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FOCUS
ON CARE
AND CONNECTION**

COMMUNITY LEARNING NETWORK



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The CLN Board and Staff are pleased to share our accomplishments of the past year, and our reflections on the year that was 2019-2020.

In the fall of 2019, the CLN Board and Staff undertook a process to review and update its Purpose, which reflects CLN's role, responsibilities and commitments to our members and funders. This renewal gave us a strong grounding to face the challenges and changing world in the spring of 2020, with the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Our Purpose

We **strengthen** the Community Adult Learning System in Alberta **so that**:

-  CALPs have access to responsive professional learning
-  CALPs delivery quality community-based adult learning
-  Funds allocated to the CALP system provide the greatest return on investment, and
-  Collaboration, alignment and connectivity exists throughout the system

We view this new purpose as giving us a refined focus for our work ahead and a clearer identity which distinguishes our role from others in the CALP system. Our purpose reflects not only our goal to provide the best in Professional Development to the CALP system, but also highlights the value of quality, relevant PD, so that CALPs are empowered to change lives of foundational learners in connected communities.



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Community Learning Network
values and practices:

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I N T E G R I T Y

T R A N S P A R E N C Y

D I V E R S I T Y A N D

E T H I C A L L E A D E R S H I P



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Regional Support, Coaching and Connections

In 2019-2020 CLN's Regional team offered a number of ways for CALPs to access coaching and mentoring support, across regional lines. CALP staff may choose to connect with CLN staff who are not their designated Regional Support Staff when their RSS is unavailable, or based on a particular CLN staff person's area(s) of expertise.



conversations with CALPs were recorded by CLN staff

Top areas for coaching and support:

- CALP Guidelines
- Family Literacy Programs, Tutoring and other Modes of Delivery
- Online and Remote Learning for Foundational Learners



CALP staff participated in face-to-face or virtual 'New Staff Visits'



online 'Connections Cafes' hosted by CLN



participants in 'Connection Cafes'



of Annual Survey respondents liked the quality of the coaching and mentoring they received from CLN



Online Connections and Communities of Practice: The CALP Portal

The CALP Portal continues to be a key connector for the CALP system.



over 380 new discussion threads on the Forum

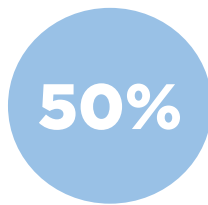


nearly 1,500 replies posted from the online community



more than 26,000 views of online discussions in the CALP Forum

Our resource library continues to grow, and our online community is actively contributing:



of new resources added were shared by members of Portal community

As a true community of practice, CALP Portal users are also sharing relevant PD opportunities:



events added to the Training and Events calendar by CALP staff and system partners



Connecting CALPs to the PD They Need to Support Adult Learners

This year, CLN **delivered 21 face-to-face regional training opportunities**, including 6 offerings of Introduction to Adult Foundational Learning and 5 offerings of CALP Essentials for Family Literacy programs.

This year we continued to host online study groups, and series of webinars and interactive online sessions on topics related to foundational learning, organizational capacity and CALP guidelines, grants, evaluation and reporting.

Over the last few years, CLN has prioritized building our own capacity to design and deliver effective online learning opportunities for CALPs. We recognize that some CALPs face challenges accessing face-to-face training, which requires time away from work and home, travel and often accommodation.



I am very appreciative of the in depth, adaptable and effective training provided. I am confident that when I need training, I can find the resources and mentors I need.

All the training is delivered professionally with content experts. Gives me huge appreciation for CLN network of content experts and colleagues.

100%

of respondents to evaluation surveys said the training from CLN was **RELEVANT** to their work

96%

of respondents positively rated the **QUALITY** of the PD delivered by CLN

70%

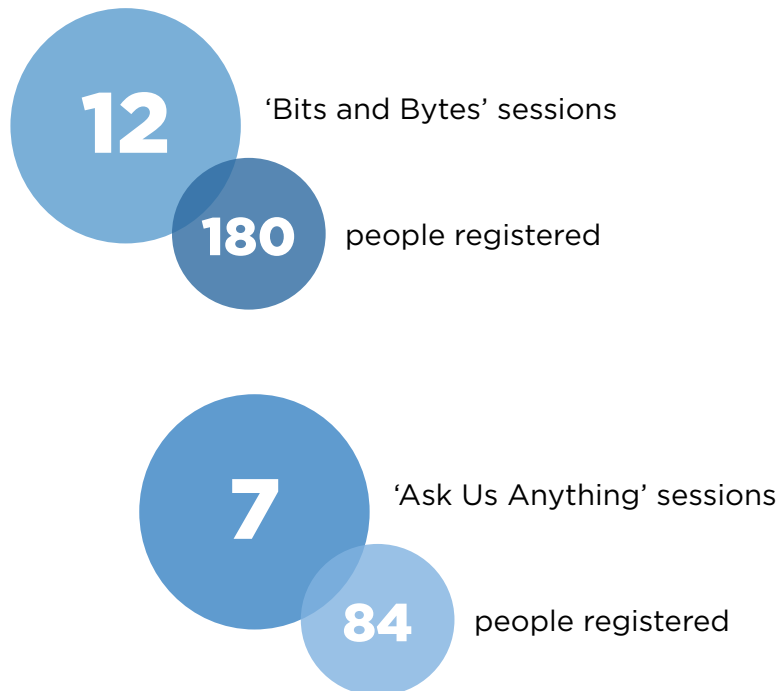
report that they have already integrated new learnings into their practice

Connecting CALPs to the PD They Need to Support Adult Learners [\[continued\]](#)

The COVID Pivot

This spring, with the cancellation of a number of training events due to the pandemic, some other face-to-face trainings such as Creating Learning Partners were quickly converted to online delivery. CLN's Regional Support team offered short, bite sized portions of CALP Database and Portal training. These **"Bits & Bytes"** were non-cumulative and allowed staff the ability to choose the learning topics most relevant and practical to them.

“ *CLN was incredible pre-COVID with unlimited support and resources. During COVID they stepped up their game, reaching out to connect, providing continued support as we all navigate our new normal, and offering numerous online workshops. They are an dynamic team with invaluable skills.*

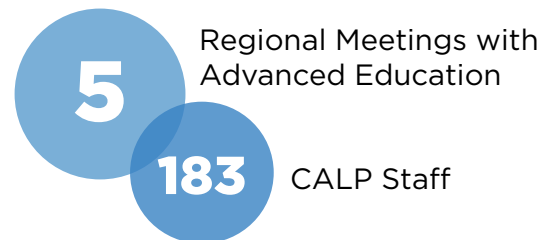




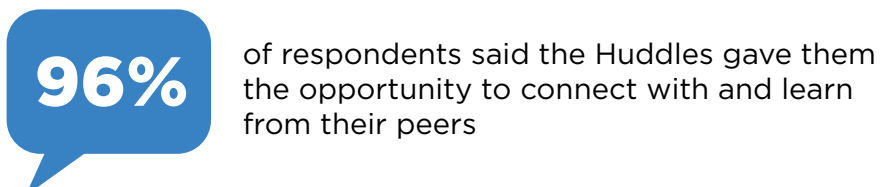
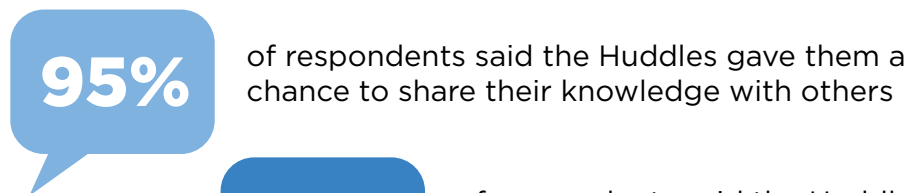
Connecting CALPs to Each Other: Regional Meetings and Huddles

This year, we were unable to host face-to-face regional meetings, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we were able to quickly adapt our plans, and deliver two online sessions in each region which helped to meet our key objectives for regional meetings. To provide the peer-to-peer networking and learning that would otherwise take place at a regional meeting, we hosted “Regional Huddles” via Zoom. These short meetings included information and updates from the CLN, as well as the opportunity for CALP staff to split into small group virtual “breakout rooms” for small group conversations.

In order to still provide the opportunity for the system to stay up to date with key messages from Advanced Education, CLN hosted a second series of meetings in the spring. These Online Regional Meetings were an opportunity for the CALP team from Advanced Education to share information about changes to the Guidelines, the new FAQs featured on the CALP Portal, and to address questions directly from the field.



“ Considering this was the first time and in unprecedented times to experience a Regional Huddle via Zoom, it went really well. It was informative, linked people together, provided opportunity for sharing and discussion, and was well presented by the hosts. While recognizing connecting in person is much preferred, it is not a current option. The Zoom Regional Huddle was much appreciated.





2019 Literacy and Learning Symposium

Each year CALP staff and partners grow in recognizing the value of the Literacy and Learning Symposium in supporting their professional development and training.



The participants who submitted the overall evaluation gave us the following feedback:

Rated as **very good** or **good** by respondents

Valuable opportunity to share information and network: **98%**

Quality of training/session delivery: **98%**

Relevance of training/session content: **100%**

Symposium Program/Presenters: **100%**

Keynote speakers: **100%**

NEW in 2019! Symposium App: 88%

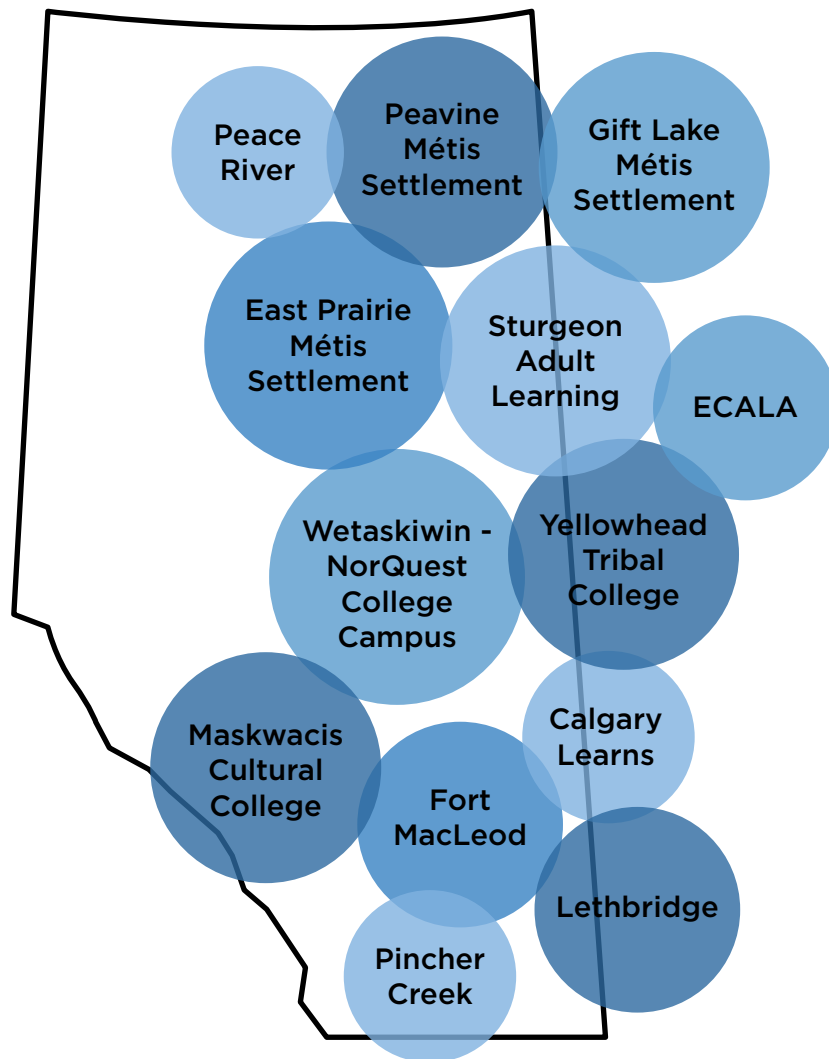
“ *I had a great experience meeting experts from different organizations and had an opportunity to learn which I have been applying to our adult learners.* ”



Connections with Métis and Indigenous Communities

Within the CALP system at large, CLN continues to support practitioners to explore their own community contexts. CLN's regional team, including our Métis and Indigenous Liaison, provide guidance and reassurance in areas such as how to learn about the Indigenous peoples in their own communities, how to speak and connect respectfully with elders and community leaders, and how to build their own cultural and intercultural competencies and understandings. These supportive, frank conversations are moving the needle on understanding.

Prior to travel restrictions coming into effect this spring, CLN's **Métis and Indigenous Liaison made over 20 visits to CALPs and partners** around the province, including:





Connecting CALPs to Community: The Culture of Collaboration

This year, CLN continued the Culture of Collaboration Initiative, to provide funding, mentorship, coaching, tools and resources to support CALPs who wished to hold a community event to bring partners together to focus on adult learning needs in their communities. We supported a mix of face-to-face and online events throughout the year:





Self-Care and Caring for Others: Psychological First Aid Training for CALP Practitioners

This year, with funding support Advanced Education’s Healthy Campuses initiative, CLN was able to deliver Red Cross Canada’s “Psychological First Aid” certificate training to the CALP system.

The training focuses on understanding of the effects of stress, loss, trauma and grief on others, with emphasis on self-care and personal protection.



CLN supported 10 CALP System Staff to become PFA Instructors

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic this spring, a number of the PFA Instructors trained through this initiative commented on the practical aspects of this training, especially through the public health crisis:



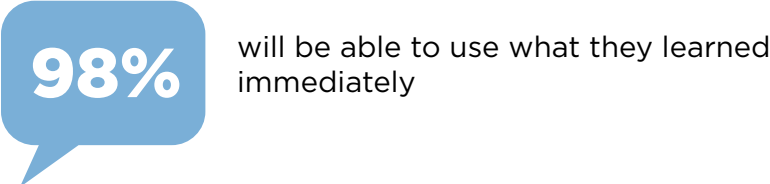
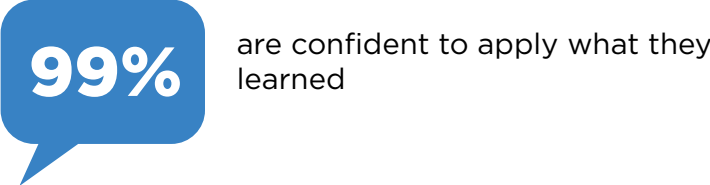
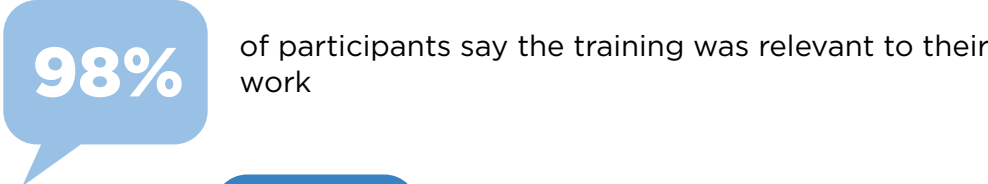
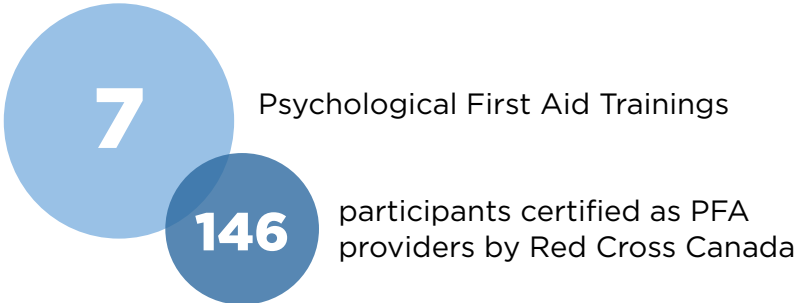
I have been able to promote self care and to lead by example; it has been especially useful during COVID.

CALP staff also provided great insight into the impact this training has had for them and the learners they support, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. CALP staff report that they are better able to provide supports to vulnerable learners, but that they are also recognizing the need for self-care for people in these positions.



Due to the pandemic and the training, I have felt that it is important to touch base with a number of the program’s tutors to see how they are doing, or leave an inspirational voicemail. Learners have also been needing more support. People have been very appreciative of the contact during these times. I have been practicing self care as needed also and not feeling guilty about it.

Self-Care and Caring for Others: Psychological First Aid Training for CALP Practitioners [\[continued\]](#)





Special Projects: Connecting the CALP System to Emerging and Established Best Practices

Strengthening Literacy Practices

The overall objective of the project is to build capacity within CALP-funded organizations to provide relevant and practical literacy instruction to English-speaking adult learners. There are a couple of layers to this project to achieve the objective:

- 1** Increase cohort participant knowledge and skills in literacy instruction in ways that strengthen their understanding and practice of CALPs' delivery of quality community-based adult learning.
- 2** Collect evidence of learning from cohort participants to inform the content, materials and design of a training strategy for CALP staff delivering literacy instruction

A small cohort of CALP staff were chosen in October 2019 to be part of a 10-month learning cohort. These practitioners have started working with adult learners within the last few years in their literacy programs which was a requirement for participation in the project.

“ *Being part of this project has been unbelievably helpful to me in how I will support literacy learners in the future. I feel that it has been the best training I have ever taken part of because it was so extensive and I was really able to pull apart and understand the topics covered. Furthermore, to do this in a group setting along side other practitioners who have now become friends is truly priceless. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me such a rich learning experience!*

Special Projects [continued]

Gathering to Learn: A field guide for attracting and retaining foundational learners

CLN has supported CARYA to develop a beautiful guide for CALPs across the province. This new resource is an evidence-based field guide, developed with input and based on strategies and stories from our CALP community. Key elements include how to find, attract, engage and retain Adult Foundational Learners while increasing our understanding of their contexts and barriers.

CARYA will be printing copies for CALPs across the province. Watch for details this fall. This guide will be a great addition to your CALP's resource library!

Essential Skills Units for In-Home Family Literacy Programs

Literacy for Life has developed an online resource to support CALP-funded family literacy program practitioners with activities, learning strategies, and adult learning best practices that support essentials skills development for adult learners through in-home family literacy programs.

This project addresses a number of PD needs identified by the system, and through PDAC. In particular, it will support Family Literacy practitioners to intentionally embed literacy and essentials skills instruction for adults in a family literacy context.

Literacy for Life has created tools and templates, and a library of 25 sample activities to support family literacy programs to embed adult skills development into their programs.

Watch the CALP Portal in Fall 2020 for a brand new section under the resources tab!

Holding Safer Spaces for Adult Learners

Based on the work of Heather Plett, this project supports the CALP system's capacity and confidence to have conversations and build relationships with learners. This will improve CALPs' ability to support learner goal setting, adapt learning opportunities to meet learning needs, and build safe and welcoming spaces that meet learners where they are at in their life. To date, 2 pilot cohorts have completed this training, with a third pilot launching in October 2020. CLN staff are also participating in "train the facilitator" training, to ensure this great learning opportunity is sustainable and accessible to the system in the years ahead.

Want to know more about this project, or whether it is a good fit for you? Talk to your Regional Support Staff!



Connect with the CLN Team

Board of Directors

To meet our Board of Directors, go to:

<https://calp.ca/cln-board-of-directors.html>

CLN Staff

You can get to know the CLN staff at:

<https://calp.ca/about-us.html>



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COMMUNITY ADULT
LEARNING PROGRAM

CLN works with and is supported by Alberta Advanced Education

