

2025 – 2026 Annual Report

Illuminating Learning

Funded by:



Community
Learning
Network

Welcome

In 1987, the Company of Coordinators was established as a society to support further education and lifelong learning in Alberta.

By 1994, the organization had expanded and evolved, changing its name to the Community Learning Network (CLN). In 2012, the CLN registered as a federal charity with Revenue Canada to extend its reach to support the fields of literacy and foundational learning.

In 2025–2026, our collective efforts have illuminated new pathways for learning, strengthened connections, and sparked deeper collaboration with partners across Alberta’s adult learning landscape.

The Community Learning Network Board and Staff are proud to share highlights from a year of impact, growth, and momentum across the CALP system.

As we reflect on a year of learning, growth, and discovery, we begin by sharing a [provincial land acknowledgement](#)—co-created by CALP staff from across Alberta—honouring the lands where we live, learn, and illuminate learning together.

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A Message from Leadership

Lighting the Way



Welcome from the Board Chair, Dave Albrecht

It is my pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of the Community Learning Network Board of Directors and to reflect on another busy and rewarding year for the organization.

This past year has been one of continued growth, transition, and thoughtful reflection. As a Board, we have worked to ensure that CLN remains responsive to the needs of its members while continuing to provide strong governance and strategic direction for the organization.

One of the Board's significant areas of focus this year was a review of CLN's organizational purpose. Through thoughtful discussion, we revisited who we are, who we serve, and what we want to accomplish moving forward. The result was a refreshed purpose that we believe better reflects CLN today while also creating opportunities for the future:

We strengthen the Community Adult Learning system in Alberta by:

- Ensuring Community Adult Learning Programs (CALP) have access to responsive professional learning and supports
- Practicing and promoting a culture of knowledge and resource sharing

Governance continues to be an important part of the Board's work. Policy review remained high on our agenda throughout the year as we worked to ensure that CLN's policies continue to provide a strong and practical framework for the organization. Looking ahead, the Board will turn its attention to a comprehensive review of CLN's Bylaws, with the goal of presenting proposed updates to the membership at the 2027 Annual General Meeting.

The year also brought a number of organizational changes, including changes to CLN's budget, staffing, and Symposium format. Change is rarely without its challenges, but throughout these transitions

the CLN team continued to demonstrate professionalism, adaptability, and a strong commitment to supporting the Community Adult Learning Program network.

On behalf of the Board, I want to recognize and thank the CLN staff for the work they do every day. Their knowledge, dedication, creativity, and willingness to adapt play an important role in the success of CLN and, ultimately, in supporting the work being done by CALP organizations across Alberta.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow Board members for the time, experience, and thoughtful perspectives they bring to the table. Strong governance is a collective effort, and I am grateful for the commitment each member continues to make to CLN and the broader CALP community.

As we look ahead, there is much to be excited about. The coming year marks CLN's 40th anniversary—an important milestone and an opportunity to celebrate four decades of connection, learning, collaboration, and support within Alberta's adult learning community.

And because the traditional gemstone for a 40th anniversary is ruby, there may even be a pair of ruby slippers making an appearance somewhere along the way.



Some traditions are simply too good to ignore.



As Chair, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such a committed Board and staff team and to be part of an organization that continues to evolve while remaining firmly focused on its members and the communities they serve.

Thank you to our members, partners, staff, and Board for another successful year. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Dave Albrecht
CLN Board Chair 2025-2026



Welcome from the Executive Director, Lisa Dickner

As we wrap-up another year at Community Learning Network, I want to start with acknowledging our staff and Board. Together, they form an incredible foundation that allows us to be successful in the business of offering customized supports for adult learners and CALP team members (paid and unpaid, volunteer, and professional). I have been so fortunate to have been in my role for many years (17 and counting) but I am not the only one who has been around the block. Our staff team has longevity, continuity, knowledge, and passion (nearly half of us have served for over 10 years with CLN). Who could want for more? Our Board team is engaged, experienced, represents CALP organizations from one corner of the province to the other and are keen to learn and share. Add these two groups together and you have a vibrant and progressive workspace that is welcoming yet familiar, leaders, and listeners. I am grateful each day for this winning combination.

This year was about slowing down the pace, after years of developing new trainings, resources and managing multiple PD grants. We had time to tackle all those projects that had been put off for “another day”, including improving the Portal—working on new navigation, cleaning up our resources, and bringing critical information into the light. We also tackled self-study through a new learning management system—piloting a self-paced Introduction to Adult Foundational Learning and creating a brand new Introduction to AI (which piloted in the summer) to provide increased accessibility and flexibility in the learning environment for CALP staff.

Setting the 2026 Symposium theme as **Illuminate** was no accident. We lived this theme throughout the year, weaving more ‘light’ into everything we worked on. We hope that it showed up for you in ways that reinforced your work and your need to support adult learning in your communities.

We also faced a new challenge this year with reducing the Symposium footprint to a single day. It forced us into a new venue, new tech and new thinking. Change is not easy but we challenged ourselves, we listened and we learned. We move forward with a redesign for 2027 that we hope will meet the needs while respecting the grant mandate that is under our care. We will continue to ‘test the waters’, ask for your input/feedback/suggestions and do all that we can to create exceptional PD and training experiences for you and your teams, whether online or in person.

We may have a solid foundation but it’s really nothing without you, CALP staff, and board members. We look forward to listening and creating more opportunities for learning and growing as we are moving into the new three-year grant cycle ahead.

With gratitude,

Lisa Dickner
CLN Executive Director

Meet the CLN Board



Dave Albrecht

Chair



Tanya Klappe

Vice Chair



Tanya Mercredi

Treasurer



Leslie Carbone

Secretary



Nicole Levesque

Director



Krista Anderson

Director



Stephanie Brown

Director

Meet the CLN Team



Lisa Dickner
Executive Director



Corrie Rhyasen Erdman
Training Manager



Ellen Rodgers
Program Support



Tanis Harms
PD & Events Specialist



Lori St. Cyr
Indigenous Liaison & North RSS



Rebecca Still
Literacy Specialist



Lisa Donald
Financial Coordinator



Della Massey
West RSS



Laureen Guldbrandsen
East RSS



Cheryl Lovstrom
Central RSS



Emily Robinson Leclair
South RSS

In 2025–2026, there were **11** CLN staff members located in communities throughout Alberta.

You can get to know the CLN staff at <https://calp.ca/aboutcln>

Illuminating Our Impact

*2025–2026
At a Glance*

Who are our Members?

Across Alberta, 83 Community Adult Learning Programs (CALPs) are illuminating in their communities—providing vital, locally-driven opportunities for adults to thrive and build foundational skills.

CALPs are community-based organizations, funded by the Government of Alberta, working to improve access to learning in key areas such as:



Curious to learn more or find a CALP near you?

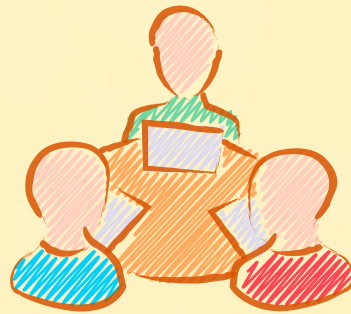
Explore the CALP Directory: <https://calp.ca/find-a-calp-near-you.html>

Our Purpose

CLN strengthens the Community Adult Learning system in Alberta by:



Ensuring Community Adult Learning Programs (CALP) have access to responsive professional learning and supports



Practicing and promoting a culture of knowledge and resource sharing



Our Role

Alberta Advanced Education provides annual professional development (PD) grants to organizations that form the CALP PD system.

CLN is one of four organizations which coordinate and deliver PD so CALP-funded organizations can be successful in their work with adult foundational learners.

The CALP PD system works towards achieving a vision and long-term outcomes to demonstrate the impact of grant dollars.

The vision of the CALP PD system is:

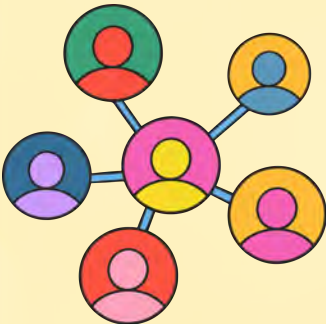
CALP staff strive for excellence in priority areas to change the lives of adult foundational learners.

Professional Development Logic Model Outcomes



LEARN

CALP staff acquire knowledge and skills they need from CALP PD



CONNECT

CALP staff are actively engaged in professional communities



CONTRIBUTE

CALP staff are leaders and actively shape the CALP system

Supporting Alberta's Community Adult Learning Programs

The CALP Portal

The CALP Portal remains a central communication hub for CALP staff, Board members, professional development providers, Government staff, Comprehensive Community Colleges, and other stakeholders who support adult learning across Alberta.

In 2025–2026, an average of **618** users actively signed into the Portal each month, with **175** engaged users contributing through posts, shares, comments, and discussions. While Portal activity naturally fluctuates from year to year in response to emerging issues and developments within the CALP system, participation continues to demonstrate the value of having a dedicated space for communication and collaboration.

100% of CALP organizations continue to log on to the CALP Portal to access resources, view discussions, and register for training. This sustained participation reflects the culture of Portal use that CLN has fostered since its launch in 2014.



618

Active Users



175

Engaged Users



100%

Active CALPs

Self-Directed Learning

To meet the diverse needs of the CALP system, self-directed learning opportunities are an integral element that complements and extends the learning provided through facilitated training and communities of practice.

The CALP Portal hosts a growing collection of online PD resources customized to the CALP system. These include **15** e-Learnings, **11** featured resources, and an active blog that stays current through the regular addition of new articles throughout the month.

Top 5 Viewed...

e-Learnings

- 1 [Assessment for Learning](#)
- 2 [Building Literacy: A Learner-Centred Guide](#)
- 3 [Foundational Lesson Planning](#)
- 4 [Creating Instructional Materials using Plain Language](#)
- 5 [Creating Safer Spaces: Indigenous Learning](#)

Featured Resources

- 1 [Opening Doors: A Literacy Audit Toolkit](#)
- 2 [Teaching Reading: Strategies and Resources](#)
- 3 [Answers May Vary](#)
- 4 [Gathering to Learn](#)
- 5 [Serving Adults with Learning Disabilities In a CALP Setting](#)

Featured Blogs

- 1 [What Is So Important About PIAAC?](#)
- 2 [Many Ask: What's the Difference Between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit?](#)
- 3 [Land-Based Learning: Reconnecting with Nature for Education](#)
- 4 ["Pink Shirt Day" from an Indigenous Perspective](#)
- 5 [Teaching Digital Skills Day](#)

Featured Initiatives

In 2025–2026, CLN continued to strengthen professional development by expanding access to relevant, flexible, and self-directed learning opportunities for CALP staff and volunteers.

PD Success Pathways



A new set of interactive PD planning tools hosted on the CALP Portal makes tailored PD recommendations for staff and volunteers to quickly and easily find CALP learning options that meet their own unique learning goals.



Introduction to Adult Foundational Learning (self-study)



In response to barriers to accessing training, we transformed the IAFL curriculum into a self-directed learning format this year. It will be offered in the coming year to give staff more choice and a flexible pathway to complete their CALP grant training requirements.



An Introduction to AI for CALP Staff (self-study)



CLN introduced An Introduction to AI for CALP Staff, a new self-paced course designed to build foundational AI literacy and confidence. Through reflection and practical activities, participants explore how to think critically about AI and support learners in using it responsibly.



Indigenous Resources to Support Indigenous Ways of Learning



A new central location on the Portal was designed to highlight a collection of curated Indigenous-based resources that build cultural knowledge, deconstruct literacy, incorporate land-based activities, and draw on guidance from Elders for CALP programs.

Training and Professional Development

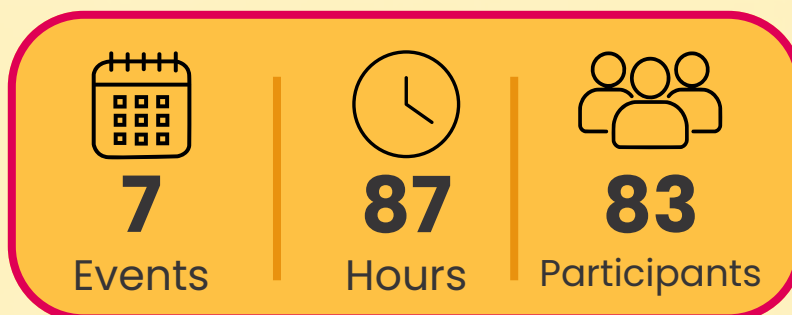
In 2025-2026, CLN delivered **41** in-person and online training events, providing **247** hours of professional development to **362** participants.



Required

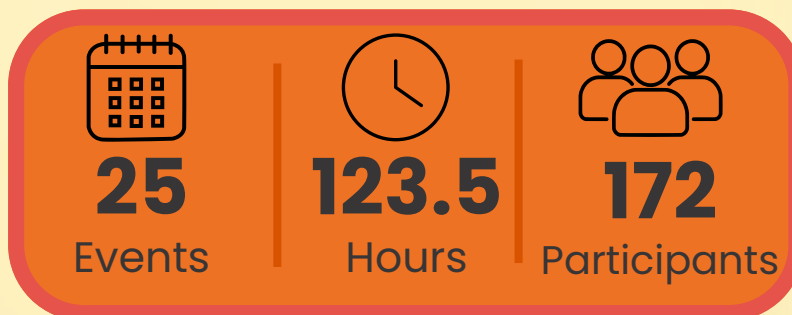
The two training courses required by Advanced Education:

- Introduction to Adult Foundational Learning
- CALP Essentials for Family Literacy Programs



Provider

Training delivered by CLN staff, either independently or in partnership with other CALP PD Providers.



Other Supported

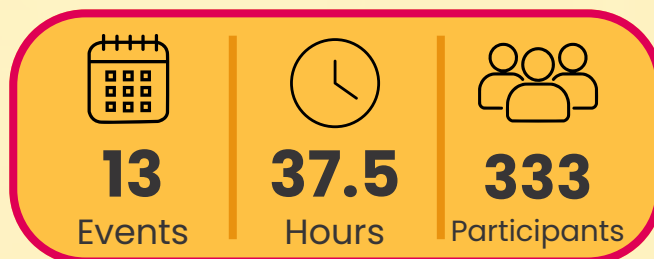
Training hosted by CLN and delivered by an individual or organization that doesn't receive CALP PD Grant funding.



Professional Communities

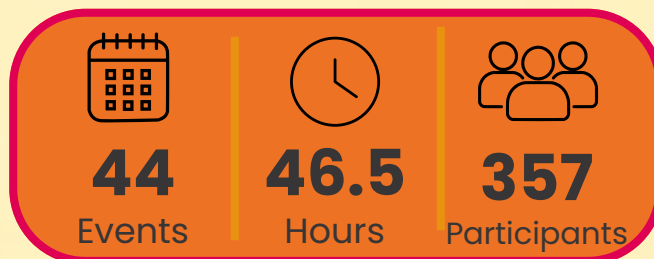
Professional communities connect CALP staff with opportunities to connect and support their work. CLN facilitates and promotes a variety of professional communities that are responsive to needs, allow for further learning, leverage existing knowledge, and encourage the exploration of new ideas.

In Person



Professional communities provide CALP staff with a range from informal drop-in Connections Cafés, deeper conversations about resources and topics, and “just in time” opportunities to explore topics and trends.

Online



“ I had to give myself permission to attend today. I keep telling myself I don’t have time, but I decided last minute it’s ok to do this! ”

-CALP Staff

Resources, Tools, and Knowledge Exchange

Coaching and Mentorship

Coaching and mentorship are central to the support CLN provides. Through ongoing relationship-building with both new and experienced staff, CLN's team creates a supportive space to connect, ask questions, explore challenges, and share ideas.

100% of respondents in the Annual CALP PD Survey 2026 strongly agreed or agreed that the CLN staff who provided coaching and mentoring are knowledgeable.

The top coaching and mentoring topics with CLN staff were:

- 1 CALP Database
- 2 LFL Promising Practices (Strategies & Resources)
- 3 CALP Programming
- 4 PD / Training Requests and Referrals



"The ideas [she] gave me were great and my learner is excelling beyond what I even thought she could. I talked to [her again] at the Symposium and got great ideas for next year."

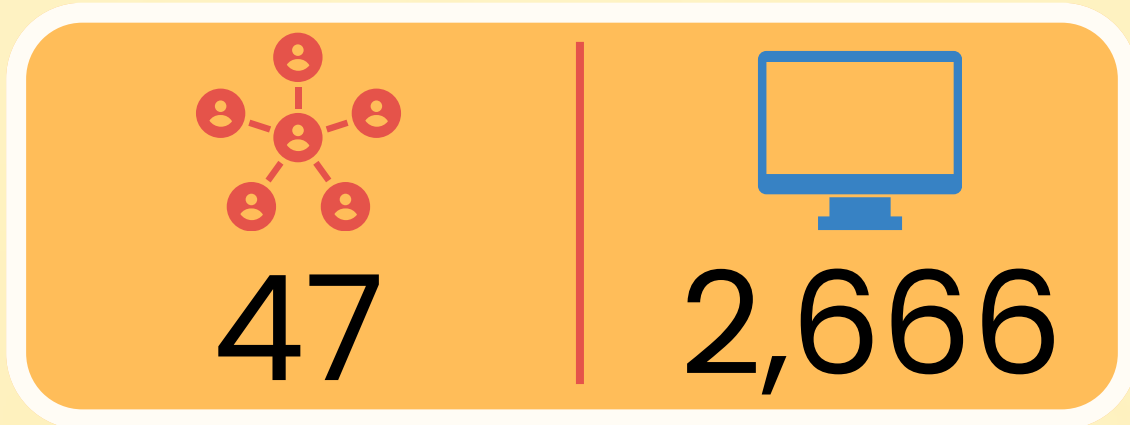
(CALP staff, CALP PD Survey 2026)

CALP Database

The CALP Database is a tool that continues to support CALPs both operationally, by providing a customized platform to manage in-house registrations, create profiles for learners, instructors, and tutors, and help with collating data for annual reporting to Advanced Education.

of CALPs Using the Database

of Learning Opportunities



Database users were introduced to a new Database platform in September 2025. This was a year-long project to update the existing database into a current report-friendly platform.

CLN staff offered personalized supports for those CALPs in need of assistance, including sleuthing to find the source of errors, one on one meetings, and customized instructions to fix problems.

Common themes and trends for support were **navigation**, **access issues**, **learning opportunities**, and **tutoring data entry**.

Strengthening Literacy Practices (SLP)



SLP is an intensive 8-month cohort-based training designed for practitioners who work with (or intend to work with) adult literacy learners. The purpose of the training is to equip literacy practitioners with the knowledge, tools and strategies needed to work directly with literacy learners and create learner-centred literacy programs.

The training program includes **80** hours of work based on weekly assignments, monthly orientation, check-ins, monthly reports, and the development of a final learning journey project.

One of this year's participants summed up her learning experience in SLP this way:

"I feel more confident in applying learner-centered and strength-based approaches in my teaching practice. I am now more intentional about incorporating learners' goals, lived experiences, and real-life materials into instruction."



Literacy & Learning Symposium 2026

Illuminate



Literacy & Learning Symposium 2026



DATES

April 29 – April 30
2026



VENUE

Wyndham
Edmonton Hotel
and Conference
Centre



AUDIENCE

CALP Staff, Boards
and Volunteers

PURPOSE

- To provide curated content to educate, connect and inspire CALPs and community-based adult learning system partners.

GOALS

- To provide relevant training and PD opportunities
- Build and strengthen connections and relationships by:
 - Enhancing engagement
 - Providing networking opportunities
 - Encouraging communities of practice
 - Celebrating milestones

Analytics



ATTENDANCE & REPRESENTATION

- **244** attended
- **80%** of CALPs represented



ENGAGEMENT

- **16** Breakout Sessions



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- **98%** rated the quality and relevance of the training sessions as “good” or “very good”

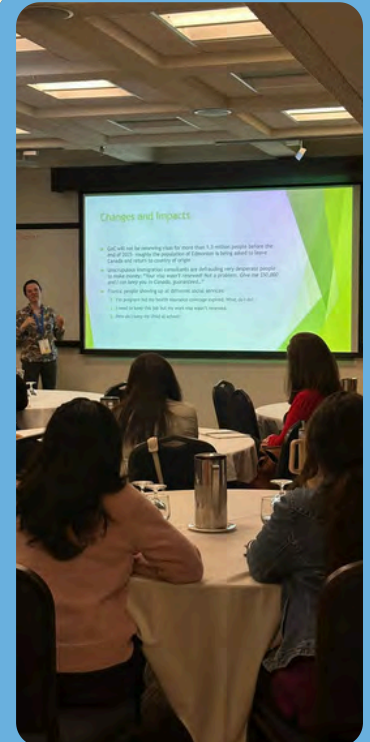
Attendees said..

“ We are all at capacity in our roles, so being able to see each other in-person and share resources, courses, preparations, and community practices is needed! ”

“ “I think the team hit a great balance of networking, speakers and learning opportunities.” ”

2026 Symposium At a Glance





Learners' Voices

To keep adult learner voices and experiences front and centre at Symposium, CLN invited learners in CALP organizations to share what learning means to them, and the response was overwhelming: **25** videos, **6** audio files and **11** written submissions.

This included **40** unique learners representing **12** CALPs in all **5** regions, including one urban granting council.

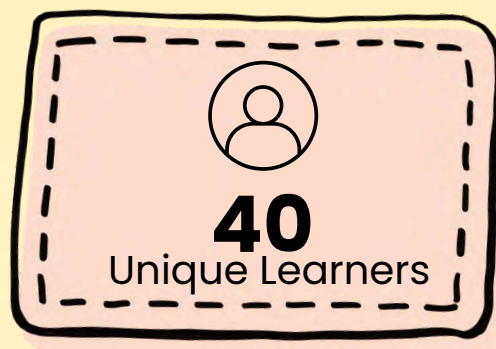
These stories highlight the flexibility of the CALP grant and the resilience, dedication, and motivation of the adult Albertans served.

Community Adult Learning Programs are indeed "*changing lives through adult foundational learning in connected communities*".

Click the icon to learn more about their stories:



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



2025-2026

We Illuminated Learning!

