

**Ontario Region LINC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 23, 2005**

1. Update, CIC

- Elizabeth Gryte provided a brief update on funding for Ontario Region. A funding agreement has been reached between the Ontario Premier and the Prime Minister, contingent upon the completion of the supplementary estimates process in December 2005.
- The LINC program has moved from being funded every fiscal year to every two years. If funding becomes available in December 2005, ORLAC will need to move quickly with recommendations for spending the funds.
- The funding could be used to support the economic integration of immigrants, which would mean providing higher levels of LINC and occupation-specific language training.
- Retroactive pay increases of up to 2% have been built into the CIC agreements for staff currently in contract negotiations, pending ratification. Service Providers can only claim actuals until ratification; once the agreement is ratified, they can claim up to the contracted amount.
- Luc St-Amour will be the new National LINC lead at NHQ, starting October 3rd.

2. High Needs Project Update:

Howard Barton Associates presented their Project Status Report. The Project Reference Committee has met and the project is moving along well. The questionnaires were sent out to the LINC programs on September 22nd, and ORLAC will have a report the week of October 24th; this report will be presented at the October 25, 2005 ORLAC meeting.

3. Sub-Committee Report: Post LINC

- Most assessment centers are not providing assessments for ELT, and some providers have problems with the fee-for-service requirements. At present, tools to address higher ELT Benchmarks are not available to assessment centers.
- Two ELT tests are ready and waiting for approval of the ELT training proposal. The criteria for assessor access to training are under consideration.
- In order to address the needs of LINC graduates, inventory will be developed of all programs, support services and resources available, such as ELT, LBS, ESL, Bridging programs, Employment Resource Centres, etc.

4. ARS Reports

- A request was made for a number of ARS reports to be created and distributed to ORLAC members.

5. Summative Assessment Material (SAM) feedback

The first impression of the material is positive, but it is too early for more detailed comments. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Mohawk College, the Peel LINC Home Study program, OCISO, and the Halton Board of Education will identify instructors to determine the usefulness of SAM.

6. Sector Updates

TESL Ontario:

- TESL Canada has a new Executive Director, Louise Aerts. Carol May will be retiring in December. The TESL Canada office will continue to be based in Vancouver
- TESL Ontario's professional development magazine "*Contact*" has a new editor, Clayton Graves. Clayton is also the editor of TESL Toronto's newsletter

CESBA:

- A strategic planning meeting is being held in Toronto to discuss the Adult Education Review
- The CESBA Conference is December 6-7-8, with LBS Day on Dec. 6th. The main focus of the conference will be ESL delivery structure

OCASI:

- CISSA (Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance) is "working to ensure the full participation of immigrants and refugees in all aspects of Canadian society". The report will be distributed to ORLAC members

LINC Assessors:

- The Benchmarks 9 and 10 placement test is ready.. The Benchmarks 6 to 10 placement test, which will be completed in early November, could be used for ELT placement. The National ELT project for an online self-assessment tool for levels 3 plus to 10 will provide information on accreditation standards and will be available after March 2006.

Colleges:

- Jim Jones is the lead at Mohawk College for immigrant issues.

- There is an ongoing ELT project at Mohawk, with another one for nurses to be developed in 2005-06
- The CARE project integrates and prepares internationally trained nurses by means of tutorials and seminars

7. Other Business

- There will be an additional ORLAC meeting on Monday, December 12th.

8. Presentation on the Literacy Project by Jangles

- Mark Jacot and Jill Cummings from Jangles Productions provided a presentation with some interim results.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 28, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.