

Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network E-Bulletin

January 2017

Welcome to Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network’s E-Bulletin, a round-up of information and news of interest to agencies supported by SMLN. Time-sensitive information may be included, but will also be distributed by separate e-mail message as needed.

Please let us know by the end of each month if you have anything you would like us to include in the next e-bulletin.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. New Plumber Pre-Apprenticeship program..... | 1 |
| 2. Innisfil Youth Hiring Event – Summer Jobs..... | 2 |
| 3. Ontario 2017 Pre-Budget Consultations | 2 |
| 4. Canada Volunteer Awards 2017 | 2 |
| 5. Raising Awareness of LBS Issues | 3 |
| 6. Centre AlphaPlus Centre – Technology Coaching for LBS Agencies | 4 |
| 7. Results of the “Value for Money Audit” of Employment Ontario | 4 |
| 8. OSAP Free Tuition in 2017-18 | 5 |
| 9. Resources and Professional Development | 5 |
| 10. Employment Ontario news | 7 |

1. New Plumber Pre-Apprenticeship program

Gateway Centre for Learning and Georgian College – Midland Campus are partnering to provide a Plumber Pre-Apprenticeship 35-week training program. There is no cost to participants for this program. Please see attached flyer, program overview and admission information. They are accepting applications NOW!

Information night: **Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Georgian College, 649 Prospect Blvd, Midland.**

2. Innisfil Youth Hiring Event – Summer Jobs

Agilec in Innisfil is hosting a summer job-hiring event for youth. A variety of employers looking for summer help will be present.

Date/time: **Saturday, January 28th**, 11:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Innisfil ideaLAB and Library – Lakeshore Branch, 967 Innisfil Beach Road

<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=4535358150d7f8447481ca857&id=cf0774e892&e=35c2343119>

3. Ontario 2017 Pre-Budget Consultations

The Minister of Finance is currently hosting pre-budget consultations with stakeholders across the province. We have been informed that the remaining face-to-face sessions are full but you can contact 1-866-989-9002 or submissions@ontario.ca to be put on the waiting list.

You can also send in a written submission by mail, e-mail or fax. Please go to <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/consultations/prebud/> for details. Input must be received by **January 31st**.

4. Canada Volunteer Awards 2017

Canada's Volunteer Awards recognize the contributions of volunteers, businesses and innovative not-for-profit organizations in improving the well-being of people and communities. The Government of Canada recognizes the valuable efforts of volunteers who give their time so generously to enhance the quality of life of their fellow Canadians.

The fifth call for nominations for the Canada's Volunteer Awards is now open. The deadline for the submission of nominations is **February 3, 2017**. For details and to nominate someone, please go to

<https://www28.rhdcc-hrsdc.gc.ca/inet-inet/pmva-ppmb/40/index-eng.do> or call 1-877-825-0434.

<https://www28.rhdcc-hrsdc.gc.ca/inet-inet/pmva-ppmb/40/index-fra.do> ou composez le 1-877-825-0434.

5. Raising Awareness of LBS Issues

(adapted from Community Literacy of Ontario's December 2016 E-Communiqué)

LBS Support Organizations in Ontario have been working to raise awareness of the need for enhanced funding in the Literacy and Basic Skills program, and to increase the profile of LBS within the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD).

Recent activities include

- participating in the International Literacy Day event hosted by Literacy Link South Central, the London-based Regional Network. Minister Deb Matthews attended this inspiring and informative event where the benefits of LBS and the stories of adult learners were profiled. (September 2016)
- submitting a letter to MAESD providing an LBS response to the Ministry's "Building the Workforce of Tomorrow" report. (October 2016)
- meeting with Minister Deb Matthews about LBS issues. (November 2016)
- meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister of MAESD. (November 2016)
- developing strategies to highlight LBS issues to MAESD. (December 2016/January 2017)

In addition, SMLN and the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka met with MPP Ted McMeekin to discuss issues related to rural poverty. MPP McMeekin is Parliamentary Assistant to Premier Wynne and is conducting consultations on rural poverty around the province. His report on the consultations will inform provincial policy on addressing rural poverty. SMLN emphasised how the cycle of poverty and the cycle of literacy issues are intertwined, and how improving literacy can help reduce poverty. Both SMLN and the YMCA provided

some learner and client stories to illustrate how investment in our various services has helped people out of poverty.

6. Centre AlphaPlus Centre – Technology Coaching for LBS Agencies

Soon AlphaPlus will be inviting even more organizations to participate in technology coaching. During ongoing, collaborative sessions with adult education teams, they provide tools, training and tailored one-on-one service to organisations using technology to help agencies

- adopt digital technology solutions that increase learner success, enhance the education experience and strengthen organizational capacity and performance.
- improve the use of technology for business administrative planning, resourcing, measuring and communication
- improve the integration of technology in assessment practices
- work with agency staff to identify short-term goals achievable in the year while also planning for longer-term goals better achieved in stages

To learn more, go to <http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=71cb989361fe1f3dfa53e6a9b&id=66741d03de&e=199f265284> or contact Executive Director Alan Cherwinski by e-mail at acherwinski@alphaplus.ca

7. Results of the “Value for Money Audit” of Employment Ontario

(adapted from Community Literacy of Ontario’s December 2016 E-Communiqué)

The Auditor General of Ontario released the [2016 Annual Report](#) on November 30, 2016. Included in this report is a "Value for Money Audit" of Employment Ontario. Click [here](#) to view the Auditor General's audit of Employment Ontario. For each of the Auditor General’s recommendation there is a response from the Ministry.

Here is MAESD's response to the Auditor General: [Update to the Auditor General of Ontario's Value for Money Audit of Employment Ontario Programs and Services.](#)

We are very surprised and concerned that though the LBS Program (Foundation Skills) was identified, it was not otherwise mentioned in this report, especially not included as part of the solutions to help address issues with apprenticeship completion and Second Career success.

8. OSAP Free Tuition in 2017-18

In 2017-18, the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will begin to provide grants to **eligible** students to cover the average cost of tuition for post-secondary education. LBS providers have been speculating whether this new incentive will result in an increase in the number of people seeking upgrading to prepare for post-secondary programs.

Apparently, there has been little information shared with the college and university sectors to date; what has been shared is that the money is tuition only (not ancillary fees, books, travel, living expenses, etc.) and that there will be stepped levels based on family/household income. Please go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-ready-osap-2017-18> for details.

Locally, Pat Whittington, Manager of Access Programs at Georgian College, has shared information about how to apply to OSAP and access bursaries at Georgian College. (attached)

9. Resources and Professional Development

a) Targeted Training in Ontario Through LBS – updated

Please see the recent updates to this [handy resource](#) to determine if there is any training that might be needed in your community. You can contact the developers directly. If you would like to contribute something to the list, please use the template attached.

b) Performance Management newsletter – December 2016

Once again, Literacy Network South Central, based in London, is taking the lead to produce performance management newsletters. The [second newsletter](#) focuses on pros and cons of targeted short-term programming.

c) Road to Excellence: Research Resources to Build Capacity in Non-Profit Organizations

A [collection](#) of innovative ideas and practical tools and resources related to capacity building in the non-profit sector from Community Literacy of Ontario. Topics are board governance, volunteer management, human resource management and financial management.

d) Online Community of Practice

Again this year, Contact North is partnering with the Learning Networks of Ontario to offer a variety webinars to provide professional development to practitioners. One webinar remains

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| Webinar 5: | Mar. 7 th ; 10:00-11:30am | LGBTQ Awareness for LBS |
|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|

LBS agencies will receive individual invitations to register for the upcoming webinars. Previous webinars in the series have been recorded and can be found [here](#). We are not aware if any webinars being delivered in French.

e) Other upcoming webinars

Quizlet: January 31, 2017 3:00–4:00 pm with Monika Jankowska-Pacyna

Join AlphaPlus to learn about Quizlet, an on-line tool that allows you to create study sets, including flashcards, tests and study games, to make learning fun.

This free webinar will be delivered in partnership with the Deaf Literacy Initiative. It will be using the Adobe Connect platform with the support of an interpreter. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/dli-tech-tuesdays-quizlet-create-online-activities-rescheduled-from-october-2016-tickets-26312432193>

f) Contact North Podcasts

Contact North has a number of podcasts for learners available on their website at <http://e-channel.ca/student-resources>.

If only individual podcasts are of interest, here are their links:

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| e-Channel Podcasts Introduction | https://youtu.be/9Afj0RmQE18 |
| e-Channel ACE Distance Podcast | https://youtu.be/ACD0D5nEkcQ |
| e-Channel Deaf Learn Now Podcast | https://youtu.be/L5ZJCEdHhMc |
| e-Channel Good Learning Anywhere Podcast | https://youtu.be/nmHELMmMXAg |
| e-Channel Sefad Podcast | https://youtu.be/545mJp9wdaQ |

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| e-Channel the LearningHUB Podcast | https://youtu.be/t52dXZqIGVA |
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g) Still looking for staff training on requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)?

Contact Robyn Brushey at Contact North: muskokanorthsimcoe@contactnorth.ca or 1-855-699-6330. She can set you up with access to free on-line training modules on the various sections of the AODA and the Ontario Human Rights Code as it relates to people with disabilities.

10. Employment Ontario news

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|---------------|---|--|
| January 2017 | Deferral of EO Awards | Report des prix EO |
| December 2016 | Service Delivery Advisory Group 2016 Members List | |
| | Groupe consultatif de la prestation des services (GCPS) Liste des membres, 2016 | |
| December 2016 | Terms of Reference | Cadre de reference |
| December 2016 | Open Data Update Deck | Données ouvertes et données publiées |
| December 2016 | EOIS Reports Desk Aid | Aide mémoire des rapports du SIEO |
| December 2016 | LBS Case Activity | Activité liée aux cas d'AFB |

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To unsubscribe from this E-Bulletin, please contact simcoe.muskoka@literacynetwork.ca.