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 |
| **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