



Inside Language

La langue en coulisse

June/juin 2020
ISSN: 1488-8157



From the Executive Director

It is with great enthusiasm that I greet the CCLB community as the new Executive Director! What an exciting time to come onboard! April 20th, I transitioned to the chair amidst COVID-19 distancing measures, fiscal year end wrap-up, and new agreements ramping-up. Rarely have I seen so many moving parts, which inspires me to thank those who have supported me during this

transition. Thank you to the Board, the former Executive Director, François Bélisle, the staff, and Specialist Consultant, Anne Senior, for all the support and patience you have provided and continue to provide as I endeavour to learn about and contribute to our mission.

CCLB is excited to announce new and continued funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and continued funding from Citizenship and Immigration Division, Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) for various PBLA and Milestones related projects all detailed below. This new funding has enabled us to hire Tina Desabrais as *Conceptrice pédagogique* and to grow our NCLC team – Welcome Tina!

We look forward to our quarterly Board meeting and Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held through Zoom June 4th and 5th, at which time three new directors will be elected to the Board.

The CELBAN Centre at Touchstone Institute in Toronto, which is managing CELBAN under contract from CCLB, has not been able to administer tests due to social distancing requirements.

Like many of you, CCLB has been impacted by COVID-19. It has given us many challenges, but we also believe it is giving us opportunities – both internally and externally. We are exploring new technologies and are thinking differently about long-standing practices. Read on for more examples and know there will be more to come!

-Colette Pépin

Message de la directrice générale

C'est avec grand plaisir que je vous salue en tant que nouvelle Directrice générale ! Quel moment excitant pour débiter ce nouveau chapitre ! Le 20 avril, j'ai fait la transition vers ce poste pendant les mesures de distanciation du COVID-19, la fin de l'année fiscale et le démarrage de nouvelles ententes. J'ai rarement vu autant de dynamisme, ce qui m'inspire à remercier les gens qui m'ont appuyé lors de cette transition. Merci infiniment aux membres du Conseil d'administration, à l'ancien Directeur général, François Bélisle, au personnel du Centre et à notre Consultante spécialisée, Anne Senior, pour le soutien et la patience que vous m'avez accordés, et continuez de me fournir alors que je m'efforce d'en apprendre davantage sur notre mission et d'y contribuer.

Le CNCLC est heureux d'annoncer des ententes, nouvelles et continues, avec Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada (IRCC), et un financement continu de la part de la Division de la citoyenneté et de l'immigration, du ministère de l'Enfance, de la Communauté et des Services sociaux (SCSM). Celles-ci nous permettront de réaliser plusieurs projets liés à la ELBP et à *Milestones*, tous deux décrits ci-dessous. Ce nouveau financement nous a aussi permis d'agrandir notre équipe NCLC avec l'embauche de Tina Desabrais en tant que *Conceptrice pédagogique* – Bienvenue Tina !

Nous attendons avec impatience l'assemblée trimestrielle du conseil d'administration de même que notre assemblée générale annuelle, prévue par Zoom les 4 et 5 juin, lors de laquelle trois nouveaux administrateurs seront élus au conseil d'administration.

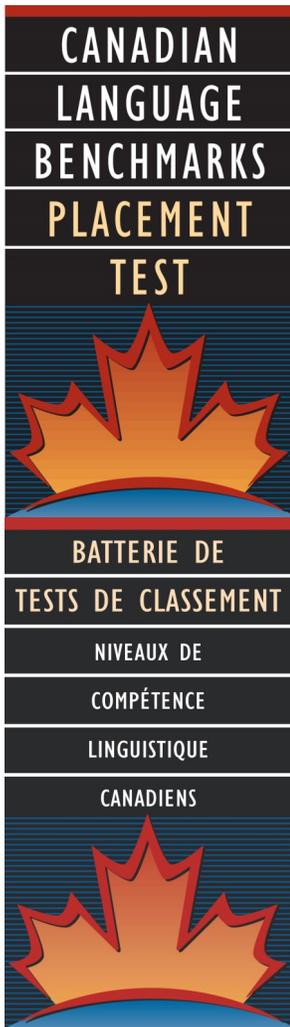
Le CELBAN Centre de l'Institut Touchstone, à Toronto, auquel le CNCLC a octroyé un contrat pour gérer le CELBAN, n'a pas pu administrer des tests due aux mesures de distanciation sociale.

Comme beaucoup d'entre vous, le CNCLC a été touché par le COVID-19. Cela nous a donné de nombreux défis, mais nous croyons aussi qu'il existe des opportunités, tant à l'interne qu'à l'externe. Nous explorons les nouvelles technologies et nous pensons différemment aux pratiques de longues date. Lisez la suite pour plus d'exemples et sachez qu'il y en aura d'autres à venir !

-Colette Pépin

Issue Highlights/Faits saillants du numéro

- ⇒ Read about how the Centre has been impacted by COVID-19 and what we are doing about it/*Découvrez comment le Centre a été touché par COVID-19 et ce que nous faisons à ce sujet*
- ⇒ Learn about our ideas to use Milestones and Batterie de tests de rendement (BTR) differently/*Découvrez nos idées pour utiliser Milestones et Batterie de tests de rendement (BTR) différemment*
- ⇒ Read about new funding for PBLA and ELBP/*Découvrez le nouveau financement pour ELBP et PBLA*
- ⇒ Explore the final stages of My PBLA/My ELBP Final Stages and other initiatives/*Explorez les dernières étapes de Mon ELBP/My PBLA et d'autres initiatives*



Proctor-less Remote Assessment

Due to COVID-19, in-person services delivered through IRCC's Settlement Program have been suspended. This includes second language assessment and training services in Canada's official languages.

In March, CCLB initiated the idea and received approval from IRCC to explore the option of proctor-less remote assessment. Throughout April, CCLB worked extensively with the assessment team at Calgary Language Assessment & Referral Centre (CLARC) to find a suitable solution for offering remote assessment without a proctor. The result of this exploration and pilot is an adapted protocol for remote assessment using the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test (CLBPT) and *Batterie de tests de classement (BTC) aux Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC)* facilitated by a trained assessor and without the assistance of a proctor. Online, self-directed training for both tools has been developed for assessors. CLARC reviewed the proctor-less remote CLBPT version and Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB) reviewed the proctor-less remote BTC-NCLC version.

In May, IRCC approved this new protocol to initially be implemented through assessment centres that are already licensed and set up to provide remote, proctored CLBPT and/or BTC-NCLC assessments. Other sites may be considered later for use of this tool. Assessment sites should have received the full communiqué via their IRCC program officer.

Training

Since COVID-19, all in-person training sessions have been suspended at CCLB, leading to a significant increase in activity in our online course offerings. We find it very encouraging to see the number of people in our community taking the opportunity for professional development during this time. All CCLB online courses provide a certificate upon completion recognizing a specific number of PD hours. This increase in activity has also allowed us to identify certain issues with our current offerings and put together an action plan on how to best address these moving forward. We thank all participants for their continued interest in our offerings and for providing us with feedback on how courses can be improved.

Milestones

For the 2020-21 fiscal year, IRCC has funded CCLB to explore the implementation of Milestones and *Batterie de tests de rendement (BTR)* for LINC/CLIC exit purposes and program evaluation.

To date, CCLB has been researching high-stakes language tests that are currently available as well as developing a research strategy to engage with individuals, organizations and assessment centres about the project. Focus groups with assessment centres began in May.

Milestones is a high-stakes CLB-based test and BTR is a high-stakes NCLC-based test developed through funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Milestones and BTR have previously been used by IRCC as one line of evidence to inform program evaluations.

We also completed work on the literacy exemplars (4 in English and 4 in French). Similar to the listening exemplars developed earlier, these will be made accessible online. This work is expected to begin over the summer.

Ongoing work continues related to the development of additional supporting materials for the literacy language companion in English and French as well as supporting materials for the language companion for deaf learners.

CCLB continues to offer new classroom instructors support on PBLA through the online *Introduction to PBLA for New Classroom Instructors* course (self-directed). A session was launched in May and another session is expected to be launched in July. In addition, CCLB continues to work with school boards that need to replace Lead Instructors through the PLAR process. If there is a need to replace a Lead Instructor at your site please email pbla.plar@language.ca.

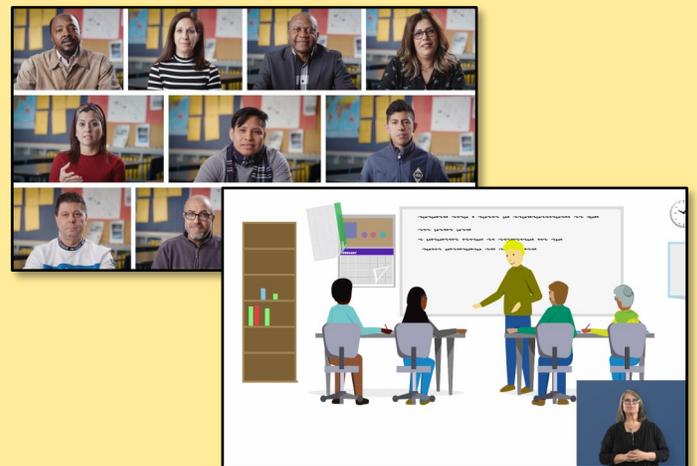
My PBLA/Mon ELBP: Engaging Learners is funded by MCCSS. The focus of this project is to help improve learner engagement with Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA) and its French counterpart, the *Évaluation Linguistique Basé sur le Portfolio (ELBP)* by providing learners with information and training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

My PBLA/Mon ELBP

CCLB remains busy with the My PBLA/Mon ELBP project. The video development is complete, following our second video shoot in March with learners at *l'école des Adultes Le Carrefour*. The final product is a short video series in English and in French focussing on:

- ⇒ What is PBLA?
- ⇒ The purpose of the portfolio/binder
- ⇒ How PBLA can help individuals in their daily life
- ⇒ Learner Testimonials

Each of the videos include closed captioning. There is ASL interpretation for the English videos and LSQ interpretation for the French videos. Transcripts are also available in the ten most common languages within Ontario as identified by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).



PBLA

With new funding (2020 to 2025) from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and continued funding from 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 are available at <https://pblapg.language.ca/>.

The PBLA Lead Teacher/Instructor Prior Learning Assessment Review (PLAR) continues as one component 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 the CCLB has supported PLAR candidates through the PBLA PLAR Library. If your program has lost a Lead Teacher/Instructor please contact pbla.plar@language.ca.

In response to feedback from the multi-level modules activity, teacher-ready resources consisting of the following items are now included: skill-building activities, skill-using activities, goal setting, learner reflection tools and reference lists for other available materials.

The PBLA Multi-level Modules are easily accessible through Tutela.ca and the Practice Guidelines site. Please go to the following link: <https://pblapg.language.ca/part-e-classroom-and-professional-learning/multilevel-modules/>. The current key themes are housing, transportation, health and banking. This year the themes will be expanded to include education, employment, commercial services and social interaction.

The PBLA team has responded to the adjustment to distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic by offering support to Administrators and programs through a couple of webinar sessions hosted on Tutela.ca. All sessions can be found in 'past events' on Tutela.ca.

The PBLA team is working on finalizing the new course layout for the Professional Learning sessions. These short PD sessions (approximately one hour or less) help programs meet specific professional development needs.

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 started on May 6, 2020, while another course is expected to be offered this July. Approximately 53 instructors nationally are participating in the online courses.

IRCC is considering extending the PBLA Practice Review Framework consultation period for Cohort 1, 2, 3 and 4 programs until later in the fall or winter when onsite monitoring can take place. The framework is based on a set of shared PBLA principles and practice standards for those working in four settings: classroom, program, monitoring authority, 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 contact PBLA@language.ca for more information.

ELBP - Ressources et développement professionnel pour soutenir les programmes CLIC

Le soutien actif du CNCLC à l'utilisation de l'Évaluation linguistique basée sur le portfolio (ELBP) dans les programmes CLIC, se poursuit avec un nouveau financement accordé par Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada. Le projet vise à fournir des ressources clés en main pour les cours CLIC, ainsi que de la formation professionnelle pour les instructeurs et les responsables de programmes.

Le CNCLC consulte actuellement les différents acteurs du domaine afin d'établir les besoins prioritaires en matière de ressources. De nouveaux modules multiniveaux, notamment, seront développés au cours des prochains mois. Dans la mesure du possible, le CNCLC veillera à ce que ces modules soient adaptés aux cours CLIC en ligne. Vous pouvez consulter les modules disponibles à ce jour dans la section *Ressources* du site elbpld.language.ca.

Enfin, le CNCLC continue de prendre en charge la certification des instructeurs à l'ELBP. Les fournisseurs de services peuvent dès maintenant inscrire leurs instructeurs au processus de certification à l'ELBP en envoyant un courriel à elbp@nclcenligne.ca.

The Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Assessment (CLBPA)

CCLB continues its ongoing collaboration with The Centre for Education and Training on the Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Assessment (CLBPA).

Immigration, Refugees 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.

Public Holidays

Please note that our offices will be closed July 1st for Canada Day and August 3rd for the Civic Holiday.

Jours fériés

Veuillez noter que nos bureaux seront fermés le 1^{er} juillet pour la fête du Canada et le 3 août pour le congé civique.

Go to www.language.ca to subscribe to our newsletter (wait 5-10 seconds for the form to pop up)
Allez à www.language.ca pour vous abonner à notre bulletin (attendez 5 à 10 secondes pour que le formulaire apparaisse)



Centre for
Canadian Language
Benchmarks

Centre des niveaux de
compétence linguistique
canadiens

294, rue Albert Street, Pièce/Suite 400, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 6E6
Tél./Tel.: 613-230-7729 | Téléc./Fax: 613-230-9305
info@language.ca | www.language.ca