

Recognizing Prior Learning

You live. You learn. It *all* counts.

Recognizing Prior Learning Network Newsletter

July 2009 Volume 2, Issue 1

FNTI 20th Annual PLA Conference held May 26 - 29

The First Nations Technical Institute held its 20th Annual Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Conference in Belleville Ontario. "Since 1985, FNTI has embraced PLA within a cultural framework. Many significant partnerships and collaborations have taken place. Collective efforts are well supported by the realization that confident, self-assured adult learners help to create strong families and vibrant communities," Paul Zakos, Chair PLA Conference Planning Committee.

One of the [2009 FNTI workshops](#) was delivered by Joan Conolly, and focused on perceptions about indigenous oral traditions.

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Prior Learning Assessment in the Workplace

Most workplaces recognize the importance of education and training. There is a need for both a higher knowledge base and greater skills in the Saskatchewan economy. Industry and adult learners are investing more in training and are demanding to know the significance of the learning. A workplace that supports the assessment of prior learning, values education, training and workplace experience.

The Manitoba Government has published [several reports](#) on workplace PLAR that identify its advantages, disadvantages and best practices.



“One of the issues with PLAR in the workplace is how to operationalize a process that is fair and legitimate, but something the workplace can manage....” (Folinsbee, 2008)

Advantages of Workplace PLAR

A quality, well-implemented workplace PLAR system can offer many [benefits](#) to workplaces and related organizations.

Disadvantages of Workplace PLAR

The [disadvantages of workplace PLAR](#) reflect the fact that many employers do not fully understand the PLAR processes.

Elements of Good Practice

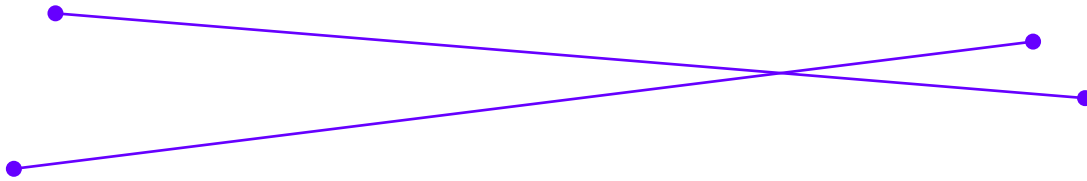
Research suggests that workplace PLAR will be most effective if the following [best practices](#) are considered.

Stages in Workplace PLAR

[Nine Stages in Workplace PLAR](#) summarizes how to implement a PLAR process in a workplace setting.

Saskatchewan Success Stories – RPL Making a Difference inside & outside Saskatchewan

This [story](#) has Saskatchewan roots with an inter-provincial flavour. In response to the closure of several New Brunswick mines, SIAST has been contracted to provide expertise in the assessment and certification of New Brunswick miners.



Highlights of RCG Activity

The Recognizing Prior Learning Coordinating Group (RCG) published its 2008 Annual Report and submitted it to Minister Norris.

The [report](#) includes a summary of RCG member activity and key actions carried out in 2008.

Reports, Resources and Links

[Taking Account: a Report on the Number of PLAR Assessments Conducted by Public Post-secondary Institutions in Canada, CCL](#). Although some institutions do not collect data or declined to contribute data, the results are very interesting.

The federal Foreign Credentials Referral Office has published [resources](#) for employers.

A website has been [designed](#) to provide businesses and employers with HR resources and tools to assist them in hiring and retaining immigrants.

[11th International Conference on Experiential Learning](#)

[Employer Investment in Workplace Learning CCL CPRN](#)

The Directorate for Education of OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) has released its latest publication entitled [Education Today: the OECD Perspective](#)

Responding to various learner supports, Millennium Scholarships released interim research findings that focus on retention rates for learners in post-secondary institutions.