



Shifting expectations

The employment landscape has changed dramatically in the past five years. In the knowledge-based economy, Canadian workers at all levels and in all occupations are expected to possess certain fundamental skills, such as reading, writing, math and the ability to use a computer.

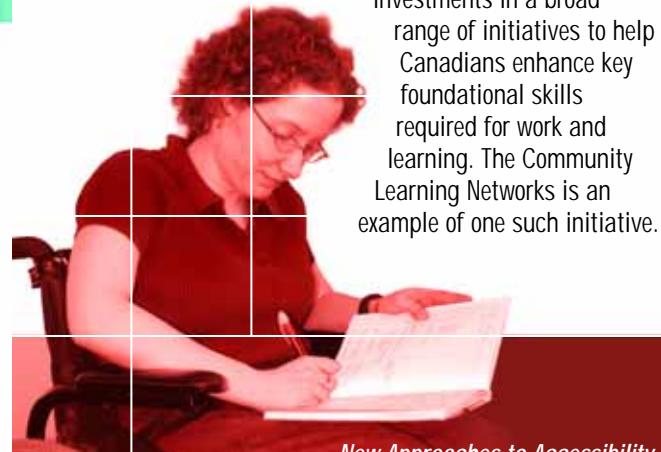
Underemployed and unemployed Canadians, new immigrants, persons with disabilities, women, Aboriginal people, and individuals living in remote areas who are unable to develop foundational skills in a traditional learning or work environment can encounter major challenges and barriers to entering the work force.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that all Canadians have access to the skills development and learning opportunities needed to realize their potential and participate fully in the 21st century economy and society. This commitment is demonstrated by investments in a broad range of initiatives to help Canadians enhance key foundational skills required for work and learning. The Community Learning Networks is an example of one such initiative.

Opening doors

Broadening access to skills development and lifelong learning through technology

Office of Learning Technologies
Community Learning Networks (CLN) initiative



New Approaches to Accessibility

Led by the Community Outreach Group in Saskatchewan, this project enables disabled persons to participate in an entrepreneurial workshop in which peer mentors teach them to develop a business plan and upgrade their computer skills. This project will enable participants to access employment, self-employment, and other online learning opportunities.



Community Learning Networks

The Community Learning Networks (CLN) initiative is managed by the Office of Learning Technologies (OLT). The OLT, a part of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), was established in 1996 to help build a Canadian culture of lifelong learning.

The CLN initiative aims to help targeted groups of adult learners benefit from skills development and lifelong learning opportunities. It supports community-based projects that use network technologies in innovative ways to allow individuals to participate fully in the labour market and in their communities.

Your opportunity

The Community Learning Networks initiative relies on organizations such as yours to identify opportunities to establish CLN projects. We encourage you to use your front line knowledge, creativity and insight, and consider ways in which a CLN project could serve adult learners in your constituency.

Digital Learning Network for New Immigrants

Led by the International Council in Manitoba, this project creates a network that provides new immigrants in Winnipeg with access to a variety of learning resources such as foreign credential recognition tools, English language assistance programs, and employment services. This project will help users to overcome information barriers and cultural isolation, acquire skills and find employment using technology.

Virtual Circle of Community Entrepreneurs

This project, led by the Bamfield Community School Association in British Columbia, brings together entrepreneurs to drive community development in Bamfield, Port Renfrew, Ucluelet and Tofino, B.C. It will provide learning opportunities for residents, build on existing community capacity, and contribute to their long-term health and sustainability.

Qualifying for CLN funding

The Office of Learning Technologies typically issues a call for proposals once a year.

Application requirements

Organizations interested in establishing a Community Learning Networks project must complete an application form. The form will be made available online at the time the call for proposals is issued. Applications must propose an innovative learning and skills development project targeted at one or more groups of disadvantaged adult learners, with outcomes that can be applied across the country.

Each application must include a description of:

- the project, its goal, objectives and key activities;
- the skills development need to be addressed in the targeted community;
- the information and communication technology infrastructure and approaches to be used; and
- the project budget.

Applicants must partner with organizations or individuals who broaden the project team's expertise, capacity and reach, and contribute cash or in-kind resources.

Project funding

Organizations whose projects qualify receive conditional transfer payments for defined purposes. Project costs are shared between the Office of Learning Technologies, the lead organization and project partners.



More information

For more information about how to write a Community Learning Networks proposal, or to learn more about the Office of Learning Technologies, access the OLT Toolkit online at www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/gateways/topics/lxt-gxr.shtml

To consult with an OLT representative, please call **1 (819) 953-0300** or send an e-mail to olt-bta@hrsdcc.gc.ca