

# BC/Yukon Language Perspective

Immigrant Integration Summit 2014

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## Overview

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- ▶ Standardization in Language Training
- ▶ Yukon & British Columbia Landscape
- ▶ Volunteer/Informal Language Training
- ▶ Models for Future Service Delivery
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## Federally Funded Language Programming

- ▶ Language and skills development are key components of settlement programming funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).
- ▶ Since 2006, the Government of Canada has tripled settlement funding outside of the province of Quebec to almost \$600 million for 2013–14. Over 40% of this federal settlement funding is dedicated to language assessment and training services.

## Federally Funded Language Programming

- ▶ Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)/ Cours de langue pour les immigrants au Canada (CLIC) provides training to help newcomers develop the language skills needed to function in Canadian society and contribute to the economy.
  - Formal language training from literacy to advanced language ability levels
  - Labour market language training
  - Occupation Specific Language Training (OSLT)

## Standardization in Language Programming

- ▶ To achieve a national approach on language training and strong newcomer language outcomes, CIC is standardizing its formal language training under the LINC / CLIC brand names (whether in-person, online, or a blend of both) through ensuring:
  - Use of placement and summative assessments based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) or Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC);
  - Implementation of *National Language Placement and Progression Guidelines*;
  - A CLB or NCLC framework that supports curriculum guidelines for newcomers;
  - Qualified teachers able to align classrooms with the Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA) approach

## ESL in the Yukon

- ▶ The Multicultural Centre of the Yukon (Yukon Tourism Education Council, YTEC)
  - 3 LINC classes (spanning CLB Levels 1–6)
  - one on one ESL tutoring
  - partners with businesses to deliver workplace language training
- ▶ Yukon College
  - one LINC class for CLB levels four and up
  - advanced ESL open to international and domestic students (prerequisite of CLB 6 or higher)

## ELSA → LINC in British Columbia

Formerly ELSA or English Language Services for Adults in British Columbia:

- ▶ 2013/14 saw 21,284 unique newcomers participate in 688 ELSA classes and 40 ELSA for the Workplace classes

Currently LINC or Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada:

- ▶ 2014–16 ~ 70 LINC sites in BC, with formal language training making up 40% of overall settlement expenditures for this 2 year term

## LINC in British Columbia

- ▶ CLB levels = Literacy to CLB level 8; core levels typically range from Literacy to CLB level 4.
- ▶ Eligibility criteria for CIC programs limits access to permanent residents. Provincial top-up funding is being provided for ineligible LINC (CIC) clients outside of the Lower Mainland.
- ▶ English for the Workplace classes are available in many communities.
- ▶ One occupational specific language program will be offered in the Metro Vancouver area focused on construction trades from September 2014 to March 2015.

## LINC in British Columbia

- ▶ LINC Home Study (LHS) provides access to language training for clients in communities outside of the Lower Mainland and Victoria who are unable to access in-class training. (Also available in Yukon)
- ▶ One Francophone Service Provider is funded to provide LINC to French speakers in a Francophone setting in the Metro Vancouver area.
- ▶ LISTN (Language Instruction Support and Training Network) formerly ELSA Net, plays a significant role in supporting the sector and in ensuring consistency and excellence in language training across the province.

## Related Provincial Programming in British Columbia

- ▶ Ministry of Education: School Boards
  - Literacy Foundation Courses (including English Language Arts) enable adults to develop knowledge and upgrade skills in order to be successful in courses for graduation (High School Credit courses). These are bridging courses with standardized, competency-based Prescribed Learning Outcomes.
- ▶ Ministry of Advanced Education: Post-Secondary
  - Adult Basic Education Courses are for adults 18 years of age or over, lead to a high school diploma, or Dogwood Certificate, and to prerequisites for post-secondary programs.

## Related Provincial Programming in British Columbia

- ▶ Public Post-Secondary ESL
  - ESL is mandated at 17 publicly-funded institutions where tuition free ESL courses are offered and articulated through the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer. This provides mechanisms of quality assurance, transferability, and pathways to post-secondary study.
  - Training focuses on 3 general areas: English for Academic Purposes, English for Access and English for Work.
  - According to <http://www.data.gov.bc.ca/> 2012/2013 data (reported Feb 2014) 14,290 students accessed Public Post-Secondary ESL with international students totaling 4,730. Domestic ESL amounted to 9,455 students (approximately 20% of these are Canadian Citizens) with about half that number going through Vancouver Community College.

## Volunteer/Informal Language Training

- ▶ Informal language training can be utilized to complement and/or supplement formal language training (e.g. conversations circles, ESL cafes, etc.).
- ▶ As this type of language learning is not regulated, and not necessarily CLB-based, there are some drawbacks.
- ▶ A positive benefit of this type of learning includes cultural and social integration of clients, as programs are locally driven.

## Volunteer/Informal Language Training

- ▶ In 2013/14, ESLSAP (Provincial English Language Settlement Assistance Program) supported 46 communities and 1,328 learners with informal language training
- ▶ Community Connections through CIC offers informal language services including ESLSAP, conversation circles and informal peer groups in 29 service sites across BC

## Models for Future Services Delivery

- ▶ A responsive, nationally consistent delivery model could include:
  - A variation in program design, allowing for more individualized, relevant training, responsive to the diverse needs of learners.
  - A universal, nationally supported Learning Management System (LMS) serving as a platform for all service providers.
  - Wide access to online/blended options, including pre-arrival, facilitating program uptake and retention.
  - More consistent CLB/NCLC-based programming and assessment.

## Towards a Pan-Canadian Language Strategy

- ▶ Context: a new settlement policy for Canada
- ▶ In collaboration with provinces and territories, pursuing the development of a medium term pan-Canadian language strategy whereby:
  - All adult newcomers are aware of their language abilities in relation to the level of proficiency required for their intended settlement goals;
  - All adult newcomers have access to the full continuum of learning opportunities they need to improve their language ability, commensurate with their skill level, their labour market goals, and their social integration needs; and
  - Federal, provincial, and territorial government work in partnership to provide programming guided by the principles of accessibility, flexibility, and consistency.

## Potential Priorities for Language\*

- ▶ Language training and skills development services that help newcomers attain the English and French proficiency they need to function and participate in all aspects of Canadian society, including:
  - Language training and resources targeted at supporting newcomers to engage in basic social interactions and acquire Canadian citizenship (from literacy to CLB/NCLC-4);
  - Language training and resources targeted at labour market entry and pursuing education (up to CLB/NCLC-10).
  - Newcomers with special needs (e.g. hearing or visual impairments) have access to learning opportunities and resources that can accommodate these needs.
  - Newcomers destined to official language minority communities have access to the appropriate English and French language services and supports they need for full integration

*(\*pending input from partners, stakeholders and ministerial approval)*



## A BC Perspective on Priorities

- ▶ What we value about the BC Model
  - LISTN, Training, Standards and Best Practices
- ▶ Workplace LINC
  - Clear Pathways, Accessibility
- ▶ Youth 17–24
  - Partnerships to Bridging, Integrated Services
- ▶ Provincial Involvement
  - Collaboration, Strong and Enduring Role

## For your consideration...

- ▶ What is the current situation in your region/community?
- ▶ What are the gaps in services (both direct and indirect)?
- ▶ How accessible are language services for newcomers?
- ▶ What makes this issue different in your community or environment?
- ▶ What are some potential strategic directions for the future of your region?

Thank you!