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Provincial/Territorial Adult Literacy Profiles

Statement of Methodology

The Provincial/Territorial Literacy Profiles are intended to provide a “snapshot” of adult literacy funding, services and accountability practices across Canada, and offer a backdrop for the research reports generated through this project. They were constructed exclusively on the basis of public information available online, from a variety of sources. No interviews with literacy funders, providers or practitioners were conducted in this process.

The starting point for the research was the National Adult Literacy Database/NALD, which provides a list of the major literacy organizations for each province/territory and web links to their home pages (<http://www.nald.ca/litweb/province/province.htm>).

Through NALD, it was possible to identify the provincial/territorial government ministries and departments responsible for promoting, supporting and overseeing adult literacy initiatives and services in their region. The web pages of the relevant ministries were the source for most of the information used to construct the profiles. This information was taken from a variety of posted official pronouncements and documents, including ministerial statements, news releases, annual reports and budgets, white papers, multi-year strategic reports, studies and recommendations. Any direct quotations from the websites are indicated in the profiles with quotation marks.

The web pages of the larger provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, Quebec, and Ontario) were quite easy to navigate for the purposes of this research. Locating the relevant information of the smaller provinces and territories, particularly on funding, required more time and effort. For all provinces/territories, the funding figures in the profiles refer to government core funding for the activities and services designated as adult literacy-related, and do not include financial aid for students.

Additional information was gathered from the web pages and posted documents of provincial/territorial literacy coalitions and other province-wide organizations involved in adult literacy, as well as those of educational agencies and institutions (school boards, colleges) supported by the government to provide adult literacy programs. The demographic data at the head of each profile was obtained from the most recent provincial/territorial Summary Tables of Statistics Canada¹. A final source was: *The Development and State of the Art of Adult Learning and Education (ALE) Report for Canada*, Draft – October 2008, prepared by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada/CMEC in collaboration with the Canadian Commission for

¹ <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/z01/cs0003-eng.htm>

UNESCO². This comprehensive document describes in considerable detail many of the aspects covered in the profiles and was a useful supplement to the other sources consulted.

The profiles are based on research conducted between December 3 and 19, 2008, and represent the information that was publicly available at that point in time. Outdated names of federal agencies were updated, if required. The date when web pages were last modified was noted where such information was indicated (most often not). The profiles should not be used for further research purposes without validation.