

Your CESBA Literacy Committee

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2001-02 Field Development Projects

Breaking the Barriers

**By Brian Nicholson
& Graine O'Donnell**

Work continues on the Breaking the Barriers project! Based on the suggestions and feedback gathered at the December 5th LBS Day at The Colony, the project is moving ahead. Tentative field-testing of the introductory material and one unit of the projected 10-unit, 10-week package will be conducted this spring. We are confident that the end product will provide administrators, instructors, and learners with a valuable tool for enhancing learner success in making the transition out of LBS and into the credit program that follows. Each unit will offer opportunities for demonstrations of progress in the critical domain of self-management and self-direction.

The final product will be a web-based resource in .PDF format. This will

enable the content to be printed off and utilized as a text in an un-wired environment, yet will also allow it to be used more as a source for links and electronic resources where technology permits. In addition, this flexible format will allow practitioners to use the resource in a stand-alone fashion, or on an ad hoc, 'pick and choose' basis, whatever best meets the needs of their learners.

Practitioner Training II

By Jane Barber

The Practitioner Training Strategy Project continues to move forward at a steady pace. Because of the excellent participation of Managers at the LBS Day in December, and contributions from the CESBA committee focus group in February, sufficient information was gathered to begin to shape the kind of approach we need to meet the training needs of our practitioners. We were able to develop a list of twelve criteria for an

approach that takes into account several factors.

- funding affected by fewer contact hours
- when the training is provided
- varying levels of knowledge, skill and experience affecting the training needs of our practitioners
- challenges that come from geographic separation
- ongoing and expanding program initiatives from the Ministry
- diverse working environments
- time constraints that managers already face.

The next step was to look at five existing and effective models of training for the purpose of measuring them against the criteria that are unique to the school board sector. Based on this, we will recommend a strategy for delivering practitioner training in the school board sector. It involves the development of a bank of

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training modules that will support the skills descriptions found in the Adult Educator Core Skills List. These modules will be effective stand-alone units of training in CD ROM format and possibly accessible via the CESBA Web Site. More to come in next Updater issues.

To make suggestions or comments regarding this project, contact Jane Barber directly at:

jbarber-lets@rogers.com .

February 1st CESBA Literacy Committee Meeting Highlights

Committee members:

- Discussed and reviewed the LBS School Board Sector Business Plan
- Made plans for the May 1st LBS Day in Niagara Falls
- Reviewed options for literacy related workshops for the CESBA Spring Conference
- Determined that the LBS Networking Session for the May conference will be a round circle discussion on several topics, including marketing ideas
- Heard an MTCU update report from our liaison Alain Broux; items covered included MTCU staff postings and appointments, AlphaRoute, IMS, Pre-Apprenticeship, the ILS Locator test, the workplace literacy strategy, and finally, the communications strategy.
- Assessed progress on the Practitioner Training Strategy project (Phase II); and advised Project Consultant Jane Barber on future direction.

Ready! Set! Go!

In late January, Executive Director Dave Neumann and Conference Planning Chair Maria Makrakis represented CESBA in Ottawa at the *Ready! Set! Go!* Conference hosted by the Applied Research Branch of HRDC.

About 400 delegates and presenters engaged one another on the latest in social policy oriented research. Three main themes of the conference were:

- How best to support Canadian families and their children
- How to help Canadians build the skills and take advantage of lifelong learning opportunities they need for the new economy

- How to enable disadvantaged Canadians to move from positions of exclusion to those of full inclusion within Canadian society

Maria & Dave seized the opportunity to chat with HRDC Minister Jane Stewart, prior to her opening address to the conference. Minister Stewart stressed the importance of seeking feedback to the Green Paper scheduled (at that time) for release on February 17th.

Dave & Maria also participated in informal discussions with delegates from across Canada involved in adult literacy initiatives. The pending Green Paper and its potential impact on adult literacy were a clear focus of those meetings. Staff at MCL (the Move-

ment for Canadian Literacy) have analyzed the green paper from a literacy issues perspective. This report can be found on the MCL website. Go to www.literacy.ca and click on the hotlink, Federal Literacy Facts, to the left, under "What's New".

NOTICE: Nancy Jackson, Associate Professor at the University of Toronto - OISE, is heading up an adult literacy working group within OISE. She is working to push the profile of literacy and hopes to develop teaching and research strategies in the area of adult literacy. Professor Jackson recently started her work at OISE, coming to Ontario from McGill University in Montreal.

New Projects Submitted for 2002-03

Three of the CESBA projects submitted for preliminary consideration were approved for the detailed proposal development. With the strong assistance of Wendy Oliver, CESBA Projects Coordinator, CESBA has submitted the following proposals:

Practitioner Training Strategy Phase III

This project will build on the work and research completed in phases I & II. Among other things, this project will design and produce the modules of training recommended in Phase II. These CD-ROM based modules will form the core of training and orientation approach to be taken in LBS programs.

Impact Study: Ontario Works Participants in School Board LBS Programs

This project will survey all Ontario School Board LBS Programs to determine the impact of mandatory participation of OW clients.

Learning Disabilities Initiative

Building on past studies and best practices, this project will design a training program to address the professional development needs of school board LBS instructors working with adult learners with learning disabilities.



Wendy Oliver gets ready to send CESBA's detailed field development proposals to MTCU.

cess research materials and the creation of a distinct research collection.

Currently AlphaPlus staff are conducting a thorough search of the AlphaPlus library collection to identify and retrieve research materials and will conduct searches of various relevant databases to identify material, particularly from 1980-1990 that may not be in the AlphaPlus collection.

If you know of research materials, that may not have been published or widely disseminated, but which you believe should be recorded in the database, please contact Maria Moriarty at AlphaPlus (mmoriarty@alphaplus.ca)

Murray McDonald (Algoma DSB) is CESBA's representative on the Reference Group for this project.

Developing a Research Culture in Ontario - Phase 1

The AlphaPlus project, Developing a Research Culture in Ontario - Phase 1, was developed in the context of the provincial research strategy: *Setting the Agenda: The Ontario Literacy Research Strategy*. MTCU. 2000.

AlphaPlus, in collaboration with NALD, is working on the construction of a database of annotated, adult literacy research completed and in progress, in Ontario, 1980 to date. The creation of the database will ensure that

valuable work is not lost and that practitioners and researchers have access to that research to promote and support new inquiry.

A section of the AlphaPlus web site will be dedicated to adult literacy research and will be a source of basic information on various research methodologies and a hub linking to other research site, organizations and resources.

AlphaPlus will examine the feasibility of digitizing ephemeral and difficult to ac-

Appreciation

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Coming Events:

CESBA Spring Conference

Share the Knowledge — Harness the Power is the theme that will challenge CESBA delegates attending the 2002 CESBA Conference. This year the conference will be May 2 & 3 at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel & Conference Centre in Niagara Falls. Sessions that may be of interest to literacy practitioners & leaders include:

- The LBS networking session (Bring your LBS marketing ideas to share!)
- **LBS & OW – Making Connections, Getting Referrals**, a workshop led by Mary Wiggin (Ottawa-Carleton Literacy Coalition), Trudy Lothian (Ottawa-Carleton CDSB) and Julie Newlands (Ottawa-Carleton DSB).
- AlphaPlus: an update on the latest in resources and services
- *Recognizing and Assessing Informal Learning*, presented by Dr. David Livingstone (OISE) and Dr. Douglas Myers (PLA Centre, Halifax) - a repeat from the *Ready! Set! Go!* conference
- *Making the Transition to Employment for the Developmentally Handicapped* presented by DSB of Niagara

Some literacy links that may interest you:

1. The possibilities project: employment, education & training in Toronto
<http://www.possibilitiesproject.ca>
2. For the latest information on the requirements for earning a grade 12 diploma - from the Ministry of Education
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/curricul/secondary/oss/oss.html>
3. Grass Roots Press: meeting the needs of Adult Literacy Practitioners & Students
www.literacyservices.com
4. From StatsCan - Learning Living: A Report on Adult Education & Training
<http://www.nald.ca/fulltext/statscan/cover.htm>

- **Marketing Your Program** presented by the Keewatin-Patricia DSB

For more information on this conference see the CESBA web site at www.cesba.com

LBS Day set for May 1st

Picking up on the Niagara environment, the theme, ***Unleash the Power of***

Literacy, will inspire School Board LBS Managers at a pre-conference session set for May 1st. Plan to be there so you can network with your colleagues from across Ontario, engage in discussion on important field development projects, and hear the latest updates from key decision makers.

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