

What's New

Canadian Apprenticeship Forum / Forum canadien sur l'apprentissage | November 2010

MAKING IT WORK!

At CAF-FCA we remain committed to promoting apprenticeship and to ensuring it is a "win-win" for both employers and apprentices. Certainly a key to success is effective, efficient, and high quality skills development. When apprentices get discouraged and quit their programs or cannot be productive at the workplace due to skills gaps, it can be frustrating for both the employer and the apprentice.

Luckily, tools already exist to help overcome these gaps. CAF-FCA is excited to be working on two projects this year that promote these workplace Essential Skills tools. Guided by Essential Skills experts, CAF-FCA is offering customized, hands-on, interactive workshops to Aboriginal communities across the country. We are also delivering a series of webinars (online seminars) to support Ontario employers who hire apprentices in learning more about Essential Skills and the impact improved Essential Skills can have at the workplace.

The tools being promoted through these two activities are particularly valuable because they are trade specific, allow for self-assessment, and promote positive learning development. More widespread use of these tools will promote retention and productivity and truly create a "win-win" situation for both employers and apprentices.

To complete this work, CAF-FCA received funding from the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES) at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Want to get involved?

If you are an employer in Ontario who hires apprentices or if you know such an employer in Ontario who would be interested in participating in CAF-FCA's Essential Skills webinar series, please contact Danielle at danielle_matheusik@caf-fca.org. Though this project focuses on Ontario, we are interested in working with other jurisdictions and welcome your ideas about promoting essential skills in your province or territory.

What are Workplace Essential Skills?

Workplace Essential Skills are needed to learn, understand, and communicate orally and in writing at work. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and are the cornerstone to lifelong learning. The importance of - and need for - employees to have appropriate levels of workplace Essential Skills is clear and strong.

There are nine workplace Essential Skills:

- Reading
- Document Use
- Numeracy
- Writing
- Oral Communication
- Working with Others
- Thinking
- Computer Use
- Continuous Learning

DID YOU KNOW?

OLES released 27 Literacy and Essential Skills (LES) tools related to apprenticeship and specific trades in the Fall of 2009. Check them out at: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/apprenticeship/index.shtml.

DON'T MISS IT!

In February, CAF-FCA will be holding a National Forum Dialogue on Essential Skills. To attend or to find out more, please contact Danielle Matheusik at danielle_matheusik@caf-fca.org or 613-235-4004 Ext 203.

A BIG THUMBS UP

In November we celebrated Skilled Trades and Technology week. Hats off to **Skills/Compétences Canada** who promoted and hosted events to raise awareness of skilled trades and technology careers to parents, youth, and the general public.

It's all about Respect, Opportunity, and Good Pay!