

Your CESBA Literacy Committee

Chair, Linda DePiero
Lakehead DSB

Vice-Chair, Liz
D'Andrea-Moore
Toronto DSB

Diane Cowden
Simcoe County DSB

Mary Adamson
Waterloo Region
DSB

Bob Baldin, Hamil-
ton Wentworth
CDSB

Dalia Taylor, Peel
DSB

Linda Lott
Algonquin-
Lakeshore CDSB

Julie Newlands,
Ottawa-Carleton
DSB

Trudy Lothian,
Ottawa-Carleton
CDSB

Kay Munro
Thames Valley DSB

Field Development Projects

By Wendy Oliver

MTCU and NLS funded CESBA to complete two field development projects in 2001-2002. Both of those projects have now been finished and the final report submitted to the funders.

In June Jane Barber, our consultant for the Practitioner Training Strategy School Board Sector Part II, sent a copy of the final document to all school board LBS programs in Ontario. In addition, she was able to respond to the request from the field to provide part of the project as a CD-ROM. This CD entitled, "LBS Managers' Resource Guide to Staff Hiring and Performance Reviews" promises to be a valuable tool to everyone.

CESBA is also grateful to Brian Nicholson and Grainne Odonnell for their outstanding work in completing the "Breaking the Barriers" project. This document will be especially useful for LBS instructors who are seeking to prepare learners for the realities of credit programming. It is

designed for both instructors and learners and gives step-by-step instructions on designing and assessing demonstrations of learning in the self-management area.

Instead of printing and distributing this manual in the usual way, CESBA decided to make it available at the CESBA website www.cesba.com in the Completed Projects area. It was hoped that in this way, many more instructors would be able to access the material, and print or read the sections that interest them.

We will be monitoring the effectiveness of this way of distributing projects to assess its value for future projects.

New Projects for 2002-2003

CESBA has received funding from NLS and MTCU for three new field development projects for 2002-03.

We have been able to hire Jane Barber as the consultant for "The

Practitioner Training Strategy School Board Sector Part III". Her expertise in this area of professional development is well recognized in the province, and we are indeed fortunate to have her leading this important work.

The work that was done by Mel Macleod during Part I, and by Jane during Part II, sets a firm foundation for the development of Part III. During this project, Jane will consult with the field and develop modules of professional development.

Managers will be able to use these modules to help guide and support LBS instructors. CESBA will apply to have these modules accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers to be applied to a member's Professional Learning Plan.

Our second project is entitled "Learning Disabilities Initiative". It has been divided into two parts.

The first section is to develop a professional

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

development module that is consistent with the Practitioner Training strategy and focuses on the needs of instructors working with learners who have learning disabilities. Jane will be the consultant for this part.

The second section is to analyze current research in the area of learning disabilities and compile current best practices being used in school board LBS programs in the areas of assessment and development of instructional tools.

CESBA is fortunate to have hired Donna Zener as the consultant for this phase of the project. Donna is a former member of the CESBA Literacy Committee, a retired manager of the LBS program for the Toronto District School Board (North York) and former interim Executive Director of CESBA. With this depth of experience, we are confident that Donna will do an outstanding job for us.

CESBA is now putting together a reference group for this project.

The third project is entitled "Impact Study: Ontario Works Participants in School Board Literacy and Basic Skills Programs". This very timely and interesting project will be headed by Dr. Sharon Rich, Chair, Continuing Teacher Education, Faculty of Education, The University of Western Ontario.

Sharon, in consultation with the CESBA Literacy Committee, will design a survey to be distributed to all

LBS school board programs. She will then analyze the results and develop recommendations.

We know that she and her team will have the full support of the field as we work together to identify issues, seek solutions and make recommendations to the government.

This is an ambitious timetable for CESBA but we are confident that these projects will move the important work of literacy education in Ontario forward. Many thanks for your support and encouragement in the upcoming year.

Ontario College of Teachers: Professional Learning Plan

CESBA is an approved provider of courses for the Ontario College of Teachers Professional Learning Plan. We have applied for the CESBA Conference to be accredited for two credits towards a member's PLP obligation.

The conference will be held on December 5 and 6 at the Colony Hotel in Toronto and is entitled, "Shaping the Future for Success."

The CESBA/LBS Day will also be submitted for accreditation and will be one credit. Please mark your calendars for December 4 for this important event.

The Fall Conference brochure is now available on the CESBA website.

OLC Conference & AGM

By Bob Baldin & Kay Munro

Joint Regions and Sectors Councils Meeting - June 2002

Sue Folinsbee acting co-director of the OLC presented A Guide for Literacy from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

The Family Literacy review involved a focus on employer commitment to literacy and learner retention rates. Suggestions focused on a Family Literacy Symposium as a possible O.L.C. project.

Workplace Projects: there are 5 networks identified by M.T.C.U. as first sites. These include:

- Literacy Link Niagara Inc.
- Queensbash Initiatives for Literacy and Learning Inc.
- Literacy Ontario Central South
- The Mid North Network for the Coordination and Development of Adult Learning
- Project Read Literacy Network, Waterloo-Wellington

The O.L.C. will provide updates on the Workplace projects at these first sites.

Board Update: Susan Sussman is on long-term sick leave. Sue Folinsbee and Anette Chawla will continue as co-directors for another 6 months.

(Continued on page 4)

LBS Day, May 1, 2002

CESBA's LBS Day for school board managers was held on May 1, 2002 at the Sheraton Fallsview in Niagara Falls. Thanks to the support of MTCU, this is one of two occasions when all managers can get together to network, learn, and share. It is held just prior to CESBA's Spring Conference and many people take the opportunity to stay for that event.

This year's theme was "Unleash the Power of Literacy"; and that was exactly what happened.

Brian Nicholson and Grainne Odonnell are the consultants for CESBA's "Breaking the Barriers" project. They shared the final results from their work and demonstrated the interactive software that will be used. The presentation highlighted the self-management and self-direction demonstrations of learning that they have developed and showed the flexible and comprehensive way that they can be used. These demonstrations can be used as a foundation for a targeted "pre-credit" program or integrated into the overall LBS curriculum.

Anne Rachlis and Alain Broux from the Literacy Section were in attendance.

Anne brought greetings from the Ministry and answered questions from the floor.

Bob Baldin and Christine Hendrie from the Hamilton Wentworth CDSB and Julie

Newlands from Ottawa Carlton DSB very generously offered to present an overview of each of their workplace focussed LBS programs. Each of them were different but the end result was the same. These unique programs provided literacy learners with the support and experience that they need to successfully accomplish their goals. We were inspired by the creative energy that these managers bring to their daily jobs.

Jane Barber then presented the recommendations that are being suggested for the Practitioner Training Strategy Part II. Her amazing power point presentation clearly articulated the goals of the project, the results of her research and then shared the final product.

She also unveiled the Resource Guide that includes sample Performance Reviews, LBS Instructor Hiring Guides and LBS Instructor Job Descriptions which have been compiled from samples submitted to Jane from school board managers. This document provides excellent resources that managers can individualize to meet their needs.

The evaluation forms were very positive and it appears that many managers appreciated the new location in Niagara Falls.

CESBA is always open to suggestions for improvements or changes to meet your needs. Thank you for your encouragement and support.

AlphaPlus

One of the workshops at the CESBA Conference was about accessing and using the growing array of services that AlphaPlus offers. Kerry Lyon and Lesley Brown shared many of the new initiatives as well. The core of their resources is a circulating library of approximately 50,000 items including print, audio-visual and software titles. This service includes loans to individuals and customized mini-collections. You are encouraged to make use of this service throughout Ontario either in person, by telephone, fax or e-mail.

They also host discussions on the Alphacom Discussion system, distribute a newsletter, provide Quicklists (brief bibliographies on a variety of topics), provide technical assistance to programs, and host the AlphaPlus Centre Web-site. Some of the newer services include:

- Alphacat- a fully searchable library catalogue
- AlphaPlus Index to web sites
- Alpharoute- an on-line learning project

(Continued on page 4)

Appreciation

This newsletter is made possible by funding received from the Workplace Preparation Branch of MTCU.

(Continued from page 2)

Early Years Literacy Initiative is supported by the (C.L.L.N.) Canadian Language and Literacy Network.

O.W. is now testing their clients for literacy but the only statistic they are tracking is the number tested. No one is tracking the pass / fail results. Testing delivery varies across the province.

The impact of literacy testing by O.W. may be affecting many service providers. If these classes have reached capacity within the entire network then an application for additional funding is possible. The applications are due prior to June 5th, October 5th and December 5th, 2002.

Project Read is currently doing a project on O.W. clients in L.B.S. programs and the results will be available this fall.

A.G.M.

Changes to the bylaws:

- New vision and mission, roles, values and operating guidelines – in clear language
- New membership categories
- Regions & Sectors Council will become an Advisory Round table
- Opportunity to bring 4 people to the Board from outside the L.B.S. field
- Adapt the Caiber model of governance by the Board
- New ways to reach out to members

(Continued from page 3)

CESBA Spring Conference: LBS and OW-Making Connections, Getting Referrals

Another interesting and timely workshop offered at the CESBA Conference was hosted by Mary Wiggen, Ottawa-Carleton Literacy Coalition, Trudy Lothian, Ottawa-Carleton CDSB and Julie Newlands, Ottawa-Carleton DSB.

They discussed a unique partnership with Ontario Works and the referral system that was developed without additional funding.

What was truly evident in this workshop was the dedication and creativity of the partners, and the true commitment to making a system work. They shared the forms that have been developed over the life of the project and this will prove to be invaluable to others who are embarking on work in this area.

- Beginning of a learners' Network

Concerns were raised which focused on equity and fair representation. The new bylaws seem to provide opportunity for Networks to be part of the O.L.C. governing body, but limited School Board involvement.

The point was made that School Boards across the province provide a majority of the training and therefore should have a fair representation.

Mark Your Calendar:



LBS Day December 4

**CESBA Conference
December 5&6, Toronto
Colony Hotel**

News:

Linda DePiero the chair of the CESBA literacy committee has been off on sick leave since June. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Liz D'andrea-moore is currently the acting chair of the committee.

CESBA — Ontario Association of Adult & Continuing Education School Board Administrators

2 Robert Speck Parkway, Suite 300, Mississauga, ON L4Z 1H8
Fax: (905) 949-6004

Dave Neumann, Executive Director

E-mail: dneumann@cesba.on.ca
Phone: (905) 949-0049 Ext. 2373

Wendy Oliver, Projects Coordinator

E-mail: woliver@cesba.on.ca
Phone: (905) 949-0049 Ext. 2036