

Provincial Advisory Committee on Implementation of the Adult Education Strategy Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Provincial Advisory Committee on Implementation of the Adult Education Strategy (PAC) is to provide advice to the Deputy Minister of Education on the following:

- Development of Regional School Board partnerships that will implement the Adult Education Strategy.
- Potential indicators used to monitor/evaluate implementation of the Adult Education Strategy.
- Coordination of information and development of referral pathways between programs of the three ministries funding adult education (Education (EDU), Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade (MCIIT), and Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU)).
- Development of common messaging and communication materials about the strategy.

Background

The Adult Education Strategy supports the commitment made in the ministry's renewed vision for Education, *Achieving Excellence*, to "ensure that the adult education system better supports adult learners in their efforts to finish high school and successfully transition to postsecondary education, training or the workplace."

The adult education strategy also addresses one of the primary recommendations of *Ontario Learns: Strengthening our Adult Education System*, which is to improve the educational outcomes of adult learners by creating seamless learner pathways that will take adult learners on the shortest and most effective route to their goal and improving transitions between programs offered by the three ministries that fund adult education.

The adult education strategy supports the direction provided in the Premier's mandate letter to the Minister of Education to work with the ministers of MTCU and of MCIIT to ensure the adult education system better supports adult learners in their efforts to finish high school, and successfully transition to postsecondary education, training or the work place.

Chair

The Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the Student Achievement Division, Mary Jean Gallagher, will chair the PAC.

Membership

The PAC will have representation from the following:

- Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) / Conseil ontarien des directrices et des directeurs de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF) – 3 Directors of Education (1 English-language Catholic, 1 English-language Public and 1 French-language school board).
- Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) – 2 representatives.
- Ontario Association of Adult & Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA) – 4 delegates (President, Executive Director and two CESBA members).
- Coalition ontarienne de formation des adultes (COFA) – 1 representative.
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) and Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO) – 1 representative from each.

- Ministry of Education – 3 ADMs (Student Achievement Division; French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division; and Financial Policy and Business Division).
- Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade – 1 ADM (Citizenship and Immigration Division).
- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities - 1 ADM (Strategic Policy and Programs Division).

Terms of Reference

The PAC will report to the Deputy Minister of Education.

The PAC will provide advice and input on the communication and implementation of an EDU-focused adult education strategy that improves the educational outcomes of adult learners through a coordinated, coherent, accessible, efficient and effective system of high quality EDU adult education programs and services.

The PAC will provide advice on the following:

- The development of Regional School Board partnerships that will implement the Adult Education Strategy:
 - Ministry analysis and interpretation of the findings of the regional consultations with school boards.
 - Strategies and recommendations from the third party facilitator who will be working with the school boards. This third party facilitator will support school boards in each region to develop partnerships; assist in the selection of lead boards for each region; develop standardized templates that school board partnerships will use to conduct regional environmental scan / gap analysis, and develop regional strategic plans to scale up promising practices and address gaps. The facilitator will have the capacity to provide services in French and in English.
- Indicators developed by the ministry and the third party facilitator to be used to monitor/evaluate implementation of the Adult Education Strategy.
- Coordination of information and referral pathways between programs of the three ministries funding adult education, EDU, MCiIT and MTCU.
- Development of common messaging and communication materials about the strategy.

Meetings

Free and open discussion of the issues is encouraged. Ministry staff will take notes on highlights from discussions, final decisions and action items.

Timeframe

Timelines are aligned with phased implementation of the strategy, from 2014 to 2018.

Meeting	Purpose	Date
1	Seek PAC feedback on consultation findings and procurement of third party facilitator.	May 2015
2	Provide PAC with report back on work of third party facilitator with school boards.	Sept. 2015
3	Provide PAC with report back on implementation progress.	Feb. 2016
4		Sept. 2016
5		Mar. 2017
6		Sept. 2017
7		Mar. 2018

Scope

Through the three ministries that fund adult education, EDU, MTCU, and MCIIT, the government annually invests more than \$200M and supports more than 200,000 adult learners.

Basic programming for adults is summarized in the following chart:

Program	Funding	Number of School Boards	Number of Participants
EDU adult credit	2014-15 projected: \$97.7M.	61 school boards.	Close to 75,000 adults aged 18+ annually.
MCIIT Language Training (ESL/FSL)	2014-15 projected: \$64M.	37 school boards.	Approximately 120,000 immigrants enrolled.
TCU Literacy Basic Skills (LBS)	2013-14 actual: \$88M	38 school boards (in addition to colleges, community-based organizations); approximately 1/3 of LBS participants served by school boards.	Approximately 43,000 participants in FY 2013-14.

31 school boards receive funding from all three ministries, placing school boards in a unique position to provide a complete adult learner pathway.

The EDU Adult Education Strategy aims to encourage a more collaborative and regional approach among school boards and with their partners in the adult education sector, fostering shared responsibility for adult learners in order to achieve the following:

- improve adult learner outcomes by promoting system innovation and access through collaboration, coordination and partnerships among school boards at the regional level;
- better support the provision of EDU Adult and Continuing Education programs and services that are flexible and responsive to learner needs; and
- improve transitions for learners between EDU adult credit programs and programs funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade (MCIIT).

The four priority EDU areas that are in scope include the following:

- Regionally coordinated access to flexible delivery of EDU Adult and Continuing Education programs and/or services (e.g., e-learning or hybrid delivery programs) that best meet adult learner needs.
- Coordinated information, intake, assessment, and referral, provided at school boards to ensure learners are directed to the program or service that best meets their needs.
- Regionally available and consistently applied Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students working towards a high school diploma.
- Regionally available guidance, career counselling and pathway planning for mature students working towards a high school diploma or seeking prerequisites for postsecondary education.

For questions regarding the PAC, please contact Angelika Kerr at (416) 326-5996 or by email at angelika.kerr@ontario.ca