



Inside La langue Language en coulisse

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From the Executive Director

Fall has been the season of connecting and strategizing! Whether we have been busy readapting our projects to accommodate new realities, attending conferences or simply connecting by videoconference, this fall has seen CCLB/CNCLC staff out and about and making connections.

CCLB/CNCLC is currently engaging in strategic planning for the next 3 years. We surveyed stakeholders in October and are using this valuable research in our consultations with Board and staff to determine our strategic direction. We received 344 responses – thank you to all who responded!

My PBLA/Mon ELBP, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) officially closed in September. However, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) projects; Milestones, PBLA, ELBP, and various activities in our Resources and Training Unit, continue to keep us busy. We are working with Achév (formerly The Centre for Education and Training) on rolling-out the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Assessment (CLBPA) training for assessors and we continue to work with IRCC to adapt projects as needed to accommodate our new reality.

We are collaborating with the CELBAN Centre at Touchstone Institute in Toronto to migrate CELBAN online. We expect this online version will be available early in the new year.

We are pleased to welcome Mingqin (Sue) Su, who will support the Centre's financial work as Accounting technician – Welcome Sue!

-Colette Pépin

Message de la Directrice générale

Cet automne aura été une saison de réseautage et de stratégie! Que nous ayons été occupés à réorganiser nos projets pour tenir compte de nouvelles réalités, assister à des conférences ou simplement échanger par vidéoconférence, cet automne, le personnel du CNCLC/CCLB a maintenu activement ses liens par le biais des sphères virtuelles.

Le CNCLC/CCLB entreprend une activité de planification stratégique pour les trois prochaines années. Nous avons sondé les intervenants en octobre et nous utilisons cette précieuse recherche dans le cadre de nos consultations avec le Conseil et le personnel pour déterminer notre orientation stratégique. Nous avons reçu 344 réponses – merci à tous ceux et toutes celles qui ont répondu!

Mon ELBP/My PBLA, financé par le ministère des Services à l'enfance et des Services sociaux et communautaires, a officiellement pris fin en septembre. Cependant, les projets d'Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada (IRCC), dont BTR/Milestones, ELBP, PBLA, ainsi que diverses activités dans notre unité des ressources et de la formation continueront. Nous travaillons toujours avec Achév (anciennement *The Centre for Education and Training*) à l'élaboration de la formation pour le *Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Assessment (CLBPA)* et nous continuons de travailler avec IRCC pour adapter les projets courants aux besoins actuels.

Nous collaborons également avec le Centre CELBAN de l'Institut Touchstone à Toronto pour migrer CELBAN en ligne. Nous nous attendons à ce que cette version en ligne soit disponible au début de la nouvelle année.

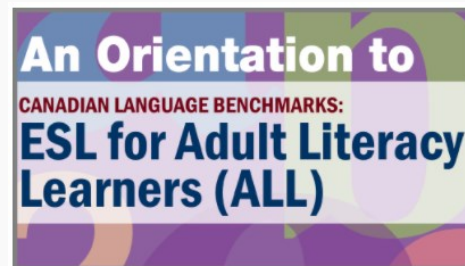
Enfin, nous sommes heureux d'accueillir Mingqin (Sue) Su, qui soutiendra le travail financier du Centre en tant que technicienne en comptabilité – bienvenue Sue!

-Colette Pépin

Training

Due to COVID-19, all in-person training sessions continue to be suspended; however, CCLB/CNCLC has adapted its face-to-face CLBPT and BTC-NCLC assessor training for an online delivery by select regional trainers. One new BTC-NCLC assessor was certified in October, another is pending certification; and six new CLBPT assessors were trained in November with pending certifications. Should current CLBPT and BTC-NCLC licensed sites require new assessor training, please contact training@language.ca.

Activity on CCLB/CNCLC's online course sites continues with increased interest. We have just completed some much-needed updates to the course "An Orientation to ESL for ALL" to fix the completion and layout problems. You can find the new course on the main page of our CLB course site or by [clicking here](#). All CCLB's online courses provide participants with a certificate upon completion, which recognize a specific number of PD hours. To access our free courses, visit: learning.language.ca or NCLCenligne.ca.



Remote Assessment



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

CCLB's interim proctor-less remote assessment tools for both the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test (CLBPT) and Batterie de tests de classement aux Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (BTC-NCLC) have provided assessment centres an option to assess clients remotely during COVID-19. To-date:

- 41 assessment centres are set up to deliver proctor-less CLBPT remote
- 165 CLBPT assessors have completed training on the proctor-less CLBPT remote protocols
- 7 assessment centres are set up to deliver proctor-less BTC remote
- 16 BTC assessors have completed training on the proctor-less BTC remote protocols

Recognizing that there is still a gap when it comes to assessing literacy learners remotely, in September 2020 IRCC approved CCLB to explore two remote options to help support interim assessment for literacy learners. These include:

- Converting the first language screener task (available in 42 languages) of the current CLB-LPT and BTC-AMA assessments to a PDF form in order to provide assessors with an additional tool to help identify literacy learners. This will give a simple yes/no indication for literacy.
- Exploring ways to adapt the current CLB-LPT/BTC-AMA assessments for a remote delivery so assessors would be able to assess specific literacy scores.

CCLB has been working on converting the first language screener task as well as reaching out to different stakeholders to determine the feasibility for a remote option.

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.

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.

CCLB held focus group sessions at the virtual ATESL conference on October 16, the virtual TESL ON conference on November 7, and via a Tutela webinar on October 28 for Western Regions. It also continued to reach out to different stakeholder groups including regulatory bodies, employers and colleges and universities as part of its research. If you represent any of these groups and would be interested in speaking with CCLB regarding the potential use for Milestones or BTR, please contact us at info@language.ca.

An additional webinar will be held on [Tutela](#) on Monday, December 7, 2020 from 5:00pm – 6:00pm. Should you wish to attend, please register via www.tutela.ca.

Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has funded a two-year project for Achêv, in collaboration with CCLB, to develop and conduct the roll-out of the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Assessment (CLBPA) training.

Training development continued throughout the fall months and recruitment for CLBPA regional trainers began in October. Assessor training is slated to begin early 2021. 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.



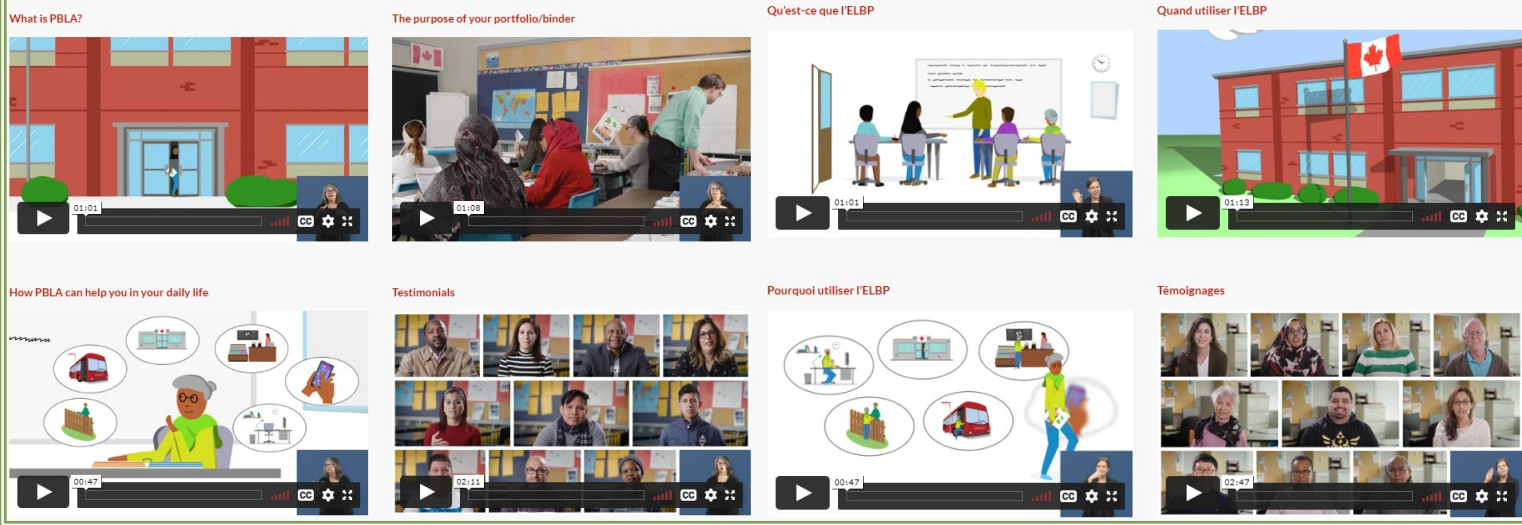
My PBLA/Mon ELBP

The My PBLA/Mon ELBP: Engaging Learners project funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) came to a close in September. This project focused on developing resources to help improve learner engagement with Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA) and its French counterpart, the *Évaluation linguistique basée sur le portfolio (ELBP)* by providing learners with information and training on PBLA/ELBP through interactive online components. Materials developed include:

1. [PBLA/ELBP](#) learner videos
2. [PBLA/ELBP](#) listening activities
3. [PBLA/ELBP](#) literacy activities
4. Literacy Language Companion Supplementary Materials
5. Language Companion for Deaf Learners

CCLB is interested in receiving feedback on these materials. Please visit our website to view the learner videos and activities.

If you are interested in using either of the language companions and providing feedback please contact info@language.ca.



National LINC Online Curriculum and Online PBLA Project

The CCLB is excited to announce it has entered into a new five-year agreement subcontracted to Achêv (formerly the Centre for Education & Training) and funded by IRCC for the National LINC Online Curriculum and Online PBLA Project. This project will focus on developing national LINC online curriculum for CLBs 3 to 5. More information to follow in early 2021.

PBLA December Update

With funding for five years from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) CCLB continues to provide support to the implementation of Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA) as a standard feature of LINC. The focus of the PBLA project supports PBLA sustainability and application in the classroom. To read more about the key standards of PBLA, the PBLA Practice Guidelines are available at <https://pblapg.language.ca/>.

The PBLA Lead Teacher/Instructor Prior Learning Assessment Review (PLAR) is ongoing this fall 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 fall due to the shift to online delivery because of the pandemic, CCLB has reached out to our PLAR candidates and offered a Guided PLAR mentorship for the period of October to December. Approximately 15 PLAR candidates are currently going through their materials submissions with support from a mentor for this period. 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>. The key themes are housing, transportation, health and banking. In 2020-21 module development priority will be given to four themes: Education, Employment, Transportation and Commercial Services.

The PBLA Professional Learning Sessions (PLS) developed by the CCLB are short professional development sessions (approximately one hour or less) to help programs meet specific PD needs. Access to these sessions is available to all certified Lead Teachers/Instructors. Work began this fall on a session that bridges online resources with PBLA practice. The session will be an orientation for PBLA practitioners on how they can use the hybrid module resources created by the project. This session is anticipated to be ready this winter.

Ongoing support for classroom instructors new to PBLA is available through the online *Introduction to PBLA for new Classroom Instructors* course (IRCC funded) the call out was sent out twice this fall in September and November. The courses started on September 30, 2020 and November 11, 2020. Approximately 56 instructors nationally participated in the online courses this fall. This winter CCLB will be offering the course twice and the anticipated dates are January 27, 2021 and February 17, 2021.

Responding to the national pandemic has been a major challenge this year. Program/Recipient administrators, Lead Teachers and classroom teachers across the country have worked tirelessly to make the pivot to online and remote delivery and to keep learners engaged in language learning within their LINC classes. In response to this the PBLA Practice Review Framework has been streamlined to allow both programs/Recipients and Settlement Officers to complete the Framework and Program Monitoring Visit or virtual Program Monitoring Visit within a tight timeline. Documentation was sent out this fall and several Q and A sessions were held on Tutela.ca and can be accessed under past webinar events. If you have, questions regarding the PBLA Practice Review Framework contact PBLA@language.ca for more information.



L'ELBP en pleine innovation avec des productions diversifiées

Le contexte de la COVID-19 n'a pas pu freiner les motivations et les valeurs d'excellence ancrées dans la mission dévolue au CNCLC. Dans le cadre de son entente avec Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada (IRCC), le Centre s'évertue toujours à concevoir des modules et outils de formation, selon les besoins des partenaires et acteurs issus des programmes CLIC de même que des institutions de compétence linguistique.

En sachant que l'ELBP vise à uniformiser le processus d'évaluation des apprenants au sein des programmes de formation linguistique pour adultes et s'adapte aux divers modèles de prestation dans les programmes de formation linguistique fédéraux et provinciaux avec une méthode d'évaluation linguistique complète et systématique, le CNCLC innove ses outils afin qu'ils favorisent la collaboration et le dialogue entre l'instructeur et l'apprenant. C'est pour cette raison qu'une étude visant à examiner l'efficacité de l'Évaluation linguistique sur le portfolio (ELBP) a été lancée auprès des administrateurs, conseillers pédagogiques et mentors des programmes CLIC au mois d'octobre. Dix-huit (18) participants issus des programmes CLIC ont participé au groupe de discussion le 4 novembre dernier dans le but de contribuer à ce processus d'innovation.

Dans la poursuite de ces innovations, les Autochtones et Métis ont enfin eut voix au chapitre ELBP. Un

module du niveau 4-5, en voie de développement, aidera les nouveaux arrivants au Canada à apprendre davantage sur les Premières Nations à travers les tâches de la vie réelle sur l'histoire, les traditions, la nourriture, l'habitat, ainsi que les luttes et revendications pour le respect de leurs droits ancestraux. Ce module sera mis en exergue au début janvier 2021 et constituera le contenu d'un webinaire visant à soutenir l'utilisation de ce module dédié aux peuples autochtones du Canada.

Le CNCLC a de plus entamé le processus de conception de cinq autres webinaraires pour soutenir l'utilisation de l'ELBP dont le processus prendra fin en mars 2021, à raison de la conception d'un webinaire mensuellement destiné aux instructeurs des programmes CLIC.

Enfin, deux modules (également en voie de développement) visant à fournir aux apprenants issus des minorités un soutien dans le processus d'établissement et d'intégration dans le cadre du développement ou de l'amélioration de leurs compétences linguistiques seront utilisés d'ici janvier 2021. Ces deux modules permettront également aux apprenants francophones immigrants issus des minorités à progresser dans leur vie active dans les domaines de l'emploi, de la citoyenneté, du leadership, etc.



Les projets linguistiques avec les partenaires marquent des points

Les partenaires du CNCLC multiplient les consultations auprès du Centre. Outre le projet du Collège La Cité dont les livrables ont été rendus, le Ontario College of Pharmacists (collège pharmaceutique de l'Ontario) a emboîté le pas de cette institution en signant un contrat afin que nous fassions une analyse comparative des tests d'évaluation du français reconnus internationalement pour que nous leur recommandions le ou les tests les plus appropriés pour les candidats étudiant dans le but de devenir pharmaciens ou techniciens en pharmacie.



Revitaliser l'ELBP dans un contexte pandémique pour continuer à répondre aux besoins et attentes des partenaires du CNCLC : une mission et un défi

Réceptif à tous les niveaux de collaboration dans la conception des modules et outils d'apprentissage, le CNCLC a opté pour une participation et implication accrues des acteurs impliqués dans l'utilisation des livrables ELBP. C'est dans cette dynamique que diverses productions ELBP ont été orientées sur les modules dédiées aux minorités et aux autochtones, à la suite des consultations menées tous azimuts auprès des programmes CLIC du Canada.

CCLB in the Community

CCLB participated in a number of events this fall:

- ATESL 2020 Online Seeds of Possibility: Curiosity, Drive and Innovation, October 16-17, 2020, *presenter and attendee*
- Tutela Webinar: Exploring the use of the Milestones Test as a LINC Exit Credential, October 28, 2020, *presenter*
- TESL ON 2020 Virtual Conference: Resilience: Re-envisioning Language Education Together, November 5-7, 2020, *presenter and attendee*
- Achève Annual Ontario LAC Administrators' Meeting, October 27 and November 12, 2020, *presenter and attendee*
- OCASI ED Forum October 27-29, 2020, *attendee*
- Tutela Webinar: "How to Ensure Validity in Distance Learning", November 20, 2020, *presenter*

CCLB is looking for Board Directors to help lead the Centre in this dynamic time. To apply, complete your application online by Monday, February 15, 2021. [Click here to open the application form.](#)

Le CNCLC est à la recherche de membres du conseil d'administration pour l'aider à diriger le Centre dans cette période dynamique. Pour poser votre candidature, remplissez votre dossier en ligne avant le lundi 15 février 2021. [Cliquez ici pour ouvrir le formulaire de candidature.](#)



Public Holidays

Please note that our offices will be closed starting December 24th 2020 at noon until January 1st 2021 inclusively, as well as February 15th 2021 for Ontario Family Day.

Jours fériés

Veuillez noter que nos bureaux seront fermés du 24 décembre 2020 à midi jusqu'au 1 janvier 2021 inclusivement, ainsi que le 15 février 2021 pour le Jour de la famille en Ontario.

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Centre for
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Benchmarks

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