

Expressions

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magazine for literacy
students and practitioners
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Each One
Teach One

E-Magazine

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Laubach Literacy Ontario provides training, resources and services to meet the changing needs of our members and adult students to create a stronger, more literate Ontario.

Contents

Page	Article
3	LLO Conference 2016
4	Annual Student Meeting 2016
5	Student Stories
7	Save the Date– Conference 2017!
7	Program Administration
8	New LBS Discussion Forum
8	MAESD Updates
9	Innovative Instruction
10	What's New at LLO?
10	Tech Corner
11	Partner News and Information
12	Fun Stuff!



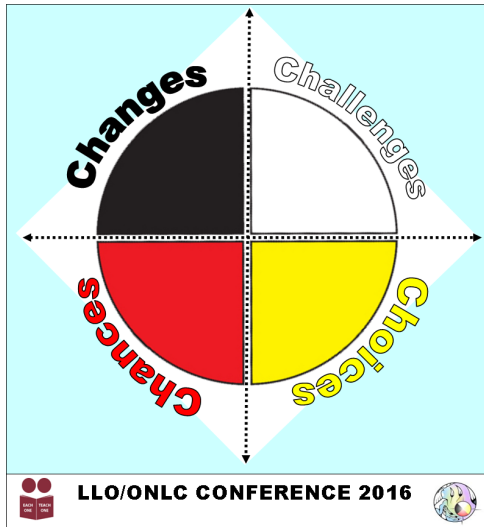
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LLO/ONLC

CONFERENCE 2016

Hello everyone.

I want to start off by saying thank you to all the learners, tutors, practitioners and board members who attended this year's Changes, Challenges, Choices, and Chances conference at Mohawk College in Hamilton. It was great to partner with the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition again and to share more of their indigenous cultural experiences. Everyone enjoyed the traditional dancing and joined in the fun on Thursday night. Helen McLeod and her team from the Hamilton Literacy Council did a wonderful job organizing and getting us all where we needed to be.

The Arnie Stewart Individual Achievement Recognition Awards were a great way to recognize all of the hard work our learners have put forth throughout the year. It was an honour to have Arnie's wife, Barb, and his son, Allan, there to present the certificates. Congratulations learners!!!!

After the conference, the LLO board met to vote on the executive. It will remain the same as last year with myself as President, Tracey Mollins as Vice President, Alicea Fleming as Secretary, and Mary-Ann Fuduric as Treasurer. Jo Cryderman remains as Director and Rubert Payea as Student Representative. We will continue to do our best to meet the needs of LLO and its members.



Following the spirit of our conference, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has changed too. It was recently announced by the Kathleen Wynn government that we will now be called the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. We'll have to wait and see if our new minister, Deb Matthews, will have any changes in store for us.

Submitted by Cathy Graham, LLO President.



What participants said this year:

"My first LLO experience - hopefully not my last!"

"I had an awesome time. One of the best times I can remember in a long time."



Click here for conference pictures:

<http://www.laubach-on.ca/conference2016/photos>

Click here for conference evaluations:

<http://www.laubach-on.ca/teach/news/conference2016/evaluations>

Annual Student Meeting 2016

On Friday, June 17th from 1:30 - 3:30 the LLO annual student meeting was held at Mohawk College in Hamilton. The meeting was led by Gary Porter, former student (& former LLO Board president).

Gary began the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves and to share their literacy stories. It was very touching to see some of them realize how much they all had in common, that at some point this whole group had experienced teasing, lack of confidence, and the shame and embarrassment of not being able to read. Something else they all had in common was the courage to ask for help to learn to read and write. They shared their more recent experiences of the positive impact that has resulted from that decision. One student brought a video of her story and the others were encouraged to do the same, for LLO and their own agencies as short videos are very effective.

Gary then talked about the changing role of the student. Where many students used to remain with their literacy agencies for years, Ministry expectations now mean students are in and out very quickly. This has had an effect on the Arnie Stewart Individual Achievement Award which is now the very well received Arnie Stewart Individual Achievement Recognition, where every student attending the conference is recognized.

Because of this change there is a definite impact on the existing LLO Student Committee, comprised of past Arnie Stewart Award winners. Gary asked the students their thoughts on what the future role of the Student Committee could be. One idea that everyone really liked was adding a section to the LLO website for students. The Student Committee could act as consultants to offer advice and answer questions that other students might have. We will be sending this idea to Tudor Costache, our web administrator to see if this is something that would work.

Gary then had Jack Osborne (student committee member) and Rubert Payea (student committee member and current LLO Board Student rep) help lead the last part of the meeting where the students are asked for student workshop ideas for future conferences. Leading the list are First Aid, History of Laubach and Public Speaking. To view the rest of their list of workshop ideas click here:

<http://www.laubach-on.ca/conference2016>



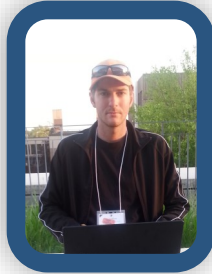
Student Stories



My Experience at Mohawk by Brock B.

I really enjoyed all of my workshops and the food was good, but some meals were cold. I also really enjoyed the native smudging ceremony and the singing and dancing on Thursday. The first workshop was for mental illness which I really enjoyed and I learned a lot about it. The set up for that workshop was done really well. The second workshop was also very enjoyable. It was more so just suggestions for next year's workshops, and that was the one where I won the laptop. The last workshop I went to was for my learning disability. We watched a slide show and we discussed what was going on with them. On Friday, we had a nice dinner and lots of prizes were won. Later on that night, we had played some games and drank beer. I played some pool with Kate and Pam, then Kate and I played some ping pong. It was loads of fun. On Saturday, we had fun doing the scavenger hunt.

I really enjoy my new laptop. I also had some weird thing happen to me, but I don't know what it was. I think it was spirits or something. Feel free to watch the video from the cameras. It happened in the movie room on the 4th floor. All I can say is it felt like some sort of energy being pulled out of my body. Some strange thing brought me to that room. It felt like something took over my body, but I don't know what it was. All the best and I am feeling back to normal now.



Conference 2016 by Greg S.

Once a year, Laubach Literacy councils from different areas of Ontario gather for workshops, lunches, and a social evening. This year's conference was in Hamilton, Ontario at Mohawk College. It was good to see and hear people from last year's conference.



The first workshop on Friday morning was Mental Health/Illness Awareness: A Required Like Skill. The Canadian government pays tens of billions of dollars a year in mental health costs. This doesn't include the judiciaries. On the project screen were the problems and issues faced every year by people with mental health problems.

On Friday afternoon, a number of students attended the Student AGM. We talked about the literacy councils and mentioned Arnie Stewart. The Arnie Stewart Achievement Award was given out to students who have made progress in their education.

On Saturday morning, the learners went on a scavenger hunt. There were envelopes with numbers written on them and each envelope had an item with it. The items could be a paint brush, buttons, clothes pegs, or any number of things. There were thirteen puzzle pieces, and when the puzzle was assembled, it was a picture of Mohawk College. Linda and I, plus a fellow student from Hamilton, won.

The first session on Saturday morning was Finding Your Inner Artist: Thinking outside the Box. The class had shiny things in the shape of hearts, circles, and squares. With pieces of string, ribbons, and a variety of trinkets, we all created art. I noticed the men's art was more male, but the ladies' had a feminine touch.

At the workshop on Saturday afternoon, Living Indigenous Literacy, we made faceless corn dolls. It's a native art and a boy or girl doll can be made out of corn husks. We followed written and verbal instructions and had a lot of fun making these corn husk dolls.

Conference in Hamilton by Linda S.



I went to the conference with Christine and we got lost on our way there. When we got there, we went to a native fire. Then, I got my key and we took our luggage to our room. After we had dinner, I had fun dancing. Later, Greg and I went for a walk.

Mental Health/Illness Awareness: The speaker discussed the different ways that mental health causes trouble to people. Some side effects are cutting/anxiety/wetting the bed/and voices in their head.

Student Workshop: The government wants to close the Literacy Council offices down because of a lack of funding. In Orillia, we go tagging. That's how we raise money.

On Friday, we received our awards and Cathy started crying. Before going to bed, we had fun playing games.

Scavenger Hunting: The students went scavenger hunting. We had to find envelopes and there were puzzles inside them. The puzzle was a bus. We also had to find buttons/paint brushes/balls/clothes pins/yellow pads/ and tissues.

Finding Your Inner Artist: Think Outside the Box: I decorated a plate, and we made bookmarks and also decorated a can. We put pencils or other things in it.

Living Indigenous Literacy: We made faceless corn husk dolls. We put corn husks in hot water and left them in for 15 minutes. We used string to make a head, arms, and legs. I made a girl and they showed me how to make a dress.

I had a lot of fun. I had an amazing experience, and I hope to do it again next year.

The Conference by Pam D.



On Thursday, when we arrived, we signed in and were given our package. We were given our room key and the rules of the college. We all came together in the front of the college, and we did the smudge ceremony. It was an enlightening experience to me. Then, we came in to the college to have a traditional meal. After the meal, the natives showed us some of the traditional dances. It was a very nice thing to see. I was up at all of the dances.

We got up and went to the big building for breakfast. After breakfast, we went to the workshops. I went to Mobile Learners. I learned how to use my cell a bit more. I can get in to my Facebook better. I couldn't do this before we went to the course. They helped me do video on my phone. I can take pictures of my grandson better on my phone. I can do more since the course.

All students had to go to the workshop called Student AGM. They had asked us our opinion on what kind of workshops we would like to see next year. I liked the input the students gave everyone. They wanted us to give our input so they can make it more enjoyable for us. I met some new students from other places.

On Friday, we had a banquet and later Cathy got up and read out the names of the students for the awards. We went to the games and raffle. I played, and I won a basket and a centrepiece. I felt good to win them.

We went to a craft workshop. Laura Lee held the workshop. It was a lot of fun. We made a plate which is a chalkboard and a bookmark and a pencil holder. I learned a lot about crafts in this workshop. It was a lot of fun for me, and the other students had a good time, too. I was able to be creative.

Going to the Conference by Jackie W.

From June 16th to 18th, we went to a conference at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario. When we got there on Thursday afternoon, we had to first get our key to the room and then we had to get into a line-up to pick up our paperwork and programs. From there, we took our suitcases to our rooms. The beds were very good and comfortable. They even had a fridge and microwave. We had to share the bathroom with the people next door. My roommate was Linda, who is also a student at the Literacy Council.

For dinner that night we had a traditional Native meal with bean soup. After dinner, I had to go to the vending machine to get more food because I was still hungry. Except for the last dinner, I was always still hungry because the portions were so small.

The Mobile Learner's workshop on Friday morning taught me how to use my cell phone to make movies. I walked out of the workshop knowing that I have learned a lot. It was tough, and I didn't think I could do it, but I did. It changed me big time. I gained confidence and I already taught 4 other people how to do it. This was my most challenging workshop. I have ADD and if I can do it, so can others.

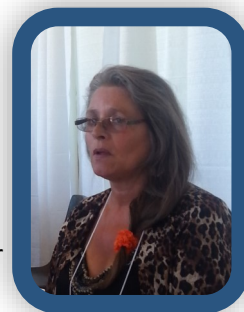
On Friday afternoon, we had our AGM for the students. We talked about what we wanted to learn about or do at the conference next year. We all said something and a person wrote down what we said on a board. Then, we were given little stickers and we were asked to put them beside the ideas we liked best.

On Friday night, we were all given awards. When my name was called, I said I didn't want to go up. I had a panic attack and forgot to breathe because I didn't like going up in front of a whole bunch of people. We also had a games night. I didn't stay long because I was really tired.

On Saturday, we did a scavenger hunt. We were given clues where to find the next one. At each spot there was a puzzle we had to solve. There were 3 people in each group. I enjoyed that, but it was really hot, and it took us a long time to find everything. At the craft workshop, I learned you can get craft directions and ideas online. It helped me with telling time because I made a clock I can practice with at home.

The Volunteer Appreciation workshop showed me how much work is involved in being a volunteer tutor. It made me really appreciate my tutor.

Going to the conference was a once in a lifetime experience. I feel that I was more mature to appreciate it and the stuff I learned will stay with me for the rest of my life.



SAVE THE DATE

Conference 2017! June 8-10



LLO will be partnering again with ONLC for Conference 2017! The Conference will take place in the Forest City– London, Ontario at Brescia University College which is affiliated with Western University from Thursday, June 8th until Saturday, June 10th. For more information about our venue: <http://brescia.uwo.ca/conference/>

Stay tuned for more information about local partners and conference details in the near future. In the meantime we need you to help us come up with a theme. It's a big year– it's our 35th anniversary! Send your ideas to Lana Faessler: literacy@laubach-on.ca The person or agency with the winning theme will get a \$50 credit at the LLO Bookstore.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION



Click on the link below for an “epic” list of 141 productivity tools:

https://www.strongstart.fm/epic-list-of-productivity-tools/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=fbads&utm_campaign=awareness&utm_content=AdSet+1



Beginner's Guide for Program Coordinators of Literacy Organizations

New to literacy? Check out this great guide!

<http://www.learningnetworks.ca/Files/MNN-BeginnersGuideforProgramCoordinators/BeginnersGuideforProgramCoordinator-sofLiteracyOrganizations.pdf>



Announcing a new way to share, talk and ask questions!!!

LLO and Contact North are pleased to announce the new Literacy and Basic Skills Discussion Platform. Current discussion forums include a general discussion forum, goal path specific forums and an EOIS-CaMS forum.

Use the forum to talk to colleagues about issues that are important to you.

Click on the link to sign up now!

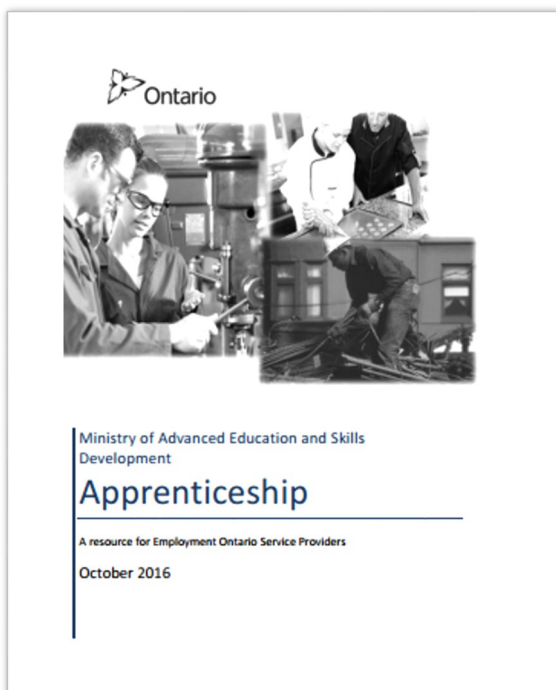
<https://lbsforum.contactnorth.ca/>

e-Channel provides Ontarians online literacy and basic skills courses, that are either “live” in an online classroom and meeting space for students, teachers, coaches, trainers and leaders of adult literacy and basic skills programs OR “anytime” when class work is completed online at a time and place convenient to the student.

<http://e-channel.ca/practitioner>



MAESD Updates



EOIS CaMS 2016-5 details information on release 6.3:

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/cams-2016-5-bulletin-en.pdf>

SP Connect 2015-10 outlines key enhancements in SP Connect version 4.0.2.

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/publications/eois-sp-connect-2016-5-bulletin-en.pdf>

There are also several LBS specific updates:

http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/lbs_updates.html

Innovative Instruction



Money Matters is all about what works for your programming and for your learners. That means you pick when the workshops happen. Fill out a Learning Centre Agreement form for the program you want to run, and send it to us. Then we ship you the materials!

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/financial-literacy>



Register free for 2017 the 2017 education program at

<https://www.ancestryproject.ca/>

Digital Storytelling 2.0

Task-Based
Activities
for LBS



Activités axées
sur les tâches
pour l'AFB



The Task-Based Activities for LBS website is a collection of activities aligned to the OALCF, organized by stream, goal path and level. This fully searchable database provides task-based

activities (available in Microsoft Word and PDF formats) to help you support your learners in achieving their goals.

To visit the portal and sign up for an account, use this link:

<http://taskbasedactivitiesforlbs.ca/user/login>

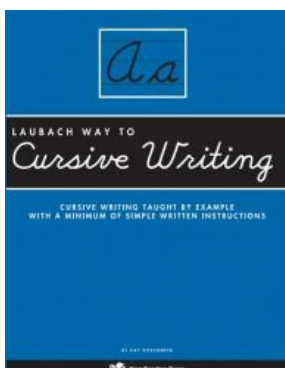
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Mindfulness



PART 2

Last edition, we introduced the concept of mindfulness and provided a link for tools and resources. Click on the link below to check out these eight "home practice" mindfulness animations that could be integrated in LBS training programs to increase awareness of mindfulness for learners:

<http://www.dotbe.org/>



Why teaching cursive writing is important:

<http://www.cursivelogic.com/why-cursive/>

<http://thefederalist.com/2015/02/25/ten-reasons-people-still-need->

Resources:

<http://www.laubach-on.ca/bookstore/book/laubach-way-to-cursive-writing>

<http://www.handwritingworksheets.com/>

<http://www.reallygoodstuff.com/community/5-cursive-handwriting-instruction-resources/>

What's New at LLO?

The latest edition of LLO Express can be downloaded here:

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=527e811a0c782656b30e7f7f3&id=9342116bc3>



Member Survey

Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent member survey!

We asked if you feel that the content LLO currently provides through Express is timely and useful? **93% responded YES.** 7% responded SOMEWHAT.

Comments:

"I believe that LLO has their finger on the pulse w regard to matters currently relevant to the operational aspects of LBS Programs."

"Love to get them ."

We asked if you feel Expressions increases your awareness and knowledge of resources that support learners in the achievement of their goals? **77% responded YES.** 13% responded SOMEWHAT.

Comments:

"It's so great to have a hard copy for the front desk."

"Timely information is helpful with program planning."

"Very good - keep ."

"Yes I find it extremely helpful."

Annual Report

Our annual report is now available online:

<http://www.laubach-on.ca/sites/default/files/Annual%20Report.pdf>



Did you know that we constantly update our WEB RESOURCES page on the LLO website. We frequently have other organizations submit requests to include their site or information. Each request is evaluated for relevancy prior to inclusion.

<http://www.laubach-on.ca/links>

Partner News and Information



LLO is a proud member of the newly-formed Provincial Support Organization for Literacy. Here is an excerpt from our first newsletter.

“Literacy and Basic Skills can sometimes seem invisible in education strategies and policy planning. We have to be visible for the invisible. PSOL takes a “literacy secretariat” approach. We look at how literacy touches all aspects of a person’s life and therefore all aspects of government planning and programming.”

Click here for the full newsletter: <http://www.laubach-on.ca/sites/default/files/ProvincialSupportOrganizationsForLiteracy.pdf>

Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC) Pilots

Ontario is currently piloting LEPC’s in eight communities as part of the ministry’s work to modernize employment and training programs and services. LEPCs will promote place-based approaches to workforce development, while generating and analyzing local labour market information.

LEPC Communities:

- Durham,
- London-Middlesex-Oxford-Elgin,
- Ottawa,
- Peel-Halton,
- Peterborough,
- Thunder Bay, Timmins, and
- Windsor

The pilots run until May 31, 2017.

For more information: <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/lepc.html>



Ontario Centre for
Workforce Innovation

Centre ontarien
Innovation-Emploi

OCWI relies on engagement with all members of the workforce development community to create a sustainable impact. They want to identify and share best practices from around the province to build a more integrated and innovative employment and training system. To connect with OCWI:

<http://www.ocwi-coie.ca/contact-us/>



Learning Networks
of Ontario

The Learning Networks of Ontario work collaboratively to support adult education and training across the province. Click on the link to find information about services and resources offered by support organizations across the province:

<http://www.learningnetworks.ca>



Get the **211** on Social Services in Ontario

FUN STUFF



OALCF Holiday Inspired Activities

Competency	Task-Based Activities
Find and Use Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Use the telephone book to look up addresses to mail out holiday cards · Read A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens adapted for entry level readers: http://www.skillsworkshop.org/resources/christmas-carol-charles-dickens-adapted-entry-level-readers
Communicate Ideas and Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Write a Christmas wish list · Express your creativity by creating a homemade tree ornament
Understand and Use Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Prepare a budget for a holiday meal with family or friends
Use Digital Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Send an online “Happy Holidays” or “Happy New Year” card
Engage with Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Plan a Secret Santa gift exchange

Santa's Net

Learn about Christmas traditions around the world at Santa's Net:

<http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm>

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff at LLO we want to wish everyone



Holiday Themed Activities

Ornament Guess

Have learners guess the total number of ornaments on the tree as they arrive. The closest guess wins.

Holiday ABC's

Give each person or team a piece of paper and instruct them to write the alphabet vertically from A to Z. When you say, “Go!” they are to write a holiday word that starts with each letter. The first one(s) to complete the list wins.

Christmas Memory Game

Put Christmas items on a tray and give people one minute to memorize the items. Take the tray away and have them write as many down as they can remember in 30 seconds.

Name That Carol

Make a list of lyrics from Christmas carols, but only provide 3-4 words from each song. The person who names all – or most – of the songs in a certain amount of time wins.

Adapted from: http://icebreakerideas.com/christmas-party-games-icebreakers-adults/#Ornament_Guess