



Renewed Adult Learning Literacy and Essential Skills Program

Fact Sheet

At present, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has **three adult learning and literacy grants and contributions programs** that provide funding to organizations to facilitate Canadians' access to literacy services.

They are:

- The Learning Initiatives Program (LIP);**
- The Office of Learning Technologies (OLT);** and
- The National Literacy Program (NLP).**

Collectively, these three programs have been highly successful in increasing awareness around adult learning and literacy issues, enhancing access to literacy training and building the partnerships and networks that are critical to attaining adult learning and literacy goals.

In 2004-05, the three adult learning grants and contributions programs supported:

- 230 projects to support service delivery for persons lacking literacy skills;
- 12 projects to support access to family literacy in official language minority communities and to train 75 practitioners;
- 25 projects to support workplace literacy initiatives;
- assistance to Canadian communities to develop 40 new Community Learning Networks;
- the implementation of two Learner Support Centres to help identify ways to address non-financial support to adult learning; and
- seven projects to enhance the national understanding, practice and acquisition of essential skills.

While the three adult learning and literacy programs carry out similar functions (e.g. promotion and public awareness, information sharing and coordination, and applied research), each program emphasizes different key activities:

LIP

Learning Initiatives Program

Key Activity

To support HRSDC's interest in promoting a lifelong learning culture in Canada and more specifically, to encourage and support partnership initiatives that will contribute to the development of a more results oriented, accessible, relevant and accountable learning system.

OLT

Office of Learning Technologies

Key Activity

The key activity is Community Learning Networks (CLN). CLNs are community-led approaches to encouraging lifelong learning, aimed at furthering social and economic development and supported by Internet-based computer networks.

NLP

National Literacy Program

Key Activity

The NLP supports the development of learning materials, coordination and information sharing, outreach, public awareness and research.

While evaluations of these programs have been positive, they have suggested that programs should place greater emphasis on targeting particular groups, understanding and disseminating information on best practices and lessons learned, and develop a more strategic approach. In addition, the report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities also made recommendations along the above lines.

As an early contribution to the comprehensive strategy on adult learning, literacy and essential skills, HRSDC is currently realigning the three adult learning and literacy programs into a single program. This program will be more coherent, and will continue to focus on areas of federal responsibility and build on past successes.

In the continued recognition of the importance of addressing the adult learning, literacy and essential skills needs of Canadians, the Government of Canada committed an additional \$30M over three years to literacy programming in Budget 2005.