



Literacy Links to Employment

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Out and About

LLSC staff can be found at community events such as:

- London and Area Works regional job fair at the Western Fair District (May 18)
- Social Service Resource fair at the London Convention Centre (June 6)
- Community Conversation at Goodwill (July 20)
- Business After 5 at Armitec Survivability (Aug 18)

Community Apprenticeship Skills Support



Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) is pleased to announce that from now through December 2018, they will be offering extra support to people pursuing an apprenticeship.

The Community Apprenticeship Skills Support (CASS) project will support 60 people who need educational upgrading and who identify as living in poverty.

The CASS project is also focused on serving people from three specific groups:

- Immigrants who have been in Canada for 5+ years
- People with disabilities
- Young males under 29 who aren't in school or working

Through the CASS project, participants will be connected to an Apprenticeship Support Lead who will help them develop the education and connections they need for a career in the trades. CASS participants will have access to specialized assessments to help them identify their trade-specific and employability skills, will be guided through educational and skills upgrading, and receive employment counselling.

For more information, watch the short video available at: <https://youtu.be/8qMYKaHunhU> and contact Literacy Link South Central at 519-681-7307 or literacylink@bellent.ca.



Did You Know?

The Government of Canada, working with private sponsors, non-governmental organizations, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, has welcomed more than 25,000 Syrian refugees since November 2015! In fact, as of July 17, 2016:

- Canada as welcomed 29,207 Syrian refugees
- London has welcomed 937 government-assisted Syrian refugees

As millions of Syrians refugees flee conflict in their home country, the Government of Canada's commitment will continue throughout 2016.

Sagida's Story

By: Sagida E.

Literacy London has helped me in many ways. When we came to Canada in 2014, we could not speak, read or write English at all. We listened to the words people were speaking and then we went to an English as a Second Language program for six months to learn the language. This wasn't enough time to prepare for further study or to be able to get a job.

Then some friends suggested that we look into Literacy London

because they had volunteers who would help us work on our learning plans. We were able to join the program which requires learners to have a minimum of Level Six in Canadian Language Benchmark testing.

We were welcomed into the program and placed with patient and friendly volunteers who know how to teach. We are now able to write paragraphs and read novels. I am so happy that we came here and met with Literacy London's staff who got us on the path to complete my plan and reach my dream.



And, finally, I am appreciative that I have a chance to write about how thankful I am.

For more information about how literacy programs like the one at Literacy London can help you, please contact Literacy link South Central at 519-681-7307 or literacylink@bellnet.ca.

Jobs are available in our area but they are not being filled!

By: Maria Sanchez-Keane

The Local Employment Planning Council in the London Economic Region has funded a research project that is looking at why some people in our area are neither working nor looking for work. Data from our area shows that there are many people ages 25 through 54 who are not working or looking for work.

When we look at the immigrant population, research shows that more immigrant women either work or are actively looking for work if they:

- Come from countries with high levels of female labour force participation
- Come from a country whose official language is English or French
- Have higher education
- Have been in Canada longer
- Who immigrated when they were younger

The data also shows that fewer immigrant women work or are looking for work if they:

- Have more young children
- Immigrated when they were older
- Have a non-working spouse

Please share your thoughts on this topic, and suggest other reasons why people are neither working nor seeking employment by completing a short online survey at www.worktrends.ca!

**Jobs are available
in our area but they
are not being filled.**

We'd like your opinion
on why. Go to:
www.worktrends.ca
to complete the survey



Chance
to win a
Tim's card!

Volunteering for Canadian Work Experience

By: *Bashir Adeyemo*

I came to London Ontario as an immigrant student who had earlier work experience and a good understanding of labour force in my country. I was certain the education system and labour market requirements would be different in Canada, and I hoped to gain work experience through the optional Co-op term at my College. I sent out many applications and got calls to interview for two positions, but was not hired. I felt that I let

“As an immigrant, I have learnt that regardless of where you come from, you need strong literacy skills in the Canadian workplace.”

myself down for not meeting employer standards, and tried to imagine why I could not get a job. I wondered if my lack of Canadian work experience was a factor. With a Co-op looking unlikely, I sought volunteer opportunities to show my capabilities and learn the Canadian workplace culture.

I approached Literacy Link South Central to talk about my skills and career path, and asked if they would have a place for me as a volunteer. Some weeks passed, and I was called upon to start



volunteering. I focused on my output and was determined to work diligently to gain Canadian work experience, but things took a different shape and surprisingly, my volunteer position turned in to paid employment.

In my job at Literacy Link South Central, I see that referring people to an appropriate literacy program that aligns with their goals makes their journey easier. As an immigrant, I have learnt that regardless of where you come from, you need strong literacy skills in the Canadian workplace. Literacy helps prepare you for the tasks ahead and promotes personal growth and development a great deal. For me, Literacy Link South Central has been a pathway to attaining academic success and achieving other life goals.

Community Conversation Recap

On July 20, 2016, Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) welcomed over 30 guests to a Community Conversation at Goodwill Industries. Following lunch and a welcome address by London Mayor Matt Brown, conversation focused on the skill-building and employment needs of immigrants in London, and how we can work together to best meet those needs.

During the meeting, LLSC shared information about three projects happening in London that can help support the employment goals of immigrants. Be sure to read the following articles in this newsletter for more information on these projects:

- Community Apprenticeship Skills Support (page 1)
- Jobs are available in our area but they are not being filled! (page 2)
- New Workplace Literacy Courses Available for ESL (page 4)

Thank you to everyone who attended, including members of London’s immigrant communities, service providers, advocacy groups, City of London staff, and City Councillors.

New Workplace Literacy Courses Available for ESL

By Summer Burton

In 2015, Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) researched the demand for entry-level workers in London, and the high number of skilled, but unemployed or underemployed immigrants in our local community. We knew there were available jobs, and that local immigrants could fill them, especially if their English literacy, numeracy and Essential Skills were strong.

Our research focused on meeting the needs of immigrants when it comes to promoting, developing and delivering adult literacy programming – programming that can give immigrants the skills they need to fill those entry-level jobs in our local labour market.

LLSC staff met with a cross-section of over 100 people in London's immigrant communities, as well as more than 20 service providers, at a series of one-on-one

interviews and focus groups. During those sessions, we heard many times that immigrants wanted new training opportunities focused on developing Canadian employment skills.

Based on that feedback, LLSC developed a set of recommendations for new training in London. The most critical recommendation was the development of a set of 6 short-term literacy courses that, if made available, would respond directly to the literacy and employment needs of local immigrants. These courses would be focused on developing specific employment skills, including both verbal and written communication skills, computer use, and the skills needed to work in the Trades in Ontario.

We recommended that ideally these courses would be offered through either local literacy programs or directly through the ESL programs that immigrants may be more familiar with. We are thrilled to announce that through a partnership with the Centre for Lifelong Learning, 5 of

the 6 courses have now been developed, and will be available this fall at no cost to local immigrants wishing to upgrade their literacy and employment skills.

The courses are:

- Communication in the Workplace
- Writing for the Workplace
- Computers in the Workplace
- LinkedIn and Networking
- The Trades in Ontario

These courses will first be available through in-person classes, and will be made available online through the Centre for Lifelong Learning's D2L online platform later in the year. We hope that offering these courses in both formats will make it easy for immigrants to upgrade their skills at a place and time that works for them.

For more information on these workplace literacy courses for ESL learners, please contact the Centre for Lifelong Learning by email at lnoens@office.ldcsb.on.ca or by phone at 519-675-4436.

Contact Information

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**EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO**



Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm