



The Update

March 2013

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Dates to Remember

- April 10, 2013 - LPCC meeting, Heartwood House
153 Chapel Street
- April 6-11, 2013 - [Adult Learners' Week](#)
- May 8, 2013 - LPCC meeting, Heartwood House,
153 Chapel Street
- June 12, 2013 - LPCC meeting, Heartwood House
153 Chapel Street
- June 12, 2013 - **Annual General Meeting**, Heartwood House
153 Chapel Street

Important Information about Find Employment and Training Services

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) requires Literacy and Basic Skills service providers to ensure that their agency's information is up to date in [Find Employment and Training Services](#) on the Employment Ontario website. If your program's information is not there, please inform your Employment Training Consultant (ETC) as soon as possible.

In the News

Making a Difference

In Africa grandmothers are at the epicenter of the AIDS pandemic and are playing a critical role in the survival of their communities. They extend their seemingly endless capacity for compassion and care to keep those communities alive and functioning – and to keep themselves healthy and strong physically and emotionally.

In Tanzania, staff from the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) visited a Masai grandmother who, when her husband died of AIDS, had all her land taken away from her. It was then sold to the Chinese government to develop. This grandmother had been enrolled in an SLF-funded literacy workshop at the time of her husband's death and, once she learned how to speak and write Swahili, she took her case for ownership of her land to court. And she won! She then made the decision to lease the land back to the Chinese government and collect rent from them.

As a result, she is now the head of the family, almost regal in her leadership – calm, authoritative and formidable – and has secured a guaranteed income which she uses to help her family and other community members.

This information is reprinted courtesy of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Student Fundraising Challenge for Spread the Net

[Spread the Net](#) is a fundraising initiative that raises money to send bed nets to Guinea, West Africa to help prevent malaria. We are proud to announce that **Algonquin College** was the top fundraiser for the 2012/2013 campaign collecting an impressive **\$40,394.64** for the cause. Almonte District High School was second with \$5,854.05 followed by Pleasantdale School in Estevan, Saskatchewan with 5,439.69.

The 2012/2013 Spread the Net Student Challenge fundraising total will be announced on the [Rick Mercer Report](#) on April 2, 2013 on CBC TV at 8 pm EST. Rick Mercer visited Algonquin and the other winning schools and you'll see them on the program.

Diamond Jubilee Medal Winners

It is with great pride that we announce that our very own *Mary Wiggin* was one of the outstanding individuals nominated by [ABC Life Literacy](#) for a Diamond Jubilee Medal. Mary was awarded a medal based on her contribution to improving

literacy and skills levels of adult Canadians while raising awareness about literacy across the country. For a full list of the recipients, [click here](#).

National Survey of Literacy and Essential Skills Practitioners

The Canadian Literacy and Learning Network (CLLN) recently launched the [Literacy and Essential Skills Labour Market Study](#). This study includes a survey which will provide a picture of literacy practitioners and the work they do. CLLN will analyze the data that will help to inform literacy program coordinators and policy-makers about the key human resource issues affecting the literacy field. You can fill in the survey [here](#).

Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF)

New OALCF Resource from Literacy Link Eastern Ontario (LLEO)

Check out LLEO's new resource called [Use Digital Technology 'How-to' Sheets](#). This resource was developed in house and each sheet has been aligned with the *Use Digital Technology* competency.

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

Ottawa Public Library (OPL)

Writing Classes

This May OPL celebrates the art of writing with workshops geared towards aspiring writers. From getting started, to writing in a particular genre or for a specific audience, these workshops will provide you with tips and suggestions to help you along. For more information, [click here](#).

Local Programs

Winners of the Suzanne Pinel Awards

In honour of Family Literacy Day 2013, three local programs that serve children and families at risk were each awarded \$750 gift certificates to purchase books for their program. The happy recipients were:

- Centre des services communautaires Vanier / Centre de la petite enfance Ottawa-Vanier
- Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre – Preschool Program
- The Parent Resource Centre: Drop-In Program

Congratulations to the many Ottawa child care programs that participated in the *2013 Family Literacy Day Challenge*. Keep an eye out for an upcoming article on our website featuring all the creative activities that took place to celebrate Family Literacy Day 2013.

OCCL's Annual General Meeting (AGM)

You're invited to attend OCCL's AGM on **Wednesday, June 12** at Heartwood House. Please RSVP to Maureen (maureenmcgovern@occl.ca) if you plan to attend. You can see more details at the end of the newsletter.

Resources for LBS Coordinators and Practitioners

NEW Learning Networks of Ontario (LNO) Website

Check out the new LNO website – www.learningnetworks.ca . You'll learn about regional literacy networks in Ontario and about clear writing services and the related online course offered by LNO.

Police Record Checks

Ontario Citizenship & Immigration has prepared an overview of provincial legislative and regulatory requirements for [police record checks](#) for the Nonprofit (NFP) sector. This overview can serve as an educational tool to enhance understanding and knowledge with respect to appropriate use of police records checks.

YouTube in the Classroom

[YouTube](#) is more than just a collection of cute cat or music video sites. Over the years, it has accumulated a variety of educational resources for the literacy classroom. With a little bit of exploration, you will find videos that provide real-life examples and context for what you are trying to teach and, yes, sometimes a funny video that you could discuss to take a quick break from the regular, potentially daunting lessons you might need to cover.

YouTube can also be a great aid in developing digital technology skills.

This information was reprinted from the AlphaPlus January 2013 online newsletter.

Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) – Risk Management

CLO has been working on a project on Risk Management in order to give Literacy & Basic Skills (LBS) agencies tools, resources and training to improve their risk management processes and policies. [An Annotated Guide to Risk Management Resources - Reducing Risk/Protecting People](#) is one of the resources developed. A print version of the resource was distributed to all community-based literacy agencies and support organizations. It is now available as a free download.

Essential Skills Ontario

In October 2013 the findings on the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIACC), a new international study of adult literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills, will be released. The survey was conducted in 2011 and 2012 in 26 countries including Canada. Essential Skills Ontario is preparing a series of bulletins on the PIACC to help Ontarians better understand its impact. You can access [Bulletin 1](#) and [Bulletin 2](#) on the Essential Skills website.

Apprenticeship Search

Do you have job-ready clients searching for opportunities in the skilled trades? Visit www.apprenticesearch.com, a website created by the Halton Industry Education Council (HIEC) in partnership with Employment Ontario.

To apply, applicants must register and post a resume on this free website that connects employers and apprentices across Ontario. Once approved, job seekers can search the apprentice search database and apply for apprenticeship opportunities.

For more information, contact Jennifer Sorbara at jsorbara@hiee.on.ca .

Hard Copy and Digital Resources

[Grass Roots Press](#) has an international reputation for publishing high-quality resources for adult basic education and English as a Second Language. They carry over 500 books, DVDs, and software packages. In addition, they publish assessment tools, workbooks, photostories, biographies, and literature -- publications that enhance adults' literacy skills.

Grass Roots press has taken their first step into the digital age. *Good Reads* titles are available from the following eBook retailers: Kobo, Kindle, iBooks and OverDrive. You can stock up on the *Good Reads* titles for only \$2.99 per eBook.

Grass Roots Press also provides [free downloads](#) of audiobooks, workbooks and reading guides.

Workshops & Training

Neil Squire Society

In April, Neil Squire Society is offering adults who have an injury, illness or disability a series of [Employ-Ability Workshops](#).

Programs for Newcomers

Immigrant Women's Services Ottawa is offering [free computer classes](#) to newcomer women starting on April 9.

[LINC Home Study](#) is a free English language training program for eligible newcomers to Canada who cannot attend regular classes. The LINC curriculum allows students to learn about Canada and the Canadian way of life while learning English. Students study online or by correspondence and work one-on-one with a TESL certified teacher each week.

Essential Skills Ontario – Webinars

Supporting Apprenticeship Completions: Lessons for Literacy Service Providers

Date: Thursday, April 11
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Facilitator: Stewart Kallio of Kallio Consulting who is Coordinator of a project for the Mid-North Network about Adult Literacy programs supporting apprenticeship completions

In this free, one hour webinar, participants will explore:

- apprenticeship completion
- challenges related to passing the Certificate of Qualification
- supports and models piloted by Literacy Service Providers
- strategies to improve apprenticeship completions

To register, [click here](#).

Introduction to e-Channel

Date: Tuesday, May 7
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Facilitators: e-Channel Service Providers

Participants will:

- find out why e-Channel is relevant to your services
- learn what e-Channel is and the role of its members
- find out who the service delivery and support organizations are within e-Channel
- discover how e-Channel is a resource for practitioners and learners

To register, [click here](#).

After May 7, the webinar will be available at www.spotlightonlearning.ca.

Accessibility Ontario

On April 19, Accessibility Ontario is offering a free 30-minute [webinar](#) called *Making Websites Talk*. It will feature a demonstration of BrowseAloud, a multilingual screen tool that improves website accessibility. If you are not able to attend but would like more information on BrowseAloud, contact Vicky Baird at aoda@browsealoud.com.

The Last Word

We thought you might relate to and enjoy reading Barbara Moses' *Globe and Mail* article on [overused corporate buzz words](#).

OCCL welcomes submissions that may be of interest to our members. If you have material to submit, please contact Maureen at abcline@occl.ca. You can also contact her if you would prefer to receive **The Update** by regular mail.

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The Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

invites you to attend our

Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Time: 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Heartwood House Gallery
153 Chapel Street

Meet the members of the Board of Directors and the Local
Planning and Coordination Committee
Provide input into the Coalition's activities

Light Refreshments will be served.

Please let us know you'll be attending by contacting Maureen at
233-3232 or maureenmcgovern@occl.ca