

# Notes from Learner Focus Groups

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## Labour Market Project – December 2013

<b>What is your employment goal (occupation/career title or field)?</b>	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coach (volunteer)</li> <li>- Midwife or Journalist</li> <li>- Admin Assistant</li> <li>- Writer</li> <li>- Something in computers</li> </ul>
	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unsure</li> <li>- Teacher in an aboriginal environment</li> <li>- Social Service Worker</li> <li>- Promoter or ECE</li> <li>- Food truck owner</li> </ul>
	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Business owner /operator in the food industry – ex: food truck</li> <li>- Work for a political party (NDP) as a volunteer or part-time and eventually work in international relations.</li> <li>- To be a translator for the United Nations (French/English)</li> <li>- Small engine repair</li> <li>- Social Worker</li> <li>- Personal Support Worker</li> </ul>
<b>Do you know if jobs are available in this field in Niagara? If yes, where did you get this information?</b>	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes – talked to ES worker</li> <li>- Limited research</li> <li>- Issue with Grade 12 and employers</li> </ul>
	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market research for business</li> <li>- Not sure</li> <li>- Yes, some research</li> </ul>
	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not sure</li> <li>- Not available – willing to move</li> <li>- Yes – found information on internet</li> <li>- Yes – because there is a place of employment near house</li> </ul>
<b>How does being part of a literacy program help with your goal of employment?</b>	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Job search knowledge – where to look</li> <li>- Guidance</li> <li>- Builds confidence</li> <li>- Makes you feel not alone</li> </ul>
	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WHMIS, CPR</li> <li>- Builds confidence</li> <li>- Provides accountability</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Feels like family</li> <li>- Peer to peer relationships – support system</li> <li>- Access to funding</li> <li>- Access to computers</li> <li>- Resources for counselling</li> <li>- Crafts – ways to handle stress – holistic</li> </ul>
	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help with Grade 12</li> <li>- Build basic skills to get a job</li> <li>- Help to become bilingual</li> <li>- Helps with a lot of things</li> <li>- Improves writing skills</li> </ul>
<b>What else can the literacy program do to help you with your goal of employment?</b>	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More people/social skills</li> <li>- More Canadian content – History and Geography</li> </ul>
	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nothing – already providing everything</li> </ul>
	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invite people to talk about different types of work in the region and connect with employers</li> <li>- Offer additional workshops – Smart Serve, First Aid, WHMIS</li> <li>- More networking with employers</li> <li>- Nothing</li> </ul>
<b>What barriers do you have in reaching your goals of employment?</b>	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change in application process – online</li> <li>- Time</li> <li>- Patience</li> <li>- Developmental disability</li> <li>- Employers have unrealistic expectations</li> <li>- Discrimination</li> <li>- Lack of employer understanding for personal experience</li> <li>- Pressure from family</li> </ul>
	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shyness</li> <li>- Lack of education</li> <li>- Lack of work clothing</li> <li>- Addiction</li> <li>- Lack of computer knowledge</li> </ul>
	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transportation</li> <li>- Time</li> <li>- Lack of demand for jobs in field of interest</li> <li>- Educated outside of the country</li> <li>- Age</li> <li>- Limited work experience</li> <li>- No Grade 12</li> </ul>
<b>Besides the literacy program, what else are you</b>	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working with ES</li> </ul>
	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attending university</li> </ul>

<b>doing to reach your goal of employment?</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteering</li> <li>- Taking online courses to finish Grade 12</li> <li>- Attending church</li> <li>- Visiting library</li> </ul>
	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Talk to family</li> <li>- Try to get involved with community</li> <li>- Research online</li> <li>- Another community organization</li> <li>- volunteer</li> </ul>
<b>Motivation for Learning</b>	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to provide</li> <li>- Passion for field of interest</li> </ul>
	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Get GED</li> <li>- Start a career instead of a dead end job</li> <li>- Wants to pass on experiences</li> <li>- passion</li> </ul>
<b>Other comments</b>	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to change the term « literacy »</li> <li>- Obstacle to enter class and seen as negative by society</li> </ul>
	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practitioner very important to reaching goals</li> <li>- « literacy » over the term « school »</li> </ul>

A – Anglophone, Community-based

B- Native, Community-based

C- Francophone, Community-based