

LBS Improvement and Expansion Qs &As

Symposium

1. What are the outcomes of the LBS Symposium?

The ministry received a wealth of thoughtful and constructive input from participants. To ensure all feedback was accurately represented, representatives from the LBS network who took part in the symposium were asked to review and suggest changes to the draft summaries of Days 1 and 2. The final versions of the summary reports for both days reflect this input and are now posted on the EOPG.

The LBS Symposium marked the beginning of a multi-year LBS program improvement and expansion process that will result in strengthened literacy and essential skills training. Feedback from the LBS Symposium along with the Cathexis LBS program evaluation report will help inform the efforts of LBS Expansion and Improvement Working Tables and Reference Groups, as they collaboratively design and advise LBS program changes and implementation plans.

Steering Committee, Working Tables and Reference Groups

2. How were members of the Steering Committee selected?

The Steering Committee includes representatives of the ministry and LBS Support Organizations. Members of the Steering Committee were approached based on recommendations from senior MAESD staff as well as representatives of LBS Support Organizations.

Those representatives of LBS organizations that were selected to take part in the steering committee currently demonstrate leadership in the network and provide support to a diversity of LBS service delivery organizations.

3. What criteria was applied to select members of the Working Tables and Reference Groups?

Members were selected based on the relevance of their qualifications (knowledge, experience and current roles in advancing literacy and other essential skills within their communities). Their sector, stream and regional representation was also considered to ensure a diversity of voices on each body.

4. How will LBS network organizations that are not represented on the Steering Committee, Working Tables and Reference Groups be able to contribute their ideas and opinions?

The ministry will continue to seek input and feedback from the LBS network as well as other stakeholders such as learners, employers, municipalities, advocacy groups and academics throughout the coming year. We will announce these opportunities to the network as they become available.

Additionally, as part of engagement on a plan to enhance adult education programming and strengthen the system, the ministry and partner ministries posted a discussion paper, *Strengthening Ontario's Adult Education System*, on the [Ontario Consultation Directory](#). We hope to receive feedback from all adult education partners, including the LBS network.

5. What are the objectives of the Working Tables and Reference Groups?

The Working Tables will work cooperatively to recommend program changes and implementation plans to support the improvement and expansion of literacy and essential skills programming in Ontario. Program changes and implementation plans will be reviewed by the Steering Committee before being submitted to the ministry for consideration.

The Reference Groups will provide advice to the ministry and consultants on key priorities. The ministry will make decisions regarding program changes.

Please review the [Call for Participation](#) for more information on anticipated deliverables for each body.

6. I have been selected to serve on a Working Table/Reference Group. What are the next steps? What will be required? When is the first meeting?

During the next few weeks you will receive information regarding the first meeting, location and expectations for the meeting.

Each Working Table and Reference Group will review and confirm their Terms of Reference individually.

7. Will LBS learners be engaged for their feedback on LBS program enhancement and expansion?

Working Tables and Reference Groups will identify strategies to engage with and gather input from different stakeholders, including learners, to inform their discussions and deliberations.

Additionally, as part of engagement efforts to enhance and strengthen LBS and adult education programming, the ministry and partner ministries are hosting focus groups with adult learners to learn more about their experiences. These will start in February 2018. Focus groups will be held across the province and will be with learners participating in a number of programs, including LBS.

8. Will there be funding to implement recommendations made by the Working Tables and Reference Groups?

In June 2017, as part of the Ontario Lifelong Learning and Skills Plan, the government is investing \$185 million over four years in essential skills programming for adults, which will be provided through the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) funding envelope.

Priorities for 2017-18 and 2018-19 funding support a strengthened and expanded program. In the coming years, additional funding will be allocated to further our efforts to improve and expand the LBS program based on recommendations developed by the Steering Committee, Working Table and Reference Group structure.