



# Inside La langue Language en coulisse

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## From the Executive Director

We are now in the final stretch of the fiscal year. We continue to work diligently on our projects (described in this issue of *Inside Language*). We wish to thank our funders, in particular Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, for their continued support.

As many project deliverables are due March 31, it will be a busy next few weeks — as always at this time of year. We are also in final negotiations with IRCC regarding the new five-year projects that were approved a few months ago and that are set to start April 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are also preparing for our quarterly Board meeting in March as well as our Annual General Meeting and Board meeting, June 3-5 in Ottawa, and our comprehensive external annual audit in April/May.

The invitation to our stakeholders to apply for positions on the Centre's Board of Directors closed on February 11. Applications are being reviewed, and at AGM in June, at least two new directors will be elected.

The CELBAN Centre at Touchstone Institute in Toronto, which is managing CELBAN under contract from CCLB, has administered in 2019 2,300 tests to internationally trained nurses.

CCLB is in the process of completing its transition to an e-financial system, including payments to consultants and suppliers. The new system should be operational early in the new fiscal year starting April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Finally, as announced in our December newsletter, I will be retiring at the end of March so this is my last message to you. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you and I wish you continued success in your endeavours.

Thank you for your interest in the Centre's work.

-François Bélisle

## Message du directeur général

Nous sommes dans la dernière ligne droite de notre exercice financier et continuons à développer nos projets (décrits dans ce numéro de *La langue en coulisse*). Nous désirons remercier nos bailleurs de fonds, en particulier Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada ainsi que le ministère des Services à l'enfance et des Services sociaux et communautaires de l'Ontario, pour leur appui continu.

Puisque l'échéance de nombreux livrables est le 31 mars, les prochaines semaines seront très occupées, comme c'est toujours le cas à cette période de l'année. Nous sommes également en négociations finales avec IRCC au sujet des nouveaux projets quinquennaux approuvés il y a quelques mois et qui devraient commencer le 1<sup>er</sup> avril.

Nous nous préparons également pour la rencontre de mars du Conseil d'administration du Centre et la rencontre annuelle en juin, ainsi que pour la vérification externe annuelle en avril/mai.

L'invitation lancée à nos intervenants pour combler des postes au Conseil d'administration du Centre a clôturé le 11 février. Nous sommes à examiner les demandes. Au moins deux nouveaux administrateurs seront élus à l'Assemblée générale annuelle, en juin.

Le CELBAN Centre de l'Institut Touchstone, à Toronto, auquel le CNCLC a octroyé un contrat pour gérer le CELBAN, a administré en 2019 2300 tests à des infirmières et infirmiers formés à l'étranger.

Le CNCLC est en train d'achever sa transition vers un système financier entièrement électronique, y compris les paiements aux consultants et fournisseurs. Le nouveau système devrait être opérationnel au début du nouvel exercice financier qui commencera le 1<sup>er</sup> avril.

Enfin, tel qu'annoncé dans notre bulletin de décembre, je prendrai ma retraite fin mars et ceci est donc mon dernier message. Ce fut un plaisir de travailler avec vous tous et je vous souhaite plein succès dans vos efforts.

Merci de l'intérêt que vous portez aux activités du Centre.

-François Bélisle



## The Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Assessment (CLBPA)

CCLB continues to collaborate with the Centre for Education and Training on the development of the Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Assessment (CLBPA). Development of this new assessment remains on schedule.

Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has funded the development of the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Assessment (CLBPA) for benchmarks 1-8. This new tool will gradually replace both the CLBA and CLBPT as the only core assessment tool for use by assessment and referral centres for placement to federally-funded English classes.

## Plan d'action pour les langues officielles (PALO) – ELBP

Dans le cadre du plan d'action pour les langues officielles, IRCC a financé le CNCLC dans le but de :

- ⇒ Accompagner les nouveaux fournisseurs de services dans l'implantation de l'ELBP et de former les nouveaux instructeurs des fournisseurs de services actuels.
- ⇒ Assurer la qualité de la formation dans les communautés francophones en situation minoritaire.

Pour répondre à ces objectifs, plusieurs nouveaux outils ont été développés :

- [Deux ateliers en ligne](#) de perfectionnement professionnel complémentaire en ELBP ont été créés suite à la Conférence nationale des instructeurs de CLIC à Moncton. Le premier atelier porte sur les rudiments de l'évaluation de niveaux multiples. Le deuxième atelier présente la consignation des résultats dans le rapport d'étape.
- La formation en ligne *Utilisation optimale de la Trousse de soutien* est actuellement mise à l'essai et sera disponible prochainement. Cette formation a pour but de permettre aux instructeurs de se familiariser avec le contenu de la *Trousse de soutien aux NCLC*.
- Une nouvelle version du *Camp de formation aux NCLC* est en cours de développement. L'objectif est de proposer une formation plus dynamique et mise à jour.
- Finalement, de nouveaux instructeurs CLIC sont maintenant certifiés à l'ELBP et prêts à implanter cette méthode d'évaluation dans leur salle de classe.

Pour accéder à nos formations NCLC, rendez-vous sur [nclcenligne.ca](http://nclcenligne.ca). Pour plus d'information sur l'ELBP, veuillez envoyer un courriel à [elbp@nclcenligne.ca](mailto:elbp@nclcenligne.ca).

# Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA)

With funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Citizenship and Immigration Division, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), CCLB continues to provide support to the implementation of Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA) as a standard feature of LINC and the Adult Non-Credit Language Training Program delivered by Ontario school boards. The focus of the PBLA project supports PBLA sustainability and application in the classroom. PBLA Practice Guidelines 2019 are available at <https://pblapg.language.ca/>.

The PBLA Lead Teacher/Instructor Prior Learning Assessment Review (PLAR) continues to support any program that has faced Lead Teacher/Instructor attrition. PLAR streamlines the certification process for classroom instructors who have been using PBLA in their classroom and can demonstrate fundamental competency in PBLA concepts and skills. This last quarter CCLB has supported PLAR candidates through both the PBLA PLAR Library as well as the Guided PLAR site. If your program has lost a Lead Teacher/Instructor please contact [pbla.plar@language.ca](mailto:pbla.plar@language.ca).

In response to feedback from the Multi-Level Modules activity, teacher-ready resources have been added to several modules, which include: skill-building activities, skill-using activities, goal setting, learner reflection tools and reference lists for other available materials.

The modules with teaching materials include:

- ⇒ Health: 'At the Walk-In Clinic', a CLB 3-4 Module
- ⇒ Fraud: 'Avoiding Scams and Fraud', CLB 5-6
- ⇒ Banking: 'Reporting a Lost, Stolen or Damaged Bank Card', CLB 1-2

The PBLA Multi-Level Modules are easily accessible through the Practice Guidelines site. Please go to the following link: <https://pblapg.language.ca/part-e-classroom-and-professional-learning/multilevel-modules/>. Behind the scenes, CCLB is working on blended learning multi-level resources, and additional multi-level module packages will be available soon. The key themes are housing, transportation, health and banking.

The PBLA team also continues to develop Professional Learning sessions to all PBLA Lead Teachers/Instructors. These short PD sessions (approximately one hour) help programs meet specific professional development needs. Work has continued on the Receptive Tasks series. The series will focus around one core session called 'Developing a Receptive Tasks – A Refresher' and four mini-sessions to support instructors on how to create Receptive Tasks. They will be available soon.

Ongoing support for classroom instructors new to PBLA is provided through the online 'Introduction to PBLA for New Classroom Instructors' course (IRCC- and MCCSS-funded) which was offered twice during this time period. Courses are taking place from January 29 to March 4, 2020 and February 19 to March 25, 2020. Approximately 120 instructors nationally are participating in the online courses.

PBLA Practice Review Framework consultations continue for Cohort 1, 2, 3 and 4 programs. The framework is based on a set of shared PBLA principles and practice standards for those working in four settings: classroom, program, monitoring authority and national policy. The framework includes self-assessment and goal-setting activities for classroom teachers and administrators and is linked to the IRCC monitoring processes. If you have questions regarding the PBLA Practice Review Framework, please contact [PBLA@language.ca](mailto:PBLA@language.ca) for more information.





AUTOÉVALUATION EN LIGNE

[www.nclc-ael.ca](http://www.nclc-ael.ca)

The Centre for Education and Training mandated the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks to create a third form of the NCLC-AEL test in Reading comprehension and to review and adjust the range of reported results for all Reading and Listening forms.

This winter, the narrated instructions and demo questions were finalized and implemented on the development site. A final review of all Listening and Reading forms was completed and updated. Checks were done to confirm that the new 2-benchmark range results (plus or minus one benchmark) reflected the raw scores. The final versions of the forms will soon be available on the improved NCLC-AEL platform.

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Le Centre for Education and Training a confié au Centre des niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens le mandat de créer une troisième forme du test NCLC-AEL en compréhension de l'écrit et de revoir la plage des résultats rapportés des formes en compréhension de l'écrit et en compréhension de l'oral.

Cet hiver, les instructions commentées avec exemples ont été finalisées et mises en œuvre sur le site de développement. Un examen final de toutes les formes en compréhension de l'écrit et en compréhension de l'oral a été complété. Des contrôles ont été effectués pour confirmer que la nouvelle plage de résultats rapportés couvrant 2 niveaux (plus ou moins un niveau) reflétait les scores bruts. Des versions finales des formulaires seront bientôt disponibles sur la plateforme améliorée NCLC-AEL.

## My PBLA/Mon ELBP

CCLB has been very busy with the My PBLA/Mon ELBP project. Video development began in January with a video shoot with the Ottawa Catholic School Board. A second video shoot has been scheduled with l'école des Adultes Le Carrefour in March. The content of these videos has been informed through focus groups with learners and instructors in order to provide information about PBLA and ELBP.

CCLB has also completed initial drafts of listening exemplars for CLB/NCLC Stage 1 and Stage 2 and is now beginning work on literacy exemplars. We are also working with ISANS in Nova Scotia to develop a downloadable addendum for the literacy language companion to help support instructors.

CCLB continues to provide ongoing support for classroom instructors new to PBLA in the province of Ontario through the online *Introduction to PBLA for New Classroom Instructors* course (self-directed). In addition, CCLB continues to work with school boards that need to replace Lead Instructors through the PLAR process.

*My PBLA/Mon ELBP: Engaging Learners* is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). The focus of this project is to help improve learner engagement with Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA) and its French counterpart, *l'Évaluation linguistique basée sur le portfolio (ELBP)*, by providing learners with information and training on PBLA/ELBP through interactive online components. Materials that will be developed will complement existing PBLA tools and resources in the field.

## Training

CCLB offered five training sessions between December 2019 and February 2020:

- One **CLBPT assessor** training via Zoom for an individual in Lethbridge. Certification is now underway.
- Two **CLBPT calibration** training sessions for 27 assessors held in Toronto.
- Online **CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks** training for 3 instructors.
- Online **CLB-Literacy Placement Test** training for 20 assessors.
- Online **BTC-AMA** training for 1 assessor.

If you are interested in setting up a training, please contact [training@language.ca](mailto:training@language.ca). Note: all CCLB-related training sessions are offered fee-for-service.

## Online Assessor Training

The online, self-directed training for the new *Literacy Placement Test (LPT)* and *Batterie de tests de classement pour adultes moins alphabétisés (BTC-AMA)* is available via fee-for-service.

Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), these new literacy placement tests better align to the descriptors in the CLB: ESL for ALL/NCLC: *FLS pour AMA* documents. This allows CLBPT and BTC assessors to identify literacy levels for Foundation/Niveau Exploratoire L to CLB/NCLC 4L, ensuring the placement of ESL/FSL learners into appropriate language and other training programs. It also includes a first language screener task that has been developed and translated into 43 languages.

Licensed assessment centres can visit our website to learn more about the [LPT](#) or [BTC-AMA](#) or contact [training@language.ca](mailto:training@language.ca).

## Online Instructor Training

CCLB has adapted its face-to-face *CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks* training to an online offering. *CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks* provides instructors with a way to confirm the proficiency levels of their learners, at the end of a course or a training period. In this 2-hour, self-directed training, participants have an opportunity to:

- ⇒ Become familiar with the CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks document.
- ⇒ Understand when and how to use CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks appropriately.
- ⇒ Learn how CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks can be used in a PBLA environment, and their relationship with the Canadian Language Benchmarks.
- ⇒ Gain confidence in using task-based assessment through hands-on practice scoring materials for Speaking and Writing.

If you are interested in learning more about this fee-for-service training, you can [visit our website](#) or contact [training@language.ca](mailto:training@language.ca).

# CELBAN

In accordance with the service agreement between the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (the CELBAN test owner) and Touchstone Institute (the operator of the national administration centre for CELBAN), Touchstone recently submitted its annual report covering activities for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2019.

The report describes the number of CELBAN test administrations by region, number of new sites, the status of the CELBAN Assessor database (including number of new assessors trained), and an outline of the status of the test including newly developed or implemented test components, test development projects and quality assurance activities.

The CELBAN Centre administered tests to 2,300 internationally educated nurses (IENs) in 2019. It is projected that numbers for 2020 will be similar to 2019.

## CCLB in the Community

CCLB presented at the following events:

- ⇒ TESL Ontario: December 3 and December 4, 2020, Toronto (ON)
- ⇒ Congrès annuel de Langues Canada : 23-26 février 2020, Vancouver (BC)

### Public Holidays

Please note that our offices will be closed April 10 for Good Friday, April 13 for Easter Monday and May 18 for Victoria Day.

### Jours fériés

Veillez noter que nos bureaux seront fermés le 10 avril pour le Vendredi saint, le 13 avril pour le lundi de Pâques et le 18 mai pour la fête de la Reine.

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