

Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skills Development

Adult Language Training Program

TESL Ontario Conference

November 5, 2021

Presentation Overview

- Highlights of the past year
- COVID-19
 - Impact on Newcomers
 - Impact on Language Training
 - Considerations for Recovery from the Pandemic
- New Directions: Newcomer Settlement and Language Training Program

Highlights of the Past Year

- On April 30, 2021 government announced the **transition of immigrant services to the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD)** from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS):
 - Opportunity to re-integrate newcomer programming including settlement, language training, employment training as well as immigrant selection under the new Global Talent and Settlement Services Division at MLTSD.
- **COVID impacts:**
 - Disproportionate economic impact on newcomers, particularly women
 - Exacerbated employment needs for newcomers
 - Decrease in demand for language training services
- Released program framework for launch of a **call for proposals** for five-year funding open to all service providers for newcomer settlement and language training services:
 1. integrated settlement and language programming
 2. expanded employment related programming to support economic recovery

Settlement Programs At-a-Glance

Newcomer Settlement

Information, orientation and referral services to help newcomers start their lives in Ontario and integrate successfully.

~ 80,000 annual clients

Language Training

Language assessment and training to help adult immigrants gain the language skills they need to live and work in Ontario.

~ 70,000 annual clients

Bridge Training

Occupation-specific training, licensure preparation and employment supports to help skilled immigrants obtain employment in their field

~7,500 annual clients

Newcomer Employment & Training Initiative

New, one-year initiative to support newcomers in the recovery process. Develops tools, resources, and training to help newcomers enter or re-enter the labour market.

Language Interpreter Services

24/7 language interpreter services to help victims of domestic or sexual violence with language barriers access community, healthcare, and legal services.

~ 10,000 annual clients

Global Experience Ontario

Ontario government information service that helps newcomers navigate licensure and registration processes in non-health regulated professions and trades.

COVID-19 Impacts on Newcomers

Economic Impacts:

- Immigrants are disproportionately represented in jobs with greater exposure to COVID-19: 34% of front-line/essential service workers identify as visible minorities (compared with 21% in other sectors). Newcomers have been impacted by COVID-related job losses – both temporary and potentially permanent.
- The unemployment rate of immigrants who landed 5-10 years earlier increased from 5.7% in 2019 to 10.4% in 2020, compared to 6.7% unemployment for the Canadian born.

Health Impacts:

- Immigrants, refugees and other newcomers, made up 27.6% of all COVID-19 cases in Ontario as of end September 2021. This is a decrease in rate (28.5%) since end August 2021.
- Hospitalization and death rates are higher (four and two times respectively) among individuals living in most diverse neighbourhoods compared with least diverse neighbourhoods
- Service providers report that newcomers have expressed increased mental health issues during the pandemic.

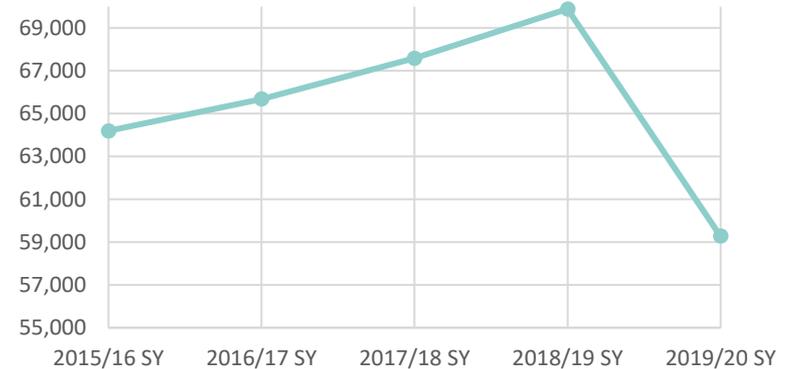
COVID-19 Impacts on Language Training

Impact on Program

Over the past year we have noted that:

- Fewer immigrant arrivals
- Decrease in number of language assessments
- Decrease in number of language learners
- Increase in delivery of virtual language training

Number of Language Learners



Impact on Learners

- Learners with higher CLB levels have adapted quickly to the virtual method of delivery
- Literacy and lower-level learners experienced more difficulties with online classes
- Some learners also faced challenges due to digital literacy issues or access to technology
- With re-opening of schools and delivery of in-person classes:
 - Learners with lower language and digital skills most likely to return to in-person classes.
 - Many higher-level language learners prefer to remain online.

Call for Proposals Features

Program Objective – Support newcomers’ social and economic integration

Settlement and Orientation

- **Settlement services:** assessment, information, orientation and referral services
- **Labour market orientation:** employment readiness, career planning and support for foreign qualification recognition

New

Language

- **Language assessment:** language proficiency assessment and referrals
- **Core language training:** English and French language instruction
- **Workplace language and skills training:** occupation and employment related language training

New

Key Changes

- **Enhanced service scope** to improve newcomer employment outcomes
- **Integrated and streamlined funding approach.** One program with two funding streams. All funding awarded through a competitive process on a **5-year fiscal cycle.**
- **Expanded service delivery network.** All eligible applicants can apply to deliver the mix of services under both funding streams.

Thank you
Questions?