



First Language/ESL Literacy Project

Re: Invitation to an ESL literacy On-line Discussion Forum

Start Date: Immediate

The Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) is in the final phases of its First Language/ESL literacy project, a project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The project's goal is to examine the literacy issues and challenges faced by adult immigrant Canadians, newcomers or settled, living in Ontario, whose first language is not English or French and ***who have limited literacy skills in their first language.***

A study was undertaken in March 2006 and a report was submitted in October 2006 which identified the literacy and language development needs of immigrants in the context of learning to become literate in the English language. A set of recommendations were proposed and in May of 2007, a group of delegates reviewed and analyzed those recommendations to come up with a more refined set of recommendations.

We are reaching out to the broader ESL community for additional input, and to demonstrate through your actions and interest, that ESL literacy is an important issue that deserves greater attention.

During our four thematic discussions, we'll be focusing our attention on recommendations as they concern future directions in program development, policy, research and training/certification of practitioners. Your participation is greatly appreciated and vital for the success of this project. It's an opportunity to build an ESL-literacy community of practice. Your role is to read postings, respond to them or just post your thoughts and ideas. To sign up, go to...

<http://alphacom.alphaplus.ca/alphacom/register.nsf/NewAcc?OpenForm>

Once signed up, go to... <http://alphacom.alphaplus.ca/home> , log in, search for the "ESL Literacy" forum and join the discussion by clicking the sign up icon in the upper left corner.

A summary report is available at <http://www.on.literacy.ca/action/bridge/bridge.pdf>. It will provide you with background information about the study, its findings and recommendations.

Please circulate this invitation to anyone in your organization that has an interest in ESL Literacy and who could contribute to this community of practice. Please note that participation is voluntary, that any information provided in this discussion forum will be used for the purposes of our study and that in our final report we will not make any direct reference to what you stated in the discussion forum.

The Ontario Literacy Coalition welcomes your input. If you have any questions or comments regarding this event, or the on-line discussion forum, please contact Sarah Bukhari at sarah@on.literacy.ca or Claude Lauzon at claudelauzon@ucl.ca.