



MEMORANDUM TO: Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Service Providers and Support Organizations including Regional Networks

FROM: Jen Liptrot
Director, Programs Branch
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

DATE: October 23, 2015

SUBJECT: Announcement of the LBS Program Evaluation

OBJECTIVE

The Ministry is undertaking an evaluation of the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Program, and requests that LBS service providers and support organizations participate in the upcoming evaluation consultations.

BACKGROUND

Over the past few years, a number of changes have been made to the LBS program, including the implementation of the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF), the introduction of the Performance Management System, and further development of distance literacy training (e-Channel).

The intent of the LBS Program evaluation is to better understand the effects that these changes have had on program delivery and learner's program experience and outcomes. In particular, the objectives of the evaluation include:

- Determining the extent to which the OALCF has been implemented and its role in supporting program development and delivery;
- Examining implementation and efficacy of the LBS Performance Management System;
- Exploring the role of the e-Channel distance training;
- Learning about best practices and innovative approaches applied in the field to align essential skills training with the needs of learners and labour market; and,
- Examining long-term program participation benefits for various socio-demographic groups of learners.

In accordance with the ministry's procurement process, an independent evaluation firm, Cathexis Consulting Inc., has been selected to conduct the evaluation.

The evaluation will employ a multiple lines of evidence approach, including the following evaluation consultations:

- key informant interviews with service providers and support organizations;
- survey of LBS service providers;
- observation visits to service provider sites; and,
- learner survey and discussion groups.

NEXT STEPS

The ministry requests that all LBS service providers and support organizations including regional networks participate in the upcoming evaluation consultations.

Beginning next month, Cathexis will contact your organization to request participation in key informant interviews and/or a survey. While participation is voluntary, your input is critical for the evaluation.

Your responses will remain confidential and it will not be attributed to any individual or organization in any reports that result from this study. The information that you provide will be used for the sole purpose of the evaluation and will in no way affect your funding and relationship between your organization and the ministry in the future.

The ministry will provide updates throughout the evaluation process on the Employment Ontario Partners Gateway website.

If you require additional information please contact Liliya Volovik, Program Evaluation Team Lead, at Liliya.Volovik@ontario.ca or (416) 212-5534.

Thank you in advance for supporting this very important evaluation.