



**N O W**  
**S H O W I N G**

**CLN ANNUAL REPORT**  
**JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021**



# CLN Annual Report

The CLN Board and Staff are pleased to share our accomplishments of the past year, and our reflections on the year that was 2020-2021.

As the year progressed, we – like all Albertans – were faced with challenges and changing conditions, but we also celebrated successes, renewed relationships, and did a lot of learning along the way!

While 2020-21 was not always an easy year to navigate, the CLN Board and staff are extremely proud of the programs and services we offered and enhanced to support CALP staff throughout the year. CLN is dedicated to providing relevant and responsive training, professional development, networking opportunities, and support to over 80 Community Adult Learning Programs (CALPs) throughout Alberta.

## Our Purpose

CLN strengthens the Community Adult Learning System in Alberta so that:

- CALPs have access to responsive professional learning
- CALPs deliver 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

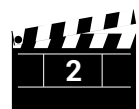
## Our Values

Community Learning Network values and practices respect, integrity, transparency, diversity and ethical leadership.

## Our Members

CALPs are grassroots community-based organizations funded by Alberta Advanced Education to provide, promote and increase access to adult foundational learning opportunities in areas such as:

- Adult Literacy
- Numeracy
- Skills for Learning
- Basic Digital Skills
- English Language Learning
- Community Capacity Building



The CLN is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, who are also Community Adult Learning Program staff and board members. We have a team of 13 staff members, located in communities throughout Alberta.



### **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/cln-provincial-staff.html>

<https://calp.ca/cln-regional-support-staff.html>



facebook.com/communitylearning.info

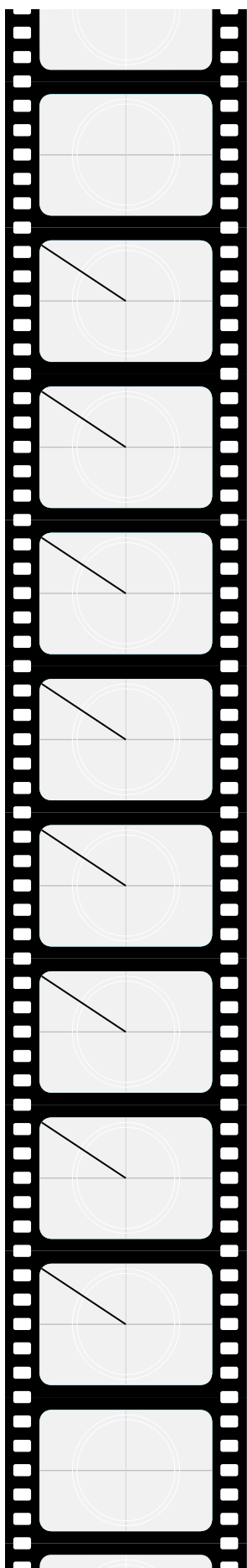


@TeamCLN



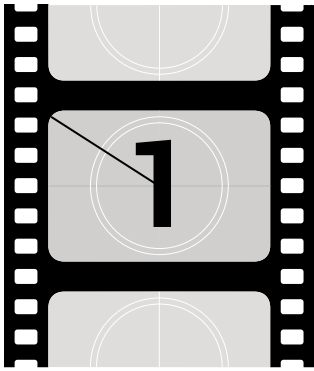
COMMUNITY ADULT  
LEARNING PROGRAM





# SCENES



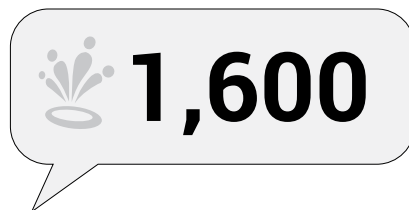


## REGIONAL SUPPORT AND COACHING CONNECTIONS

---

This last year most coaching and connecting took place on the phone, before and after online training events, using online video applications like Zoom or Teams, and by email. While there were some limited opportunities for in-person connecting, the CLN team used these varied ways to connect, so we could continue to meet CALP staff “where they are at”.

Without the limitations that come with traveling to meet face-to-face, CLN staff continued to build new relationships beyond regional boundaries, to provide this “just in time” support. Our team was able to provide provincial coaching and mentorship in an enhanced and extended way. As we often say, “any door is the right door” to access support!



**Conversations with CALPs  
were recorded by CLN staff**



- CALP Guidelines and programming
- understanding adult learners
- best practices in instruction
- organizational operations and governance

New this year, we also saw trends in the support that was needed that were definitely influenced by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- the desire from CALP staff to build up their own digital skills, understanding and engagement with technology and online tools
- boards and senior staff were looking for support with health-related policies, and human resources in general



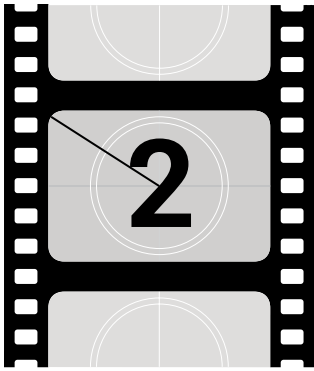
**95%**

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

---

*"Our RSS is extremely supportive and knowledgeable. If she doesn't have the answer/expertise on a question, will find the answer or give a direct referral to someone who knows that piece. Appreciate every conversation."*

*"Excellent source of encouragement and information from skilled and approachable staff."*



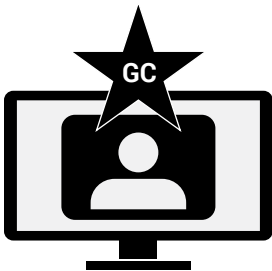
# PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES AND CALP CONNECTIONS

---

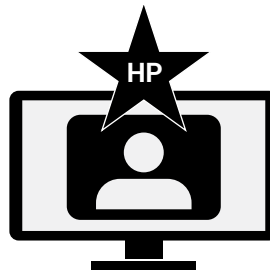
## Provincial Connections Week

Spring Regional Meetings which are normally held in-person were moved online. In place of the face-to-face meetings we have held in previous years, this year CLN hosted an online Provincial Connections Week. The week-long event included regional meetings, and three high profile featured speakers.

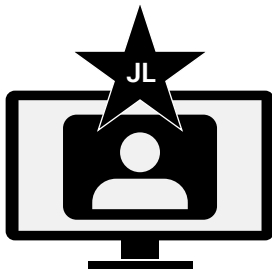
The speakers addressed key topics identified as emerging and on-going needs for CALP staff, including:



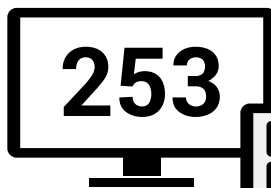
**GEORGE COUROS:**  
Innovation in instruction and programming



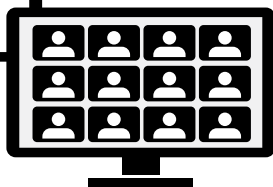
**HEATHER PLETT:**  
Approaches to supporting the social-emotional needs of adult learners



**JESSE LIPSCOMBE:**  
Understanding and strategies to pro-actively respond to racism in their CALPs and their communities



People attended these three featured speakers' sessions



**208** People attended the regional meetings



## Regional Connections Sessions at the 2020 Literacy and Learning Symposium (Virtual)

The virtual Symposium included a Regional Connections Session that focused on the peer to peer connecting and networking that CALP staff have come to expect from their regional meeting.

---

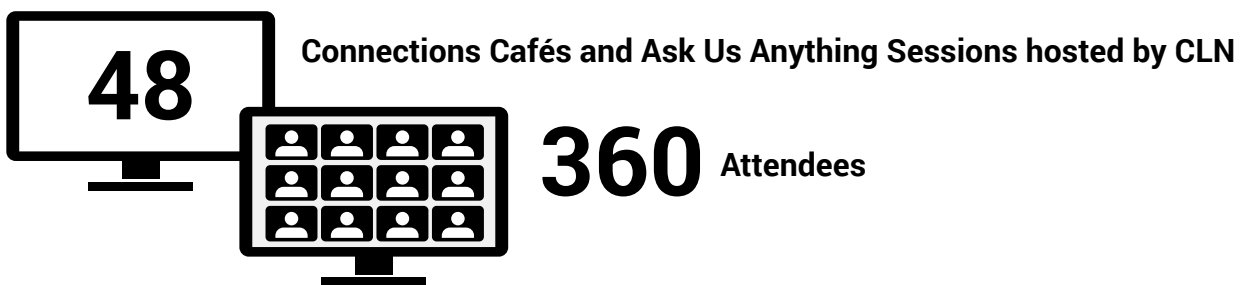
*"I enjoyed the breakout sessions. It was nice to connect on a personal level with others and discuss positives and challenges."*

## Connections Cafés

In 2020-2021, regional **Connections Cafés** provided safe, welcoming and brave spaces that encouraged CALP staff to meet, connect, share and learn online with their peers. These virtual spaces became a regular destination for many CALP staff.

**Our Connections Café principles are:**

- Whoever comes are the right people...
- Whenever you arrive is the right time...
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened...
- When it's over - it's over!



As CALP staff navigated their COVID-19 response, these connection points were a bright light. Staff looked forward to the opportunity to connect and learn online with their peers. They felt less isolated and were able to participate in conversations that reflected their desire to hold space for themselves and others.

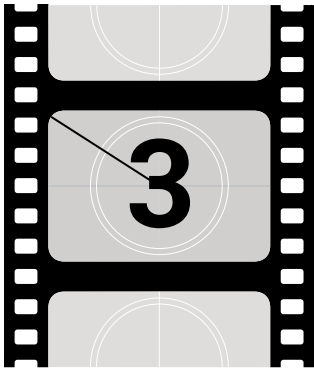
---

*"Really liked to see that we are all connected and can draw off one another's expertise and wisdom."*

*"A good reminder that we are not alone in this work!!"*







## 2020 LITERACY AND LEARNING SYMPOSIUM (VIRTUAL)

---

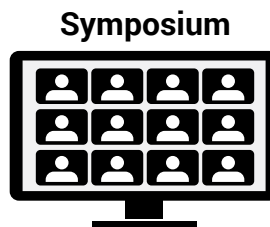
This year CLN staff and board successfully redesigned the Symposium in-person event into our **first-ever fully virtual event** due to Alberta Health Services' COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

While planning our event we considered the following guiding questions:

- What will we bring with us from before?
- What will we leave behind?
- What new ways of working will we keep?
- What will we do differently, value more, and care deeply about when we move forward?
- And what will we be focused on?

Even during the pandemic, CALP staff and partners continued to recognize and appreciate the value of the Literacy and Learning Symposium in supporting their professional development needs.

**308**  
Attendees joined us at Symposium  
2020 (Virtual) online, which was  
our highest attendance to date



**90%**  
of CALP Programs from  
across Alberta attended  
Symposium 2020 (Virtual)

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

Valuable opportunity to  
share information and network: **82%**

Quality of training/session delivery: **93%**

Relevance of training/session content: **98%**

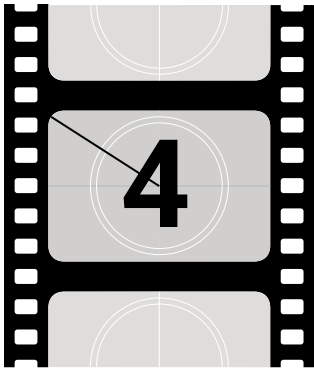
Symposium Program/Presenters: **100%**

Keynote speakers: **94%**

Overall organization of the event: **97%**

*"Thank you for all of your hard work with the whole switching of gears from an 'in-person' gathering to a virtual one. I don't feel as if any of the changes really took away from all the great learning and networking that we are used to experiencing."*





## MÉTIS AND INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORT

---

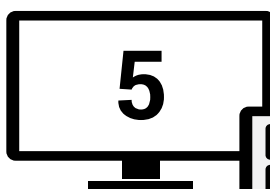
We know that there are many Métis and Indigenous learners in the communities served by CALP but these learners are under-represented in CALP programs. To help grow understanding and relationship-building, this year, CLN's Métis and Indigenous Liaison invested in one-on-one conversations with CALP staff throughout the province, to explore a range of questions and topics such as:

- Engaging and retaining First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners
- Community assessment to engage Indigenous learners – getting to know your community, where to find historical information, building relationships before partnerships
- Building relationship with First Nations communities
- Appropriate language when speaking with Indigenous peoples
- How to approach, engage and support Elders
- Understanding and practicing protocol, including where to purchase tobacco and appropriate gifts and compensation/honorarium
- Land Acknowledgments (how to do it, who to include, who should do one, when, etc.)
- Cree language resources
- Indigenous-based educational resources (books, language, history, culture)

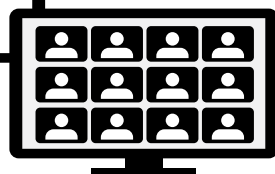
To help bridge relationship building and understanding between cultures, CLN's Métis and Indigenous Liaison led a community of practice for CALP staff across the province to have a safe space to learn more about Métis and Indigenous peoples.

### Ask Us Anything About Métis and Indigenous Worldview Connections Cafés

An online gathering co-hosted by Lori St Cyr, Georgina Supernault from Manning Community Adult Learning and Literacy Council and Elder Dave Matilpi.



Connections Cafés / Ask Us Anything About Métis and Indigenous Worldview Sessions



**53** Attendees

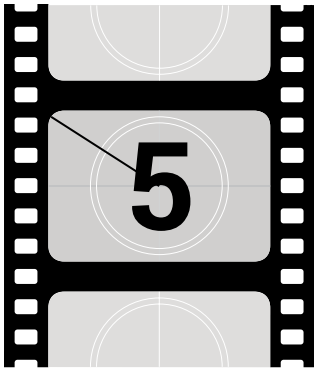


## **New This Year:**

### **Sharing Circle for Indigenous CALP Practitioners**

This virtual circle is intended to create a space for CALP staff whom self identify as Indigenous, Métis or Inuit. It is intended to draw on the wisdom and knowledge of the Indigenous CALP staff from across the province. It is a space to consult with other Indigenous peoples, to have and hold open conversations on events/issues that are happening in Alberta/Canada that are or may effect Indigenous learners.

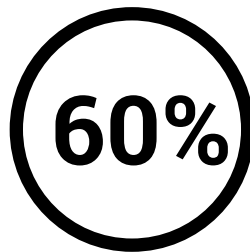




## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

---

Online delivery of PD and training was the priority this year to ensure that CALP staff had access to relevant and practical learning opportunities despite restrictions for meeting in-person due to COVID-19.



**Increase in the number of CALP staff taking training this last year**

CLN offered training to meet the varied needs of CALP staff in many roles, from volunteer tutor, instructor, office staff, program coordinator, executive director, to board member.



**Providing 171 hours of training to 405 participants**



**Delivered 21 additional trainings to 575 participants**

In addition to trainings delivered as part of our work through our PD Delivery grant from Advanced Education, CLN was also able to leverage funding to continue offering other training and PD opportunities:

## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONT'D

---

- **Strengthening Literacy Practices** – an 8-month cohort based learning journey, where CALP staff build their confidence and capacity to deliver effective literacy and foundational learning in their communities
- **Psychological First Aid** – Training from the Canadian Red Cross, to help CALP staff build their skills and awareness in self-care and caring for others

---

*I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to the CLN for the amazing training opportunities we have had this past year. Terri Peters, Jenny Horsman, Heather Plett, spring regional meeting speakers and so many more. CALP staff and volunteer tutors have had the chance to work in small groups with both Terri and Jenny through the mentorship opportunities. The knowledge shared with our team (in both mentorships and workshops) has taught us to better understand our learners, ourselves and our literacy practices. Thank you to the CLN team for responding to our training needs.*

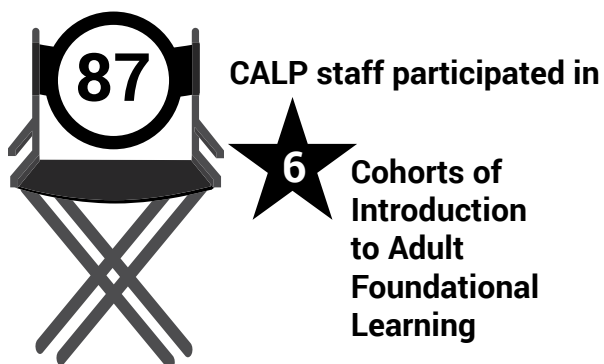
## Required Training

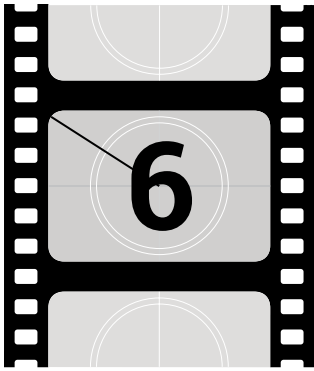
When it became clear in the spring of 2020 that the COVID-19 health restrictions would be long-lasting, CLN refocused our resources to convert the two required trainings into online courses to ensure that CALP staff could meet their grant requirements for training and complete Introduction to Adult Foundational Learning and/or CALP Essentials for Family Literacy Programs.

The new online training courses combined a series of weekly synchronous video-conference sessions with asynchronous self-study and online discussions on the CALP Portal.

---

*I liked the mixture of in-class “lectures” and group work combined with individual assignments that were due before the start of each class. The mixture of tasks suited many different learning styles and motivated me to continue participating.*

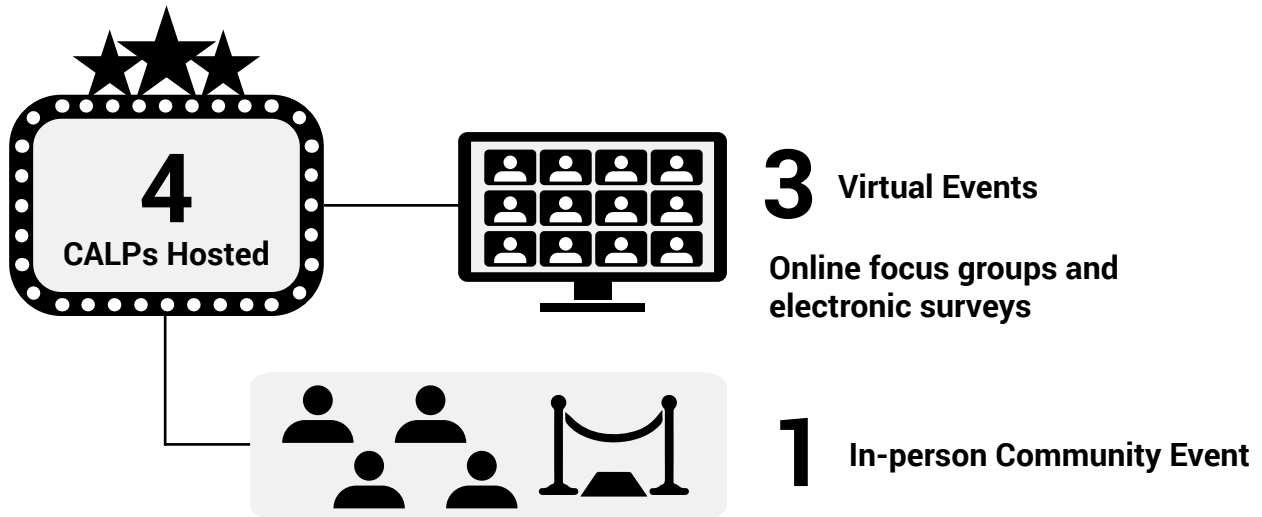




## CULTURE OF COLLABORATION: CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY

---

This year, CLN continued the Culture of Collaboration Initiative, acknowledging that provincial restrictions would have a huge impact on the traditional face-to-face dialogue approaches taken in previous years. However we provided funding, mentorship, coaching, tools and resources to support CALPs who wanted to find innovative ways to bring their communities together in innovative ways.



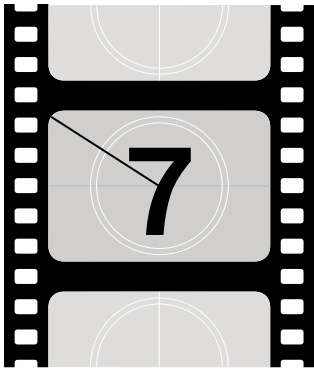
**158** Community Members Reached



Each of the four CALPs who engaged in community conversations were very satisfied with the results and new processes adapted for the pandemic.

---

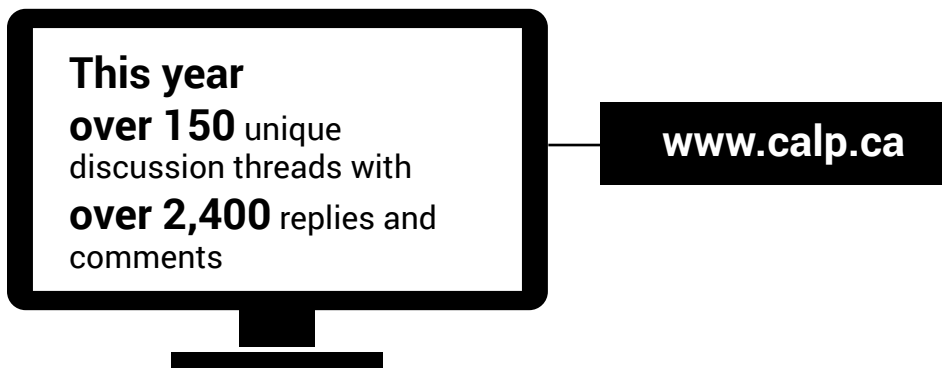
*I found interest in connecting through focus groups was high and many organizations were wanting to connect (...) With uncertainty due to COVID-19 many organizations were open to dialoguing and felt safe in the online zoom setting.*



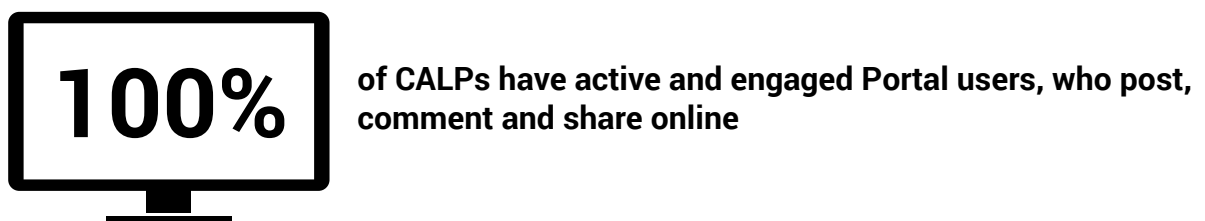
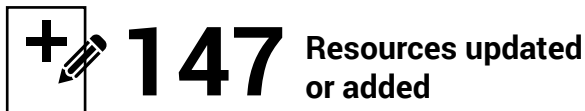
## THE CALP COMMUNICATION HUB: WWW.CALP.CA

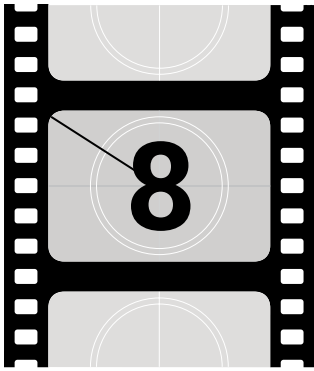
---

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



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





## CONNECTING ADULT LEARNERS TO ONLINE LEARNING: [WWW.ADULTLEARNINGALBERTA.CA](http://WWW.ADULTLEARNINGALBERTA.CA)

---

This year we launched a new tool - [www.AdultLearningAlberta.ca](http://www.AdultLearningAlberta.ca), which is a web platform where CALPs can share online learning opportunities for learners anywhere in the province.

The goals of the new site are:

- to extend the reach of CALPs and to increase access to relevant CALP learning opportunities for adult learners.
- to create further collaboration and connectivity within the CALP community.

Seven CALPs from different parts of the province worked together to bring this new website to life:

- Hanna Learning Centre
- Hinton Adult Learning
- Pincher Creek Community Adult Learning
- READ On (Lethbridge Public Library)
- Rocky Learning Centre
- SAIL (Strathmore Public Library)
- Taber and District Adult Learning Association

[www.AdultLearningAlberta.ca](http://www.AdultLearningAlberta.ca)

Between the launch of the  
site in March, and the  
end of June:

**3,495 visitors**





**- THE END -**

---

CLN works with and is supported by Alberta Advanced Education

