

# Members Update



## RPL – NL NETWORK UPDATE

In an earlier edition of The Hub, I reported on a new RPL practitioner's network which Kathy Hawkins from the Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC) and I initiated in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) in 2008. We have been strong RPL advocates since the last century! While my voluntary efforts to maintain the network have slipped below the radar of late, I know that RPL practices are high on the agenda of members of the Community Career & Employment Partnership Project (CCEPP). Some of these agencies involved in RLP work are the Association for New Canadians (ANC), Community Centre Alliance (CCA), Women Interested in Successful Employment (WISE), Stella Burry Community Services and The Murphy Centre.

The ANC has been involved in RPL for more than a decade and regularly offers portfolio development to newcomers. You may have had the opportunity to attend the ANC's presentation by Eileen Kelly-Freake and Sheri Watkins at the CAPLA Forum in November 2010. Member agencies of the CCEPP are becoming increasingly aware of the diverse applications of PLAR used to support the needs of individuals, communities and employers. For example, the CCEPP sponsored several events in October 2010, led by Paul Zakos from the First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI). Paul's presentations, Building a Shared Vision for Career & Employment Programs and Portfolio Development as a Tool for Change were well attended by practitioners and other community stakeholders.

While participation in the network has dwindled somewhat, I, like many other practitioners in NL remain committed to the RPL agenda. I have welcomed opportunities to work with community agencies such as Literacy NL and deliver RPL workshops in four regions of the province. In addition, I also contributed to the Nova Scotia PLA Centre's certification process for PLAR practitioners sponsored by CCA. The personal testimonials of the learners at these sessions have left no doubt that the process of portfolio development was a unique, self assessment process which would be easily adapted for use in their agencies. When I combine those learning experiences with my teaching role in the RPL Practitioners' Program, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST), my advocacy role in RPL is rock solid! In this regard, as we move forward, let's stay connected to share the richness of our promising practices and novel ideas, as well as engage other partners. I look forward to hearing from you!

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