**Minutes – General Meeting**

# LONDON COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

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Serving Adult Learners since 1945

**Date: April 17, 2012**

**Place: Stevenson Hunt Room, Central Library, London, ON**

**Topic: Online Learning, with speaker Frances Shamley**

**Present:** Amanda Burdick (LLSC); Kym Wolfe (LMFRC); Vanessa Piccinin (CFLL); Donna Moore (UWO Student Success Centre, Toastmasters); Carolyn Young (UWO CE); Frances Shamley (EMOLTB); Heather Jeffery (Hutton House); Linda Speers (Goodwill CC); Tom Crouch (LEHC); Jenny Stapleton (Concordia College); Kristen Caschera (LPL); Alica Brona (LACW); Maria Forte (LPL); Kelly Ransom (OW);

Jenny Fitzgerald (Fanshawe College); Joan Stone (LMFRC); Michelle Hepburn (WOTCH); Monica Giorgini (independent)

1. **Welcome & Introductions:**

Amanda Burdick welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced today’s topic, ‘Online Learning’, and guest speaker, Frances Shamley.

1. A veteran educator with a background in itinerant programs in remote regions, Frances Shamley now shares her expertise as an online instructor with The University of Waterloo Centre for Extended Learning. Frances gave an insightful overview of the many benefits of online learning. In her current online class ‘Community Organizations’, she interacts with 56 Social Work students from around the world, from Iran to Ireland and across Canada. A few highlights of her presentation included:

* Online learning has a great appeal to adult learners and is gaining in popularity
* Accommodates various learning styles
* A large variety of resources and supplemental materials are available to support students’ learning needs
* Online learning is convenient, keeping costs lower (ie transportation and child/elder care) and increasing learners’ level of independence
* Skype, email and teleconferencing are used to communicate with students
* Over 60% of online learners are mature students
* 40% of students are taking courses on campus as well as doing online classes
* Technical support is available to assist students when needed
* Assessment is based on participation, assignments and exams
* Exams are held at the university nearest to the residency of the online learner
* Two programs used by universities to validate authenticity of assignments include ‘Criterion’ and ‘Turn it In’.

Q & A period followed Frances’s presentation where individuals had a chance to examine both pros & cons of online learning.

1. Membership Announcements / Agency updates

- Vanessa Piccinin from CFLL circulated a copy of the latest newsletter

Amanda encouraged individuals with membership or agency updates to submit them to her for inclusion in the minutes.

1. Adjournment