



Community Learning Network

Annual Report

July 2021 – June 2022





CLN Annual Report

The CLN Board and Staff are pleased to share our accomplishments over the past year with our members and partners in the adult learning system.

After a year under varying pandemic restrictions, we were ready to enter 2021-2022 with a sense of purpose and cautious optimism. Given our successes and learnings in the previous year, we started with a solid plan to meet the Professional Development needs of Alberta's Community Adult Learning Programs through a variety of ways, but we were also well-prepared to change plans and explore new directions as needs evolved throughout the year.

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

Once again, the CLN Board and staff are extremely proud of the programs and services that were designed and offered to support CALPs throughout the year. This report is a summary of accomplishments and highlights of the Community Learning Network's activities.

CLN remains dedicated to providing relevant and responsive training, professional development, networking opportunities, and support to the 83 Community Adult Learning Programs (CALPs) across 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.

To meet our Board of Directors, visit:

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

You can get to know the CLN staff at:

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



 facebook.com/communitylearning.info

 @TeamCLN



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www.calp.ca



Training and Professional Development



CLN conducts ongoing needs assessment throughout the year to determine the immediate and longer-term training and coaching needs of CALP staff. Needs assessment is multi-layered and taps into direct feedback from CALP staff and information collected from various provincial sources. Direct CALP staff feedback is gathered through training evaluations, one-on-one contacts with CLN staff (phone, email, virtual, in-person), training and communities of practice discussions, training waiting lists and Portal forum discussions. Provincial sources of feedback include Professional Development Advisory Committee (PDAC), CLN Board, PD Providers (Granting Councils and Rural Routes), and provincial partners (Comprehensive Community Colleges and First Nations Colleges).

Many of the needs relate to challenges and learnings that emerged through the pandemic, while others are ongoing training needs we see year after year. They include:

- Engaging and supporting adult literacy and foundational learners
- How to find foundational learners
- Understanding basic literacy and literacy instruction
- Technology training and online facilitation
- Understanding the CALP mandate, guidelines and reporting

Online delivery of PD and training continued to be a priority this year to ensure that CALP staff had access to relevant and practical learning opportunities despite on-going and changing COVID-19 restrictions for meeting in-person. Offering online training has helped us reach CALP staff in many roles, from volunteer tutor, instructor, office staff, program coordinator, executive director, to board member – many who otherwise would not have been able to travel to training in person.





CALP Required Training

In response to the initial COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, CLN redesigned the required training to be delivered online in addition to the existing in-person training. In this past year all required training events were offered online, again, because of the changing COVID restrictions.

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

- **Introduction to Adult Foundational Learning (IAFL)** is a 13-hour training to equip CALP staff with an understanding, tools and a network for providing quality learning for adult foundational learners.

“*The training was amazing, very interesting material, the group discussion provided a lot of opportunities to share ideas, opinions, to gain knowledge and to learn a variety of strategies in adult learning education.*”

- **CALP Essentials for Family Literacy Programs** is a 6.5-hour training for CALPs who choose a family literacy program mode of delivery to prioritize the building of adults' skills as part of an intergenerational approach to promoting literacy for the whole family.

“*The training was very engaging with videos, discussions and activities. I liked that we got an opportunity to discuss/share ideas in breakout rooms and to meet people from different organizations.*”

CLN provided **97.5 hours** of required training in **nine training events** to **115 participants**.

100% of CALP staff positively rated the relevance and quality of required trainings.







CLN Delivered and Supported Training

CLN trainers provided **168 hours** of training to **254 participants** at **28 events**.

The themes addressed this year included literacy instruction and assessment, basic digital skills instruction, supporting learners whose trauma impacts learning, adapting to adult learners with complex social and emotional needs, how to train CALP staff and volunteers, and understanding the CALP grant.

CLN provided a range of different training formats including single session events, multi-session events, and longer-term cohort-based training to meet CALP staff's immediate and longer-term training needs.

 Online	 In-Person
Single Session 90 minutes or less 16 training opportunities	1/2 day 1 training opportunity
Multi-session 2-5 sessions 6 training opportunities	Full day 4-6 hours 1 training opportunity
Cohort-based 2-8 months 3 training opportunities	Hybrid in-person + online participants 1 training opportunity

Participants rated both the relevance and the quality of **all CLN's trainings at 100% positive**.

CLN also contracted **12 external trainers** to **deliver 13 training events** to **232 participants**.

The three **most popular training** opportunities were:

- CALP Annual Report Q&A with Advanced Education
- Proposal Writing 101/Mentoring
- Serving Adults with a Learning Disability in a CALP Setting



Regional Support and Coaching



This year, we saw more of a blend in how CLN staff connected with CALPs across the province. Coaching took place through email, phone, before and after training events, using online video applications (like Zoom or Teams) and in-person. Opportunities for in-person coaching opened up in the spring of 2022 and CLN's Regional Support Staff were out and about in communities, meeting one-on-one or in small groups with CALP staff as needed.

The expansion of online training over the last few years has created cross-regional connections between CALP staff and the CLN team. CALP staff are not only supported by their own RSS but are connecting directly to a number of CLN's staff to access a range of knowledge and expertise on our team.

CALP Staff reported being 100% satisfied with the quality of coaching and mentoring supports from CLN staff. The impact is reflected in comments from the provider-specific results of the annual provincial survey:

“*Being new to my role, the CLN staff have been a huge support for me as I navigate the work of our organization and get things back up and running.*”

“*I always feel supported from CLN. Anything I need is always delivered, any question I have is always answered. It's amazing to have such a support and it helps me to improve in my role.*”

In addition to targeted and topical coaching conversations through the year, CLN staff also provide supports by making time to hold space for CALP staff who sometimes felt overwhelmed, adapted to on-going changes, faced new challenges, set new directions and supported learners experiencing the same.

This year, CLN staff recorded **almost 1,400 conversations** with CALPs.



Professional Communities and CALP Connections



Provincial Spring Meeting

The CALP Provincial Spring Meeting offered an opportunity to hear key messages from Advanced Education, network with peers from across the province and celebrate years of service with fellow CALP staff in each region. We encouraged CALP staff from across the province to participate in a variety of breakout rooms organized by topic and by region.

Topics included:

- Adult Literacy
- Taking Care of Me
- Foundational Learners
- Managing your CALP
- Online Learning
- Engaging with Métis and Indigenous Learners
- GED
- English Language Learning
- Funding Beyond CALP
- Family Literacy Programs

127 CALP staff attended the **online** provincial meeting.

Regional Gatherings

In the spring of 2022, CLN and CALP staff were equally excited to host and attend our first in-person regional gatherings since before the beginning of the pandemic. These informal gatherings offered unique spaces to reconnect, meet new people, and invest in personal connections with CALPs within each region. CALP staff who attended these gatherings left feeling energized, supported, and excited about the future of their work.

175 people attended the **5 in person** regional gatherings.



Professional Communities and CALP Connections continued



“ Thanks for coordinating to bring us together.

“ Today was such a wonderful reset after the miseries and isolation of covid-19.

Connections Cafés and Communities of Practice

Regional Connections Cafés provide safe, welcoming and brave spaces where CALP staff can meet, connect, share and learn online with their peers.

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!

Regional Connections Café

	North	West-Central	Central	East-Central	South
Average Monthly Attendance	8	8	5	7	10
Highest Attendance	13 January 2022	12 October 2021	9 September 2021	10 January 2022	12 April 2022

In addition to regional Connections Cafés, 2021-2022 saw CALP staff gather around the themes of Holding Safer Spaces, Settlement, and Literacy Practitioners.



2021 Literacy and Learning Symposium (Virtual)



For a second year the CLN staff and board successfully designed a fully virtual event due to Alberta Health Services' COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

Ultimately, our goal was to provide a safe Symposium, and to include these key components in our new virtual event:

- Offer high quality content by highly qualified online presenters
- Build opportunities for human connection in an online format

Symposium Attendance

285 attendees joined us at Symposium 2021 (Virtual) online

94% of CALP Programs from across Alberta attended Symposium 2021 (Virtual) – *up from 90% from the previous year*

Attendees included CALP Staff, Board Members, Facilitators/Instructors, Volunteer Tutors, Other Volunteers, Comprehensive Community College Representatives, First Nations College Staff, Library Staff and Government Representatives

Rated as very good or good by respondents:

- Valuable opportunity to share information and network: **91%**
- Quality of training/session delivery: **99%**
- Relevance of training/session content: **97%**
- Symposium Program/Presenters: **100%**
- Keynote speakers: **99%**
- Overall organization of the event: **100%**

“ This was an awesome week – thank you. The best part of my days (Tues–Friday), each night thinking about the symposium day and my take aways.



Métis and Indigenous Connections and Support



There are many Indigenous learners in the communities served by CALP, but Indigenous learners continue to be under-represented in CALP programs.

CLN's Métis and Indigenous Liaison focuses on small group and one-on-one conversations with CALP staff throughout the province covering a range of questions and topics such as:

- Language used when referring to Indigenous peoples, Indigenous issues, and Worldviews
- Building relationships before partnerships
- Connecting and engaging with Indigenous Elders
- Modeling ways to ask difficult or uncomfortable questions
- How to be an ally to Indigenous peoples
- Looking at our own narrative in terms of learners, communities, and organizations
- Bringing forward and recognizing bias towards Indigenous peoples

For example, raising awareness around colonial ways of thinking, and addressing questions like, "If I give tobacco as an offering to an Elder, how do I know the Elder isn't smoking it?"

- How to support Indigenous learners in the wake of the discovery of the 215 children and the hundreds of graves uncovered throughout the year across the country
- Land Acknowledgement support and discovery
- Indigenous related curriculum
- Requests for literacy programming to learn about Truth and Reconciliation and Calls to Action





- Elder/Knowledge Keeper – protocols
- Bringing attention and awareness to National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st) & National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (Sept 30th)

Following CLN's principles of professional communities, the Ask Us Anything About Métis and Indigenous Worldview Connections Café is a 1.5 hour online gathering co-hosted by CLN's Métis and Indigenous Liaison, Lori St Cyr, along with Georgina Supernault from Manning Community Adult Learning and Literacy Council and Elder Dave Matilpi.

“ I am thankful that I have had the opportunity to be part of CALP because it has brought me so much knowledge over the years about residential schools, and has helped me to lose my prejudice.

“ This is an open space that I value highly. Thank you for sharing freely. It's important for my learning to have the permission to ask questions in safe space.



Connecting Adult Learners to Online Learning

www.AdultLearningAlberta.ca

www.AdultLearningAlberta.ca is a web platform where CALPs can share online learning opportunities for learners anywhere in the province. The goal of this site is to extend the reach of CALPs and increase access to relevant CALP learning opportunities for adult learners, while creating further collaboration and connectivity within the CALP community. Seven pilot CALP organizations met monthly to design the site and set community standards for the rest of the CALP community in 2020–2021.

The focus of 2021–2022 was to start building a culture of use on the site.



59 online learning opportunities
were posted for adult learners across Alberta

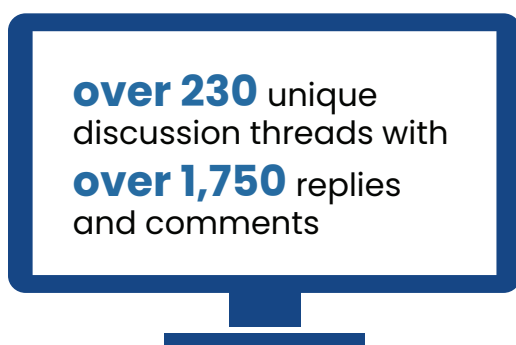


The CALP Communication Hub

www.calp.ca



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



over 9,600 views on our **blogs**

241 Professional Development opportunities featured on our **Training Calendar**

New on the CALP Portal this year

This year we added six new interactive learning resources to the Portal. Each was designed for promoting a deeper understanding of literacy and how to deliver effective instruction for adult foundational learners. They were developed by three highly experienced and respected literacy practitioners.

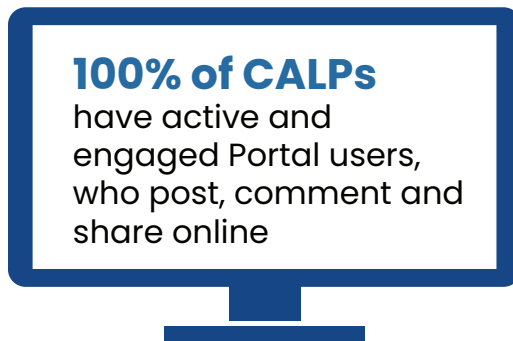
- **Building Literacy: A Learner-Centred Guide for Teachers, Tutors and Practitioners of Adult Literacy e-learning**
– Allan Quigley
- **Foundational Learning Lesson Planning e-learning**
– Terri Peters





- **Instructional Strategies for Reading e-learning**
- Terri Peters
- **Instructional Strategies for Writing e-learning**
- Terri Peters
- **Creating Instructional Materials Using Plain Language e-learning**
- Terri Peters
- **Serving Adults with Learning Disabilities in a CALP Setting guide**
- Karen Plourde

This meets an on-going training need to support many adult learners who come to CALPs with learning disabilities.





Once again, it has been our pleasure to support the CALP system and through our role to provide customized and supported professional development.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Government of Alberta, provincial PD providers, and other system partners in the years ahead.



With support from

