



Literacy Links to Employment

Do You See What I See?

Dr. Bharati Sethi helps immigrants document the connection between employment and health.

On March 10 2017, Literacy Link South Central welcomed community members to a presentation by Dr. Bharati Sethi, followed by a discussion about how our community can come together to support the language and literacy needs, job prospects, and health of immigrants to London.

Using Photovoice (which gives participants an opportunity to share their experiences through photography), Dr. Sethi shared her research on how immigrant employment experiences impact health and well-being of women from the KAAJAL region:

- **K**orea
- **A**sia (South Asia)
- **A**frica
- **J**apan
- **A**rab countries
- **L**atin America and the Caribbean

In the discussion that followed, participants spoke of pre-migration expectation vs. post-migration reality, and how local services can best respond to the issues that can happen as a result. The isolation and incredible resilience of those who immigrate to Canada, and the need for employers and local service providers to better understand their stories was also discussed.



Jointly, participants agreed that for programming to support immigrants effectively, those who have lived through the immigration experience must be involved at the planning stages. Local social service organizations are encouraged to welcome immigrant participation on committees, in policy-making, and service planning.

Working together, we can ensure that our community effectively supports the employment, education, social and health needs of all Londoners.

Explore Your Language and Literacy Training Options

There are so many opportunities to learn both language and literacy skills you need. But how do you pick the one that's right for you? In this issue, we explore Occupation-specific Language Training (OSLT), one of the many free language training options available in Ontario.

Offered by Ontario Colleges, Occupation-specific Language Training offers an opportunity to improve workplace communication skills through language training geared to specific occupations. OSLT classes focus on careers in one of six main sectors:

- Business
- Health Sciences
- Human Services
- Construction
- Technology
- Automotive trades



"I highly recommend taking OSLT. It is helpful to newcomers, makes us aware of many aspects of a Canadian culture, and prepares us to become more effective and productive in our personal life and at work."

Reem Issa, OSLT – Technology student

To qualify for OSLT, students must:

- have training or experience in one of the sectors listed
- be at an intermediate level of language proficiency in either English or French (Canadian Language Benchmark 6-8)
- be a permanent resident or protected person

Occupational-Specific Language Training classes can be offered in a combination of face-to-face classes and online learning, and courses available vary by college. The classes available also change from semester to semester.

For more information about OSLT and what courses are currently available in your area, please visit: <http://co-oslt.org/en/>

"The OSLT program helped me to understand the cultural differences between Canada and my native country. It's hard but really important to accept the changes and emerge into the new society, so I can continue my future career here and have a successful life."

Qin Xue Feng, OSLT – Business student

Contact Information

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Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm