

# The Updater

Volume 4, Issue 3

February 2001

## Your CESBA Literacy Committee

**Chair, Linda DePiero**  
Lakehead DSB

**Past Chair, Mary Adamson**  
Waterloo Region DSB

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

**Secretary, Pat Duern**  
Grand Erie DSB

**Executive Liaison, Murray McDonald**  
Algoma DSB

**Bev Brandenburg**  
Greater Essex County DSB

**Linda Lott**  
Algonquin-Lakeshore CDSB

**Maria Makrakis**  
Ottawa-Carlton CDSB

**Julie Newlands**  
Ottawa-Carlton DSB

## LBS Day Report

by Dave Neumann

Another successful LBS Day was held on December 6th at the Toronto Colony Hotel. Forty-one LBS administrators from 28 school boards attended.

In the morning Mel Macleod presented his final report of the Practitioner Training

also conducted a consultation on the "Seamless Transition to More Learning" project.

Jane Barber gave an overview of MUD Works, a project providing a PD opportunity for school board LBS practitioners to learn more about developing and using demonstrations for learning outcomes.

Marsha Forchuk Srypuch, a Canadian author of children's books, talked from the heart about her life long learning and writing experiences. For more information, you can access Marsha's website at [www.calla.com](http://www.calla.com)

The afternoon sessions included the annual election for the CESBA Literacy Committee, an update from Pauline McNaughton, AlphaPlus, and an interesting MTCU update report from Sandie Birkhead-Kirk.

The number of topics covered reflected the many activities and developments in LBS:

- Common Assessment training and the move to an "on demand training" approach
- The need to work towards more consistent funding in LBS
- The concept of outcomes-based funding
- Liaison with Ontario Works
- The Locator Test for IALS
- AlphaRoute and the establishment of research sites
- Capacity building for the Workplace Strategy is being tested
- The developing Information Management System
- Online newsletters and an emerging Web Strategy
- The Ontario Literacy Research Strategy in collaboration with OISE
- The Immigrant Survey & the Francophone Survey will be out soon

The many changes underway are coming together for everyone. Sandie concluded with a lively and informative Q&A session.

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## Announcements

### Information Management Update on AlphaCom

Many items of interest to all of us are posted regularly on AlphaCom discussions. If you are not registered with AlphaPlus, please consider doing so. Then subscribe to the 'discussions' under AlphaCom. In particular, one called "Info-LBS".

Anne Parker has just posted a message on Info-LBS that is noteworthy. It is the newest edition of the Newsletter devoted to the LBS Information Management System Project 2000. The web address of AlphaPlus is [www.alphaplus.ca](http://www.alphaplus.ca). If you need assistance with registering, we would be pleased to help. Contact Dave Neumann at the CESBA office.

### From MED

[communications@edu.gov.on.ca](mailto:communications@edu.gov.on.ca)

Publication: *Course Descriptions and Prerequisites, Grades 9 to 12*

For more information, visit the ministry's website at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/curricul/secondary/descript/descri9e.pdf>

### Information Management System

Update from Anne Rachlis, MTCU, on questions raised at the LBS Day regarding the Information Management System:

Information on Carry-over learners should be entered into the system as soon as possible, but April 1 is not an absolute deadline. Agencies

will have the system once they attend training and can begin inputting information at that time. We will be looking at the data to see which agencies have reported significant carry-over clients and we know that TDSB is one.

In terms of dual systems, they will have to be maintained for a period of time, perhaps "up to" 6 months, until the agency is satisfied that the new application is functioning as it should. Hopefully this time frame will be shorter but one needs to plan on the longer timeframe.

Anne Parker has also spoken with Brian Nicholson to clarify the issues.

## CESBA Conference Report — LBS Networking Session

By Wendy Oliver

CESBA's Fall Conference, December 7 & 8, 2000, entitled "Challenging Times--Creative Solutions" was held in Toronto after the LBS Day.

The keynote address was given by Kevin Costante, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities – the ministry responsible for the LBS program.

Although he is new to this portfolio, Mr. Costante indicated a strong willingness to work together with adult educators in the province.

A networking session was held for conference attendees who were interested and concerned with LBS issues. The wide-ranging discussion included items related to the Learning Disabilities training, inconsistent messages from LBS field consultants, staff training needs and funding issues. There was great support for CESBA projects that meet identified school board needs.

Wendy Oliver proposed that the LBS Day in May, 2001 be devoted to a workshop led by

Mel MacLeod concerning the issues and recommendations identified in the "Seamless Transition to More Learning" project. The goal of this day would be for credit and non-credit administrators from the same school board to work together to develop an action plan addressing the barriers to transition that exist in their school setting.

This proposal was accepted and CESBA has applied for additional funding to implement this special activity.



## Project Co-ordinator's Report

By Wendy Oliver

### MUDWorks

There has been an excellent response to CESBA's project **MUDWorks** (Making and Using Demonstrations). It offers professional development training in Demonstrations to LBS instructors in the School Board sector.

The training has been delivered for 11 of the 38 School Boards and 22 of the remaining School Boards have booked a MUDWorks date for some time in the next three months.

The trainers, Jane Barber, Lianne Calvert and Lisa Hagedorn have all affirmed that professional development training done in this way, (i.e. Sector-specific) has been particularly effective in addressing the challenges and developing the advantages of delivering an LBS program in a school board setting.

Comments from instructors who have taken the training have been very enthusiastic. The following are some examples:

- *"I was so stressed by Demonstrations but now I feel like I know what I'm doing."* (York Region)
- *"Practicing demonstrations will be my biggest help but I am very encouraged by gaining direction and inspiration"* (Waterloo DSB)
- *"The Demonstrations templates and assessment forms provided in the workshop are excellent. They are much clearer than ones I have seen in the past. I have a much clearer understanding of how demonstrations fit into my program."* (Simcoe County DSB)
- *"I do not feel so overwhelmed. Demonstrations are possible! Thank you!"* (Niagara DSB)

### Survey

At the CESBA LBS Day in December, a survey was distributed which was designed

to inform the "**Seamless Transition to More Learning**" Project. Thank you to all who have returned the survey.

If you need another copy or have any questions do not hesitate to call Wendy Oliver (905-949-0049 ext 2036; [woliver@cesba.on.ca](mailto:woliver@cesba.on.ca))

### Model Practices

Mel MacLeod is now researching and visiting sites in Ontario to identify model practices. If you feel that you have something to contribute to his work please contact Mel at [melmacleod@sympatico.ca](mailto:melmacleod@sympatico.ca).

### Publications

There are some extra copies of the project entitled "**Practitioner Training Strategy Phase 1.**" If you did not receive one please contact Wendy Oliver.

The project completed last year entitled "**Demonstrations Development**" is also available for a \$20.00 shipping fee.



### Don't Forget!

CESBA Spring Conference

May 10 & 11

at the Toronto Colony Hotel

**CESBA appreciates the core funding received from the Workplace Preparation Branch of MTCU that makes this newsletter possible.**

## **CESBA Literacy Committee Meeting — Highlights**

- Confirmation of officers for the year: Chair, Linda DePiero, Vice-Chair, Liz D’Andrea-Moore, Secretary, Pat Duern and Past Chair, Mary Adamson.
- Orientation session covering the role of the committee, its relationship to CESBA and liaison the Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities.
- Positive update from Consultant Jane Barber on Mud Works training in demonstrations development being delivered to school board LBS
- Endorsed the recommendation of the Practitioner Training I project “that staff turn-over rates and staff availability rates within School board LBS programs be monitored on a yearly basis.”
- Reports and discussion on the December 5th OLC/ MTCU Liaison meeting and the mid-January meetings of the Sectors and Regions councils of the Ontario Literacy Coalition.
- Updates on CESBA field development projects, the Social Marketing initiative of the OLC, & the Information Management project of MTCU.

- The CESBA Spring Conference will be held on May 10 & 11 at the Toronto Colony Hotel. On May 9th, LBS and adult credit managers will attend a one-day workshop related to the transitioning of learners from LBS to adult credit.
- Committee members identified issues to bring forward to MTCU via our liaison, Alain Broux.
- Dave Neumann facilitated a consultation on OLC internal restructuring. Summary notes will be forwarded to the consultants. Consultations with the field will continue through to early March.
- The next meeting of the CESBA Literacy Committee will be on Monday March 26th.

### **Committee Changes as of December 6, 2000:**

Karen Burwell, Lorri Sauve & Lianne Calvert have retired from the CESBA Literacy Committee. Thanks for your positive contributions to the work of the committee.

We welcome four new members who have joined the committee as a result of elections held at the Annual Meeting on December 6th:

Liz D’Andrea-Moore  
(Toronto DSB)

Linda Lott (Algonquin-Lakeshore CDSB)

Kay Munro (Thames Valley DSB)

Julie Newlands (Ottawa-Carlton DSB)

#### **Thank you!**

Thanks to Donna Zener for assisting in coordinating the LBS School Board Sector during Dave Neumann’s fall absence. Your dedication to the work of LBS is very much appreciated.

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