

**Ontario Region LINC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 19, 2007**

1. LINC Literacy Report and Management Response to the Report:

- Management responses will eventually be sent to the Director General;
- Consensus was reached that there is a need for a dedicated PD day for LINC literacy instructors, ideally this would take place before the November TESL Ontario Conference.
- A recommendation was made that assessors attend the coordinators' forum for literacy assessment. Assessors can use the LINC literacy tool even if there are no literacy classes in order for literacy learners to be identified and classes to be established.

High Needs Management Response:

- The comments of the members of the High Needs Subcommittee have been incorporated into the management response to the High Needs Report.

2. Update on ELT: Elisete Bettencourt

- Programs are still being managed by NHQ. There are ongoing discussions regarding their transfer to the region.
- CIC is considering programs supports for ELT, such as a regional advisory committee, PD, and CMAS.
- At the November 2006 ELT Conference, three documents were released:
 - a service providers' guide to ELT provision;
 - an inventory of materials, which will be available electronically;
 - "From Vision to Action", contact information for conference attendees.
- The final Conference report will be available at the end of January, early February 2007. The recommendations are fairly broad and will be considered by the regions in order to develop concrete ideas.
- ELT formative evaluation is part of the Treasury Board requirement and is due in April 2007; it will focus on Halifax, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.
- CIC is co-funding 17 bridge-to-work programs with MCI.

3. ARS Reports:

LINC Assessment:

- Assessments need to be standardized for all assessment centres. PD will be required in order to establish uniformity.
- A CIC project officer meets with SPOs in his/her designated community to identify trends.

Multi-level Classes:

- Blended funding reduces the number of levels within multi-level classes.
- An itinerant instructor attached to a program can move between classes for specialized teaching.
- CALL assists in multi-level situations.
- Smaller student/teacher ratio is an alternative, as is home study.

4. CMAS representation on ORLAC and Childminders' sector report:

- ORLAC agrees that there should be a second childminder representative on ORLAC. Members are to get suggestions of names and rationale from their constituents and forward them to Sheila M. by the end of February.

5. LINC Materials:

- ORLAC recommended that the Alberta LINC Activities Workbooks be updated with generic Ontario material; e.g., Ontario driver's licence, provincial transportation regulations and references.
- The "Links to Learning" manual is to be reviewed for the March 30th meeting.

Strategic Plan for Settlement & Language Training from COIA:

- There has been movement on initiatives such as LINC 6 & 7, development of welcome centres and discrete literacy classes, enhancement of CALL and more programs for youth and seniors.
- ORLAC will discuss the COIA Strategic Plan for Settlement and Language Training document at its March 2007 meeting.
- Clarity on the school leaving age is necessary (it has now been changed to 18 from 16) regarding eligibility to attend LINC classes.

6. Sector Updates:

LINC Assessors:

- PD has been reinstated and will begin January 25th with a LINC Assessment Centre Coordinators' Forum to address issues and best practices. Some agenda items are: successes and challenges, marketing strategies, clients with special needs and ARS reporting.
- The Assessors' Conference on January 26th for Ontario Region LINC Assessors will have "New Dimensions/New LINC's" as its theme. Several LINC assessors from Alberta will attend. Topics to include: COIA update from MCI, CIC; CCLB update; skill building workshops; Ontario Bridging programs; clients with special needs; LINC 6 & 7.
- ELTPA: CIC NHQ commissioned a comparison study re: the use of ELT tools which was completed in December 2006. It is to be reviewed by the Director General.
- February 2007 is the deadline for the final recertification of many LINC assessors.
- Online CLB self-assessment will be completed by the end of March 2007:
 - Listening and reading tools are designed to advise learners of their language proficiency in terms of Benchmarks in English and French
 - The CLB on-line assessment includes support materials with CLB information, and links to sites for learners who can get information on accreditation requirements.

Colleges:

- There are a number of bridging programs with blended funding; e.g., engineering at Mohawk
- A few colleges have LINC 6 & 7; one focuses on specific skills.
- There are pre-bridging programs for CLB 6 & 7
- The CIITE (Colleges integrating immigrants to employment) project is ongoing with CAAT and CAAT II, and it will wrap up in April 2007.

TESL Ontario:

- MCI Minister Colle attended the TESL Ontario Conference in November 2006
- The restored LINC PD funding is much appreciated.

CIC Operations:

- The francophone LINC pilot project is running in four cities until March 31, 2007. These programs will have representatives at LINC meetings.

CESBA:

- The CESBA Conference was held during the first week of December 2006.
- MCI funded an ESL day to address best practices.
- Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education, has announced \$2 million for accessing adult learning opportunities.
- There are two new MTCU initiatives: “Opening Gates” and academic upgrading.