

Funding Opportunities

For a list of Alberta government funders, see the Government of Alberta Programs and Services website:

Go to “Funding – Providers” at www.programs.alberta.ca/Living/12035.aspx?Ns=11934+12073&N=770#12073.

This section contains a short list of various funders you could consider for your ESL programming. You could also consider the Rural Initiative Access grant through Alberta Education and Technology – Community Programs branch.

For federal funding, go to “Service Providers” on the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website: www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/partner/index.asp.

This site explains different programs that Citizenship and Immigration Canada is involved with.

Also on the “Service Providers” page, you

will find a link to the “CIC’s National Call for Proposals Process,” which explains what type of funding is available. www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/partner/proposals.asp

The first step in writing a successful proposal is to identify the funding that best fits your programming idea. Spend some time now researching the different funding opportunities, and watch for the next newsletter for information on writing the proposal.



Connections

The Lloydminster Learning Council Association (LLCA) incorporates volunteer tutors into their English language learning classes. These volunteer tutors work alongside the instructors, providing one-on-one assistance for learners who require the extra help. The tutors also provide variety to the instructional styles, and decrease potential learner dependency on one instructor. The benefit isn’t just for the learners, as the tutors build their own capaci-

ties with the assistance of the instructor. Many tutors who were originally reluctant to start one-on-one tutoring have branched out after increasing their knowledge, skills, and self-esteem under the guidance of a more experienced instructor.

Technology (laptops, movie cameras, cell phones) has been added to the curriculum and feedback has been extremely positive. For example, the women’s program clamours for more technology, where initially they were reluctant to try. The LLCA also incorporates field trips to help learners integrate into the community. Places they have visited in the past include the RCMP Station, Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre, Tim Horton’s, Wal-Mart, Sobeys, and the cinema. Contact Darlene MacDonald, the Executive Director of LLCA, at 780-875-5763 for more information on the vibrant programming being offered this fall.

Got any unique tidbits to share? Ways that you have met your community’s needs or resources that you have developed? If so, send them to Martha Urquhart to be shared in this newsletter! Either phone 780-805-0091, or email: martha.urquhart@norquest.ca

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“A language is part of a culture and culture is part of language; the two are intricately interwoven so that one cannot separate the two without losing the significance of either language or culture.”

Douglas Brown

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Upcoming Professional Development

The Literacy and Learning Symposium hosted by the Community Learning Network and Literacy Alberta is in Edmonton this year, from the evening of Wednesday, Oct 27 to noon on Saturday, Oct 30. You can attend the entire event, or just one or two days. Registration is open at www.regonline.ca/literacyandlearningsymposium2010.

Bursaries are available for learners, tutors, and coordinators. Contact Literacy Alberta at info@literacyalberta.ca for more information.

The Community Learning Network has bursaries available for board members to attend. Contact Catherine at clnfinance@communitylearning.info for more information.

The annual ATESL (Alberta Teachers of ESL) Conference 2010, Inspiring Voices, takes place Friday, November 5 to Saturday, November 6 in Edmonton. For information on the keynote speakers and to register, go to www.atesl.ca/cmsms/news/57/39/.

For those of you who want to take your learning up a notch, the University of Alberta's Extension Department offers a Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE). A number of courses through this program are applicable to ESL coordinators, tutors, and instructors. You do not have to be registered in the CACE program to take the courses. Two upcoming courses that may be appropriate for your program are as follows:

Violence and Learning: Impacting Learners and Practice

Some ESL learners may have faced violence in their homelands, which could be why they immigrated to Canada. Or they may be facing violence in their current communities. Knowing how violence impedes learning would be helpful for anyone who serves individuals affected by violence. This is a one-day workshop.

Connecting the Dots: Program Planning in Adult Literacy

Although this course was designed with the adult literacy coordinator in mind, the information covered is applicable to coordinators of any adult learning program, including ESL programs, community adult learning, and other programs that serve adult learners. This is a six-week online course.

Information about the CACE program is found at: www.extension.ualberta.ca/cace/program.aspx.

Select "Courses" from the left navigation bar, and then select "Violence in Learning: Impacting Learners and Practice" and "Connecting the Dots: Program Planning for Adult Literacy."

An online ESL Tutor Training program is available free through the Regina Public Library. This program consists of a number of topics that cover all aspects of ESL tutoring, including working with adult learners, and the meanings of common Canadian hand gestures in other cultures. Each section includes a short quiz to test your knowledge. A manual is provided that covers the course material. It can be downloaded from the site, but beware: it is a very large document!

To access this program, go to <http://apps.reginalibrary.ca/moodle/> and create an account.

Hint: Arrange for a group of your instructors and tutors to complete this program at the same time. Then utilize the online forum to keep everyone motivated and connected. You could also arrange for a computer lab, and schedule time for your instructors and tutors to work on the material in a face-to-face environment.

"An immigrant leaves his homeland because the grass is greener; a refugee leaves because the grass is burning under his feet."

Unknown



Citizenship Classes

The following websites will guide you in implementing programming to help learners apply for their Canadian citizenship.

1. Get to know your way around the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.asp.
2. Access information on the eligibility criteria and the process for applying from the link, "Apply for Citizenship": www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/index.asp.
3. There is a "residence calculator" for people to figure out if they have been in Canada long enough to apply: services3.cic.gc.ca/rescalc/resCalcStartNew.do?&lang=en.
4. Use the CBC website, "Becoming Canadian" www.cbc.ca/news/becomingcanadian/index.html to introduce the learners to the people that they will encounter in the process of obtaining a Canadian citizenship. You will find the profiles of these individuals at the link: www.cbc.ca/news/becomingcanadian/profiles.html.
5. Download the forms that your learners need from this location: www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/become-how.asp.
Hint: Do not stockpile application forms, as they are updated regularly. It is best to download the forms as required. Applications that are submitted on outdated forms are rejected.
6. The following link, www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/cit-test.asp, explains the criteria for determining who is required to take the test, and the process involved.
7. The brochure, "Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship," is the basis for the citizenship test. You can download this document, read it online, listen to it online, or order hard copies at no cost. Information is found at: www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/discover/index.asp.

8. As appropriate throughout the lessons, use mini-tests with the learners to familiarize them with the format of the test. Practice tests can be found at a variety of sites, including these:

Becoming a Canadian

www.cbc.ca/news/becomingcanadian/entre_citizen_quiz.html#

This practice site refers to the outdated document, "A Look at Canada"; however, the practice tests on this site still cover the pertinent information your learners need for the citizenship test.

Discover Canada:

Sample Study Questions

www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/cit-sample.asp

This page provides the topics that are on the test as well as three questions, with answers, to illustrate the format of the test. This is followed by a list of sample questions, all of which can be answered from the information in the brochure, "Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship."

Richmond Public Library: Canadian Citizenship Practice Test

www.yourlibrary.ca/citizenship/

This website is very user friendly; when the students get a perfect score, "O Canada" is played. From the main page, select the link "Show me the answers" to print out an answer key. The key shows answers to the questions chosen by the learner.

APNA Calgary:

Canadian Citizenship Free Online Practice Test Questions

www.apnacalgary.com/citizenship-canada-test.html

Feedback is given immediately following each question. For incorrect answers, the correct answer is given.

9. As a treat, your class could plan an event and invite the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. See the Citizenship and Immigration website www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.asp for more information.

ESL Rural Routes

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Suggestions for lesson planning:

Having your learners identify whether they are able to apply for citizenship could be the first unit in your citizenship program. Help the learners navigate through the site on computers, or simply cover the information during the class.

After identifying the eligibility criteria for applying, help the learners understand the actual application process. Help them navigate through the site if they have the necessary skills to understand the information in this format.

Have the learners fill out the application as part of the citizenship class, even if they are not going to be applying at this time. This will

give them the skills to understand how to fill in the application form when they do apply. For those learners who need to improve their English, filling in the application offers great practice on document use!

Once the instructor or tutor covers the criteria and process involved in taking the citizenship test, he or she will need to create interesting lesson plans using the information from the document "Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship." This material will have to be adapted for the level of the learners. Provide learners with their own individual copies, as they need to study the information to prepare for the test.