



LONDON COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Galleria Postal Outlet • P.O. Box 23174, 355 Wellington St. • London, ON • N6A 5N9
Serving Adult Learners since 1945

Minutes of General Meeting February 20, 2007

PRESENT: Dianne Rumney (TVDSB), Donna Moore (UWO, Toastmasters), Margaret Maciejewski (LPL), Karen Sivak (OW), Brian Rhoden (LPL), Marja Tensen (CFUW London Club), Gloria Pickering (Goodwill), Jessica Baarda (Pathways) Susan Koning (WIL), Tom Crouch (LUHC), Nancy McQuillan (LUHC), Jennifer Stapleton (London Training Centre), Kym Wolfe (Military Family Resource Centre), Beverley Payne (TVDSB), Gord Leffly (City of London, IAPA), Nancy Swinarton (LDCSB-CFL), Deb Prothero (LCAE), Individual Members: Belinda Gorman.

HOST MEMBER: Goodwill Career Centre (Atrium Room), 390 King St.

1. Welcome:

- Dianne Rumney thanked Goodwill Career Centre; welcomed everyone
- Dianne encouraged volunteers for the day of our LCAE Awards to assist with ushering, handing out awards, etc. Also consider having an agency display.
- LCAE Award nominations have gone out in the mail, if you haven't received one, please get in touch with Deb
- The new sign-in list was circulated.

2. Member Announcements:

- Tom Crouch, LUHC, reminded members about OACDP workshop on Tuesday February 27th 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Tonda Room at LPL Central called "Cultural Competence: Employment Counselling with New Canadians." Speaker is Dr. Mohammed Baobaid, Research Scientist, University of Western Ontario and who has also been a Men's Counsellor at Changing Ways. Dr. Baobaid will be discussing various issues related specifically to doing employment counselling with New Canadians who are seeking employment in the London-Middlesex region. Cost is \$10 for OACDP members and \$20 for non-members. Seating limited, if interested, please RSVP to Kelly Guitard at 519-675-1113, ext. 260.
- Gord Leffley, IAPA announced one day event to be held May 29 at the Best Western Lamplighter - **Education is the Key 2007 Health and Safety Conference and Trade Show** offers a first class line-up of keynote speakers, leading edge concurrent sessions and a trade exhibition showcasing leading and innovative solutions for the health and safety industry. Learn about changing legislation, emerging issues affecting your workplace and new and innovative solutions to reduce injuries in the workplace.

- Any other announcements, please provide by email or in writing to LCAE Events Coordinator Deb Prothero

3. Agency Presentation:

- Jessica Baarda, Pathways Skill Development and Placement Centre, 210 Dundas St. 2nd floor. (519-667-7795) introduced a new community-based language program, “**Language That Works**”
- partnership with LUSO and North Park Community Church for implementation in Northeast London
- funded by World Vision as part of Partners to End Child Poverty Program
- assist adult newcomers in becoming more confident and competent in using English in daily life and work
- key elements include a daily practice route with English speakers, community learning tasks, a volunteer placement, and a language mentor component
- participants complete learning modules that cover topics related to daily life, getting involved in the community, and employment.
- targeting newcomers that have some basic language skills. Ideally, participants will be assessed at Canadian Benchmark Levels 3-5.
- first three months include morning or afternoon small group instruction and community-based learning tasks.
- remaining three months focus on development of Individual Language Learning Plans to support participants’ learning goals.
- Participants will focus on acquiring the language proficiency they need to access the skills and employment services offered at Pathways or to prepare for further education and training. Pathways will play coaching role to access services to achieve ILLP.
- launching next week with approximately 25 adults participating in this pilot

4. Guest Speaker –

Gisele Varillas, Settlement Counsellor, Cross Cultural Learner Centre

- Introduced self and her history with LCCLC – from Belgium, learned Spanish, married a Peruvian, started at LCCLC as a volunteer then they got money

- Worth hearing Gisele's stories about each population settling in London including since she started at LCCLC: Vietnamese, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Sudan and the latest group – the Karen from Myanmar (Burma)
- Many interesting facts were presented in attached presentation: London has the highest per capita population of refugees compared to other cities in Canada
- LCCLC assists refugees and there is a very good chance that no matter where they come from they have experienced or witnessed war, torture, extortion or other forms of physical and emotional abuse
- Approximately 60-75% have come with high or special needs – medical, physical or emotional
- Single most frustrating barrier to service: getting a drivers license from the Ministry of Transportation:
 - Translation of country of origin drivers license - \$35
 - Now need proof of length of driving record – get this information with great difficulty, then pay to translate - \$35
 - Now need proof of no accidents – get this information from country of origin, then pay to translate - \$35
 - Documents must be certified as true by embassy of country of origin and then translated
- Seems to be improving slowly as there is more honest dialogue between immigration and new refugees before they arrive
- Refugees have stories to tell; they are not numbers
- Gisele brought excellent resources about many programs at LCCLC
- Presentation slideshow is attached as well – numbers are from 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

5. Next Meeting March 20th at City Hall – watch for email notice.

- Panel discussion on “How to Access Adult Education – Assessing your Potential”. Designed to familiarize front line workers of any member agency with how to assist their clients to access adult education. What's the difference between GED and Grade 12; what is the evaluation process for mature students? Where is pre-admissions counseling available?
- Dianne encouraged the attendance of front line workers to get this information directly