

# LONDON COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

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Serving Adult Learners since 1945

**MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** February 11, 2014

**Place:** Lifelong Literacy & Learning Lab, Central Library, London, ON

**Topic:** General Meeting, with speaker Laura Sherrett, Centre Coordinator at Contact North

**Present:** Kristen Caschera (LPL); Amanda Burdick (LLSC); Donna Moore (UWO); Kym Wolfe (LMFRC); (LEHC); Jane Ellyatt (City of London - OW); Beverley Payne (TVDSB); Laura Sherrett (Contact North); Tamara Kaattari (LLSC); Matthew Routliffe (LLSC); Jason Martell, (LLSC); Colleen Amatruda (LPL); Ashley Patterson (WIL); Alison Sims (NokeeKwe); Bonnie Hill (NokeeKwe); Wanda Davis (TVDSB); Jen Artan (TVDSB); Pauline Andrew (Middlesex Social Services); Michelle Cialacu (Francophone Community); Ann Walker (Independent); Monica Giorgini (Independent)

**Presentation:**

Laura Sherrett provided an interesting presentation on the vast array of online and e-learning opportunities available through Contact North. Included was an overview of the type of learner who is successful at online learning, various types of courses available, a demonstration of a Grade 12 English course outline, as well as an opportunity for some “hands-on” learning and exploration.

Key points:

* Contact North established in 1986 is Ontario’s distance education & training network (112 centres throughout Ontario)
* Originally began in Northern Ontario with the goal of assisting smaller, rural communities access educational opportunities
* Funded by the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities)
* Includes literacy courses, high school, college, university and workplace skills courses
* Formal partnerships with publicly funded colleges, universities, school boards and essential skills providers in Ontario
* Website: [www.contactnorth.ca](http://www.contactnorth.ca) or [www.studyonline.ca](http://www.studyonline.ca)
* Another online learning platform is “MOOCS” (Massive Open Online Courses). These are free ‘personal enrichment’ courses offered by a variety of colleges and universities

Contact North services include:

* Course and program information
* Assistance with registration process
* Technical support and personal encouragement throughout studies
* Exam invigilation
* Referral to community and employment agencies

**Member Agency updates:**

Amanda Burdick (Literacy Link South Central)

* announced the upcoming annual Adult Learner Awards ceremony Thursday, May 8th to be held again at the Wolfe Performance Hall, Central Library
* LLSC currently has two Job Creation Partnership participants (Information Editor roles)
* LLSC to host Career Ladders training (literacy, language and skills) March 10

Pauline Andrew (Middlesex Social Services)

* Stated there is a new computer system being implemented at Social Services offices across the province (Social Assistance Management System - SAMS)

Michelle Cialacu (Francophone Community)

* Announcement of a free concert (Haitian music) February 28 at the London Music Club, part of celebrations of Black History Month

Beverly Payne (Thames Valley District School Board)

* There are some new courses available (ESL ‘fusion’; Hairstyling (Mar 31; and Retail (The Bay)

Ashley Patterson (WIL Employment Connections)

* Announcement that Wilma de Rond is serving as interim Director at WIL until a new Director is appointed

Alison Sims (NokeeKwe)

* Interviews are underway for some newly created Job Creation Partnership positions recently advertised at the organization

Donna Moore (Western University)

* Announcement of the new ‘co-curricular Record is now available for students to document their co-curricular activities (similar to other colleges and universities)

Kristen Caschera (London Public Library - Central branch)

* She will send Laura Sherrett’s PowerPoint presentation out to the membership

Amanda and Kristen thanked everyone for attending. The next LCAE general meeting is March 18th.

Meeting adjourned 1:00 pm