



Centre for
Canadian Language
Benchmarks

Centre des niveaux de
compétence linguistique
canadiens

ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008



Celebrating 10 Years of CLB Expertise



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HISTORY

Incorporated in 1998 as a national not-for-profit organization and governed by a nationally representative, multi-stakeholder board of directors, the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks supports and promotes the Canadian Language Benchmarks and Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens.

VISION

Canadian Language Benchmarks/Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens will be **the** national standards for describing, measuring and recognizing English and French language proficiency of adult immigrants and prospective immigrants for living and working in Canada.

MISSION

The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks supports the Canadian Language Benchmarks/Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens through policy, guidelines, research and development; and promotes their recognition and use as practical, fair and reliable national standards of English and French language proficiency in educational, training, community and workplace settings.

CCLB Board of Directors 2007-2008

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CCLB Staff 2007-2008

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Pauline McNaughton to June 2007
Gay Hamilton

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Patricia Benoit

FINANCE & BUDGET OFFICER
Linda Hu

PROJECT MANAGERS
Patricia Meek
Marianne Kayed
Silvia Dancose
Jennifer McKay

PROJECT OFFICERS
Brigitte Brodin
Colette Pépin

PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR
Olivia Vlaic

SPECIAL CONSULTANT
Anne Senior

Message from the Chair -

At year-end in March 2008, the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks passed a major milestone, its tenth anniversary. It is a time to take stock in the Centre's growth and leadership since its founding and to be proud of its many accomplishments. As such, we have dedicated a page of this report to some of the highlights and more interesting statistics around the Centre's work over the past decade.



As for the immediate past, the CCLB team was most productive throughout 2007-2008. The Centre experienced some major changes especially in terms of staffing and we welcomed a new Executive Director in August. While change comes with a few hurdles, it also provides many opportunities and the Centre came through with some very remarkable work. Together we have planned an important and thorough process, a national consultation of the CLB 2000, that will ensure that our principal services and products are up to date and useful to the stakeholders we serve. As well, it will help us define our medium and long-term planning.

Special thanks go to the Executive Council members for their support and direction throughout this transition and to the Board members, funders and committee members who contributed in so many ways to supporting the Centre's ongoing mission.

Serge Boulé, Chair

- Message from the Executive Director

A tenth anniversary along with the opportunity to reflect on the progress of the organization as well as the path for the future is an excellent time to join an organization. The learning curve has been steep but, like the organization itself, it has been enjoyable, educational and all together challenging. I am very grateful to a vast network of members, colleagues, funders, partners and especially the Executive Council and CCLB staff who were instrumental in answering my many, many questions.

This year, the Centre produced some excellent and professional tools in support of stakeholder activities. Training and calibration of CLBPT trainers is ongoing. The development of the NCLC-TC (French placement test) progressed well and the CCLB partnered on a number of projects that we are proud to report on at this time. Work has already begun for the coming year and we know that we can count on our broad stakeholder base as we seek input for direction on next steps.



Gay Hamilton, Executive Director

Year in Review

Funded by Alberta
Employment and
Immigration

Review of CLB 2000 and NCLC 2006

The CCLB developed a plan for the process to conduct the review and revisions to the CLB 2000 and NCLC 2006. In November 2007 the plan was approved by the CCLB Board of Directors and it served as a basis for a multiple funder, multi-year project to take place from 2008 to 2010. The national consultation will consult and gather data, input and recommendations from the ESL/FLS teaching field as well as other stakeholder groups that use CLB 2000 and NCLC 2006. The review of CLB 2000 and NCLC 2006 aims to ensure that the language benchmarks maintain currency, quality, relevance, trustworthiness and transferability for the community that uses the standard. It will take into account new uses and applications of the CLB/NCLC in recent years, and the changing contexts in which it is used.

Funded by Alberta
Employment and
Immigration

Workplace Language Assessment - Recap

A report was produced to review the development and current status of the Workplace Language Assessment (WLA), related projects and key activities from 2004 until 2007. In Part 1 the review focuses on the project to develop the assessment tool in 2004-05 and 2005-06; Part 2 brings together the related projects from 2005-2006 and 2006-2007; Part 3 looks at several other activities that followed the development of the WLA. The goals and outcomes of each project are identified. Funding bodies for projects related to the WLA are noted. A brief summary follows the review. This report is being used to formulate a plan for the roll out and promotion of the WLA in 2008-2009.

Year in Review

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & NEW RESOURCES

WLA Pre-Screening Tool for Ontario and Alberta

The WLA Pre-Screening Tool was originally developed to screen for eligibility to take the WLA. The tool was field tested and rolled out in the Greater Toronto Area to pre-screen clients for other pathways that require higher levels of English. 750 people were trained in using the tool in the GTA so far this year. The tool was also presented at the NATCON conference in Toronto and next steps in Ontario include plans to implement the tool in the rest of the province.

Interest in using the tool has been shown in other parts of the country, opening the possibility of adapting it and sharing it with other provinces. The Ontario-specific tool served as a basis for a generic version to allow for such adaptation. This was the case for Alberta where terminology and reference material were clearly focused for usage in that province, making the WLA Pre-Screening Tool relevant to Alberta's training, employment and work culture. 15 Alberta counsellors participated in sessions and gave feedback for the Alberta version to be finalized. Further, a Train-the-Trainer model was developed by CCLB and training followed for three trainers from the Alberta field test and three CLB language assessors from Alberta.

Resources: Participant Kit
 Train-the-trainer Kit and CD

Funded by Ontario
Ministry of
Citizenship and
Immigration
and Alberta
Employment and
Immigration

EXIT Assessment Tasks CLB 5 to 10 for the Classroom

Following the development of two sets of assessment tools for *CLB 5–6* and *CLB 7–10* in 2006-2007, the CCLB was asked to combine the two publications in one comprehensive resource for ESL practitioners entitled *Canadian Language Benchmarks 5–10 Exit Assessment Tasks*.

The project included final editing, layout, desktop publishing, graphic design, publication, distribution and promotion of the tool to CIC-funded language programs across Canada.

The *Canadian Language Benchmarks 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks* will provide practitioners with the first nationally available, standardized tools to assess and report on the learning outcomes of adult ESL learners in the intermediate to advanced levels (CLB 5 to 10). Practitioners will be able to use the new resource to supplement curriculum-based assessments to provide accurate reports of learning outcomes in terms of the national standard, the Canadian Language Benchmarks.

Available in the Spring 2008

Funded by
Citizenship &
Immigration
Canada

Year in Review

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Citizenship and
Immigration
Canada – Ontario
Region

Curricular Guidelines for CLIC 5-7 (French)

At the very end of the year, the francophone team undertook the adaptation and development of curricular guidelines for CLIC 5-7 in French, using as a basis, the English document, *LINC 5 to 7 National Curriculum Guidelines* developed by the Toronto Catholic District School Board in 2007.

The CCLB is partnering with *La Cité collégiale* on this project which will produce a tool entitled « *Lignes directrices nationales pour le programme CLIC de niveaux 5 à 7* ». It will be aligned with the NCLC and the resulting product will support course and lesson planning as well as the selection of pedagogical materials that are appropriate to CLIC and other FSL programs. The tool is meant to provide uniform FSL teaching practices with respect to CLIC levels 5 to 7 and promote the use of the NCLC through increased understanding of an approach based on communications tasks and on the adult learner.

The project extends to the Spring of 2009.

Funded
by Alberta
Employment and
Immigration

Promotion of the new Literacy Foundation assessment with Alberta Teachers

Four half-day workshops to promote the literacy benchmarks and the Literacy Placement Tool Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 were delivered in Alberta to ESL and Literacy practitioners from November 2007 to January 2008. 44 participants from ESL and literacy programs attended sessions in Edmonton (Norquest College), Calgary (Educere), and Lethbridge (SALAS Ltd.).

Participants came from the following Alberta organizations: ILVARC, Bow Valley College, MGG Consulting, Educere, Centre for Newcomers (LINC co-ordinator), Stepping Stones: Forward into the Community, SALAS Ltd., Taber Adult Learning Centre, Lethbridge Public Library, Rainbow Literacy Foundations, Words Work Literacy, PALS, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Camrose Adult Learning Centre, Two Hills Adult Learning, Star Literacy, Norquest College, Academy of Learning, Centre for Family Literacy, CCI-Lex, Norwood Family & Childcare Centre, Employabilities, LARCC .

All participants received *CLB 2000: ESL for Literacy Learners, Literacy Placement Tool (LPT)- Volumes 1 and 2*.

Year in Review

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & NEW RESOURCES

Development and promotion of new Online Professional (PD) resources for the English as a Second Language (ESL) community

The CCLB supports English as a Second Language Professionals through online PD. This year, the focus has been on promoting the site, getting and incorporating feedback and increasing the content.

In the past year CCLB has increased the content of the website with:

- PDF files of the web site which can be downloaded by LINC service providers (these files make PD more accessible for those teachers who have limited internet access)
- Ten new lesson plans, suitable for higher level learners with employment goals
- A brief history of CLB/CCLB
- Information documents on LINC (and ELSA) levels
- Additional material on the assessment site (Greg's classroom)
- Facilitated online discussions were piloted in January, February and March
- Ask the Experts corner
- Survey on needs and uses

The CCLB presented or did workshops for over 300 participants at TESL Ontario, TESL Ottawa, Algonquin College TESL students, and three sessions with Ottawa Board of Education teachers. Materials developed and used in Ontario were also shared during events in other provinces. Presentations and workshops were given at Alberta Assessors Conference, ATESL, Vancouver Community College and to BC teachers. Articles about the materials were published by ATESL and BC TEAL.

Tools and resources to support the effective use of Essential Skills by practitioners working with immigrants with English or French as a Second Language

This project began toward the end of the year and will be completed in 2010. A series of guidebooks are being developed which aim to increase the capacity of a range of stakeholders to better support immigrant clients seeking to develop their Essential Skills. The guidebooks will include an introduction to the Essential Skills and Canadian Language Benchmarks as the national frameworks underlying workforce related training and learning programs, providing targeted stakeholder groups with guidelines, best practices and other tools in order to better understand and serve the needs of immigrants. A series of workshops will be delivered to support practitioners in the use of the guidebooks for their daily work.

Language skills are intrinsic to all nine Essential Skills, but the focus of the guidebooks is on reading, writing, document use and oral communication. They are intended to improve the data collection in Essential Skills Profiles and National Occupational Standards, provide tools and techniques for corporate trainers who may work with second language learners, and provide ESL/FSL teachers with additional tips and lesson plans related to generic and transferable skills for employment for Stage 1 and Stage 2 learners.

Funded by
British Columbia
Ministry of The
Attorney General,
Ontario Ministry
of Citizenship and
Immigration,
Citizenship and
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Canada,
Nova Scotia

Funded by Human
Resources and
Social
Development
Canada

Year in Review

Funded by Ontario
British Columbia
Ministry of The
Attorney General,
Ministry of
Citizenship and
Immigration

Work Ready Kit

The CCLB pursued development begun in 2006-2007 and finalized ***Work Ready: CLB Resources for Counselling, Hiring and Working with Internationally Trained Individuals*** to support counsellors and human resource professionals in their work with Internationally Trained Individuals (ITIs). The kit was developed with input from the human resources and counselling sectors and was widely field tested. It has gone through several revisions.

The kit has five sections:

- I. Generic information to support both counsellors and HR; this section includes information on the Canadian Language Benchmarks, Essential Skills and Occupational Language Analyses
- II. For counsellors: this section includes advice and support for counsellors as they prepare ITIs to work in Canada
- III. For HR and employers: this section includes advice and support for recruiting, hiring and retaining ITIs
- IV. Case Studies
- V. Additional Resources

The following agencies provided input and contributed to finalizing the kit this year: Hire Immigrants Ottawa, City of Ottawa, LASI World Skills, TRIEC, HRP AO, Organization of Career Counsellors, Canadian Career Development Foundation, Association of New Canadians, Access Employment Services, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, World Access Canada, ASPECT, the Workplace Division of the Manitoba Labour & Immigration and Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation. Several individuals also contributed to the review of the Work Ready resource kit: Pat Meek, Pauline McNaughton, Steve Owen, Kelly Pollock, Lynn Thomas, and Brigid Hayes.

The kit was promoted at conferences such as NATCON, CDC, ASPECT, and HRIA. Further input was received by holding a breakfast information session in Ottawa.

Resources: available on-line and a hard copy version will be available pending funding.

Year in Review

ASSESSMENT

Institutional CELBAN (Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses)

The Institutional CELBAN has been developed as a result of feedback received from programs and institutions that serve internationally educated (IE) nurses and English as a Second Language (ESL) nursing students in Canada. In 2003, the official CELBAN was developed to provide an assessment tool that would meet the English language requirements of licensing bodies across Canada. Since that time there has been a growing demand for a similar assessment tool which could be used independently by educational institutions. Nurse educators were finding that, typically, traditional language tests did not adequately reflect the language demands of clinical placements and practicum. There was also a need for a means to introduce potential candidates to the CELBAN format and help them prepare to take the official CELBAN.

Two versions of the assessment tool as well as accompanying guidebooks were developed. 136 candidates were tested in a pilot that was conducted at five locations across Canada. Statistical analysis and revisions to the assessment tool, and guidebooks followed. The result is a thorough assessment of the English proficiency of the candidates in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing articulated in terms of Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) Levels. These levels were determined to be: Speaking 8, Listening 9, Reading 8 and Writing 7.

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Canada,
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Year in Review

Funded by
Citizenship and
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Canada, Alberta
Employment and
Immigration,
British Columbia
Ministry of the
Attorney General,
Nova Scotia

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CLBPT Training and Calibration

The CCLB developed and implemented a model for formal calibration of CLBPT speaking/ listening and writing tests for assessors in Canada. These activities allowed assessors to ascertain if they were assessing appropriately to the CLB standard. The CCLB facilitated full-day professional development sessions to review administration of speaking and listening components, evaluate writing and video samples and discuss issues arising from test administration.

CLBPT Assessors benefited from the calibration process which ensured that their skills were current, consistent and reliable. The feedback from the calibration workshops was extremely positive with almost all of the participants expressing the desire for yearly calibration workshops.

Delivery: 136 participants

11 Workshops were held in: Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Toronto, North York, Halifax, Brampton, Ottawa, Charlottetown, Regina, Vancouver,

Resources: DVD, Trainer Kit and hard copy Participant Kit

The CCLB also provided delivery of CLBPT training to LINC assessors to address new hires and staff turnover during the year.

Delivery: 24 participants

6 CLBPT Training Sessions were held in: Regina, Edmonton, Fredericton, Ottawa, Halifax and Mississauga.

WLA - New Writing Versions

Two additional, parallel writing versions for the Workplace Language Assessment have been developed to broaden the relevance of the WLA to professions other than engineers, accountants and IT professionals.

An addendum was added to the assessment guide and the brochure was updated. The www.language.ca website was updated to reflect the new versions.

Year in Review

ASSESSMENT

NCLC French Placement Test Development (NCLC-TC)

The CCLB followed through on the development of the NCLC French Placement Test (NCLC-TC) with validation stages and national implementation in the CLIC program. The project will establish key components to support an NCLC-based national assessment system, paralleling the CLBPT national assessment system.

The goals this year were to complete the methodology framework, field testing and a pilot format for version 1 of the test as well as develop a draft of a second parallel version. Testing was the main focus of activities as was the preparation of a national assessment framework for the NCLC-TC (uses and applications across Canada).

The pilot format of version 1 test material included: scoring bands and procedures, tests and forms, transcripts, tasks and answer keys and video CDs. The following establishments were instrumental in supporting the testing activities for this project: École des adultes Le Carrefour, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO); Éducation permanente, Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du Centre-Est (CECLFCE); La Cité collégiale, YMCA, Centre d'évaluation linguistique de la région de la Capitale nationale; Université du Québec en Outaouais; and Collège de l'Outaouais. The NCLC Advisory Committee provided both input and review at each stage of development. Three workshops focusing on promotion and implementation of NCLC and related products were delivered in Edmonton, Regina and Vancouver.

**Funded by
Citizenship &
Immigration
Canada,
Ontario Ministry
of Citizenship
and Immigration**

Financial Report

The condensed financial information below has been extracted from the CCLB Audited Financial Statements. The report of Welch and Company LLP, the auditors, and complete audited financial statements, which include notes and more detailed supplementary financial information, are available for examination by contacting the CCLB at info@language.ca.

Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2008

ASSETS	2008	2007
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash	-	102,570
Contributions receivable	411,460	327,809
Other receivables	54,526	32,635
Inventory	42,388	25,882
Prepaid expenses	20,437	4,608
GST recoverable	23,309	22,281
	552,120	515,785
Property and Equipment		
Computer equipment	6,497	-
Less accumulated amortization	(271)	-
	6,226	-
	558,346	515,785
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Bank overdraft	52,057	-
Bank loan	9,000	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	251,531	174,846
Deferred contributions	6,689	89,122
	319,277	263,968
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	239,069	251,817
	558,346	515,785

Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2008

	2008	2007
REVENUE	\$	\$
Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)	428,565	485,347
Human Resources and Social Development Canada	225,345	1,545
Government of Ontario	395,746	411,958
Government of Alberta	82,393	80,069
National Literacy Secretariat	-	52,122
Canadian Food Industry Council	26,000	-
Government of British Columbia	50,000	50,000
Government of Nova Scotia	5,000	5,000
Centre for Education and Training	23,617	87,458
Colleges Integrating Immigrants to Employment	-	21,175
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers	23,300	-
Grant MacEwan College	46,729	-
Sales – Business Centre	117,890	134,910
Miscellaneous	5,208	44
	1,383,064	1,329,828
EXPENSES		
Office		
GST	20,660	12,266
Telephone and internet	7,694	7,326
Rent and insurance	69,084	74,670
Office supplies and postage	30,440	37,923
Subscriptions and videos	-	289
Communications	65,292	38,880
Miscellaneous	1,382	989
Website development	1,209	435
	195,761	172,778
Personnel		
Salaries, fees and benefits	409,482	513,522
Staff development	520	445
Recruitment	905	900
	410,907	514,867
Board		
Travel	9,511	16,634
Insurance	1,100	1,312
Logistics	2,715	4,159
Conference calls	2,773	2,964
	16,099	25,069
Conferences and Memberships		
Association memberships and government fees	225	366
Conference fees	2,814	3,587
	3,039	3,953
Business Centre	105,545	128,925
Professional fees	563,544	416,713
Staff and contractors' travel costs and associated fees	85,950	50,884
Amortization	271	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,395,812	1,328,899
NET REVENUE	(12,748)	929
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	251,817	250,888
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	239,069	251,817

CCLB Resource and Training Centre

The CCLB Resource and Training Centre is an important component of the organization's make-up. It allows the organization to engage with partners to provide services such as training, service contracts and research projects that do not fall directly under our regular funding streams.

Building on a decade of resource development for language assessment, teachers' manuals, learners' materials, curricular guidelines and tools for workplace use, the Resource and Training Centre has developed a small but growing library of materials. The Resource and Training Centre also provides an opportunity for the CCLB to showcase its initiatives and offer its expertise to an increasingly diverse client base – second language training practitioners, the immigrant serving community, human resource and employment counsellors, sector councils, etc.

Revenue is generated from the sale of some materials. Items that are developed under government funding are distributed according to agreements with the funders but in order to continue providing these resources to our clients once projects come to term, they are distributed on a cost recovery basis. Revenue is reinvested in the organization to cover expenses not covered by regular funding such as purchase of capital assets, professional development for staff, board expenses, etc.

CLBPT Orientation and Training (for non federally-funded organizations)

From April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, the CCLB trained 65 new CLBPT assessors and delivered twelve training and orientation sessions for assessors through the Resource and Training Centre. The sessions were held in Toronto (2 sessions), Winnipeg, Mississauga, Edmonton, Brandon, Vancouver (4 sessions), Fredericton and Hamilton.

During the same period, five new CLBPT site licenses were granted to eligible centres including: Peel District School Board, ON (2 site licenses), Alexander College / Vancouver Central College, BC, Fort St. John Literacy Society, BC and the Immigrant & Multicultural Service Society of Prince George (Williams Lake), BC.

Distribution of CCLB Materials

The CCLB distributed 2,753 items to 243 clients across Canada over the past year. The following publications topped the list in terms of demand:

- Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000: A Guide to implementation
- Canadian Language Benchmarks Posters (sets and individual posters)
- Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000: ESL for Literacy Learners
- Can Do Checklists

A full catalogue of resources available from the CCLB is available at www.language.ca

CCLB Resource and Training Centre

**PARTNERSHIP
COLLABORATION
CONTRACTUAL
WORK**

Canadian Language Benchmarking of Red Seal Trades

Human Resource and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), on behalf of the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA), commissioned the project (through Services Canada) to facilitate the entry of skilled internationally trained tradespersons into the Canadian workforce. The research was undertaken by the CCLB to measure and assess the language competency levels needed for English as a Second Language (ESL) and French as a Second Language (FSL) in order to work in the Red Seal trades.

The following project outcomes were realized:

- A feasibility study on national benchmarking of technical training programs
- 10 Exam reports (English and French) that analyze reading levels in terms of CLB/NCLC
- Worksite Benchmarking reports for 5 trades (Hairstylist, Steampipe fitter, machinist, Auto Service technician and Millwright)
- 3 Occupational Language Analyses (English and French) completed and 7 draft.

The CCLB is grateful to the following establishments who provided access to worksites for benchmarking the various trades: Manitoba Forte Tool & Die, Custom Castings Limited, Deca Industries, Advanced Precision Machining, Gauthier Chrysler Dodge, Keystone Ford Sales Ltd., Automotive Connection, Maxwell's Service Station, Lounsbury Chev-Olds, Flint Energy Services, Southeast Construction, Derkson Heating & Plumbing, John's Hair Design, Garden City Hairstylist, Frank's Hair 2000, Vault Salon & Spa, First Choice Haircutters (Edmonton), First Choice Haircutters (Toronto), First Impressions, Weston Bakeries Ltd., Maple Leaf Consumer Foods, Mosaic Potash Mine, Clear Water Fabrication, Syncrude, Millwrights Local 1460.

Online CLB Self-Assessment

Funding for the development of an online self-assessment tool (in English and French) referenced to the CLB 2000/NCLC 2006 documents was awarded to the Centre for Education and Training (CET). The CCLB worked with CET and developed the French version which is scheduled to be launched in 2008-2009. Visitors to this site will be able to access an online self-assessment to estimate their Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) or *Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC)* levels in two skill areas - reading and listening. Intended as an indicator of language level, it is not meant to replace formal assessments for current and potential immigrants.

This tool will be helpful in assisting immigrants and prospective immigrants in making decisions about employment, access to professions and trades, further education and training and immigration and integration into Canadian society

The CCLB was responsible for the translation, adaptation and development of the French language component of the project, as well as a range of CLB and NCLC support materials and links to other sites.

**Services Canada
with Human
Resources and
Social Development
Canada**

**Funded to Centre for
Education & Training
by Citizenship and
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Canada**

PARTNERSHIP

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**CONTRACTUAL
WORK**

**Funded to Canadian
Association for
Prior Learning
Assessment
by Canadian Council
of Learning,
Adult Learning
Knowledge Centre**

**Service Canada with
CIC– Integration
Branch and
Foundation
Programs**

**Funded to
Edmonton
Mennonite Centre
For Newcomers
by Alberta
Employment and
Immigration**

CCLB Resource and Training Centre

PLAR Checklist

The Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA) contracted the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB) to develop a prior learning assessment checklist. The project was supported by the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre, an initiative of the Canadian Council on Learning. CCLB developed the language and Essential Skills portion of the tool – a two-page schematic with descriptors and checklists to help advisors incorporate assessment and documentation of Essential Skills and Canadian Language Benchmarks within prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR). This piece is particularly valuable for working with immigrant and potential immigrant clients, as well as with clients with various literacy levels. The document is available in English and in French.

Review of Newcomer Documents

In the fall of 2007, the CCLB was awarded a contract to review two Citizenship and Immigration Canada newcomer documents: *“A Newcomer’s Guide to Canada”* and *“Welcome to Canada”* for Canadian Language Benchmark level, usability, accessibility, and ease of comprehension. The CCLB was tasked to do an independent review of the documents using three CLB experts, formulate a report on the findings and recommendations and provide a summary of writing best practices for newcomer documents with examples based on an environmental scan of several G8 countries. The CCLB presented the findings and recommendations to Citizenship and Immigration and HRSDC staff.

Language Portfolio for Engineers

With financial support from the Government of Alberta, the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) embarked on a project to develop a language portfolio for Internationally-educated Engineers (IEGs). In the initial phase of the project, the CCLB was asked to develop templates to enable IEGs to self-assess their language abilities. Experimentally, the project has been considered with regard to the European Common Framework (CEFR) model of language portfolios. CLB levels have also been identified for the project and resources were developed for IEGs at either those CLB levels or working towards them. The CCLB also explored the possibility of comparing the CLB and the Common European Framework (CEFR). Several CLB experts knowledgeable on the CEFR advised on the project and the EMCN is determining next steps in terms of further development and validation.

CCLB Resource and Training Centre

PRINT & PUBLICATION

The CCLB published a number of resources in print, online and CD formats. Check our website at www.language.ca for further information and availability.

National Assessment Framework: Booklet and poster

The National Assessment Framework (NAF) is a booklet that lists the various CLB-related assessment tools available in Canada. It includes the name, description, uses and special aspects of each tool. It also includes referrals where users can get additional information. The booklet format can be easily distributed at presentations, displayed with other brochures or mailed out. A quick reference poster is also available.

Funded by Alberta
Employment and
Immigration

WLA Pre-Screener: DVD trainer Kit and hard copy Participant Kit

Work Ready: resource kit

New Online Professional Development: online modules

EXIT Assessment Tasks CLB 5 to 10 for the Classroom: hard copy manual and 8 CDs

PLAR Checklist: online

A Decade of Accomplishments

Celebrating 10 Years of CLB Expertise

Established 1998

In March 2008, the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks celebrated its 10th anniversary. A series of events and background work preceded the Centre's official founding in 1998 and laid the foundation for a decade of resource development, partnership and collaboration with a long list of stakeholders that continues to grow.

Timeline

- 1992** Regional consultations conducted by Employment and Immigration Canada, now Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to develop a "made-in-Canada" approach to language training and language proficiency.
- 1993** National Working Group on Language Benchmarks (NWGLB) set up, included teachers, administrators, government, immigrant serving groups.
- 1995-96** Research, consultation and field testing with approximately 3000 participants nationwide; the Canadian Language Benchmarks: English as a Second Language for Adults produced as a working document.
- 1998** Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks created with the support of CIC and the Governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia. Mandate: to support and maintain the standard in Canada.
- 2000** After review, the new Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000 launched at the official opening of the TESL Canada Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia. To date over 21,000 copies have been distributed. Feasibility study with nursing regulatory bodies and instructors on need for national study for IE nurses.
- 2001** Publication of companion documents to support the Canadian Language Benchmarks: ESL for Literacy Learners, Theoretical Framework, A Guide to Implementation and Additional Sample Tasks.
- 2002** The CCLB began to operate in both official languages; Publication of *Standards linguistiques canadiens (SLC)*- first version of the French benchmarks; Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test launched – to date 116 sites have been licensed across Canada, 107 training sessions have taken place and 710 assessors have been trained.
- 2003-04** Development of: Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN); Curricular Guidelines for CLIC 1-5; CLB Impact Study.
- 2004-05** Itsessential.ca online learning launched.
3 parallel versions of CLBPT developed and implemented.
- 2006** Review and launch of *Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens 2006*.
Development of the Workplace Language Assessment
Users from 53 different countries have logged on the CCLB elearning site [<http://elearning.language.ca>]
- 2007** Institutional CELBAN; WLA Pre-screening Tool; Work Ready

A Decade of Accomplishments

Celebrating 10 Years of CLB Expertise

Established 1998

In recent years, the CCLB has continued to develop resources, assessment tests and support language learning with a broad range of partners.

The CCLB Board and staff work with:

ESL and FSL practitioners	Community Colleges
Assessors	School Boards
Community groups	Human resource Sector Councils
Human resource counsellors	Regulatory bodies
Employment counsellors	Learners
Employers	Funders
Immigrant-serving groups	National associations
Literacy groups	

The CCLB hosts www.language.ca which provides a wide range of information on the CCLB and NCLC as well as links to a host of useful resources. Stakeholders go to www.celban.org for resources on CELBAN. Professional development materials related to the CLB and Essentials Skills are found at www.itsessential.ca.

The following resources and tools have been developed by the CCLB and are in use across Canada:

- Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Test
- Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN)
- Online Self-Assessment
- Relating CLB to Essential Skills: A Comparative Framework (English and French)
- Ontario College Writing Exemplars (O.C.W.E.)
- Companion Tables
- Can Do Checklists
- Workplace Language Assessment
- Workplace Language Assessment Pre-Screening Tool
- EXIT Assessment Tasks CLB 5 to 10 for the Classroom
- PLAR Checklist
- Occupational Language Analysis/Analyse linguistique des professions
- Learner Booklets and brochures in various languages and Learner Gateway on website
- ESL for Literacy Learners
- Canadian Language Benchmark 2000: Theoretical Framework
- Canadian Language Benchmark 2000: A Guide to Implementation
- Integrating CLB Assessment into your ESL Classroom
- Canadian Language Benchmarks Literacy Placement Tool: Volume 1
- Canadian Language Benchmarks Literacy Placement Tool: Volume 2
- Summative Assessment Manual: Volume 2 (CLB 3-4)
- Alphabétisation pour immigrants adultes en français langue seconde
- Outil de classement en alphabétisation, volume 1
- Outil de classement en alphabétisation, volume 2
- Tablettes « Je suis capable de... »
- Online Professional Development resources (ex. sample tasks, lesson plans)
- Work Ready: CLB Resources for Counselling, Hiring and Working with ITIs

Stakeholders

Resources

Outreach

The CCLB attended and/or participated in the following:

Alberta Human Resources Institute of Alberta (HRIA) Conference
Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship semi-annual meeting
Professional Development Retreat for CLB assessment staff in Alberta
Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) Conference
Movement for Canadian Literacy's conference "Linkages connecting Literacy and ESL"
Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESL) Ontario Conference
Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESL) Ottawa
Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA)
Association québécoise des enseignants de français langue seconde
Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario (HRPAO)
National Career Development and Workforce Learning Event (NATCON)
Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (ASPECT)
Ontario Region LINC Assessor Conference
"Reaching for the Tipping Point in Literacy"
Career Development Conference (CDC)
"Moving Forward Together": Higher-Level Language Training
Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC)

Every year, designated members of the CCLB Staff sit on a number of committees in an advisory capacity.

Workplace and Learning Knowledge Centre (WLKC) Working Group
Colleges Integrating Immigrants to Employment (CIITE) Advisory Group
Ontario Skills Passport Advisory Group
Contact Canada Customer Contact Centre National Occupational Standards Advisory Committee

The CCLB is proud to be associated with the following partner organization:

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Canada
Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Ontario
Canadian Society of Association Executives (CSAE)
Ontario Association of Adult & Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA)
Canadian Society for Training and Development (CSTD)
Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française (ACELF)
Association québécoise des enseignants de français langue seconde

Conferences
Presentations
Workshops
Exhibits

Committees
Collaboration

Memberships
Affiliations

Committees

The CCLB works with a network of partners who lend their expertise to the work of the organization through participation on committees as well as membership on the Board of Directors. Their ongoing contribution is greatly appreciated and the Centre would like to extend its appreciation to the following:

Gisèle Barnabé, Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface
Normand Fortin, Campus St-Jean, *University of Alberta*
Lorraine Laliberté, Institut français, *University of Regina*
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Nicole Olivier, La Cité collégiale
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Bonita Rousselle et Josée Godin, Centre international d'apprentissage du français, Campus de Shippagan de l'Université de Moncton
Francine Spielmann, École des adultes Le Carrefour, Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario
George Wybouw, Association multiculturelle du Grand Moncton
Louis Kelly, Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (Qc)
Luc St-Amour, Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

Shannon Storey, University of Saskatchewan
Louis Kelly, Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles
Gisèle Barnabé, Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface
Joanne Pettis, Adult Language Training Branch, Manitoba Labour and Immigration

Gerry Mills, Halifax Immigrant Learning Centre
Rob Boldt, Ministry of the Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism
Christina Stechishin, Vancouver Community College
Brenda Storr, Camosun College

Rob Boldt, Ministry of the Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism

Note: Serge Boulé, CCLB Chair and Gay Hamilton, Executive Director are Ex-Officio on all committees

NCL Advisory Group

CCLB Quality & Appropriate Uses Committee

CCLB Governance and Nominating Committee

CELBAN Advisor

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Learning Programs Branch, Advanced Education

Alberta

Immigration Policy and Programs Branch, Alberta Employment and Immigration

Saskatchewan

Employment and Language Training Immigration Branch, Advanced Education and Employment

Manitoba

Adult Language Training Branch Immigration and Multiculturalism, Manitoba Labour and Immigration

Ontario

Language Training Unit, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

Québec

Politiques, programmes et promotion de la francisation, Direction générale de la francisation, Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration

Canada 

