

Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network E-Bulletin

December 4, 2015

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 Friday of each week if you have anything you would like us to include in the next e-bulletin.

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1. Talk with the GED Chief Examiner

The next “**Coffee with QUILL**” will be an online interview with Gerry McCann, Chief Examiner of the GED. Gerry and Debra Flynn, Executive Director of QUILL Learning Network, will have a conversation about the GED highlighting some issues LBS practitioners have had. Then they will open the floor to a Q&A from participants.

This interview will be held on **Tuesday, December 8th at 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm**. Contact North is supporting QUILL with this event by hosting it on the Saba platform.

If you have any questions about preparing your learners to write the GED, register at:

<http://tinyurl.com/nh5prx8>

2. New Resources

a) **Developing a Culture of Evaluation**

Community Literacy of Ontario and Literacy Link South Central are partway through a multi-phase project called **Developing a Culture of Evaluation**. The first phase research looked at the current evaluation environment in Ontario's small non-profits, exploring practices for measuring and reporting on programs, projects and overall activities.

The "Developing a Culture of Evaluation Research Report" is freely available online at: www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/evaluation-culture/evaluation-resources/

You can also find a second resource, **Developing a Culture of Evaluation: An Annotated Review of Evaluation Resources**. The project is ongoing and will offer "clinics", webinars and 8 on-line modules over the next 18 months..

b) **Performance Management newsletters**

Regional Networks have a common deliverable this year to distribute three support newsletters on the performance management framework (PMF). These are being developed by Literacy Link South Central. The 3rd newsletter features evaluation and the project mentioned above. It is found at

<http://www.llsc.on.ca/sites/default/files/PMF%20newsletter%20October%202015.pdf>

c) **"Our Choice, Your Future" videos**

The Adult Basic Education Association, in partnership with Workforce Planning Hamilton, has released five videos called "Our Choice, Your Future - Employment Video Series". These videos are accompanied with support materials and are targeted to youth exploring their career options. The videos can be used with many different audiences, including Ontario Works clients. All materials are available in English and French.

Download at: www.abea.on.ca/OurChoiceYourFuture.html

d) **Family Literacy Videos for Adult Learners**

The Toronto Public Library has developed six family literacy videos for adult literacy learners. The aim of these videos is to provide basic tools and information to help literacy learners learn how they can play an active role in helping their child develop his/her own

skills (even as they work towards building their own). The videos are posted at:
www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/adult-literacy/adult-literacy-learners.jsp

e) Online Community of Practice and Webinars from Contact North

Contact North | Contact Nord has developed an Online Community of Practice. The community of practice has mentor practitioners and will deliver a series of webinars this year in both English and French.

English language webinars during the rest of this fiscal year:

1. **Literacy Materials - Maker Modules and Gamification** - Feb. 5, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. with Summer Buron, Literacy Link South Central; registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/ogy8cco>
2. **Performance Management - Strategies to Measure Results** - Mar.4, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. with Claire Ramsay, Algonquin College; registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/o6kbv85>

The f2015-16 **French language webinars** have been completed.

f) PARO workshops for December

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise seeks to empower women within their communities, strengthen small business and promote community economic development (CED) through integrated and women-centered program delivery. From training and business coaching, to networking events and peer lending circles, all of their innovative programs and services are designed to increase the self-sufficiency and success of women, families and communities in the North.

Every month, they offer a series of free workshops on Wednesdays, all available at a distance. PARO is located in Thunder Bay, but the workshops are available to residents by using the Contact North network. They are

- open to both men and women
- offered on-line, in a live classroom format, so you can interact with the facilitator
- recorded, so if you are unable to attend you can view the recording

The December schedule is attached to this e-bulletin.

3. EnAbling Nonprofits Webinar Series

EnAbling Nonprofits Ontario is a project of ONN, that works with the sector to share resources and tools that will help nonprofits lead accessibility in their organizations and communities.

The webinar recording, “AODA Refresher for Nonprofits”, is now available.

Did you know that 70% of disabilities are non-visible? This is just a small sampling of the knowledge explored in the webinar, “An AODA Refresher for Nonprofits”, which discussed the different areas of AODA, including customer service, the built environment, and more!

[You can view the full recording here.](#)

While targeted to nonprofits, the information should be useful to anyone.

4. Ontario’s Accessibility Certification Program

As part of the Ontario government’s Accessibility Action Plan, the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure is seeking public input into the creation of a voluntary accessibility certification program for Ontario businesses, organizations, and institutions. Certification will not replace the requirements that organizations need to meet under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Certification is intended to

- enable a competitive advantage that business, industry, and institutions can strive towards
- improve Ontarians knowledge of which businesses are accessible and allow them to make an informed decision about what services, locations, information and institutions are more accessible

Certified for Access features two main parts:

- a) An in-person consultation with stakeholders from businesses, disability advocates, certification experts, municipalities, and not-for-profit organizations
- b) An on-line consultation bringing together businesses and citizens from diverse backgrounds.

Feedback from both the in-person sessions and the on-line consultation will be featured directly in the final report, which will be posted on this site when available.

For more information and to participate in the discussion, please go to <https://www.certifiedforaccess.ca>.

5. AlphaPlus Tech Tuesdays

AlphaPlus Tech Tuesday webinars are back! Tech Tuesdays are one-hour webinars that focus on digital tools for administrators, instructors and learners. The webinars are held on the third Tuesday of each month (excluding July and August).

<http://alphaplus.ca/en/training/webinarsgroup1/>

6. SMLN Meetings update

Meeting	Date/Time	Location
Orillia LSPC meeting	Jan. 15, 2016 at 9:30am	SMLN office
Muskoka LSPC meeting	Jan. 18, 2016 at 1:30pm	to be decided
North Simcoe LSPC meeting	Jan. 20, 2016 at 9:30am	to be decided
Barrie-South Simcoe LSPC meeting	Jan. 26, 2016 at 9:00am	SCDSB Career Centre, Barrie
If the weather is bad, LSPC meetings will be held via teleconference or on-line.		

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Compiled Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network

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