

November 24, 2017

Dear Employment Ontario partners,

We are writing to provide you with a summary of the symposium the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) hosted with the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) network on October 5 and 6, 2017 in Toronto. In addition, we are pleased to share next steps for LBS improvement and expansion through our continued collaboration.

The symposium marks the beginning of a multi-year LBS program improvement and expansion process that will result in strengthened literacy and essential skills training to help more Ontarians find meaningful work, adapt to changing technologies and build the skills needed to grow their careers and contribute to their communities.

Representatives attended from across the province, as well as the sectors and streams of LBS. Day 1 was attended by representatives from **92%** of the network's organizations. Day 2, attended only by representatives of Indigenous LBS organizations, was attended by **87%** of the network's Indigenous partner organizations. Thank you to everyone who took part in the symposium, your active participation and thoughtful contributions made it a great success.

What's Next?

Report Feedback

Included in this email is a **draft copy** of the summary report for **Day 1** of the symposium. This document was prepared by the independent facilitation firm, Swerhun Inc. If you attended on October 5, please review the draft to ensure the feedback shared has been accurately captured. To share comments or suggested changes, please contact Casey Craig by email (ccraig@swerhun.com) or phone (416-572-4365), by Monday, December 11, 2017.

All LBS Indigenous partners will receive a separate email providing a **draft copy** of the summary for **Day 2**. If you attended on October 6, please review the draft to ensure the feedback shared has been accurately reflected. To share comments or suggested changes, please contact Janoi Edwards by email (LifelongLearning@Ontario.ca) or phone (416-327-4069) by Monday, December 11, 2017.

Once all feedback is received, both reports will be finalized and posted on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway (EOPG).

Call for Participation

In addition, we are also pleased to announce a Call for Participation. The ministry is calling for representatives of the network to explain how you can best contribute to working tables and reference groups that will be established in the New Year. Through this process we will continue to work directly with you, our LBS partners, to improve and expand literacy and essential skills services in response to the growing and changing need for skills upgrading.

For more information on how to participate, please review the Call for Participation document and use the link provided to complete the online submission form.

The deadline for online submissions is **Monday, December 4, 2017, 11:55 pm ET.**

We look forward to continuing this important work. Through partnership, we can better support more Ontarians, to advance their skills and unlock their own potential.

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