

Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network E-Bulletin December 2017



Welcome to Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network’s E-Bulletin, a round-up of information and news of interest to agencies supported by SMLN. All hyperlinks were working properly at the time of publication.

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1. Message from the Learning Ministries

Are you involved in Ontario’s adult education system? Do you think it can be improved? Share your feedback with us! If you’re an instructor, teacher, program administrator, support organization or employer, you can [participate here](#). Survey closes January 31. To encourage others, including learners, to participate, please also use the publicity materials recently sent to agencies via e-mail. **Survey for current/former student closes January 1, 2018.**

Vous êtes formatrice, enseignant, administratrice de programme ou encore un employeur ou un organisme de soutien? Faites-nous part de vos idées pour améliorer le système de formation des adultes. Pour participer : <http://bit.ly/2nta3m7>. L'enquête ferme le 31 janvier. Encourager d'autres, y compris des apprenants, participer, plaire aussi à l'utilisation les matériels(matières) de publicité récemment envoyés aux agences via le courrier électronique. L'enquête pour l'étudiant actuel/ancien ferme le 1 janvier 2018.

2. Privacy Implications of Conducting Social Media Background Checks

(from Carter's Law - Charity and NFP Update June 2017)

In May 2017, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia updated its guidance document on Conducting Social Media Background Checks (the "Guidance"). The Guidance is intended "to help organisations and public bodies navigate social media background checks and privacy laws." The Guidance emphasizes the fact that using social media to conduct background checks on prospective employees or volunteers or to monitor current ones can place an organization at risk of a privacy breach.

Organisations not located in British Columbia can use this tool as a starting point to understanding the risks in using social media background checks, but should consult provincial privacy law and legal counsel in the province or territory in which they operate.

3. Low income families urged to take education benefits

Low-income families can apply for the Canada Learning Bond, which will contribute up to \$2000 to a Registered Education Savings Plan. Many eligible families don't know about it or have trouble with the complex application form. About 2/3 of eligible children do not receive this benefit. Parents have to file income tax return to be able to [apply for the benefit](#). Perhaps this is something you can help your clients with.

4. Update on ONCA

Carter's Law "[Charity & NFP Law Bulletin NO. 409](#)" reviews proposed amendments to the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010("ONCA"), contained in Schedule 8 of Bill 154.

5. Issuing Charitable receipts

If you issue charitable receipts for in-kind donations, please see the update on the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) website around issuing [receipts for in-kind services](#).
[Issuing receipts](#)

6. Performance Management

Each year, Literacy Link South Central, the Regional Network based in London develops several newsletters on performance management. The [June 2017 edition](#) focuses on integration between LBS and Ontario Works and showcases successful partnerships that are working in Brant County. The [December 2017 edition](#) looks at the work being done to strengthen Ontario's LBS system. It includes the results and next steps from the LBS symposium held in October 2017.

7. Resource and Professional Development

a) [e-Channel Winter 2018 Course List](#)

The e-Channel Winter 2018 Courses list has information on current e-Channel courses, contacts and registration.

b) [Mental Health Awareness](#)

Mental Illness is a fact of life for 1 in 5 Canadians. This can affect all areas of a person's life, especially in the area of education. You may encounter people with a mental illness

every day and not be aware of it, or you may become aware of their illness and be uncomfortable with your own ability to help them. In this resource, we have compiled information gathered from a variety of sources.

c) [Living with anxiety](#)

Anxiety is one mental health concern that many people live with. This article discusses some of the things that [people with anxiety live with every day](#). See also <https://www.levo.com/topics/anxiety>

d) [LGBTQI2S Awareness](#)

It seems that community and service agencies are seeing more people who are questioning their gender identity and more who are coming “out”. The information in this resource has been compiled from a variety of workshops, webinars and other sources to help agencies create welcoming, safe spaces for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans, queer, intersex, two-spirit people. This resource can be used not only for staff and volunteer training, but also to help learners and clients find the information and help they may need.

e) [Literacy and Education Daily](#)

Check out the [Literacy and Education Daily](#), a publication of Good Learning Anywhere, Ontario’s Native-stream eChannel Lead organisation. @shlc_gla

f) [Conversations HANDS ON, SKILLS UP! Employment-Related Experiential Learning in Ontario's LBS Organizations](#)

[Community Literacy of Ontario \(CLO\)](#) has conducted research into employment-related experiential learning opportunities in LBS organizations in Ontario. They received survey responses from 66 organizations, conducted 25 key informant interviews, and collected success stories. CLO and their partner [CESBA](#) shared the results in a webinar earlier this month. Please [click here](#) to access the recorded webinar and participant handouts.

g) [Online Community of Practice](#)

WEBINAR #4 - How To Make It A WIN on January 25, 2018 @ 2:30-3:30 pm
Register @ <http://tinyurl.com/y9alj3yx>

WEBINAR #5 – Tips and Tools from the Front Line on February 22, 2018 @ 2:30-3:30 pm
Register @ <http://tinyurl.com/ybvhqvm5>

h) Full Implementation of the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF)

[Step by Step to Success in Transition-Oriented Programming](#)

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 2:00pm - 3:30pm EST

Every service provider wants to provide their A-game to the learners in the LBS program. There were four dimensions for implementing the OALCF, as explained in the *Agency Self-Assessment tool for implementing the OALCF*. This webinar will review the dimension, Transition-Oriented Programming, and its success markers for being “Fully in Place.” LBS service providers from across the province have shared their best practices for implementing goal-directed, contextualized learning and co-ordinated learner supports and services for successful transition to the learner’s next step.

Task-Based Assessment Webinar Series (2017-2018)

The Northern Networks have been providing a series of webinars to support service providers around implementing task-based assessment, one of the 4 dimensions of the OALCF. The recorded series is available on the Learning Networks of Ontario website.

1. [Understanding the Difference Between Task-Based and Skills-Based Assessment \(mp4\)](#)
2. [The Right Choice: Choosing Assessment Tools and Methods \(mp4\)](#)
3. [Measuring Progress: Choosing Assessment Tools to Measure \(mp4\)](#)
4. [Tracking Learner Achievement in Relation to Learner Goals - Goal Completion \(mp4\)](#)

Webinar #5 in the series will be [Developing an Assessment Strategy & Using Assessment Results to Inform Agency Targets](#) on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm EST.

**i) Blended Learning - Making the Connection! PD for SMLN Agencies
Tuesday, 30 January 2018, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM**

[Make the Connection: you, your learners and the LearningHUB!](#) -- As LBS practitioners, you have many responsibilities. Your students are your first priority, but often all of the paperwork eats into valuable time. This presentation will explore the LearningHUB, the Anglophone lead for e-Channel, offered by the Centres for Employment & Learning of the Avon Maitland District School Board. Participate in this session to learn how you can use LearningHUB programming to supplement your students' classroom experience using a blended delivery model. Tips for streamlining the registration process for your learners and the opportunity to sample some of our courses will be provided. You will be given a temporary “student” account to explore the website yourself.

j) [Accessibility Ontario](#) upcoming webinars

[Accessible Word Documents 101](#)

February 7 & 14, 2018 10:00 - 11:30am (Online, 2 Wednesdays)

This webinar series has been designed specifically for those who understand the need to make documents accessible but have limited time and/or aren't close enough to Toronto to attend an in-person session. This 2-part series (3-hours in total) will teach you the steps required to make a Word document accessible. You will gain an understanding of the importance of using Microsoft Word's already built-in features to assist you in making content accessible to everyone in your organization and on the internet.

[Workplace Mental Health](#)

January 8-22, 2018 1:00 - 2:00pm (Online, 3 Mondays)

Everyone has a role to play in supporting the mental health of colleagues, volunteers, as well as themselves. Participants in this 3-part webinar series will learn strategies for both workplace and personal mental wellness.

8. Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day® is a national awareness initiative created by [ABC Life Literacy Canada](#) in 1999 and held annually on **January 27** to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. You can download and use many practical tools to help you in your planning. Their [Family Literacy Day](#)

[resources](#) include: suggested activities, downloadable resources, PSAs, events, and media resources.

9. SMLN meetings update

Meeting	Date/Time	Location
LBS meeting with YMCA ES front-line staff	January 8 5:00pm	YMCA, Midland
Muskoka LSPC meeting	January 16 1:30pm	Georgian College, Bracebridge
Barrie-South Simcoe LSPC meeting	January 24 9:30am	Next Step, Alliston
Orillia LSPC meeting	January 11 9:30am	SMLN office
North Simcoe LSPC meeting	TBD	TBD
LBS meeting with Barrie OW front-line staff	February 14 9:00am	OW office, Bayfield St., Barrie

10. Employment Ontario news

December 17, 2017	Chapter 2: Agreements Management Chapitre 2 : Gestion des ententes
December 15	SP Connect/2017-5 Bulletin: Release 17.4 FS Connexion/2017-5 Bulletin : Parution 17.4
December 6	ADM Memo to EO Service Providers: Employer Incentives to Hire and Retain Youth Lettre du SMA au réseau Emploi Ontario : Nouvelles primes pour encourager les employeurs à embaucher des jeunes et à les maintenir

	en poste
December 4	Memo: Strengthening Ontario's Adult Education System Note : Renforcer le système d'éducation des adultes de l'Ontario
November 17	SP Connect/2017-4 Bulletin: What's Coming in Release 17.4 FS Connexion/2017-4 Bulletin : ce qui vient en Parution 17.4

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Compiled by Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network

575 West St., S, Unit 15, Orillia, ON L3V 7N6

Tel: 705-326-7227 toll-free: 1-888-518-4788 www.literacynetwork.ca



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