Notes from Learner Focus Groups

# Labour Market Project – December 2013

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| **What is your employment goal (occupation/career title or field)?** | A | * Coach (volunteer)
* Midwife or Journalist
* Admin Assistant
* Writer
* Something in computers
 |
| B | * Unsure
* Teacher in an aboriginal environment
* Social Service Worker
* Promoter or ECE
* Food truck owner
 |
| C | * Business owner /operator in the food industry – ex: food truck
* Work for a political party (NDP) as a volunteer or part-time and eventually work in international relations.
* To be a translator for the United Nations (French/English)
* Small engine repair
* Social Worker

Personal Support Worker |
| **Do you know if jobs are available in this field in Niagara? If yes, where did you get this information?** | A | * Yes – talked to ES worker
* Limited research
* Issue with Grade 12 and employers
 |
| B | * Market research for business
* Not sure
* Yes, some research
 |
| C | * Not sure
* Not available – willing to move
* Yes – found information on internet
* Yes – because there is a place of employment near house
 |
| **How does being part of a literacy program help with your goal of employment?** | A | * Job search knowledge – where to look
* Guidance
* Builds confidence
* Makes you feel not alone
 |
| B | * WHMIS, CPR
* Builds confidence
* Provides accountability
* Feels like family
* Peer to peer relationships – support system
* Access to funding
* Access to computers
* Resources for counselling
* Crafts – ways to handle stress – holistic
 |
| C | * Help with Grade 12
* Build basic skills to get a job
* Help to become bilingual
* Helps with a lot of things
* Improves writing skills
 |
| **What else can the literacy program do to help you with your goal of employment?** | A | * More people/social skills
* More Canadian content – History and Geography
 |
| B | * Nothing – already providing everything
 |
| C | * Invite people to talk about different types of work in the region and connect with employers
* Offer additional workshops – Smart Serve, First Aid, WHMIS
* More networking with employers
* Nothing
 |
| **What barriers do you have in reaching your goals of employment?** | A | * Change in application process – online
* Time
* Patience
* Developmental disability
* Employers have unrealistic expectations
* Discrimination
* Lack of employer understanding for personal expereince
* Pressure from family
 |
| B | * Shyness
* Lack of education
* Lack of work clothing
* Addiction
* Lack of computer knowledge
 |
| C | * Transportation
* Time
* Lack of demand for jobs in field of interest
* Educated outside of the country
* Age
* Limited work experience
* No Grade 12
 |
| **Besides the literacy program, what else are you doing to reach your goal of employment?** | A | * Working with ES
 |
| B | * Attending university
* Volunteering
* Taking online courses to finish Grade 12
* Attending church
* Visiting library
 |
| C | * Talk to family
* Try to get involved with community
* Research online
* Another community organization
* volunteer
 |
| **Motivation for Learning** | A | * Need to provide
* Passion for field of interest
 |
| B | * Get GED
* Start a career instead of a dead end job
* Wants to pass on experiences
* passion
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| **Other comments** | A | * Need to change the term « literacy »
* Obstacle to enter class and seen as negative by society
 |
| B | * Practitioner very important to reaching goals
* « literacy » over the term « school »
 |

A – Anglophone, Community-based

B- Native, Community-based

C- Francophone, Community-based