



# The Centre for Literacy

Le centre d'alphabétisation

## E-NEWS – October 31, 2012

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#### 1. **An Overview - Fall Institute 2012 - Social Finance and Innovation for Adult Basic Learning: Opportunities and Challenges**

If you missed the 2012 Fall Institute on Social Finance and Innovation for Adult Basic Education held on October 14-16 in Saint-John, NB, you can get a flavour of what transpired by consulting the [Overview of Fall Institute 2012](#) just posted on our web site. The Overview provides a summary of the presentations and discussions during the event and the questions that emerged as participants reacted to presentations by government officials, researchers, LES practitioners, and current and potential investors from the private sector. For more detailed descriptions, please see our [Fall Institute 2012](#) web page.



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### 2. Comments, New Presentation Postings, Webinars - Fall Institute 2012

#### **Comments**

During and after each Institute, we ask participants and presenters for feedback. The feedback from this Institute indicates that the topic was timely and the information and discussions will help organizations in future planning.

Excerpts from the evaluation forms:

- The event was informative and provided great networking opportunities
- The topic was very relevant to the current climate in Canada
- The information and speakers provide hands-on information that will help organizations think ahead
- Fantastic discussion and questions on how to look at profit/not-for-profit social enterprises
- An excellent blend of theory and actual programs

#### ***Presentations posted this week***

[Dynamic Tensions: Balancing our social ideals with building revenue streams](#) - presented by Christina Fowler, Saint John Learning Exchange, and Barbara McFater, PTP Adult Learning and Employment Programs. Two socially innovative not-for-profit organizations with entrepreneurial spirit discussed their journey in building distinct social enterprises.

[Social Finance and Employment and Training Programs](#) - presented by Karen Myers, Principal Research Associate at the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation. This presentation shares the results of research investigating the extent to which social finance approaches can foster innovation and improve outcomes for employment and training programs.

[View all the presentations posted to date.](#)

#### **Webinars**

Based on comments at the Institute and the interest in ongoing conversation about social finance and social innovation, we plan to organize and host a series of follow-up webinars in early 2013. Watch our web site for more details.



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### 3. "Ecologies of Learning" by Juliet Merrifield - Summer Institute 2012

We have just posted "[Ecologies of Learning: How Culture and Context Impact Outcomes of Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills](#)" by Juliet Merrifield on our website. This paper examines how context and culture impact the outcomes of Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills (WLES) and similar programs. Merrifield's paper points out that the field of WLES is full of complexities that defy any search for quick fix solutions and argues that WLES programs have a better chance of being successful if they take into account the social ecology in which these programs are implemented.

### 4. Indexing The Centre's Publications

ERIC (Education Resources Information Center), a digital library sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education, has requested permission to index The Centre's research publications in their library. They will focus on stand alone pdf monographs carrying the Centre's name published since 2004, i.e. project documentation reports and research briefs.

### 5. Seeking New Board Member from Atlantic Region

The Centre has extended the application for membership to our Board of Directors to November 8, 2012. [Check our website for more details.](#)

### 6. Research Scan - October 31, 2012

Topics covered in our [October 2012 research scan](#) include: the participation of older workers in job-related training in Canada, LES services for deaf Canadians, successful training models for job-seekers with low educational attainment, an attempt to calculate the monetary value of adult education for learners in the UK, assessing the outcomes of workplace literacy programs in New Zealand, and a summary of New Zealand research projects.

### 7. Friends Campaign

Our [Friends Campaign](#) is ongoing and a second request for support to our community projects will be sent in mid-November as the end of 2012 approaches. We count on your help. Your donations play an ever-growing role in supporting projects such as Lire/Imagine/Read (LIR), and Writers in the Community. In collaboration with the Montreal Children's Hospital, we are supporting a proposed expansion of LIR to a local clinic for foster children 0-5 who are at great risk for developmental delays and literacy challenges. Become a Friend – [Donate](#).



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