

BRIEFING NOTES

To: Byron James, Deputy Minister
Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Province of New Brunswick

Background

In July 2009, PETL provided a contribution of \$25,000 to the eight-month Adult Learning Network (ALN) initiative led by the Faculty of Education of the University of New Brunswick. This amount was matched by the Canadian Council on Learning. The initiative pursues the vision of the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre (AdLKC) and ensures the opportunity to develop a bilingual pan-Canadian adult learning and lifelong learning forum.

Organizational Overview

The Director, Danielle Charron, began work on August 17, 2009. The first task was to develop a governance structure for the initiative. The structure is composed of a Network Committee (25 members), an Executive Committee (7 members) and ad hoc committees created as required. A website was launched in October (www.aln-raa.ca) to present the structure, membership, activities and news related to the network. Special attention is given to ensure that the work and activities are presented in the two official languages. Since September, monthly meetings using teleconferencing have taken place with members of the Network Committee while the Executive Committee meets weekly as needed. The meeting notes, in English and French, are posted on the website keeping all stakeholders informed of the progress.

Because of the shoestring budget, the expenses are minimal and partners' assistance is sought whenever possible. The teleconferences are organized by the Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français (FCAF) under a special Ontario program and the SNA has paid for transportation. The face to face strategic planning session of the Executive Committee was linked to other meetings thus greatly reducing ALN cost.

Sustaining the Network

The knowledge exchange activities of the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre have been maintained with adult learning partners. For example, the report on *The Roundtable on Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia May 12, 2009*, has been shared with a First Nations group of Quebec wanting to produce an overall picture of the situation inside and outside Quebec. The St. Thomas University posting of a new Director of Aboriginal Education Initiatives position is one of the outcomes of the roundtable.

Another example is the work with the Société nationale de l'Acadie (SNA). Danielle Charron participated to the organization of the September 2008 Moncton Literacy Forum and is a member of the new Literacy Commission (Commission acadienne et francophone pour l'alphabétisation en Atlantique – CAFAA) announced October 7, 2009. The CAFAA has received the CAMET

five-year literacy action plan of September 25 and will submit in the near future a working plan to the provincial authorities.

CONSULTATION PAPER: Long term initiative

The Executive Committee has submitted to the Network Committee members a consultation paper seeking partners' endorsement for the creation of a pan-Canadian lifelong learning network. Comments and ideas are being received. A final draft will be submitted to those attending the AdLKC June 2009 Symposium who supported the establishment of a new network of organizations and to provincial and territorial partners for endorsement. The strategy currently being considered is to present a proposal to provincial and territorial governmental officials and then seek the participation of the CMEC. A business plan supporting the concept of a Canadian Lifelong Learning Network is in the making.

Time frame

More than five months are left into the present financial agreement. Because the ALN is counting on volunteers, the schedule of events has to be adjusted on a daily basis according to the status of undertaken and finalized tasks. Very definite progress is being made towards the creation of a network endorsed by stakeholders from all parts of Canada.

Prepared by Danielle Charron, November 4, 2009.