriers to a patient's independent diabetes self-management.

The barriers are:

- Reading and understanding information
- Understanding and remembering information given verbally
- Using math to count carbohydrates and manage dietary needs
- Using ratios to calculate insulin dosage
- Filling in forms
- Recognizing and analyzing patterns in blood glucose test results

These learning modules can be used with learners with different goal paths as they include activities from various contexts including employment and education.

The **DESK Essential Skills Profiles** contains 15 profiles that reflect the tasks that individuals living with diabetes have to perform on a regular basis. The profiles have been separated into 3 groups:

- Understanding Profiles (example: Understanding Type 1 Diabetes)
- Managing Profiles (example: Managing and Measuring Blood Glucose Levels)

- Complications Profiles (example: Understanding and Managing Foot Complications)

These profiles are meant to be used by both Health Practitioners and Literacy Practitioners.

You can download the **Learning Modules** and the **Essential Skills Profiles** to use with learners from the **Project Read** .../Local Settings/Temporary Internet Files/Content.Outlook/VVJ237YD/www.projectread.ca website. These are large files and will take extra time to download.

Literacy Organizations and Employers

In September, Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) put out a newsletter on **Literacy and Basic Skills and Employers**. The publication focuses on discussing literacy instruction for future and current employees. You can access it in CLO's **Communiqué section** on their website.

Connecting Apprentices and Employers

This website (www.apprenticesearch.com) is designed to help connect apprentices and employers across Ontario and is a free service operated by not-for-profit organizations and community agency partners in Ontario.

Who can use it?

Registration on the database section of the website is open to employers and job seekers across Ontario. Anyone can access information and resources on the website. The website is unique because it contains both information about apprenticeship and a matching database.

New from Grass Roots Press

On January 1, 2014, Grass Roots Press will release a **new series** aimed at students who are exploring career paths in the health sector. *Career Essentials* will open students' eyes to three careers: health care aides, lab assistants, and massage therapists. Each book will provide personal stories and interviews that capture the real-life experiences of college students in training and their instructors, along with people who work in the field.

Students will gain insight into typical workplace conflicts and health and safety issues. As well, students will learn about the training and essential skill requirements for each job. The books will assist students in choosing their career paths. Each full-colour book is 64 pages. To find out more and/or to order the books, visit **Grass Roots Press**.

Financial Consumer Agency of Canada's (FCAC) new website

The FCAC has revamped its [website](#) to make it more accessible and easier to use. The new site is also compliant with the latest accessibility requirements and mobile device compatibility. The revised website is now easier to navigate and locate educational resources, publications and interactive tools.

Adult Numeracy

The Adult Numeracy Network is an U.S.-based network that focuses on teaching math to adults. They have downloadable resources and reports as well as links to other internet math sites. They describe themselves as "a community dedicated to quality mathematics instruction at the adult level. We support each other, we encourage collaboration and leadership, and we influence policy and practice in adult math instruction." You can find out more by visiting the [Adult Numeracy Network](#).

Looking for Summary Legal Advice in French?

Call the Info-Line a **1-877-500-4508** if you're looking for information in French on:

- Logement/Housing
- Immigration
- Aide social et prestations aux personnes handicapées / Ontario Works and ODSP Appeals
- Discrimination
- Victimes d'actes criminels / Criminal Injuries Victims
- Procurations / Powers of Attorney
- Normes d'emploi / Employment Standards

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops & Training

Registration for LNO Online Clear Writing Course is Now Open!

Registration for the Clear Writing Course offered by the Learning Networks of Ontario (LNO) is now open! This is a marked course. If participants complete the course, they will receive a Clear Writing course certificate.

The course is 12 weeks long and will run from January 7 to March 28, 2014. It will be delivered using the Moodle platform (no live sessions) accessible through AlphaPlus' [Virtual Classroom for Adult Educators....READ MORE](#)

Attention LBS Programs!

OCCL will be hosting a bilingual **Goal Path Discussion Session** on February 5, 2014. We'll send you more details in the new year.

Employment Ontario

Recent postings in the *Literacy and Basic Skills* section on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway (EOPG):

November 2013

- [Memo: Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies \(PIAAC\) Online Field Trial](#)
- [Assessment Instruction Sheet](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Administrators](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Individuals](#)

December 2013

[External Questions and Answers from the Literacy & Basic Skills \(LBS\) Performance Management System Training](#)



Warm wishes for a Wonderful Holiday!

Mary and Maureen

OCCL welcomes submissions that may be of interest to our members. If you have material to submit, please contact Mary Wiggin at marywiggin@occl.ca.

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