

2011-2012



Huron Perth

Literacy Service Plan



## Acknowledgements

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## Literacy and Basic Skills in Huron and Perth Counties

There are sixteen regional learning network areas across the province of Ontario. Each of these areas has local geographic, community and economic impacts to consider when planning for future literacy service. While the functions of all literacy programs and networks are the same, the manner in which these agencies address local needs differs from region to region.

The plan for literacy service is a result of considering local trends, impacts, gaps and needs. Capacity of the Literacy and Basic Skills program to deliver is taken into consideration as there has been no increase in funding in the last 12 years and costs for delivery have increased. The following section provides details not only on the makeup of the community, but also on the variety of literacy services provided and highlights of some of the key pieces of information that shaped the planning of local delivery.

## Snapshot of Activity in Huron and Perth Counties

In the 2009-2010 fiscal year programs received Budget Initiative Funding that allowed them to increase the delivery of LBS programming. In particular, they served **123 more clients, a 15% increase** in delivery over 2008-2009. Also, they provided **52,614 Student Contact Hours (SCH), a 12% increase over the previous year.**

With eminent funding cuts, there will be gaps in delivery. There will be a 48% or more reduction in the number of clients served and Student Contact Hours delivered in a region where 59% of the population over the age of 15 do not have a high school diploma or equivalent. Programs will not have the staffing contingent to deliver a quality LBS program. They will not have the funding to provide the technology to access E-Channel literacy programs. This region will definitely need to put clients on wait lists if funding is cut.



## Highlights of Delivery in the QUILL Region

Literacy programs in Bruce, Grey, Huron, Perth and Northwest Simcoe prepared this Literacy Service Plan for 2011-2012. In doing so, we compared the services delivered in 2007-2008, when programs only had core funding, to 2009-2010, where they received additional funding at the beginning of the fiscal year. We also reviewed midyear stats for the years 2009 and 2010.

### Highlights for year ending March 31, 2010:

- 2457 learners served, a 46% increase over 2008
- 205,910 student contact hours delivered, a 20% increase over 2008
- 115% of student contact hours, as per MTCU contracts
- 126% of learners were served, as per MTCU contracts
- 72% of learners exiting LBS programs were working or engaged in further training and education
- learners served include laid off workers, Second Career candidates, youth, employed workers, as well as Ontario Works and Employment Insurance recipients
- additional funding allowed LBS programs to
  - o increase hours of delivery
  - o offer focused workshops e.g. college delivered writing and math programs to assist Second Career clients for post secondary
  - o reach out to the community and build new partnerships, e.g. program on Saugeen reserve is working with health services to reach more clients
  - o update technology and equipment
  - o provide professional development opportunities, and in particular Bridges Out of Poverty training was made available for most of the programs in the QUILL region along with stakeholders such as the United Way, Children's Alliance, school boards, Employment Services and Ontario Works staff
  - o hire more staff

## Highlights for midyear, September 30, 2010:

- 79% of learners have been served
- 41% of the student contact hours have been met
- programs are on track to exceed the number of learners contracted by MTCU and to meet or exceed the number of student contact hours

### **Additional Funding**

Additional funding has benefited residents of the QUILL region. It ensures that the workers of tomorrow have the skills needed to work and compete in the job market. Continued funding will provide LBS programs with the opportunity to support a viable and prosperous Ontario.

### **Outcomes (should core funding return to 1998 levels):**

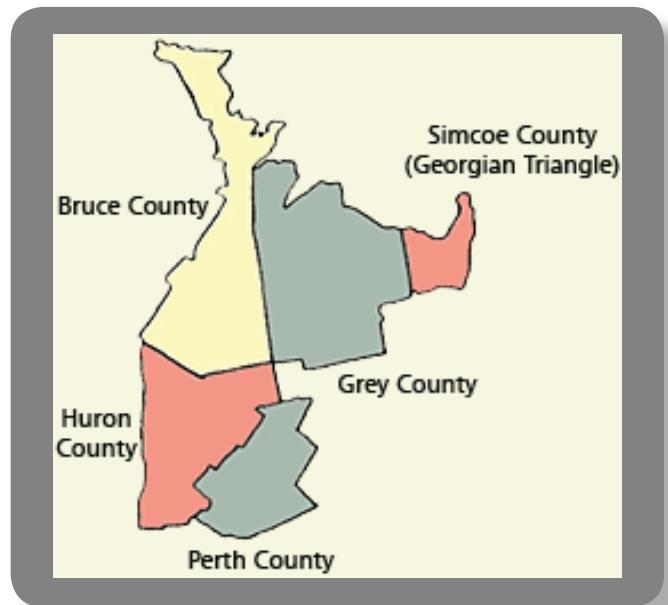
Programs will need to:

- o lay off staff, more staff than they hired because they will need to continue to pay wages at new rates
- o decrease involvement in community partnership opportunities e.g. Targeted Initiatives for Older Workers (TIOW), youth,
- o eliminate delivery of evening and weekend classes
- o anticipate over-crowded classrooms with long waitlists

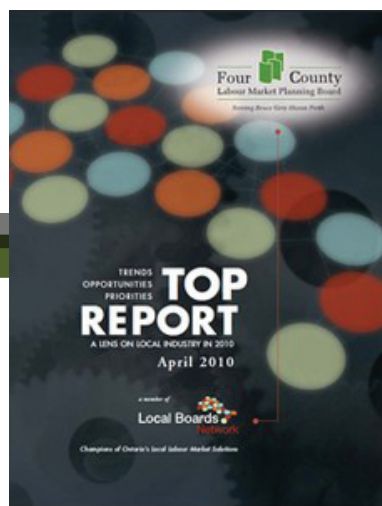
Programs have worked very hard over the years to build community partnerships and collaborate on delivery. If funding is returned to 1998 rates, the Employment Ontario program will suffer with the LBS program's inability to provide the immediate services for the clients who are looking to upgrade their skills. Programs will not have the capacity to implement the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum and Employment Ontario Information System (EOIS), which is a concern to program managers.

## Environmental Scan

Huron and Perth counties are situated in the middle of southwestern Ontario and are part of the rural heartland. These counties are scattered with small towns and communities surrounded by agricultural land. There is one city in the area, Stratford, which is part of Perth County. LBS programs serve this region by providing programs in a number of towns and communities and adapting delivery to suit the needs of rural Ontario.



Perth County is served by two LBS providers, Conestoga College and St. Marys Adult Learning Program. Huron County is served by one provider, Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB). LBS programs are active in the community sitting on a number of committees and attending service planning with Four County Labour Market Planning Board - TOP Report consultation; Huron Network; CESBA; Partners in Resources for Employment in Perth County (PREP); Human Resources Assoc.; Chambers of Commerce and United Way in order to ensure that they are meeting the needs of residents. The counties' demographics will be dealt with individually although they are served by one Literacy Service Planning Committee.



## Huron County

Stats Canada information on Educational attainment for Huron County is found in the following table. This clearly shows that 59% of the population over the age of 15 do not have any type of post secondary certificate, diploma or degree. The AMDSB program has continually served more clients, 200% more, than required in their contract with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities for the past 10 years. Clients enter programs because they recognize they do not have the credentials needed to gain employment or be promoted in the workplace.

Stats Canada Community Profile Information <sup>1</sup>	Huron County Health Unit (HR)			Percentage of the Population
	Total	Male	Female	
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Total population 15 years and over	47,580	23,385	24,195	
No certificate, diploma or degree	14,970	8,265	6,700	31% more males without a certificate, diploma or degree
High school certificate or equivalent	13,250	5,990	7,265	27% more females with a high school certificate
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	4,965	3,295	1,670	10%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	9,530	3,635	5,890	20%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	1,090	490	605	2%
University certificate, diploma or degree	3,770	1,710	2,060	7%

The Labour Market picture has fluctuated in Huron County in the past two years as the recession struck this area. From December 2008 to June 2009, Huron County saw a loss of 75 employers across all employee size ranges.<sup>2</sup> This stat was recorded just as the recession hit. Factories and business continued to close and downsize throughout 2009 and 2010. There is still a chance that more downsizing will occur as small businesses serving large companies close because their services are no longer needed, e.g. security, custodial.

<sup>1</sup>Stats Canada website, Community Profile, Huron County

<sup>2</sup>Four County Labour Market Planning Board, TOP Report, A Lens on Local Industry in 2010, April 2010 pg 32.

The Labour Market Monitor, October 2010 depicted that overall, the QUILL region has the lowest unemployment rate in Ontario. “In the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula economic region, employment increased by 1,100 from October 2009 to October 2010. Full-time job increases (+4,500) were mostly offset by losses in part-time employment (-3,300). Even though the working-age population was relatively unchanged, there were fewer people looking for work and the labour force decreased by 4,400. The number of unemployed people fell by 5,500 from October 2009 to October 2010. As a result, the unemployment rate declined 3.2 percentage points from 7.5% to 4.3% the lowest unemployment rate among all eleven economic regions in Ontario. Over this same period, the provincial unemployment rate fell from 8.9% to 8.6%.”<sup>3</sup> This statement comes at the end of the tourist season.

The reality is that many people get seasonal work in the summer as tourists come to Ontario’s West Coast. These seasonal workers then collect Employment Insurance (EI) or receive Ontario Works in the off season. In November 2008, Ontario Works had 408 people on its caseload. The caseload increased to as high as 554 in March 2010. In August 2010, the caseload stood at 495 people. Many people who have been laid off use all of their Employment Insurance benefits and then turn to Ontario Works for financial support. Although the overall unemployment rate in Huron County has almost returned to pre recession levels of 3-4% throughout the summer tourist season, it almost doubles that percentage throughout the winter.

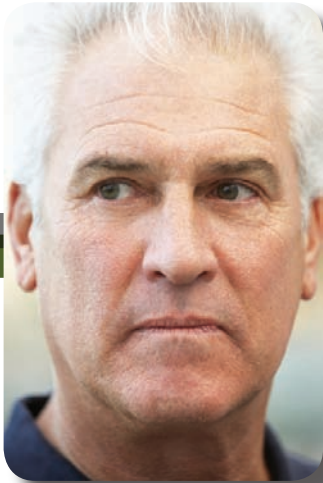
The report, State of the Huron County Economy, Towards Sustainable Economic Renewal, September 2010 states the following. You can find the full report at:

<http://www.huroncounty.ca/econdev/>

- Clearly, Huron County’s job market has rebounded from the recession of 2008/09 with substantial growth in job opportunities and people finding employment; however, several longer term workforce issues remain;
- **With most new jobs requiring at least a post-secondary education, the high degree (59%) of Huron’s workforce without a certificate or degree remains a critical issue affecting how our residents will make a living in the future;**

<sup>3</sup> HRSDC, *Labour Market Monitor, October 2010*

- Likewise, many of the jobs lost during the recent recession affected an older workforce (55-65 years) – interventions are required to ensure continued employment for these individuals;
- While sales and service jobs continue to offer significant job opportunities in Huron, the greatest growth in job opportunities is occurring for specialty trades, transportation equipment operators and professional, scientific and technical service positions;
- On the other hand, job opportunities appear to be shrinking for agriculture, particularly for crop & animal production as a result of long-term market stress in those commodities;
- In the long-run, demographic trends in Huron County continue to point to a deepening labour shortage based on an aging workforce and a lack of new labour market entrants;
- Further efforts to enhance the supply of labour in Huron County will need to emphasize increased engagement of youth, **educational and vocational upgrading of recently unemployed workers and the existing workforce**, and enhanced recruitment efforts by employers, including tapping into the region’s immigration potential



The Human Resources Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Labour Market Monitor, October 2010 states, “Bruce Power announced plans to hire 200 to 250 employees per year to replace retired workers. It will increase its workforce for the restart of Units 1 and 2 nuclear reactors. Persons in the skills trade and professional occupations will be included in the new hires. Bruce Power is Canada’s first private nuclear generating company.” Although, Bruce Power is outside of Huron County it draws employees from all over southwestern Ontario. People in this rural area are accustomed to travelling to work and will definitely benefit from this increase in staff at Bruce Power. The Four County Labour Market Planning Board stated in their April 2010 TOP Report that “there is a higher proportion of apprenticeship or trades certificates and of college and other non-university certificates obtained in Huron County than in Ontario.” The labour market will probably begin to shift as more experienced workers gain employment, leaving their positions for new hires. This announcement could benefit the economy in Huron County. The replacement workforce will need higher levels of skill to move into positions that have been vacated, as noted by the Four County Labour Market Planning Board TOP Report, April 2010.

Literacy programs are needed to ensure the 59% of Huron County residents who don’t have a high school diploma or equivalent, have the opportunity to upgrade their skills to gain employment or to further their training and education.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> *The State of the Huron County Economy 2010, Towards Sustainable Economic Renewal, September 2010 -pg. 15*

## Perth County

The educational attainment for the residents in Perth County is different than Huron. There are a large number of Mennonites residing in Perth County, some still speak in their native language, Low German, and attend English as a Second Language classes provided by Avon Maitland District School Board. Stats Canada Community Profile shows that 59% of the adults over the age of 15 do not have a post secondary diploma or degree.

Stats Canada Community Profile Information <sup>5</sup>	Perth (CD)			Percentage of the Population
	Total	Male	Female	
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Total population 15 years and over	58,960	28,615	30,345	
No certificate, diploma or degree	17,915	9,110	8,805	30%
High school certificate or equivalent	17,120	7,715	9,405	29%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	5,205	3,595	1,610	8%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	11,495	4,840	6,655	19%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	1,310	585	720	2%
University certificate, diploma or degree	5,915	2,765	3,145	10%

The Labour Market picture changed in Perth County over the last two years. From December 2008 to June 2009, Perth County saw a loss of 24 employers across all employee size ranges.<sup>6</sup> This statistic was recorded just as the recession hit hardest. Some factories and businesses continued to close and downsize throughout 2009 and early 2010. More recently there has been an increase in the creation of new jobs.

<sup>5</sup> Stats Canada website, Community Profile, Perth County

<sup>6</sup> Four County Labour Market Planning Board, TOP Report, A Lens on Local Industry in 2010, April 2010 pg 33

The Labour Market Monitor stated that this region's unemployment rate dropped 3.4%. Dyna Mig Manufacturing in Stratford and Erie Meats in Listowel are looking to increase their workforce by 200 and 400 employees, respectively. Employment Service providers report that people are finding jobs and only the hard-to-serve clients are having difficulty. Hard-to-serve clients are those that are under the age of 30, do not have a high school diploma and have not been able to hold a job for more than 3 months. AMDSB received funding to help these clients gain employment or return to education/training opportunities. Clients with lower literacy skills will be referred to LBS programs for extensive remediation.

Recently, Perth County, Town of St. Marys and the City of Stratford, with funding from MTCU, retained Miller Dickinson Blais, Inc to prepare a Labour Market Analysis report of the region. The full report can be found at <http://www.perthcounty.ca/bre>

Key findings and summaries are as follows:

### Community Demographics and Households

- The region is experiencing modest population growth. The City of Stratford accounts for much of this growth.
- Perth County's population is younger on average than Stratford and St. Marys.
- As compared to the province and southwestern Ontario, the region has a lower percentage of households earning an annual income greater than \$100,000. Communities in the region have lower median and average incomes than the province. Disposable income impacts the region's capacity for more retail and personal services businesses.
- The region is not attracting immigrants compared to southwestern Ontario and Ontario. In fact, the visible minority population in the region is actually declining. Given that immigration is the primary source of population and labour force growth in Canada, this will have implications for the region's future labour force.

## Labour Force

- The region experiences higher participation rates and lower unemployment rates than southwestern Ontario and Ontario suggesting the region has more successfully weathered the recent economic recession.
- There is a high proportion of residents in the region working in the region (low commuter out flow of labour) creating opportunities for resident, and consequently worker, skills development programs.
- On an occupational level, the region has proportionately more people working in occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities; primary industry (agriculture); and trades, transport and equipment and related occupations. Conversely, the region has proportionally fewer people working in occupations in social science, education, government service and religion; natural and applied sciences and related occupations; business, finance and administration; and management.
- The region has a much lower percentage of the population working in the creative class and much higher percentage of the population in the working class and agricultural class. The majority of the recent labour force growth has been driven by the service class. This reality puts the region at a disadvantage in attracting and developing the creative industries that are predicted to lead economic growth and wealth generation in Ontario.
- The manufacturing sector is the largest employer in the region with double the employees of the next largest employing industry, retail trade. Employment growth, however, is being led by real estate and rental and leasing; wholesale trade; health care and social assistance and construction.
- Typical wage rates for electrical and millwright trades range from \$21.12 to \$34.44 per hour. Wage rates for occupations in processing and manufacturing range from \$21.64 to \$28.54 per hour for a Lead Hand/Line Set Up to \$14.14 to \$17.67 per hour for an entry level production job.
- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities funds training initiatives in the region such as the Technical Training Group (e.g. Welding apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship plumbing and electrical courses) and Conestoga College satellite campuses(e.g. Displaced worker job finding skills). In addition, post-secondary education programs have been developed for theatre trades and culinary trades.

## Education

- The **region has comparatively low levels of educational achievement** as measured by the percentage of the population that has attained some form of post-secondary education. However, the region performs well with respect to percentage of the population with an apprenticeship or college diploma.
- The proximity to several colleges and universities in the broader region facilitates both the local populations' access to education as well as the region's ability to attract skilled workers.
- The region has a comparatively high rate of workers with education in architecture, engineering and related technologies as well as health, parks, recreation and fitness.
- There are also unique trades training opportunities in theatre and the performing arts and culinary industries.

## Recent Economic Activity

- The region has recently attracted the University of Waterloo's Stratford Institute for Digital Media.
- Erie Meats has re-commissioned the former Campbell's Soup plant in Listowel for full production.
- RBC Financial is developing a data centre in Stratford.
- While the largest number of business establishments are in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; construction; and retail trade; the industries with the fastest growth in establishments are educational services; finance and insurance; and information and cultural industries.
- Provincially, the automotive parts manufacturing and assembly sector has been hard hit with layoffs, closures and over capacity. Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County have not been spared from these sector trends.
- Small business is important to the regional economy. Of the businesses with employees, 50.3% have 1-4 employees and 22.7% have 5-9 employees. The remaining 26.9% of business establishments have more than 10 employees.

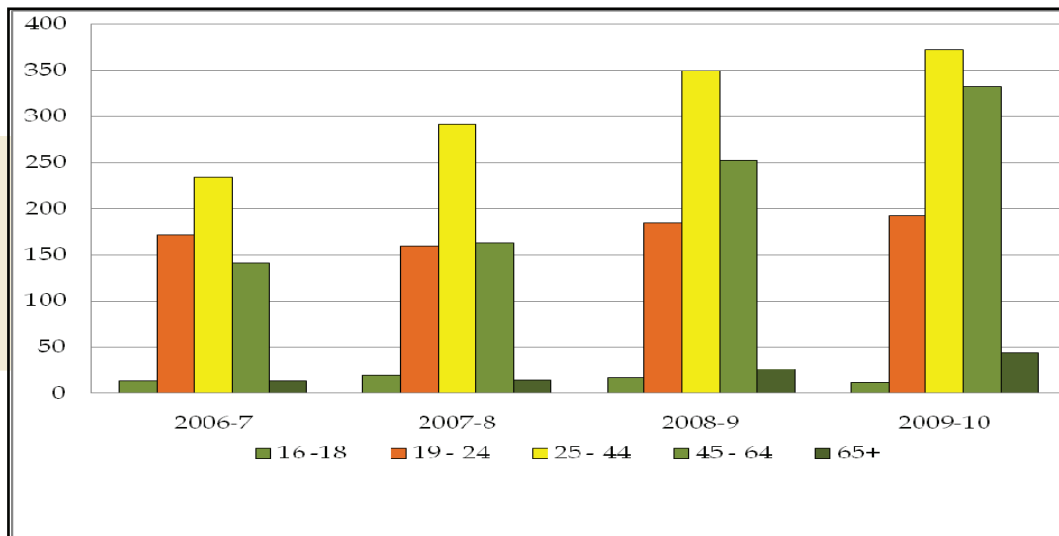
Literacy programs are needed in both Huron and Perth counties to assist with the improvement of skills of the near 59% of the population over the age of 15 that has a high school diploma or less. With manufacturing and businesses slowly rebounding after the recession, the region needs an educated workforce that can meet the labour market demands. LBS programs have the expertise to support residents in building skills for employment or training/education.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> *County of Perth, Town of St. Marys and City of Stratford Labour Market Analysis Study pgs 36 - 38*

# Highlights and Results - Literacy Service Plan - 2009-2010

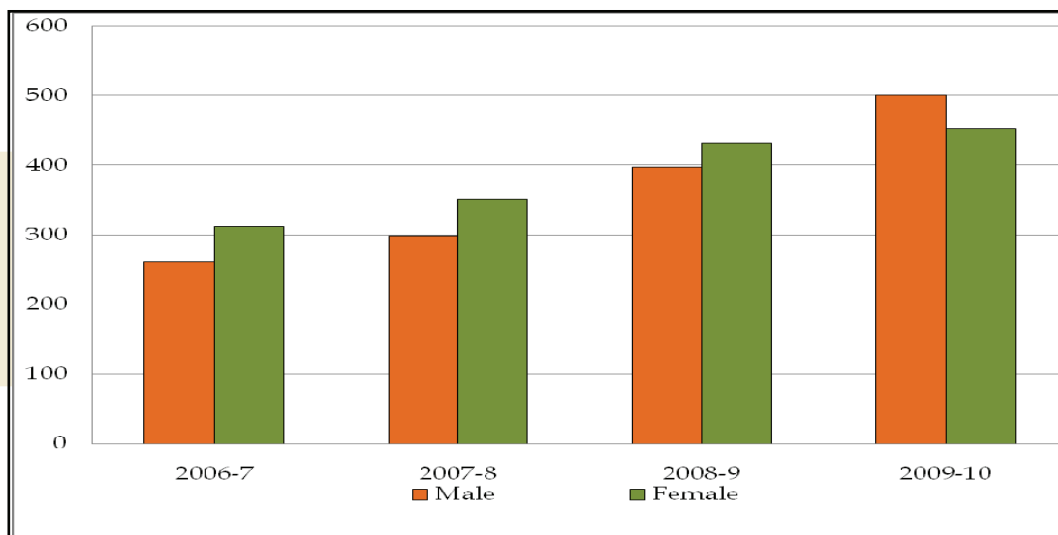
## Age of Learners

Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) programs deliver to the entire population over 19 years of age. A very limited number of students aged 16-18 are permitted into the program. There has been a consistent increase in the number of adults aged 25-44 entering LBS along with a marked increase in adults aged 45-64. These increases could be attributed to the plant closures in the counties.



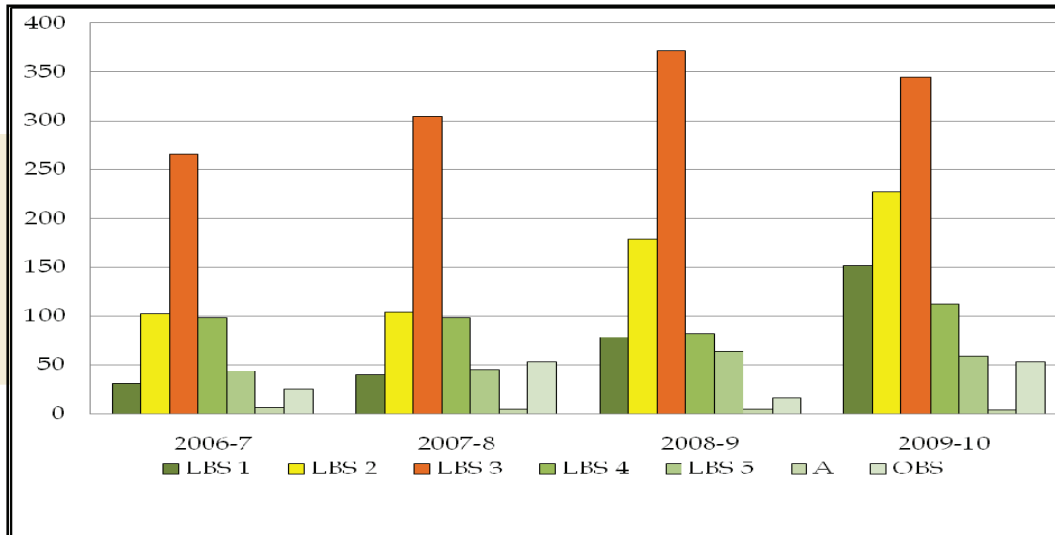
## Gender of Learners

For the first time in four years there are more men joining the LBS program. The recession has forced more men into programs to improve their skills to re-enter the workforce with the skills needed in new jobs.



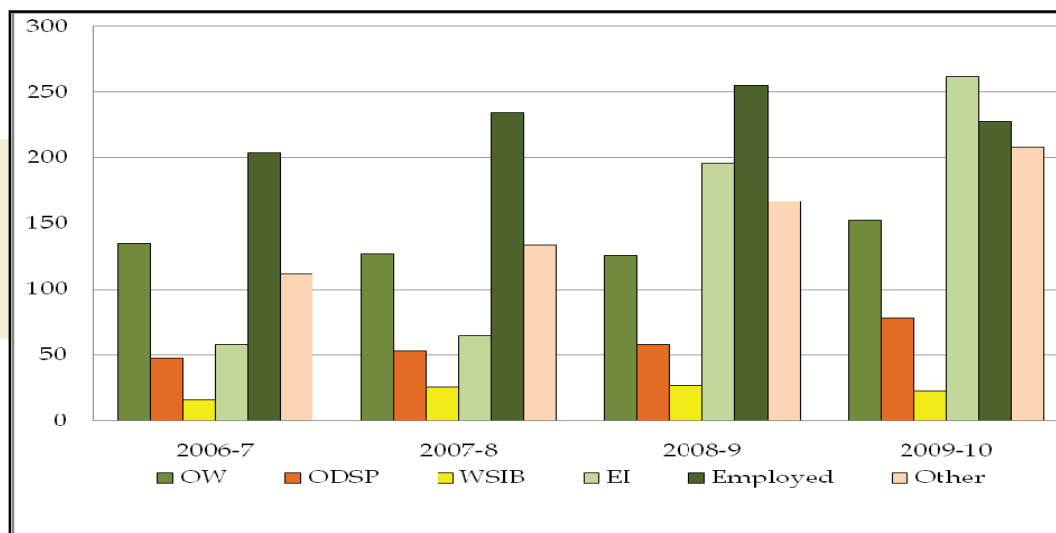
## Learners by Literacy Level

This chart shows an increase in all LBS Levels except for Level 3. The OBS/Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) program rose over the previous year. This is attributed to the increase in applicants preparing for the Second Career Strategy. The increase in learners in Level 1 and 2 could be credited to the domino effect that happens when plants close. Layoffs trickle throughout the community forcing people in the service sector out of work.



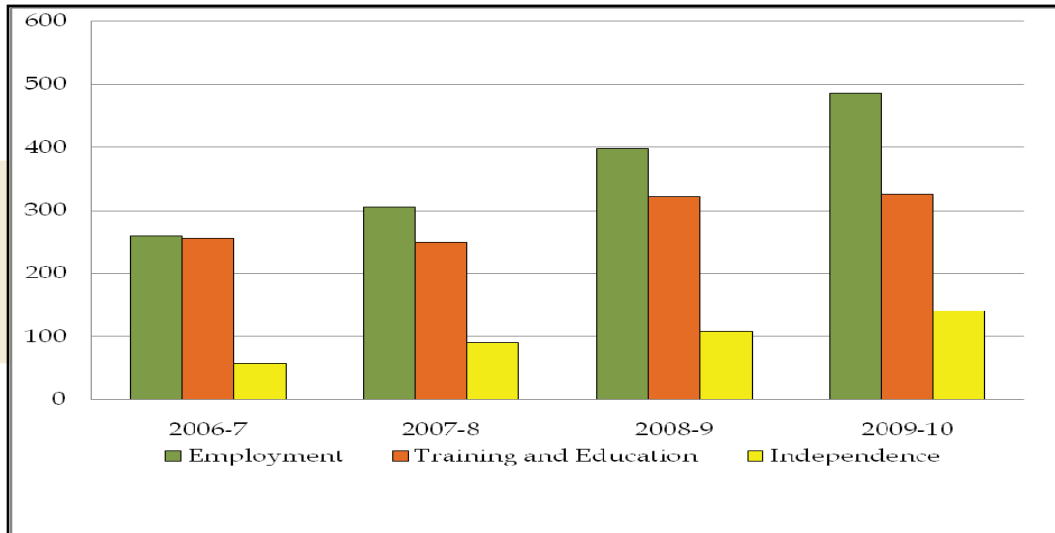
## Source of Income

The recession has definitely influenced LBS delivery in Huron and Perth. Many plant closures over the last two years have increased the number of clients on Employment Insurance (EI) accessing LBS programs. The trend of having the majority of students employed has reversed in this last year. The Employed students were high in 2008-9 as they may have been working while waiting for a plant closure to come into effect. The category of "Other" includes students who may still be living at home, have a spouse to support them, or receive income outside of the categories listed.



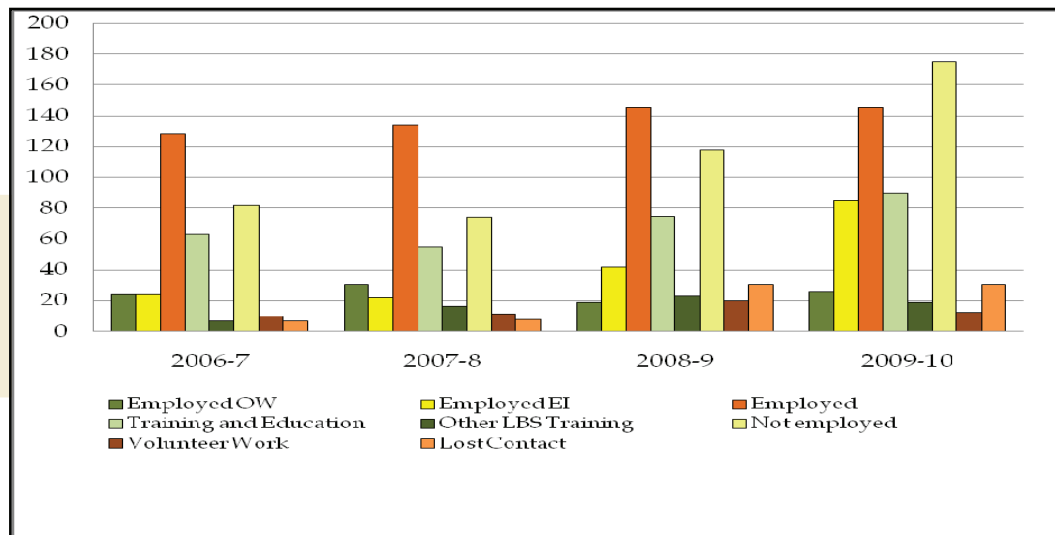
## Training Goals

Employment continues to be the main goal for students entering LBS programs. There was an increase of close to 100 students over the previous year.



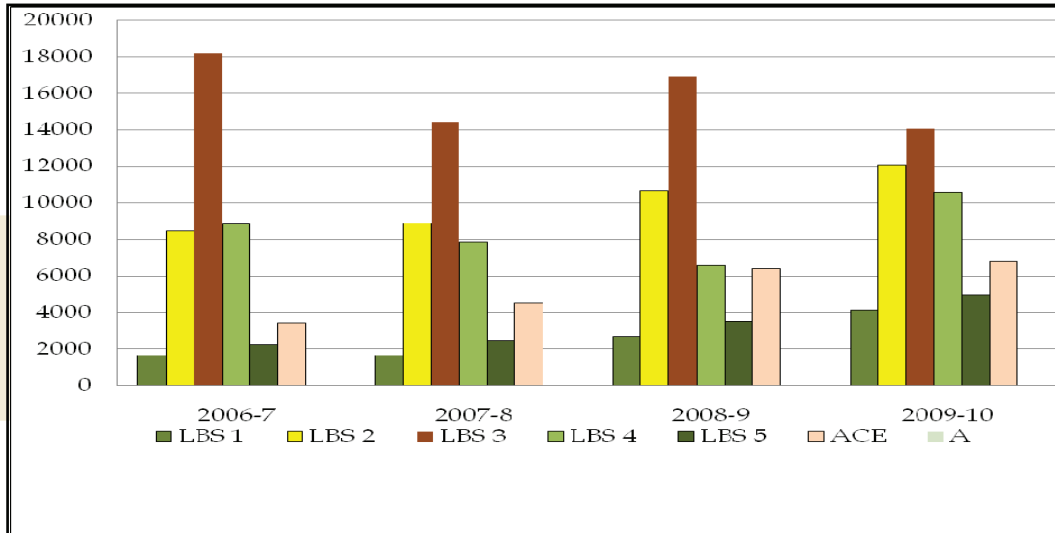
## Status at Exit

Upon exit 256 learners went to employment, another 109 went to further training and education. This chart shows that there were 175 people unemployed when they exited the program but that does not mean they were unemployable. Although the recession still influences the status at exit of our learners, many gain the skills needed to reach their goals and are waiting to start a job or enter their next phase of education/training.



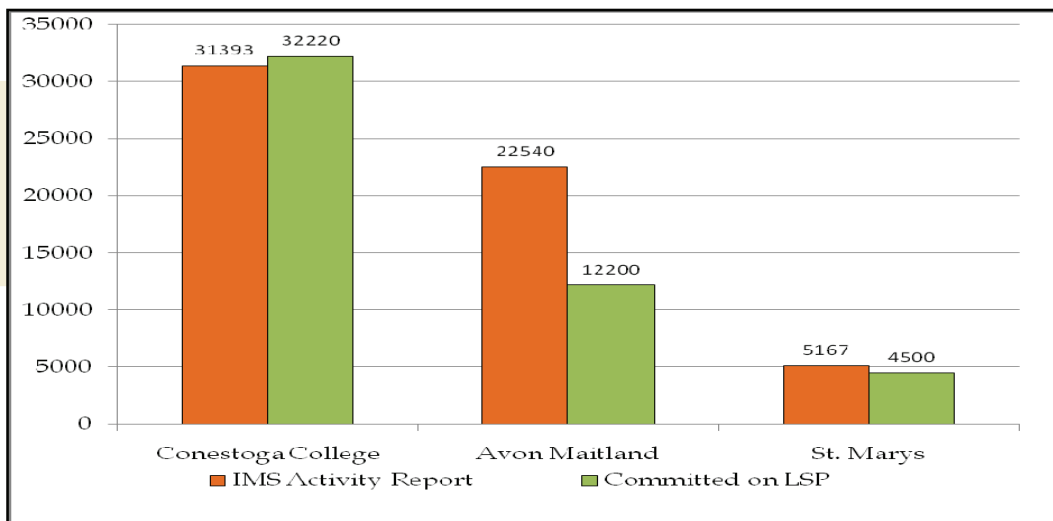
## Training Delivered

In the chart Learners by Literacy Levels we saw the same trend as we see here, more students being served in LBS 1, 2, 4 and 5 along with an increase of learners in the OBS or ACE.



## Comparison of Student Contact Hours

This chart shows how the LBS programs fared in delivery of SCH. The orange bar shows what they actually delivered throughout the year and the green bar shows what they committed to on the Literacy Service Plan. Conestoga was short by about 827 hours, which would equal one student working 25 hours a week for half the year. Avon Maitland DSB and St. Marys were over on the contact hours they delivered. Historically, Avon Maitland DSB has been over by this much on a regular basis for the last 5 years.



## Learner Satisfaction Survey Results for 2009 - 2010

When a learner leaves an LBS agency they are asked to complete a Learner Satisfaction Survey. They are asked about the progress they made, whether the learning activities were useful in working toward their goal; whether LBS staff explained the LBS program clearly; whether the hours of operation were convenient; whether they would tell someone else to come to the program and finally, they are asked to describe their overall satisfaction with the LBS program at the agency. Learners are given 5 options from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree" with an option to specify "No Answer" to all the questions.

### From April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010:

- 515 learners completed the survey
- 84% stated they made good progress towards their LBS goals
- 89% stated they found the learning activities useful to working towards their goals
- 93% stated the LBS staff explained the program clearly
- 95% agreed they were treated fairly
- 87% indicated that the agencies' hours were convenient for them
- 94% stated that would tell other people to participate in the LBS program

**93% of learners overall indicated they were satisfied with the LBS program at these agencies**



## Avon Maitland District School Board (5 locations)

The Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) is currently the sole provider of literacy and basic skills (LBS) training in Huron County and operates out of five Centres for Employment & Learning located in Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Seaforth and Wingham. All classes run on a continuous intake basis and provide learner-centered, flexible full or part time **literacy, basic and essential skills training** to learners at LBS Levels 1-5. Availability of computers and internet at all AMDSB sites promotes a flexible learning environment. Learners can participate in print and/or online learning activities based on the nine essential skills for work, learning and life – reading text, document use, writing, math, computer use, oral communications, thinking skills, continuous learning and working with others. Practitioners work closely with area workplaces to determine what specific skills are essential to local employment. In certain instances where a learner has a specific occupational goal, print and/or online learning activities are based on the essential skills identified as necessary for that job under the National Occupational Classification (NOC) Code.

The co-location of AMDSB LBS Programs with the Centres for Employment and Learning, where there is access to other Employment Ontario services, allows for unique networking opportunities, ease of referrals, and easy access by a variety of learners with employment and further training and education goals, as well as those with personal independence goals. During downturns in the economy, AMDSB also works with area Action Centres and Rapid Re-employment & Training Service to ensure job-threatened and laid-off (displaced) workers receive the training they need to find alternate employment. AMDSB also provides literacy support and essential skills training to the TIOW (Targeted Initiative for Older Workers) program currently running out of Huron County.

Since it is the only LBS provider in Huron County AMDSB can be sub-contracted by the St. Marys Adult Learning Program to deliver the Employment Track Express Program developed to offer a way for displaced workers to re-engage in learning. This 60-hour, 15/week training program helps displaced workers gain computer skills while learning about Essential Skills, the labour market, and how their individual skills compare to the types of jobs they are considering. Each worker takes a TOWES test so that they can plan realistically for their next career. Employment Track Express is an excellent gateway to Second Career Strategy.

AMDSB is also the Anglophone lead on MTCU's e-Channel Strategy Initiative. As such it offers online LBS and Essential Skills training to English speaking residents in Ontario who either want to supplement existing training, or are unable to access traditional classroom training due to barriers such as distance, transportation, childcare, personal schedule, personal preference, etc.

All AMDSB LBS sites have established strong relationships with a number of community partners, including: Ontario Works, Huron County Health Unit, WSIB, Conestoga Career Centre, Partners in Employment, Huron Business Development Corporation and more.

#### **Clinton - The Centre for Employment & Learning**

- flexible, part-time day program serving needs of rural community
- only small group LBS instruction in the Clinton area

#### **Exeter - The Centre for Employment & Learning**

- flexible, part-time program offered both days and evenings
- operates on a flexible schedule to accommodate the seasonal shifts in the area and community requests for specific programming
- only small group LBS instruction in Exeter area

#### **Goderich - The Centre for Employment & Learning**

- flexible part-time day program, evening hours by appointment
- only small group LBS instruction in Goderich area

#### **Seaforth - The Centre for Employment & Learning**

- flexible, part-time day program
- only small group LBS instruction in Seaforth area

#### **Wingham - The Centre for Employment & Learning**

- flexible, part-time day program with evening hours by appointment
- only small group LBS instruction in Wingham area

## Avon Maitland District School Board Projected Delivery for 2011-2012

Total number of learners served 200 - Total number of SCH - 12,000

<p>Continuing program - established, not new Emp - Employment</p> <p><b>The Centre for Employment &amp; Learning</b> 60 Mary Street Box 518 <b>Clinton, ON</b> N0M 1L0  519-482-1700 x 209</p>	<p>New program - new program for the coming year Ed/Tr - Education/Training</p> <p><b>SCH 1000</b> LBS Levels 1 to 5 Maximum capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 total learners</li> <li>• 8-10 at one time</li> </ul> <p>Small group</p>	<p>SCH - Student Contact Hours Ind - Independence</p> <p><b>Continuing program serving clients:</b> Employed Underemployed Unemployed/Displaced ODSP OW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• located in the Centre for Employment and Learning whose main function is to help people find employment.</li> <li>• high school 'early-leavers' who need to improve their education to get a job or advance within their current job</li> <li>• numeracy, communication, essential skills and basic computer skills to help clients meet individual and workplace goals</li> <li>• preparing clients for re-employment that requires a minimum of Grade 12 diploma or GED and training those who want to proceed to further education in order to train for more secure, long-term employment</li> <li>• Computer literacy to augment job skills, and aid in job search and job performance</li> </ul> <p><b>Program goals for learners:</b></p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Emp</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ed/Tr</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ind</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </table>	Emp	55%	Ed/Tr	35%	Ind	10%
Emp	55%							
Ed/Tr	35%							
Ind	10%							

<p><b>The Centre for Employment &amp; Learning</b>  349 Main Street  Box 173  Exeter, ON  N0M 1S6  519-235-0471 x 33</p>	<p><b>SCH 4,500</b>  LBS Levels 1 to 5  Maximum capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 total learners</li> <li>• 10-15 at one time</li> </ul> <p>Small group</p>	<p><b>Continuing program serving clients:</b>  Employed  Unemployed  Unemployed/Displaced  ODSP  OW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• literacy and numeracy skills that farm families and workers need (e.g. reading and understanding labels for chemicals/ feed mixtures, understanding memos and machinery manuals, understanding measurement, etc.)</li> <li>• high school 'early-leavers' who need to improve their education to get a job or advance within their current job</li> <li>• preparing clients for re-employment that requires a minimum of Grade 12 diploma or GED and training those who want to proceed to further education in order to train for more secure, long-term employment</li> <li>• upgrading in preparation for and as a result of TOWES testing</li> <li>• Computer literacy to augment job skills, and aid in job search and job performance</li> </ul> <p><b>Program goals for learners:</b>  Emp 60%  Ed/Tr 35%  Ind 5%</p>
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<p><b>The Centre for Employment &amp; Learning</b> 38 East St. <b>Goderich, ON</b> N7A 1N3 519-524-2515</p>	<p><b>SCH 3,000</b> LBS Levels 1 to 5 Maximum capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 total learners</li> <li>• 8-10 at one time</li> </ul> <p>Small group</p>	<p><b>Continuing program serving clients:</b> Employed Unemployed/Displaced Skilled Workers Underemployed ODSP OW clients WSIB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Goderich LBS program works closely with Employment Counsellors, WSIB and Vocational Counsellors to deliver programs that are geared toward the retail, mining and transportation business in the area.</li> <li>• employment/job specific content to increase learners' chance of finding employment in a selected job sector, gain acceptance into training programs or re-enter the workforce after an absence</li> <li>• high school 'early-leavers' who need to improve their education to get a job or advance within their current job available to them</li> <li>• preparing clients for re-employment that requires a minimum of Grade 12 diploma or GED and training those who want to proceed to further education in order to train for more secure, long-term employment</li> </ul> <p><b>Program goals for learners:</b> Emp 60% Ed/Tr 30% Ind 10%</p>
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<p><b>The Centre for Employment &amp; Learning</b>  138 Main Street S  <b>Seaforth, ON</b>  N0K 1W0  519-527-0305</p>	<p><b>SCH 1000</b>  LBS Levels 1 to 5  Maximum capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 total learners</li> <li>• 8 at one time</li> </ul> <p>Small group</p>	<p><b>Continuing program serving clients:</b>  Unemployed/Displaced  Underemployed  OW, EI &amp; ODSP  Employed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employment/job specific content to increase learners' chance of finding employment in a selected job sector, gain acceptance into training programs or re-enter the workforce after an absence</li> <li>• high school 'early-leavers' who need to improve their education to get a job or advance within their current job</li> <li>• preparing clients for re-employment that requires a minimum of Grade 12 diploma or GED and training those who want to proceed to further education in order to train for more secure, long-term employment</li> </ul> <p><b>Program goals for learners:</b>  Emp 60%  Ed/Tr 40%</p>
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<p><b>The Centre for Employment &amp; Learning</b>  152 Josephine St  <b>Wingham, ON</b>  N0G 2W0  519-357-4995 x21</p>	<p><b>SCH 2,500</b>  LBS Levels 1 to 5  Maximum capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 total learners</li> <li>• 12 at one time</li> </ul> <p>Small group</p>	<p><b>Continuing programs serving clients:</b>  Employed  Underemployed  Unemployed  ODSP  OW clients  WSIB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy, numeracy and essential skills to successfully compete for local jobs available to them</li> <li>• literacy and numeracy skills to pass pre-employment tests or education achievement tests available to them</li> <li>• high school 'early-leavers' who need to improve their education to get a job or advance within their current job available to them</li> <li>• preparing clients for re-employment that requires a minimum of Grade 12 diploma or GED and training those who want to proceed to further education in order to train for more secure, long-term employment</li> <li>• Computer literacy to augment job skills, and aid in job search and job performance</li> </ul> <p><b>Program goals for learners:</b>  Emp 55%  Ed/Tr 35%  Ind 10%</p>
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## Conestoga College – Stratford & Listowel

Conestoga College's **Stratford Campus** provides a flexible full time and part time program with day time and evening classes offering LBS levels 3-5 and Academic Upgrading (AU/ACE).

Conestoga College's **Listowel site** provides a flexible part time program during the day, offering LBS levels 3-5 and Academic Upgrading (AU/ACE).

Classes to upgrade academic and Essential Skills are offered on a continuous intake basis, are self directed, and are self paced within a group setting using a learner centered teaching approach. Shift workers are accommodated with individualized, flexible class schedules. Learner goals are determined on an individual basis and include upgrading for employment, trades and apprenticeships, college entry, GED testing, and personal independence. Subjects offered are communications, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, basic computer skills, and Essential Skills. Training support is available to assist students who qualify with their child care and travel expenses.

Essential Skills language related to Document Use, Reading Text, and Numeracy has been incorporated into each learner's individual training plan. As well, a project to make Essential Skills more transparent and explicit in demonstrations is continuing. A comprehensive Essential Skills curriculum has also been developed and is available as a separate learning path for students with the specific goal of Essential Skills upskilling.

On-site supportive adaptive technology and access to online learning options including ACE On-line/OntarioLearn, AlphaRoute, and the LearningHUB are available. The Stratford Campus also hosts an eLearning Centre where LBS/AU students have access to the eLearning Coordinator who can assist them with additional online learning needs.

St. Marys Adult Learning Program now provides classes two half days per week at the Stratford Campus, which expedites the referral and consultation process as well as offering an efficient use of shared resources. The Employment Track Express Program, a computer skills workshop developed to respond to the needs of displaced workers, is also offered periodically by the St. Marys Adult Learning Program at the Stratford Campus. Beginning in early November 2010, the St. Marys Adult Learning Program will co-locate with Conestoga College's Listowel site to offer LBS levels 1-2 two half days per week.

Conestoga College has established strong partnerships with community agencies including Ontario Works, WSIB, Probation and Parole, Partners in Employment, ShelterLink (for at-risk youth, co-located beside the College), and Stratford's Centre for Employment and Learning.

Conestoga's LBS/AU programs share the campus and resources with the Stratford Conestoga Career Centre. The Career Centre is open to the general public offering comprehensive employment and career development services, programs and resources. Providing the full service suite of the Employment Ontario Employment Services and related services and programs, the Career Centre has special expertise helping youth, potential apprentices, new Canadians, and those seeking additional education and training or needing help with their employment search.

LBS/AU and Employment Ontario Employment Services (EO ES) work collaboratively for the benefit of shared students/clients and have a strong reciprocal referral system in place. Full-time students can access all Career Centre resources and part time students can participate in five-day "Internet Job Search" workshops. This close working relationship with the Career Centre provides a seamless referral process, student-focused solutions, and convenient access for LBS/AU students with goals of employment, further training and education, increase personal independence, and Essential Skills upskilling.

A Site Manager has been assigned to the Stratford Campus with responsibilities to represent all campus programs and services on community groups/committees including the Chamber of Commerce, the Stratford Public Library, the Stratford and District Human Resources Association, and Partners in Resources for Employment in Perth County (PREP). As well, a Stratford Campus Marketing Committee has been formed to promote all programs and services at the Stratford Campus. These initiatives will increase the visibility of Employment Ontario's LBS/AU and Employment Services in the community.

**Conestoga College Projected Delivery for 2011-2012**  
 Total Number of Learners 220 -- Total Number of SCH 24,000

Continuing program – established, not new Ed/Tr – Education/Training	New program – new program for the coming year Ind – Independence	Emp – Employment SCH – Student Contact Hours
<p><b>Conestoga College, Stratford Campus</b></p> <p>Preparatory Programs, School of Career &amp; Academic Access</p> <p>130 Youngs Street  <b>Stratford, ON</b>                      N5A 1J7</p> <p>1-519-271-5700 x 7227</p>	<p>LBS Levels 3 to 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum capacity</li> <li>180 total learners per year</li> <li>60 at any one time</li> <li>SCH 20,000</li> </ul> <p>AU/ACE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum capacity</li> <li>40 total learners per year</li> <li>15 at any one time</li> <li>SCH 4,000</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large group format</li> <li>Day time classes Mon to Thu</li> <li>Full time or part time study</li> </ul>	<p><b>Continuing program serving the following clients:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>employed, unemployed, and underemployed</li> <li>EL, OW, ODSP, and WSIB clients</li> <li>shift and temporary workers</li> <li>displaced (laid-off) workers, including Second Career Strategy clients and clients referred through Action Centres and Rapid Re-employment Initiatives</li> <li>those requiring academic upgrading to Grade 12 equivalency for the purpose of employment, entering apprenticeship training or post-secondary college programs</li> <li>those where re-employment requires a minimum of Grade 12 equivalency or further education in order to train for more secure, long-term employment; many local companies are now requiring GED to move from temporary to permanent employment</li> <li>those who are employed yet need academic upgrading for keeping or improving employment options</li> </ul> <p><b>Subjects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>communications, mathematics, sciences, and basic computer skills</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>clients can access employment career focused workshops offered in conjunction with Employment Ontario Employment Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Learner Goals:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Emp</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ed/Tr</td> <td>45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ind</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </table>	Emp	50%	Ed/Tr	45%	Ind	5%
Emp	50%							
Ed/Tr	45%							
Ind	5%							
<p>Conestoga College, Listowel site</p>	<p>Total Number of Students 0 SCH 0</p>	<p>Reduced funding will force the closure of this site.</p>						



## St. Marys Adult Learning Program (3 locations)

The St. Marys Adult Learning Program (ALP) is the only community based LBS program in Perth County. Small group classes and one to one tutoring are available on a continuous intake basis and offer learner centered, flexible, full or part-time workforce and essential skills training to learners at LBS levels 1 – 5. Training plans are developed for each learner, taking into consideration their learning style, individual goal, and the essential skills (found in the NOC codes database) needed to reach their goal. Learners use textbooks plus computers and the internet for a flexible learning environment. Adults are encouraged to participate in e-channel learning, an online LBS and Essential Skills training service for those who want additional courses or who may have barriers such as transportation or childcare which prevents them from attending regular programming at any of their locations. Volunteer tutors play a vital role, working primarily with learners in levels 1 – 3, and they contribute much to the success of the program.

The St. Marys Adult Learning Program operates out of three locations in Perth County. In St. Marys, the ALP is co-located in the Education and Employment Resource Centre, which is managed by Partners in Employment. Small group classes are offered Monday – Thursday, 9-12. (Effective Oct 2010, the Resource Centre is no longer open on Fridays) A computer lab is available in the classroom for those who wish to learn basic computer skills. In Stratford, the program moved in September from the library to co-locate with Conestoga College. Small group and 1:1 tutoring are available Tuesday and Thursday, 9-12, for Level 1 and 2 learners. A second day is offered in 10/11 due to the additional MTCU funding support. With United Way funding, the program is now able to offer service in Listowel starting November 2, 2010 on Tuesday and Thursday, 9-12, for Level 1 and 2 learners. The program is co-located with Conestoga College at the Chamber of Commerce building. This funding allows St. Marys ALP to fill a gap in literacy service in Listowel but will last only until June 2011. Sharing space allows for unique networking opportunities and familiarity with the services each agency provides. The referral process allows for easy access and a seamless move to the other Employment service agencies. Using a case management approach for learners makes the process of meeting their goals more efficient and effective.

The St. Marys ALP is the lead delivery agency for the Employment Track Express course, on a fee for service basis, to displaced workers in Perth and Huron Counties. This 4 week course offers training in computer skills and helps these workers learn how to research the local labour market, what essential skills are, and how their skills compare to the types of jobs they are considering. Adults participating in Second Career Strategy or Skills Development will find this course very useful. In 2010/11, the St. Marys ALP will deliver six ETE sessions with Workforce Literacy and Essential Skills project funding to St. Marys, Stratford and Listowel communities. As our partners in this project, Partners in Employment refer participants who were part of the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers.

Strong partnerships exist with a variety of community organizations such as Ontario Works, Conestoga College, Partners in Employment, WSIB, Apprenticeship London office, United Way, St. Marys and Stratford Public Libraries, and ODSP.

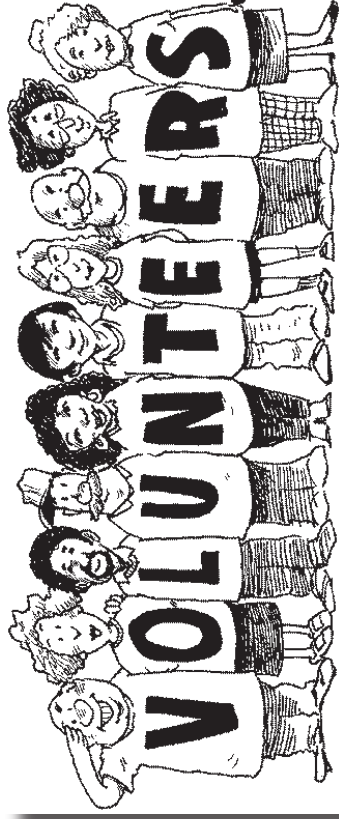
### **Looking Ahead:**

Community partners continue to express a need for computer training that will blend with the services they provide. The St. Marys ALP has the capacity to deliver more ETE courses in Stratford, St. Marys, and Listowel, but without additional funding this will not be possible.

We have had a client waiting list for several months at our Stratford location due to the increased number of referrals from Conestoga College and feel it is vital to increase our service to Levels 1 and 2 learners in this high need area. Without more funding, however, continuing with a second day in Stratford will not be possible. More funding would also allow us to offer an evening class which is currently in demand. Offering e-learning would be one of the many benefits to providing this extra time for learners.

United Way funding for service in Listowel ends in June 2011, and after that a gap in service to Levels 1 and 2 learners in Listowel will once again exist. St. Marys ALP is prepared to continue offering support if we receive an increase in our funding. After using United Way funding to set up and initiate programming in North Perth, it would be a shame to have to discontinue service.

Within our community based program, volunteers play a vital role in the learning process, providing much needed 1:1 tutoring to the lower level learners. Without additional funding, there will not be enough administrative hours to manage, train and support our volunteer tutors whose numbers are steadily increasing.



**St. Marys Adult Learning Program Projected Delivery for 2011-2012**  
**Total Number of Students 76 - Total number of SCH 4000**

Continuing program - established, not new Emp - Employment	New program - new program for the coming year Ed/Tr - Education/Training	SCH - Student Contact Hours Ind - Independence						
<p><b>St. Marys Education &amp; Employment Resource Centre</b>                      26 Wellington St. S.                      P.O. Box 700                      St. Marys, ON                      N4X 1B4                      519-284-4408</p>	<p><b>SCH 2750</b>                      LBS levels 1-2                      1:1 Volunteer tutors                      LBS Levels 3-5                      small group                      Maximum Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55 total learners</li> <li>• 8-10 at one time</li> <li>• 10 matches</li> <li>• Also includes computer -based learning</li> </ul>	<p><b>Continuing program serving clients:</b>                      OW, EI, WSIB, and ODSP clients                      Un/underemployed adults interested in greater independence, education or employment as a goal                      displaced/laid-off workers who need their GED in order to enter a retraining program or obtain another job                      clients who need basic computer skills for job readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic reading, writing, numeracy and introductory computer skills</li> <li>• needed to prepare clients for entry level positions in the workplace and to increase their ability to cope with situations in daily life</li> <li>• employment/job specific content to increase learners' chance of finding employment in a selected job sector, gain acceptance into training programs or re-enter the workforce after an absence</li> <li>• high school 'early-leavers' who need to improve their education to get a job or advance within their current job</li> </ul> <p><b>Program outcomes for learners:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Emp</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ed/Tr</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ind</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </table>	Emp	65%	Ed/Tr	30%	Ind	5%
Emp	65%							
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<p><b>St. Marys Adult Learning Program</b></p> <p>Other program location:</p> <p><b>Stratford Conestoga College campus</b></p> <p>130 Youngs St. Stratford, ON</p> <p>519-284-4408</p>	<p><b>SCH 900</b></p> <p>LBS Levels 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>Maximum Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 total learners</li> <li>• 4-6 at one time</li> <li>• Small group</li> <li>• 1:1</li> </ul>	<p><b>Continuing program serving clients:</b></p> <p>OW, EL, ODSP, WSIB, unemployed and underemployed clients who primarily have employment goals or plan to continue LBS training at Conestoga College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• morning program (9am-12pm) offered two days per week with tutor matches meeting on the other days</li> <li>• this program is offering the level 1 &amp; 2 programming that Conestoga College, Stratford campus is no longer offering</li> <li>• available to deliver the essential skills necessary to prepare for entry level positions in the workplace. For those planning on continuing at Conestoga College, training plans are developed in conjunction with Conestoga's ACE and GED programs.</li> <li>• workforce materials and essential skills language are used to reinforce the learners' goals of successful, long-term employment</li> </ul> <p><b>Program outcomes for learners:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Emp</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ed/Tr</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ind</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </table>	Emp	35%	Ed/Tr	55%	Ind	10%
Emp	35%							
Ed/Tr	55%							
Ind	10%							
<p><b>St. Marys Adult Learning Program</b></p> <p>Other program location:</p> <p><b>Listowel at Conestoga College site</b></p>	<p><b>SCH 350</b></p> <p>Funded by United Way/MTCU</p> <p><b>This service will only be delivered until June 30, 2011</b></p> <p>LBS Levels 1-2</p> <p>1:1 and small group</p>	<p><b>Continuing program serving clients:</b></p> <p>OW, EL, ODSP, WSIB, unemployed and underemployed clients who primarily have employment goals or plan to continue LBS training at Conestoga College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• morning program (9am-12pm) offered two days per week with tutor matches meeting on the other days</li> <li>• this program is offering the level 1 &amp; 2 programming that Conestoga College, Stratford campus is no longer offering</li> </ul>						

<p>580 Main St. 519-291-1259</p>	<p>Maximum Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 total learners</li> <li>• 6 at one time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• available to deliver the essential skills necessary to prepare for entry level positions in the workplace. For those planning on continuing at Conestoga College, training plans are developed in conjunction with Conestoga's ACE and GED programs.</li> <li>• workforce materials and essential skills language are used to reinforce the learners' goals of successful, long-term employment</li> </ul> <p><b>Program outcomes for learners:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Emp</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ed/Tr</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ind</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </table>	Emp	35%	Ed/Tr	55%	Ind	10%
Emp	35%							
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<p><b>Employment Track Express</b></p>	<p><b>Fee for service or funded by United Way/MTCU</b> LBS 2 - 5 60 hrs. of instruction Min of 6, Max of 10</p>	<p>For adults who have lost their jobs due to plant closures or lay-offs and who want to improve their computer skills, their knowledge of essential skills and how to access labour market information. As this is a fee for service program, there are no targets established for the year.</p>						

# Gaps / Barriers in the Community

In order of priority -

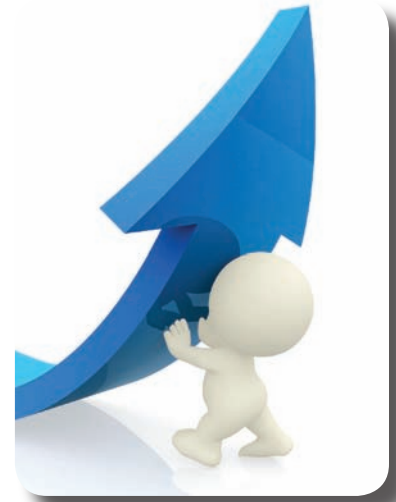
- Limited class times due to a lack of funding. Some sites are only open 6 hours a week and cannot offer services in the evening. Programs are not able to open more sites to serve clients closer to their home communities.
- Service in Listowel will be completely cut if the funding returns to pre 2008 amounts. Programs will not have the financial capacity to continue to deliver programming in this community.
- Lack of service delivery program time and funding to do outreach to social service agencies, community partners and media.
- Transportation continues to be a gap for LBS learners. This rural area suffers from a lack of convenient public transportation outside the City of Stratford. In July 2010 Aboutown Bus Company started routes between Wingham-Listowel-Stratford and between Goderich-Clinton-Stratford, but it is expensive to use daily and time consuming as the bus goes one way in the morning and then returns at the end of the day.
- Learners on Employment Insurance are limited to attending programs for a short amount of time each week, ~ 9 hours. If they were allowed more time they could increase their skills more quickly and move to further training or education or gain sustainable employment.



## Priorities for LBS Delivery

**If more funding is received, the priority of the Huron Perth Literacy Service Planning Committee is to increase their staffing levels to serve more learners. Funding will only provide service to 496 clients, down from 952 served in 2009-10, a 48% reduction.**

The main priority in **Huron** County is for **AMDSB** to be able to increase staffing levels to serve the increasing number of clients. As stated previously, 59% of the people over the age of 15 do not have a high school diploma or equivalent. Returning to funding levels prior to the Budget Initiative Funding provided in 2009 and 2010, would cause a lack of service to up to 250 learners, especially in Goderich and Exeter. This would also cause a lack of service to Employment Services initiatives such as the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers.



If AMDSB's LBS program tries to meet the demands of the community they serve despite lack of capacity it will result in ineffective service. In the long-term there will be fewer adults gaining the skills necessary to move into further training/education, find employment; more will be accepting social assistance. There would also be increased incidents of staff burnout and fatigue.

AMDSB is the only literacy service provider in the area, and as such, finds it difficult to turn people away or create waiting lists when what people usually want when they come in the door is immediate service. AMDSB also works in close partnership with EOIS and other programs, such as TIOW (Targeted Initiative for Older Workers), who refer to our LBS programs and expect their clients to receive immediate service. The whole EO system that has been put in place to allow clients access to services no matter what door they come through, could collapse in Huron County if inadequate funding of literacy programs resulted in a No Vacancy status at Literacy and Basic Skills classrooms, or if classrooms became ineffective because they are trying to meet the needs of the community without benefit of necessary funding for additional staff and programming.

**NOTE:** AMDSB has shown a consistent need for additional funding for 10 years, band-aid fixes do not work in the long-term, nor do they allow for planning and implementation of effective programming in a community. They are already doing everything they can possibly do to maximize service to the county, including utilizing the e-Channel LBS Delivery service that is available to supplement classroom LBS programming. The problem is, AMDSB also delivers that program, and it is under-funded as well and becoming more and more popular as face-to-face LBS deliverers turn to it in the wake of their own need to expand capacity.

Overall, **Perth County** providers feel exactly as AMDSB in Huron County, staffing levels must be maintained or increased to serve clients throughout the area.

If the funding levels return to the 1998 amount, **St. Marys Adult Learning Program (ALP)** will need to decrease the number of learners they serve by 35% which would eliminate the one-day a week of training in Stratford starting April 1, 2011. Presently, St. Marys ALP is delivering LBS programming in Listowel because of a United Way grant. This programming will cease at the end of June 2011 if programming is not maintained at the 2010 level. The program would reduce the full-time program coordinators to part-time status and eliminate the much needed part-time Administrative Assistant position.

For **Conestoga College**, the priority is to maintain the level of service they deliver now at the Listowel and Stratford sites. If funding reverts to 2008 level the program in Listowel would be closed. The evening hours in Stratford would be cut and Conestoga College would decrease SCH by 33%, therefore decreasing the number of learners served. Part-time staff in the LBS program cannot be maintained at the 2008 funding level.



## Labour Market Adjustment Committees / Actions Centres

Throughout 2009 and until the fall of 2010, Action Centres and Adjustment Committees were in place throughout the region. Presently, there are no Action Centres open in these counties. The last one in Huron County, Volvo, closed in September 2010. Over the 1.5 years of the recession programs have assisted laid-off workers in preparing to write the GED and enter credit programming, build skills to enter post secondary and training programs through the Second Career Program and other avenues. Programs have offered short, specific workshops such as Employment Track Express at Action Centres to help workers with computer skills and Labour Market research.

Presently, Perth County is in a rebound from the recession with factories rehiring or new companies starting up. The Campbell's factory in Listowel closed and laid-off all their workers and recently Erie Meats purchased the buildings and is opening a processing plant that will need 400 workers. DYNA MIG Manufacturing of Stratford plans to hire up to 200 more employees as the result of a business expansion. The manufacturing sector is getting stronger.



# Apprenticeship/Second Career Program

LBS programs in Huron and Perth counties support apprentices and those entering the Second Career Program in a number of ways. QUILL Learning Network provides MTCU Employment Training Consultants (ETC), Employment Service providers, Ontario Works and other stakeholders with flyers promoting literacy services. LBS programs assist learners in preparing for further training and education by helping them prepare to write the GED or build skills to take credit or pre-apprenticeship courses. Programs offer specific help for apprentices such as math readiness and workshops on test taking and study skills. Programs use many different types of resources such as LLEO Essential Skills Training materials with the apprentices along with using e-channel, the Learning HUB and ACE online to support them.

In November 2010, the Literacy Service Planning Committee met with Employment Ontario Service Delivery Manager to discuss the Employment Ontario transitions. In 2011, this committee will meet with MTCU Apprenticeship ETCs and Employment Service deliverers to discuss and create a referral protocols linking clients from LBS to Apprenticeship and Employment Services and vice versa.



## E-channel Delivery

Programs use E-channel for direct delivery, as in ACE Online or in augmenting learners' work by using LearningHUB or Good Learning Anywhere.

Conestoga College uses ACE Online and the LearningHUB and has 25% of its learners accessing the sites. St. Marys Adult Learning Program has 8-10% of its learners accessing the LearningHUB.

AMDSB manages the LearningHUB and has between 10-25% of their learners working online with more during the summer months.

**Note:** In the fall of 2009 - 8 learners were registering per day on the LearningHUB, in the fall of 2010 - 15 learners were registering per day.

Programs support learners in E-channel delivery by giving out information and referral, tutoring, mentoring, helping the learners to get signed up and also some sites refer learners to the elearnnetwork hosted by Contact North. LBS deliverers hope to be able to continue to enrol learners into E-channel programs.

E-Channel programs will have difficulty supporting LBS programs, if funding is reduced. QUILL only has information from the learningHUB - more than 50% of the online learners accessing the learningHUB are supported by LBS programs and more than 200 LBS programs across Ontario rely heavily on this online program to augment program delivery.



## Huron Perth LSP Committee Work Plan 2011

Date	Time	Venue	Action items	QUILL Business Planning Outcomes/Ongoing Activities
January 24, 2011	2:30 - 4:00 pm	Tele conference call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate 2010 - 2011 LSP planning</li> <li>• OALC update</li> <li>• Set time to link to ES and App</li> <li>• Choose future mtg. dates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and referral protocols with ES providers, Apprenticeship and Ontario Works</li> </ul>
March 28 Conestoga College - Stratford	1:00 - 4:00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LSP update</li> <li>• MTCU update</li> <li>• Year end stats</li> <li>• Link to Apprenticeship/Information and referral between LBS/ App</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Understanding of assessment, Essential Skills with ES providers, Apprenticeship and Ontario Works</li> </ul>
June 13 AMDSB - Seaforth	1:00 - 4:00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program update</li> <li>• MTCU update</li> <li>• Preparation for 2012-2013 LSP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum</li> </ul>
September 26 St. Marys	1:00 - 4:00 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of LSP</li> <li>• Connection to ES providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-Learning</li> <li>• Employment Ontario Information System (EOIS)</li> </ul>
Friday, Oct. 28, 2011	9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	TBD	QUILL AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour Market information</li> </ul>
Nov. 14 AMDSB - Seaforth	1:00 - 4:00 pm	Face to face	Literacy Service Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succession Planning information</li> </ul>

Putting the  
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**QUILL Learning Network** facilitates the delivery of adult literacy and learning opportunities in Grey, Bruce, Huron, Perth and Northwest Simcoe.

## Learning Programs



# EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

These *Employment Ontario* programs are funded by the Ontario Government.