

March 5, 2018

Dear Employment Ontario partners,

In 2017, as part of the Lifelong Learning and Skills Plan, the government announced its investment of \$185 million over four years in essential skills programming for adults. We're pleased to let you know, that as part of this investment, the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program will receive a \$25M increase to its base funding in 2018-19. More than 93% of this investment will be allocated to support frontline service delivery. Funding will be allocated to:

- Continue to address the static funding challenge faced by the LBS network
- Increase the number of learners in the LBS program
- Support curriculum enhancements, in particular level one curriculum for lower level learners; and develop curriculum from a cultural perspective
- Continue the investment in e-Channel, to support more learners in the changing knowledge-based economy and support remote communities and people who have limited access to the LBS program
- Promote outreach and awareness of the LBS program
- Support improved program delivery through professional development training for LBS service providers

This year's funding priorities were informed by direct consultation with LBS partners, feedback from the October 2017 LBS Symposium and recommendations from the 2016 LBS evaluation report. More information about each funding opportunity will be provided as it becomes available.

The government will continue to seek input and feedback from the LBS network throughout 2018-19 to inform program improvements and expansion. We see improving the program as a multi-year, collaborative process.

In addition to engaging the LBS network, we will work with other adult education partners to make the broader adult education system more seamless and learner-centred. This work supports the government's goal of ensuring all Ontario adults can access the opportunities they need to adapt, succeed and find a place in the province's highly skilled workforce.

For more information on this funding, please review the attached Qs and As. Should you have any additional questions, please contact your local ministry office.

We look forward to working with you to expand and improve the LBS program, and better serve adults who would benefit from upgrading their skills.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

David Carter-Whitney  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Employment and Training Division

(Original signed by)

Erin McGinn  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Workforce Policy and Innovation Division