

Recognizing Prior Learning

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Recognizing Prior Learning Network Newsletter

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CCL Publishes Report on PLAR in Canada

The Canadian Council of Learning (CCL) identified a need for more effective mechanisms to serve non-traditional adult learners in Canadian communities and workplaces. Therefore, work was commissioned by the CCL to determine a comprehensive picture of the state of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) in Canada.

The major elements of the report, published in October 2008, include:

1. A review of research and policy literature;
2. An analysis of learner demand for PLAR services;
3. An analysis of the state of PLAR development in Canada and abroad; and,
4. A strategy for moving forward.



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[Full Report](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

[Report Summary and Recommendations](#)

Snapshots from the CAPLA Conference

The theme for the 2008 Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA) Conference was Recognizing Prior Learning: Building on a Decade of Collaboration and Innovation.

In addition to pre conference workshops, keynotes, panel discussions and a conversation café, there were 45 concurrent sessions showcasing RPL projects happening inside and outside Canada.

The following highlights four sessions from the Eighth International CAPLA Conference:



High Stakes Assessment: Susan Simosko, addressed issues in high stakes assessment, by highlighting successful examples in regulated professions and key elements in good practice. Read more about this [presentation](#).

Igniting the Power Within: This remarkable partnership between First Nations and Métis leaders and government, has resulted in the development and delivery of certification workshops focusing on workplace Essential Skills and PLAR. The project is based in Manitoba and has been piloted in Aboriginal communities with very positive results. The workshops deliver the message that formal and informal learning experiences build self-awareness and personal strengths leading to learning and employment. For more on this project, visit: ignitingthepowerwithin.ca

PLAR with Young Adults at Risk: Jane McLaren, Upper Canada Leger Centre for Education and Training, describes the results of a [three year project](#) aimed at Young Adults at Risk.

SIAST to Certify Workers Overseas, before they Immigrate to Canada: SIAST's Business Development and International Partnership Department (BDIP) conducted a feasibility study on the prior learning assessment of tradespersons abroad. Grant MacTavish provides details about this project in this [summary](#).

Saskatchewan Success Stories – RPL Making a Difference

Connie Rayner has always wanted to help youth, and now she is getting the formal training to enter into this field. Connie had competencies based on her experience in banking, quite a leap from youth care, and yet she has found some transferable skills and knowledge common to both disciplines. Learn more about [Connie's PLAR experience](#).



Highlights of RCG Activity

The Recognizing Prior Learning Coordinating Group (the “RCG”) contracted the services of Garven and Associates Management Consultants to complete a Saskatchewan RPL Needs Assessment and Blueprint for Action.

The RCG tabled the [report](#) in January 2009.

The RCG is in the process of establishing working groups to manage the recommendations of the report. There will be a Capacity Building Working Group, a Communications Working Group and a group to consider ways to foster Industry Engagement.

Worth a Look- Recently Published Reports

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Program Level PLAR User Guide

A User's Guide for Evaluating Learning against Whole Program Learning Outcomes
Cristal Gobeil, June 2008, Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA)

Recognizing Prior Learning in Saskatchewan Provincial Needs Assessment and Blueprint for Action November 2008

Garven and Associates Management Consultants, November 2008, Recognizing Prior Learning Coordinating Group