

Ministry of Advanced Education
and Skills Development

Mowat Block, Queen's Park
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et
de la Formation professionnelle

Édifce Mowat, Queen's Park
900, rue Bay
Toronto (ON) M7A 1L2



February 2, 2018

Dear Employment Ontario partners,

We are pleased to share next steps regarding Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Improvement and Expansion and our continued collaboration with the LBS network.

LBS Symposium Summary Reports

In late November, the ministry shared with you a draft copy of the summary report for Day 1 of the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) symposium, prepared by the independent facilitation firm, Swerhun Inc. Indigenous partners received a draft copy of the summary report for Day 2 by email. We invited you to review and provide input into these drafts to ensure both documents accurately reflect the feedback provided by participants.

The input you provided has now been incorporated into the final summary reports. These **final reports** for **Day 1** and **Day 2** of the symposium are now posted on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway (EOPG).

Call for Participation

In late November 2017, the ministry also released a Call for Participation inviting representatives of the LBS network to participate in a multi-year, collaborative process to improve and expand the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program. Specifically, we invited representatives of the LBS network to submit applications to participate in **three (3) Working Tables** and **two (2) Reference Groups** that will work collaboratively to design and recommend LBS program changes and implementation plans. This work will build on the findings and recommendations made in the Cathexis LBS program evaluation report and the LBS symposium.

Steering Committee

An LBS Improvement and Expansion Steering Committee (Steering Committee) has since been established. It held its inaugural meeting on December 18, 2017 in Toronto. The Steering Committee's mandate is to provide oversight and offer recommendations to the ministry on program changes that will improve LBS and expand its reach in the province.

The Committee is made up of nine (9) ministry representatives and nine (9) representatives from organizations currently providing leadership and support to a diversity of LBS service delivery organizations across the network. I'm pleased to let you know that Matthew Shulman, Executive Director of Peel-Halton-Dufferin Adult Literacy network, has agreed to join me as co-Chair of the Committee.

A list of Steering Committee members and their organizational affiliations is now posted on the EOPG.

Working Tables and Reference Groups

In response to the Call for Participation, the ministry received applications from 115 individuals representing all sectors, streams and regions of the network. Applicant qualifications demonstrated the tremendous depth of knowledge and experience within the LBS network in areas related to adult literacy and other essential skills, adult education more broadly, employer and industry needs, and policy and program design.

The Steering Committee reviewed a shortlist of recommendations made by ministry staff who reviewed all applications. In finalizing the list of representatives for each body, members ensured that selected participants brought a combination of relevant knowledge and experience to each body, and would also represent the diversity of voices and interests across the network. Each body also has ministry and partner ministry representatives, including corporate, field and business staff. Members of each body will receive further communication in the coming weeks.

The lists of participants for each Working Table and Reference Group are now posted on the EOPG.

Next Steps

The ministry and the Steering Committee recognize that it is important for all LBS network members to have the opportunity to contribute to the improvement and expansion process. We are working to establish more opportunities for you to contribute your expertise to the improvement and expansion process. We will announce these opportunities as they become available throughout the year.

The ministry would like to thank all LBS network representatives who expressed an interest in working collaboratively with the ministry, as well as our partner ministries, fellow network representatives, and employers and learners.

This work to improve and expand LBS supports the government's goal of building a fair and inclusive economy where all adults can access the opportunities they need to adapt, succeed and find a place in the province's highly skilled workforce. We look forward to your continued partnership and support as we move forward together with this important work.

Original signed by

Monica Neitzert

Director

Lifelong Learning and Essential Skills Branch

Workforce Policy and Innovation Division

and:

Co-Chair, LBS Improvement and Expansion Steering Committee