

Simcoe/Muskoka Literacy Network E-Bulletin

March 2016

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.

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1. Soft Skills, Employers and Education

According to an article by Louise Brown in the Toronto Star on Feb. 22, 2016, employers say that young grads need to brush up on the “3 Rs”.

“A significant minority of students are graduating from post-secondary education with a shortfall of the skills they need — in core literacy and numeracy and problem-solving,” said Michael Bloom, the Conference Board of Canada’s vice-president of industry and strategy. “And if they have trouble using language and numbers, they’ll have trouble operating in real time at the level they should.” For the full story, go to

<http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2016/02/22/young-grads-need-to-brush-up-on-3-rs-employers-say.html>

2. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

As you know, the Ontario government is phasing in new accessibility standards for the AODA. All organizations had to comply with the Customer Service Standard as of January 1, 2012. The Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulations (IASR) are now coming into effect. The main standards of the ISAR are Information and Communication, Employment, Transportation and Design of Public Spaces. The AODA requires that all staff, volunteers and contractors receive training on all the standards, as pertains to the type and size of your organisation.

If your organisation is not planning a training session, you can find free on-line training at

- <http://www.aoda.ca/training-resource/>
- <http://curriculum.org/sae-en/index.php> (customer service standard training)
- <http://www.accessforward.ca> (integrated standard training)

For information about what your organisation needs to do when, visit

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/accessibility-rules-businesses-and-non-profits>

Other good sites are <http://accessontario.com/resources/> and <http://www.aoda.ca/>

3. Learning Networks of Ontario website evaluation

The Learning Networks of Ontario (LNO) website hosts many resources from the 16 Regional Networks, with links to other organisations and information sources. ABEA, the Network that maintains the website, is conducting a very short (4 questions) evaluation survey of the LNO website and resources. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3FRC2RV>.

Your feedback is very valuable. The deadline for submissions is **March 24th**.

4. New Resources

a) Learning Disabilities Resources

(reprinted from the January 2016 E-Communiqué of Community Literacy of Ontario)

Literacy educators are well aware that many adult students have learning disabilities – both diagnosed and undiagnosed. Accordingly, Community Literacy of Ontario has compiled some helpful websites and resources related to learning disabilities.

1. MTML (Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy) has created an extremely valuable on-line toolkit called [“Current Best Practices and Supportive Interventions for Learners and Clients with Learning Disabilities”](#).
2. The Literacy Network of Durham Region has produced [Difficult or Disability: It’s Worth a Closer Look - A Resource Guide on Hidden Learning Disabilities for Literacy and Employment Services Staff](#)
3. LD websites
 - Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario www.ldao.ca
 - Learning Disabilities Association of Canada www.ldac-acta.ca
 - LD Online: The Educator’s Guide to Learning Disabilities and ADHD www.ldonline.org
 - LD at School <http://ldatschool.ca>
 - The National Centre for Learning Disabilities: www.nclld.org

b) Performance Management newsletters

Regional Networks have a common deliverable this year to distribute a series of support newsletters on the performance management framework (PMF). Literacy Link South Central is developing these. The fourth newsletter features tools and resources gathered from around the province that can help your organization’s performance management. It is found at

<http://www.llsc.on.ca/sites/default/files/PMF%20newsletter%20February%202016.pdf>

c) Tips for Success – engaging and supporting OW and ODSP clients

Community Literacy of Ontario collected information about effective resources, strategies, and partnerships to engage Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program clients in Literacy and Basic Skills programming. The "Tips for Success" guide annotates 40 helpful resources for supporting OW and ODSP clients in your literacy program.

You can download "Tips for Success" at: www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/Tips-for-Success-2016.pdf

d) Help Bob Find a Job

ODSP Employment Supports has created a [video](#) that shows the employment supports available from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to help clients on the Ontario Disability Support Program find jobs.

e) Gamification

"Gamification" is a technique of applying game play elements to non-game settings in order to increase engagement, change behaviour, or achieve a specific, desired result. It is becoming a key technique used to engage learners in their education. Through a recent Job Creation Partnership project, Literacy Link South Central studied the history, impact and best practices of incorporating gamification principles in adult education.

Three resources were developed

- [Gamification and Adult Literacy](#), a full report outlining the use of gamification in various settings, including adult education
- [Gamification Essentials for Educators](#), a tip sheet summarizing the key learnings for adult educators
- [Using Gamification Techniques to Increase Learner Comfort with Typing](#), a sample exercise for adult learners that includes elements of gamification

Introducing gaming elements to education is a great way to help make learning more enjoyable. When learning is fun, people feel driven to spend more time learning, to take on bigger challenges, and to learn from mistakes, rather than feel they have failed.

f) Labour Market Information for Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) and Employment Services (ES) Providers

This project was developed by the Adult Basic Education Association (ABEA) and is one module in a Labour Market Partnership project of the Regional Literacy Networks in Western Region. Tools and resources created through this project are

- booklet, workshop slides, recorded webinar
- poster
- Employment Goal Tracker
- READ Kit 2.0
- Case Study Activities

The resources are available at <http://www.abea.on.ca/ProjectsandReports.html>.

g) Social Media Risk Management webinar

Community Literacy of Ontario held two webinars in February 2016 to teach about social media risk management, including how to safeguard your privacy, protect your on-line reputation, and more. If you weren't able to attend, you can access the recorded webinar at: <https://vimeo.com/156757925>. Highlights of the webinar are included in CLO's [February E-Communiqué](#).

h) Study: The Association Between Skills and Low Income

Lower levels of literacy are associated with a higher likelihood of low income, even after accounting for other factors that are known to increase the incidence of low income.

This finding is included in a new article released recently, titled "[The association between skills and low income](#)". The article uses data from the first wave of the Longitudinal and International Study of Adults, which includes scores obtained in the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC).

Des niveaux de littératie plus faibles sont associés à une plus grande probabilité de faible revenu, même après la prise en compte d'autres facteurs reconnus pour faire accroître le taux de faible revenu. Cette constatation émane d'un nouvel article diffusé aujourd'hui qui a pour titre « [Le lien entre les compétences et le faible revenu](#) ». L'article se fonde sur des données tirées de la première vague de l'Étude longitudinale et internationale des adultes, qui comprend les scores obtenus dans le cadre du Programme pour l'évaluation internationale des compétences des adultes.

5. Online Clear Writing Course – Spring Session

The Learning Networks of Ontario Online Clear Writing Course is open for registration for the spring session. This course runs from April 6 - June 28th, 2016. The deadline to register is March 27th. There are only 10 spots so register early! To register for the on-line course or for more information visit www.learningnetworks.ca and click “LNO Clear Writing” or contact Sara Gill at **905-527-2222** / edassist@abea.on.ca .

For more details please see the flyer attached.

6. Employment Ontario news

March 7, 2016: The Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG): UpSkill pilot call for proposals (CFP) has re-opened.

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/cojg/>>..

March 4, 2016: [Ontario Labour Market Partnerships Applicant Guide](#)

March 1, 2016: Learner Gains Research Project

[Questions and Answers for Service Providers](#)

February 26, 2016: [ADM Letter to the EO Network: Call for nominations for the 2016 Employment Ontario \(EO\) Leadership Awards](#)

7. SMLN PD and Meetings update

Meeting	Date/Time	Location
Network-wide LSPC meeting - topics include updates from apprenticeship, Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board, Ogemawahj Tribal Council	March 17, 2016 9:30am – 3:30pm	Orillia Learning Centre 575 West St. S., Unit 15 (Willow Court mini-mall, corner West St.S. and Hwy 12)
Performance Management Training Tentative topics are • Youth Job Connection: ES & LBS working	April 28, 2016	To be decided

Meeting	Date/Time	Location
together to serve youth • Under review or not – how to turn up your performance quickly with integrity for the long run		
LGBT sensitivity training Presented by the519 in Toronto	To be confirmed – mid- to late May	To be decided
Dates for the LSPC meetings in May will be determined by Doodle polls.		

8. More words not yet in the dictionary

Elbonics: (el bon' iks) n. the actions of two people manoeuvring for one armrest in a movie theatre

Elecelleration: (el uh sell er ay' shun) n. the mistaken notion that the more you press an elevator button, the faster it will arrive

Frust: (frust) n. the small line of debris that refuses to be swept onto the dustpan and keeps backing a person across the room until he finally gives up and sweeps it under the carpet

Lactomangulation: (lak' toe man gyu lay' shun) n. manhandling the “open here” spout on a milk container so badly that one has to resort to using the “illegal” side

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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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