

**Ontario Region LINC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, September 29, 2006**

Ruby Puni, the current ORLAC co-chair, announced that she will be leaving for Ottawa to study French for a year prior to assuming other responsibilities for CIC. Her replacement has not been named.

LINC 6 & 7:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board was selected to develop LINC 6 & 7 Curriculum Guidelines through an RFP process. NHQ has been asked to oversee the development of a national placement grid to which the curriculum guidelines for the various levels can conform. Until the national grid has been developed, an interim grid is being used by assessment centres.

More LINC 6 & 7 classes will be opening up.

ELT Presentation:

Elisete Bettencourt's slide presentation focused on the ELT program designed to enable skilled immigrants to access the Canadian labour market.

National Network Report:

The National Network Report Group holds virtual meetings to discuss LINC across the nation. It is managing the TESL Canada Learners' Conference.

LINC Administrators' Conference

The LINC Administrators' Conference will be organized by Tridura Productions and held in Toronto.

Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement Consultations Update:

Marilyn Ziedenisberg, CIC, reported that Interquest Consulting was chosen to prepare for and manage consultations with newcomers, with a particular focus on youth, seniors and women, and with organizations, in order to identify the needs of these groups. A final report and executive summary will be out by mid-October.

Sector Updates:

TESL Ontario:

TESL Ontario has developed a Citizenship Curriculum with an Ontario focus for MCI. It is currently being field tested and will be used in language and citizenship classes.

An ESL Poster is promoting ESL week and the TESL Ontario Conference the week of November 13<sup>th</sup>.

TESL Ontario has been invited by the Ministry of Education to a second one-day consultation meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The first was to develop a comprehensive policy for ESL/ESD, and the second is to review a draft policy and discuss implementation in Ontario.

#### OCASI:

The funding has been restored for a five-day conference to be held at Geneva Park the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Colleges:

Early assessments were done for post-secondary students who now have a full course load. Some are at a CLB 4 -5 level and need ESL support.

Nancy reported on Phase II of the CIITE Project. Benchmarking of College programs is coming to an end and the results will be released in a final report form.

#### CESBA:

The annual conference will be held at the Courtyard Marriott, December 5 – 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### CIC Operations: Cliff

The Operations Unit has been restructured to create a fourth unit led by Margarita Boody. This Unit will provide corporate and other services to support the other three Units. It was created to respond to the increased demands resulting from the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement. This new unit will track and code budgets, do planning and statistical analysis.

#### CIC Programs:

Ruby

The LINC Coordinators' Forum will take place on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the CIC Settlement Directorate. The LINC Assessors Conference will be held on January 26, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel.

“Nurturing New Roots”, the Childminders' Conference as well as the TESL Ontario Conference will take place in November 2006.

Irena

New RFPs are being developed to request research on models of best practices across Canada for tutoring and language learning for seniors' programs. A survey of potential Home Study clients will be funded in order to plan for the expansion of that program.

LINC Assessors:

Copies of the "Canadian Language Benchmarks for Study and Work" were distributed.

E-learning:

An RFP will be developed to research and analyze online and distance education courses that are currently available within the field of second language training. The research gathered will provide information to CIC for future planning and development.

Other Business:

- A CCLB September highlights page was distributed, including a call for applications to join the CLB registry of experts, projects underway for 2006-2007, new downloadable resources and fall conferences and events with the participation of the CCLB.
- Barb will draft a letter to MCI requesting representation on ORLAC. It will be vetted by the Communications Standing Committee and signed by Barb and Ruby as Co-Chairs of ORLAC.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**The next meeting is Friday, November 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 130 Adelaide Street West, Suite 1500.**