



QUILL Learning Network

PO Box 1148

Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0

Phone: 519-881-4655

www.quillnetwork.ca

execdir@quillnetwork.ca

We Are In this Together Webinar

Collation of chat information from all 3 webinars

Link to all resources on the QUILL website – includes all tip sheets, final reports, webinar links –

<https://www.quillnetwork.com/resources/resources/>

Soon to come - Tip Sheets translated into French

Report writer – Jennifer Hewitt - jennifer@projectread.ca

Webinar presenter – Summer Burton - summer@llsc.on.ca

Pandemic Planning Manual page on the LLSC website. Link: <https://www.llsc.on.ca/pandemic-planning-manual>

Here is Getting ready to learn online from AlphaPlus - done for work with MTML instructors:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wSmt8bKbb1WiQ8KufwqwUXG1n7PwwwvDH/view?usp=sharing>

Suggested centralized location for sharing resources - <https://lbsresourcesandforum.contactnorth.ca/>

- Have something to share, contact Robyn Cook-Ritchie - ritchieg@execulink.com

Pandemic information for screening - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/screening/worker/>

Online Assessment Pilot Project

U of Memphis is looking for adult literacy students for help with piloting a great adult reading assessment tool. The Literacy Group will be involved in the program, receiving as many free assessments as we want, and learners will even receive an honorarium! It's called the SARA: <https://adulthood.tutor.org/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=11>

John Sabatini - jpsbtini@memphis.edu is the contact info. Online assessment. John is the developer of the tool and would welcome any Ontario adult learners.

Milestones

There was discussion of doing milestones online. Christine Lamarra, from Peel Halton Dufferin Adult Learning Network, has kindly agreed to share the 29 milestones they put online. Contact her at phdalninfo@gmail.com

Christine explains why they only did 29, in this note:

To give you some background, there were only 29 Milestones created in Google Docs. These Milestones were selected as they were identified to be easy for learners to answer questions while referring to a document or passage and the task could be completed in a reasonable time frame so that instructors were not spending more than 15-20 minutes video-proctoring the completion of the Milestone task.

We did not reproduce tasks that required lengthy video-proctoring time (to write an essay or use multiple documents or sources of information) or that required learners to fill in pre-existing forms (Google Docs does not allow for this type of activity). Although these pre-existing forms could have been recreated in another format, we decided against it as we needed to assure the ministry that there was consistency in where tasks were stored, could be assured of learner privacy and traceability, and minimized the chance of learners printing the tasks and possibly sharing it with others (MLTSD requires that Milestones are stored safely and done under supervision).

Fundraising ideas

The fundraisers that I've noticed that are hosted by various non-profits all seem to have a social engagement component. So, virtual cooking class, or virtual wine tasting, or painting. A real trend not just to virtual, but to social connections.

Change in Demographics

- Loss of the lowest-levelled students
- Had to refer those with low-to-no computer skills elsewhere once other agencies were able to re-open.
- Several of our level 1 learners expanded their learning time online because they didn't have to commute to the office. They will likely continue online in some capacity even when we do reopen the office. It also turned some of our preconceived notions on their head.
- Online learning created opportunities for some of our learners with limited mobility due to disability to expand learning - irregular attendance in-class, turned to not even missing one class and even increased learning time with visible accelerated learning progress. These learners now prefer online learning even post-pandemic! We have seen more students from farther away - or those for whom our prior attendance requirements were prohibitive

Supporting Learners Online

- provided headphones that helped for concentration
- surveyed our learners on their needs whether it was computer technology or lessons from their learner plans
- purchased USB and routers that work on cell data through Telus and Rogers to lend out to learners

Bell Canada will provide wifi on a monthly basis. No contracts, agencies can pay through training supports

Regarding Cell based internet here is a link to the Telus page. Scroll down to mobile internet devices

[https://www.telus.com/en/business/small/mobility/mobile-internet?INTCMP=sbs_mobility-](https://www.telus.com/en/business/small/mobility/mobile-internet?INTCMP=sbs_mobility-explore_link_explore-mobile-internet)

[explore_link_explore-mobile-internet](https://www.telus.com/en/business/small/mobility/mobile-internet?INTCMP=sbs_mobility-explore_link_explore-mobile-internet) We chose Telus because it runs off Bell towers that have the best overall range in the province. But we had to also purchase some Rogers Rockets to cover more of our area

- We also allowed Training Supports to pay for learners to upgrade their internet plans for more data per month
- Microsoft Non-Profit pricing, and we received 2000 web licenses that we can offer to all our learners when needed or at sign up.
- Online resources shared by The Literacy Group - <https://sites.google.com/view/tlglearnerresources/home>
- Ontario Extend is a training site but I am not sure if this is what you are looking for:
<https://extend.ecampusontario.ca/> We have found that ISTE has some good course, but it is not free :(
<https://www.iste.org/> - last summer AlphaPlus was able to sponsor some instructors to attend the ISTE Summer Academy. We can talk more (tracey@alphaplus.ca)

Engaging Volunteers

- monthly e-letter with tips and fun stuff; monthly online support meeting and get together; regular sending of online learning materials.
- offered online Zoom-training to our volunteer tutors so they could set up one-to-one sessions with their learners. It was very well received.

Math Tools Question

When appropriate, can someone share any links to online tools in which learners can answer graphing and measurement questions properly. I have some pdf file assignments that require learners to create graphs and measure using a ruler, which won't measure the same on a computer screen as in real-life. rcolicchia@uhc.ca

- The LearningHUB offers a Functions and Graphs course available anytime.
- mathies.ca has lots of math tools. I don't know if they have measurement.

Pandemic Planning Manual comment - It also needs to include what to do in an emergency in your virtual classroom

General Comment about remote delivery

It's great that we have some 'positives and wins' related to remote delivery that we've undertaken during the pandemic. So many innovative and effective approaches! It will be interesting to see how the Ministry views our "in-person" LBS programs continuing with online/remote delivery post-pandemic. Currently, the five LBS e-Channel (fully online) programs are funded at less than half the cost per learner compared to the F2F LBS programs and have comparatively larger learners served targets because of online delivery.

Our lower-level learners tried to engage remotely but their progress was much lower over that time. I hope the Ministry understands that!



This Employment Ontario project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario and through the Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement.



The opinions expressed in this document are the opinions of QUILL Learning Network, and do not necessarily reflect those of our funders.