

ADULT LEARNING KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

CENTRE DU SAVOIR SUR L'APPRENTISSAGE CHEZ LES ADULTES

SUMMARY:

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVE
FRANCOPHONE**

2008

SUMMARY

FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

The Assistant Coordinator of the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre (AdLKC) wrote the report *Partage et actions* after a series of in-person meetings and teleconferences with official language minority groups in the four Atlantic provinces. The objective was to build awareness of the AdLKC, identify the main challenges faced by stakeholders in the field of adult learning and propose concrete measures going forward.

This study allowed us to position the AdLKC in the adult learning field in Francophone communities. The AdLKC is now considered to be a partner and an important place to obtain information on adult learning. It is invited to sit on steering committees or, even better, join the boards of directors of national groups. Outreach is only beginning, and several projects are now being planned.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE CHALLENGES

Despite recognition of official language minorities in the Constitution and in various provincial acts, the application and enforcement of fundamental rights require constant efforts and great vigilance on the part of Francophone communities. Enforcement sometimes comes at the price of long and exhausting court cases, but the results are meaningful and the community is optimistic about its development.

Many obstacles hinder adult learning. Obstacles to participation are many and complex, but a targeted awareness campaign would be a first step to encourage the public to start learning. To help learners, the notion of the evaluation and recognition of prior learning needs to be better known. Essential workplace skills come up more and more often, but what is the real situation for workers and for learners hoping to enter the job market? The public needs to be made aware of the realities facing the handicapped, who have to deal with physical obstacles and transportation problems that prevent them from taking better advantage of learning opportunities. Public will cause changes that help the handicapped to take their rightful place and be full participants. Several participants felt that it is time to look at the progress already made, exchange information on best practices, evaluate activities and plan the future.

WHAT THE AdLKC CAN DO

The recommendations are meant to be precise and attainable within the ALKC's first mandate, that is, in the next ten months. They are aimed at helping Francophone groups with the following:

- Planning and coordinating meetings, forums and events in the adult learning sectors;
- Support in liaising and meeting with government, post-secondary institutions and other relevant stakeholders to provide input on increasing the accessibility of services; and
- Provide opportunities to share expertise, experience and knowledge with others, through the Speakers, Program, or other means;

Partage et actions presents six recommendations. Their implementation will depend on the time and budget allocated to achieving them. Life-long learning contributes to economic productivity, social equity and civic involvement. Let us continue our action and outreach in order to establish a culture of life-long learning in Canada.