

**Working Together for Adult Literacy:
An Adult Literacy Strategy for New Brunswick**

Action Plan 2010 - 2013

Overview of Progress to Date

Community Adult Learning Services Branch
Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

December 2010

Following is a summary of a number of significant actions that have already been initiated or undertaken in support of *Working Together for Adult Literacy: An Adult Literacy Strategy for New Brunswick*.

Community-based Service Delivery Partnerships

Community Adult Learning Network (CALNet)

A total of 223 Community Adult Learning Centres operated in over 100 communities throughout the province in 2009-10. These centres provided training through 148 academic and 75 e-learning programs. This represented a 10% increase in academic programs, an 8% increase in learners. Currently, 154 academic and 70 e-learning programs have been funded.

Laubach Literacy New Brunswick (LLNB)

PETL is partnering with LLNB to build its capacity to expand and improve the quality of its one-on-one adult literacy tutoring service. With PETL's financial support and in partnership with Literacy Alberta, LLNB has introduced a new, improved training model for its volunteer tutors in 2009 which equips them with a broader range of teaching strategies and a greater focus on adult learning principles.

Fédération d'alphabétisation du Nouveau-Brunswick (FANB)

PETL has established a partnership with FANB to explore development of a one-on-one adult literacy tutoring service in French.

Workplace Essential Skills (WES) Program

The new WES model provides an accelerated process for adults to gain the essential skills needed for work. The primary focus for the 2009-10 fiscal year has been training for employed individuals. The WES Program has developed rapidly and implementation across the province is well underway. The Department of Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour (PETL) has developed a comprehensive WES curriculum that covers all nine of the

essential skill areas¹. There are seven WES Regional Teams to ensure a seamless delivery across all regions. Two Centres of Excellence have been established within the WES Program. The Centres are located at CCNB Bathurst (French) and NBCC Saint John (English). The Centres of Excellence provide leadership and expertise provincially in the development of learning materials, best practices, and trainer training. There have been 57 active initiatives since the program was implemented in November 2009. Currently there are 48 active WES initiatives.

Quality Service and Assurance Standards

In response to the strong call for action in this area and in accordance with the department's commitment to further improve the quality and consistency of service delivery in New Brunswick, a *Quality Framework for Adult Literacy and Essentials Skills Service Delivery* has been developed. This framework comprises a number of elements: quality standards, operational support for quality, internal assessment and external evaluation.

The framework has been developed in consultation with many key stakeholders, including learners.

Professional Development Framework for Practitioners

The Community Adult Learning Services Branch has established a new professional development framework for the Community Adult Learning Network (CALNet). The primary purpose of the framework is to increase the qualification/skill set/knowledge of teachers, paid staff members and Regional Committee volunteers working/volunteering in CALNet. The framework addresses professional development in three areas by:

- providing opportunities for professional development for teachers to ensure all teachers have a Certificate in Adult Education as a minimum standard;
- providing opportunities to ensure provincially identified educational issues are addressed;
- providing funding to Regional Adult Learning Committees/Boards for professional development of staff and volunteers.

Family Literacy

PETL is partnering with La Fédération d'alphabétisation du Nouveau-Brunswick (FANB) over the next three years to support a family literacy initiative. FANB has launched its family literacy pilot for Acadian and francophone parents in urban and rural New Brunswick, to help them develop essential skills that will enable them to contribute to the growth and development of their children, families and communities. The pilot project "*Un programme d'alphabétisation familiale et communautaire ancré dans les communautés*" has identified three sites where they will work with parents of children from kindergarten to grade two.

¹ The nine essential skills as defined by Human Resources and Social Development Canada are Reading text, Document use, Numeracy, Writing, Oral Communications, Working with Others, Thinking Skills, Computer Use and Continuous Learning.

Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET) Awareness Campaign

The Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET) recently launched a four-year regional adult literacy awareness campaign. The campaign was launched in Fredericton by the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour and simultaneously in other Atlantic capitals on November 1, 2010. Phase I of the campaign is designed to increase awareness amongst Atlantic Canadians of the broader meaning of literacy and its importance for families, companies and the economy generally. It is comprised of four English and four French TV ads which will run for the month of November 2010 and again in 2011. Phase 2 of the campaign will focus on encouraging potential learners to participate in adult learning programs and on developing grassroots tactics to enhance and mobilize partnerships amongst employers and adult learning and community organizations.

New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS)

The NBPLS has developed a number of initiatives that support the adult literacy strategy:

- The Adult Literacy Collection - more than 15,000 (and growing) easy-to-read books in both official languages for use by adult literacy learners and practitioners
- Bookmobile services - province-wide access to bookmobile services in rural areas not served by a public library, and
- Books-by-Mail service – for those who do not have access to either a public library or bookmobile service, this enables patrons to receive books through the mail for free, from a central NBPLS service point.