



Inside La langue Language en coulisse

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From the Executive Director

Dear friends,

While the summer season conjures images of lazy sunny days, we cannot say that we have been idle here at the CCLB! We have been busy adapting our tools and resources to the new virtual reality brought on by the pandemic and remote work. In fact, CCLB has used this opportunity to clean out and

reimagine our office space and to give it a fresh coat of paint – stay tuned for pictures!

My PBLA/Mon ELBP, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) draws to a close this fall, however, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) projects: Milestones, PBLA, ELBP, and various activities in our Resources and Training Unit go on. We are excited to be working with The Centre for Education and Training (TCET) on rolling-out the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Assessment (CLBPA) training and we continue to work with IRCC to adapt projects as needed to accommodate our new reality. We are looking forward to attending the ATESL Conference online in October and the TESL ON Conference online in November to present some of our adapted tools.

We are working with the CELBAN Centre at Touchstone Institute in Toronto, which is managing CELBAN under contract from CCLB, to find a solution for administering the test, since they have not been able to do so due to current social distancing requirements.

In closing, I would like to thank Anne Lechowicz, NCLC Project Manager for her excellent work at the Centre as she moves on to new challenges. Anne has made significant contributions in her short time at the Centre and will always be welcome! We are pleased to welcome Frédéric Samy Passalet, who took over the reins as NCLC Project Manager – Welcome Frédéric!

- Colette Pépin

Message du directeur général

Chers amis,

Alors que la saison estivale évoque des images de jours ensoleillés et paresseux, nous ne pouvons pas dire que nous étions au ralenti au CNCLC ! Nous avons été occupés à adapter nos outils et nos ressources à la nouvelle réalité virtuelle provoquée par la pandémie et le travail à distance. En fait, le CNCLC a profité de cette occasion pour désencombrer et réinventer notre espace de bureau et de lui donner une nouvelle couche de peinture – photos à venir !

Mon ELBP/My PBLA, financé par le ministère des Services à l'enfance et des Services sociaux et communautaires, tire à sa fin cet automne, mais les projets d'Immigration, réfugiés et citoyenneté Canada (IRCC), dont ELBP et PBLA, et diverses activités dans notre unité des ressources et de la formation continueront. Nous sommes ravis de travailler avec *The Centre for Education and Training (TCET)* à l'élaboration de la formation pour le *Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Assessment (CLBPA)* et nous continuons à travailler avec IRCC pour adapter les projets au besoin afin de tenir compte de la nouvelle réalité. Nous attendons avec impatience les conférences ATESL en ligne en octobre et TESL Ontario en novembre où nous allons présenter certains de nos outils adaptés.

Nous travaillons avec le Centre CELBAN de l'Institut Touchstone à Toronto, auquel le CNCLC a octroyé un contrat pour gérer le CELBAN, pour trouver une solution pour l'administration du test, car ils n'ont pas été en mesure de le faire en raison des exigences actuelles de distanciation sociale.

En terminant, je tiens à remercier Anne Lechowicz, gestionnaire de projet du CNCLC, pour son excellent travail au Centre alors qu'elle passe à de nouveaux défis. Anne a apporté des contributions importantes au cours de son bref séjour au Centre et sera toujours la bienvenue ! Nous sommes heureux d'accueillir Frédéric Samy Passalet, qui a pris les rênes en tant que gestionnaire de projet NCLC – Bienvenue Frédéric !

-Colette Pépin

Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA)

With renewed funding for five years 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) is proceeding 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. Over the summer months, the CCLB has supported PLAR candidates through the PBLA PLAR Library and communicated with programs requiring more information about the PLAR process. Our adjudicators reviewed one successful submission in July. 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 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 key themes are housing, transportation, health and banking. In 2020-21 module development priority will be given to four themes education, employment and commercial services.

The PBLA team has adjusted and made final edits to the new course layout for the Professional Learning sessions. Access to these sessions is available to all certified Lead Teachers/Instructors. These short professional development sessions (approximately one hour or less) help programs meet specific PD needs.

Ongoing support for classroom instructors new to PBLA is available through the online *Introduction to PBLA for new Classroom Instructors* course (IRCC and MCCSS funded) a call out was sent out in June and the summer course started on July 8, 2020. Approximately 25 instructors nationally are participating in the online courses. This fall CCLB will be offering the course twice and the anticipated dates are September 30, 2020 and November 11, 2020.

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. 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 pédagogiques et développement professionnel pour soutenir les programmes CLIC

Le CNCLC soutient activement l'utilisation de l'Évaluation linguistique basée sur le portfolio (ELBP) dans les programmes CLIC, grâce à un financement d'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.

Au cours des derniers mois, l'équipe du projet s'est concentrée sur les aspects suivants :

- ⇒ Planification : le CNCLC a consulté les différents acteurs du domaine afin d'établir les besoins prioritaires en matière de ressources. Sans surprise, les répondants ont exprimé le besoin de disposer de davantage de ressources en ligne.
- ⇒ Modules à niveaux multiples : de nouveaux modules à niveaux multiples sont en cours de développement. Ces modules s'adressent en priorité aux NCLC 3 et 4, en réponse aux besoins exprimés par les différents acteurs du domaine. Les thématiques abordées sont entre autres le logement, la citoyenneté et la santé. 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.
- ⇒ Certification : le CNCLC continue de prendre en charge la certification des instructeurs à l'ELBP. Depuis avril 2020, trois instructeurs ont été certifiés ou sont en cours de certification en Alberta et au Nouveau-Brunswick. Les fournisseurs de services peuvent inscrire leurs instructeurs au processus de certification à l'ELBP en envoyant un courriel à elbp@language.ca.

My PBLA/Mon ELBP

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, 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.

Over the summer months CCLB continued its work 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 sent out a call out at the end of June to offer new classroom instructors support on PBLA through the online *Introduction to PBLA for new Classroom Instructors* course (self-directed). The session was launched on July 8th for Ontario boards. 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.



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.

Throughout May and June, CCLB held 12 focus groups with assessment centres across the country as part of its exploration. It also circulated a survey to all IRCC funded Language Assessment Centres to gather additional feedback from those who were unable to participate in one of the focus groups.

Feedback gathered from this research suggested that CCLB should also connect with Settlement and Employment organizations as part of the exploration since they support the LINC/CLIC client community and are usually the first place clients go to seek settlement and language support. CCLB focused its research efforts with this group through focus groups and a survey during the month of August.

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). To-date, Milestones and BTR have been used by IRCC as one method to help inform past program evaluations.

The Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Assessment (CLBPA)

Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has funded a two-year project for The Centre for Education and Training (TCET), in collaboration with CCLB, to develop and conduct the roll-out of the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Assessment (CLBPA) training. Training development began over the summer months.

This new tool, which assesses Benchmarks 1 to 8, 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.

Training

Due to COVID-19, all in-person training sessions have been suspended; however, CCLB continues to see activity in its online course offerings (500 users have registered on learning.language.ca and 47 users have registered on nclcenligne.ca since June 1 2020). In August, we made a technical update to the Orientation to ESL for ALL course by removing the need for Adobe Flash Player, which most browsers will no longer be able to support by year's end. All CCLB's online courses provide participants with a certificate upon completion, recognizing a specific number of PD hours. We thank all participants for their continued interest in our offerings and find it very encouraging to see the number of people in our community taking the opportunity for professional development during this time.

Proctor-less Remote Assessment

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

Since launching Proctor-less Remote Assessment for both the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test (CLBPT) and Batterie de tests de classement-aux Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (BTC-NCLC) to assessment centres already licensed and set up to provide remote,

- ⇒ 18 CLBPT and 5 BTC assessment centres have shown interest in using the revised protocols, and
- ⇒ 143 CLBPT assessors and 16 BTC assessors have completed the revised training and are now conducting remote assessments.

After a smooth roll-out and positive response for proctor-less remote assessment from our current CLBPT and BTC remote sites, in July, CCLB began progressively rolling out the new option via fee-for-service to all sites that are already licensed to offer CLBPT and BTC. We also added an *Online Test Support Officer* to our team to help with the influx of enquiries and technical support questions related to proctor-less remote assessment. This position allows us to continue to ensure those using our platforms receive the support they need.

Public Holidays

Please note that our offices will be closed September 7 for Labour Day, October 12 for Thanksgiving and November 11 for Remembrance Day.

Jours fériés

Veillez noter que nos bureaux seront fermés le 7 septembre pour la fête du Travail, le 12 octobre pour l'Action de grâce et le 11 novembre pour le jour du Souvenir.

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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