



Quebec Association  
for Adult Learning

L'Association québécoise  
pour l'éducation des adultes



# **Transformation Through Lifelong Learning: A Path to Change**

**The Quebec Association  
for Adult Learning**

**1st ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**March 21, 2009**

Concordia University  
Hall Building 7th floor  
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8



**Message from  
The Honourable James Moore  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
and Official Languages**

**W**elcome to the Quebec Association for Adult Learning's first annual Conference on Lifelong Learning.

**T**he Government of Canada supports minority official-language communities and realizes that the availability of quality instruction in their own language is essential to their development. This conference presents an ideal opportunity for members of the English-speaking community across the province to inspire and strengthen one another by sharing their ideas and experience in the area of adult learning and community building.

**O**n behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada, I would like to thank the Quebec Association for Adult Learning for its ongoing efforts to promote and improve English-language adult education. Our Government is proud to support the Association in its commitment to Transformation Through Lifelong Learning, and I wish all participants an enjoyable and productive conference.

The Honourable James Moore

# Conference Schedule

## Saturday, March 21, 2009

8:30-9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:15 Welcome

9:15-10:45 **BLOCK A WORKSHOPS**

10:45-11:00 Health Break

11:00-12:00 Keynote - Mr. David Adler

12:00-1:30 Buffet Lunch

1:30- 3:00 **BLOCK B WORKSHOPS**

3:00-3:15 Health Break

3:15-4:45 **BLOCK C WORKSHOPS**

4:45-5:00 Closing Remarks

5:00-7:00 Networking Session - 5 à 7

### BLOCK A WORKSHOPS

1. The ABC's of Literacy, *Joani Tannenbaum, Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ)*
2. Introduction to Brain Gym, *Lisa Marcovici, Brain Gym consultant, Certifiée en éducation kinesthésique*
3. Sharing Ideas through Self Publishing – Is this an Option that Works? *Marlene Hutchins, Adult Educator*
4. 45 + Learning: why? And why now? *Allan Gold, Attorney, retirement consultant, lecturer, author of "Elder Law in Canada".*
5. Bridging the Distance, *Kelly Howarth, Evaluator/Co-Coordinator, CHSSN*

**MR. DAVID ADLER** - has for over 35 years worked in the NGO and Community-based sector of some 15 organisations including the South African Committee for Higher Education(SACHED), Community-Based Development Programme(CBDP); Community-Based Education Programme(CBEP); the Open School; The Management of Schools Programme(MSTP)and the South African Institute for Distance Education(SAIDE).

### BLOCK B WORKSHOPS

6. Taking the LEAP! – fostering an entrepreneurial culture for lifelong learning in remote communities, *Peter MacGibbon, Project Director, Carleton Centre for Community Innovation, Shawn MacDonell, program coach*
7. Transforming Parenting: Metaphor and Learning in Health Literacy, *Al Lauzon and Rachel Farahbakhsh, University of Guelph*
8. Basic Adult Literacy: Relearning our first Language, *Elizabeth Paulette-Coughlin, poet, yoga teacher, & therapeutic bodyworker.*
9. Le Centre collegial montréalais de reconnaissance des acquis et des compétences (RAC): un nouvel outil d'intégration sur le marché du travail , *Geneviève Talbot, Centre collegial montréalais de reconnaissance des acquis et des compétences*
10. Evolving to Meet our Clients Needs, *Ilze Epnens, DE Services, Eastern Townships School Board*

### BLOCK C WORKSHOPS

- 11.QLWG Skills for Life Series, *Patti L. Moore, Provincial Coordinator, Quebec Literacy Working Group*
- 12."QESBA, an elected voice for English public schooling, an important resource for our community", *Debbie Horrocks, President and David Birnbaum, Executive Director, QESBA*
13. Globalized or Fragmentized Identities: Diversity in the Post/ Multi-Cultural Era, *Jamal En-nehas, PhD, Sultan Qaboos University*
14. My Professional Development Portfolio: A Tool for a Reflective Practitioner, *Susan Oliver, Société GRICS*
15. The Miracle of Dialogue - *Steve Sims, author of "River of Awareness".*



### Message from President Leah Moss

On behalf of the board, I would like to welcome you to the first annual Quebec Association for Adult Learning (QAAL) conference dedicated to exploring and celebrating lifelong learning.

“Transformation Through Lifelong Learning: A Path to Change”.

As buoyant and exuberant as it can be, change can also be intimidating to both an individual as well as an entire community. Many of the English-speaking communities of Québec are at a crossroads, faced with the need to change in order to meet the demands of contemporary society. These individuals and communities seek means of sustainability, professional development and a sense of inclusion. The goal of our conference is quite simple: to bring together all those who are involved in adult learning and lifelong learning in a forum for sharing experiences and best practices.

The Quebec Association for Adult Learning (QAAL) is proud to host the first annual conference dedicated to bringing these individuals and community leaders together to provide an opportunity to share experiences and exchange information.

We hope you enjoy the conference and our keynote speaker, David Adler. We look forward to welcoming your involvement in QAAL throughout the year and your participation at our 2010 conference!



### Message from Executive Director Mario Pasteris

Welcome to all participants who have come from all regions of Quebec to the first annual conference presented by the Quebec Association for Adult Learning.

QAAL, a not-for-profit association, supports the diverse learning needs of Quebec’s English-language adult learners, education providers, trainers, volunteers, students and community workers. Our mission is to advocate for a culture of lifelong learning, raise public awareness of adult learning issues, facilitate the exchange of information and resources and bring together everyone for whom a learning society is a shared ideal.

This conference will accomplish these objectives by giving participants the opportunity to learn and share issues and innovations in the field of lifelong learning, and by acting as a stepping stone to a valuable network for information sharing.

QAAL wishes to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the **Department of Canadian Heritage, and le Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport**, for their continued belief in QAAL’s mission, their guidance, and their financial support which makes our activities and this conference possible.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to extend a word of appreciation and thanks to the conference committee members and to co-chair Leah Moss for their work and dedication.

Enjoy the conference and see you in 2010!



### Keynote Speaker Mr. David Adler

David Adler has substantial, senior, experience in many and diverse sectors in South Africa.

For over 35 years he has worked in the NGO and Community-based sector either as founder, CEO, Board Member or Chairman of some 15 organisations including the South African Committee for Higher Education(SACHED), Community-Based Development Programme(CBDP); Community-Based Education Programme(CBEP); the Open School; The Management of Schools Programme(MSTP)and the South African Institute for Distance Education(SAIDE).

In 1978 he was restricted and served with a 5 year “banning” order.

Mr Adler has also had considerable 10 year exposure to the “for profit,” sector. During this time he worked as a senior Manager in the Anglo-American Corporation(AAC) where he set up and maintained a “Black Advancement” programme(the Undergraduate Cadet Scheme(UCS) which aimed at preparing both the AAC and the young blacks recruited for the inevitable democratization of South Africa. Many of the graduates of this programme are currently in senior and CEO position in organizations such as the SABC and ESKOM.

For 10 years Mr Adler was associated with the University of the Witwatersrand, During this time, together with the Kagiso Trust and the Wits Business School, he set up a programme(the Community-Based Development Programme(CBDP), which attempted to fill the vacuum due to arrest and exile by training the leadership of the Mass Democratic Movement(MDM). Graduates of this programme, having played their role in the liberation movement, are now to be found in prominent positions in South Africa, including National. Regional and local Government.

# Conference Workshops

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## BLOCK A WORKSHOPS

### 1. The ABC's of Literacy

ROOM 760

*Joani Tannenbaum, Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ)*

This presentation will raise awareness within the Anglophone community about literacy issues facing Quebecers today in general, and English-speaking adults in particular. Intended as an overview of problems and solutions, topics covered include demystifying the literacy statistics, learning about who is affected by low literacy, causes and effects, impact on the individual and society, government policy, etc. The presentation will also discuss the LVQ literacy network, the one-on-one learner centred approach, grassroots literacy community groups, and what services are currently available for the English-speaking adult population in Quebec. An LVQ student literacy advocate will be on hand to provide a personal account of living with low literacy.

### 2. Introduction to Brain Gym

ROOM 762

*Lisa Marcovici, Brain Gym consultant, Certifiée en éducation kinesthésique*

Brain Gym is a series of simple and enjoyable movements that are used to enhance the capacity for whole brain learning. Stress and its adverse effects on the brain-body system are explored to enable participants to notice when the Brain Gym exercises may be beneficial in order to promote clear, active and positive learning experiences.

During this interactive workshop participants will learn about Brain gym in a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere. In order to realize that learning is fun we will experiment with several Brain Gym movements and discover different possibilities for using Brain Gym in everyday life.

### 3. Sharing Ideas through Self Publishing - Is this an Option that Works?

Room 769

*Marlene Hutchins, Adult Educator*

This workshop poses the question: Is it feasible to assemble teaching material, self-publish it, and sell it to other teachers and students? Teachers are constantly developing good ideas in the classroom, so sharing this material would seem to be a reasonable step. But how does one go about it? Marlene Hutchins discusses the pros and cons of doing it as she shares her story of how she came to write, self-publish and sell her spelling workbook, *Write it right!* (an adult literacy resource which has sold more than 2000 copies).

### 4. 45 + Learning: why? And why now?

ROOM 771

*Allan Gold, Attorney, retirement consultant, lecturer, author of Elder Law in Canada*

Life is not static, like a snapshot. It is in constant motion, like a moving picture. When a worker moves into retirement there is a great change, a personal evolution. This transition is a hologram, since on one side,

there is a stoppage of work and on the other, a new beginning. In this later stage, life could be something to endure or it may merely be ordinary. Or, depending on one's approach, it could be pleasing and even quite special. This piece is intended to show the way, through some explanations and suggestions, to effective introspection, planning and pre-death arrangements.

## 5. Bridging the Distance

ROOM 767

*Kelly Howarth, Evaluator/Co-Coordinator, CHSSN*

This session showcases how 8 remote Quebec communities—from the Outaouais to the Gaspé—experience distance learning and increase their access to English-language health and social information. Highlighted will be CHSSN's Community Health Education Program (CHEP) and how it facilitates transformation through lifelong learning by creating opportunities for geographically dispersed communities to learn together via videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, community radio, and Internet, as well as through follow-up activities designed to complement their initial learning. In this session participants will view a portion of a recorded videoconference on Bone Health and listen to a 15-minute radio show about Heart Health. They will also learn how to access these shows for their own community learning. Come explore how these isolated communities are bridging the distance to create their path to change.

## BLOCK B WORKSHOPS

### 6. Taking the LEAP! – fostering an entrepreneurial culture for lifelong learning in remote communities

ROOM 771

*Co-presenters: Peter MacGibbon, Project Director, Carleton Centre for Community Innovation, Shawn MacDonell, program coach*

The Local Employability Access Program (LEAP) is designed to help adult learners create their own pathway for working, living, and learning in rural and remote communities. It combines personal visioning with targeted skills development to help participants identify and pursue their goals through the use of a Self-Directed Learning Plan. Evaluation feedback to date about the LEAP program has shown the participants responding well to the group's social environment, the flexibility built into the program design, and the personal attention provided by their coach, all of which have enabled them to create their own learning community and to begin developing ways to mentor each other in their longer-term goals.

### 7. Transforming Parenting: Metaphor and Learning in Health Literacy

ROOM 760

*Al Lauzon and Rachel Farahbakhsh, University of Guelph*

This paper reports on a pilot health literacy project that was participatory and structured around the use of metaphor to engage learners in constructing their own knowledge on parenting. Using metaphors, we explored with the participants – rurally located Old Colony Mennonite immigrant women, all who had a grade six education – the topic of dealing with the stress of parenting. Using the words of the women participants, we report on the program outcomes and themes identified in the participant interviews: 1. reconsidering the nature of their children; 2. The power of language to transform; 3. Modeling with language; and 4. Changing parental behaviours. Implications for health literacy programs are then discussed.



# Conference Workshops

## **8. Basic Adult Literacy: Relearning our first Language** ROOM 762

*Elizabeth Paulette-Coughlin, Poet, Yoga teacher & Therapeutic bodyworker and Adult Literacy teacher.*

What does it mean when Barak Obama is seen the day after his election carrying a volume of poetry? What does it mean when physicists are calling for a poetic language to explain the creation of the world? When Time Magazine features a cover that asks, "Can poetry make the heart grow stronger?"

In our culture, poetry has been, at best, a second language, and for most, a foreign and inaccessible language. But anthropologists tell us that poetry is truly our first language, "a right-brained musilanguage" that connects us deeply to ourselves, to others and to our environment. Come experience why this most basic literacy has an important role to play in the arena of adult education.

## **9. Le Centre collegial montréalais de reconnaissance des acquis et des compétences (RAC): un nouvel outil d'intégration sur le marché du travail** ROOM 767

*Geneviève Talbot, Centre collegial montréalais de reconnaissance des acquis et des compétences*

Le Centre est une corporation née de la collaboration des douze cégeps de l'île de Montréal. Il agit en tant qu'organisme d'accueil, de référence et d'accompagnement pour la clientèle désirant obtenir un service de RAC au niveau collégial dans un des collèges montréalais. La mission du Centre est de favoriser l'intégration au milieu du travail ou le retour en formation des adultes et, par ricochet, de contribuer au développement socio-économique de Montréal.

L'objectif principal de la communication est de présenter la nature de cet organisme ainsi que les produits et services qu'il offre.

## **10. Evolving to meet our clients needs** ROOM 769 *Ilze Epnors, DE services - Eastern Townships School Board*

ETSB distance education services have served the English community of Quebec for the last 11 years. This program allows students that are over 16 to obtain their DES from home. DE is partnered with many organization such as the Jr Hockey League of Quebec, Tennis Canada and home schooling associations, just to mention a few. A student whose permanent residence is in Quebec but is over seas at the time can easily work with DE. Come and find out how this marvelous service works. Some of the topics that we will be covering: \* Quick over view of DE services \* Introduce new technology used by ETSB DE tutors\* Introduce new on-line courses now available \* Summarize advantages of DE for those students that can not participate in Centre classes\* Answer questions about the service.

## **BLOCK C WORKSHOPS**

## **11.QLWG Skills for Life Series** ROOM 771 *Patti L. Moore, Provincial Coordinator, Quebec Literacy Working Group*

For the past three years, the Quebec Literacy Working Group (QLWG) has been developing the adult literacy distance education/classroom QLWG Skills for Life Series. The 30 hands-on competency-based units ranging from Getting My Driver's License to Managing my Money were created with the Common Core Curriculum in mind. Adult education

teachers need support material for the renewal. The QAAL conference is the perfect venue for sharing these professional, practical units with adult literacy teachers. Our workshop will include a (very) brief background on the various services of the Quebec Literacy Working Group.

## **12."QESBA, an elected voice for English public schooling, an important resource for our community"** ROOM 760

*Debbie Horrocks, President and David Birnbaum, Executive Director, QESBA*

The session will focus on who we are, what we do and our particular role as universally-elected representatives of our English education community. We will be sure to focus on some of the adult services offered by our member school boards, and on how QESBA might occasionally be of service to your association and other English education partners.

## **13. Globalized or Fragmentized Identities: Diversity in the Post/Multi-Cultural Era** ROOM 769

*Jamal En-nehas, PhD, Sultan Qaboos University, Al Khoud, Sultanate of Oman*

In an increasingly globalized world in which the traditional barriers of race and ethnicity are rapidly dismantling, a world in which cultures are constantly shifting as a result of immigration and professional mobility, rarely does one talk about culture shock. Simply put, since nothing shocks anymore, one might legitimately wonder from where one can derive a "cross-cultural experience," an understanding of the self and the other as understood in its postcolonial context.

Instead of continuing to emphasize such conditions as multiracialism, multiculturalism and multilingualism, one might perhaps better talk about fragmentized races, cultures and languages, for the truth of the matter is that even within "distinct" immigrant communities and minorities—if such identity markers can be hermetically defined—one surprisingly finds sub-races, subcultures and sublanguages. This renders the process of acculturation and integration, as classically defined, somewhat difficult to attain, though one should not mistakenly describe the absence of a harmonious entity within the minority group as enfeebling and deterring. Rather, it is often enriching and stimulating.

## **14. My Professional Development Portfolio: A Tool for a Reflective Practitioner** ROOM 767

*Susan Oliver, Société GRICS*

The process of creating a professional development portfolio requires a significant amount of reflective thinking about yourself as a teacher/educator and your growth within your 12 professional competencies. It can be one of the most intensive moments of reflection that you experience in your career.

## **15. The Miracle of Dialogue** ROOM 762 *Steve Sims, Author of "River of Awareness".*

A dialogue is always an adventure because we never know where it is going to take us. Through dialogue a relationship comes into being and continues to constitute itself. Dialogue is its life-blood. Dialogue is a dance of self-expression where experiences and concerns are shared, where ideas and values are explored, and where feelings and meanings are identified. In true communication there is always the continuous excitement of learning.

# Conference Registration

PLEASE RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM BY MARCH 16, 2009

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Fees: QAAL Members: \$35 Non-members: \$50**

**I would like to become a Member of QAAL:**

**Corporate/Institution: \$75**

**Community/Non-profit \$35**

**Full-time Students/Seniors: \$10**

Please make cheque payable to QAAL

Or you may pay by Paypal on the QAAL webpage.

Mail to: QAAL, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Room LB 568-3 Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

E-mail: [qaal@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:qaal@alcor.concordia.ca)

**Conference Accommodation:**  
**1-888-933-8111**  
**[www.lemeridien.com/montreal](http://www.lemeridien.com/montreal)**

**Hotel le Meridien/Versailles**  
1808 Sherbrooke St. W.  
Meridien - \$131 plus tax  
Versailles - \$131 plus tax *-(includes breakfast)*  
Mention: Concordia/QAAL Conference

**SAVE THE DATE  
FOR  
NEXT YEAR'S  
CONFERENCE**

**SATURDAY,  
MARCH 13th, 2010**



Quebec Association  
for Adult Learning

L'Association québécoise  
pour l'éducation des adultes

**The Quebec Association for Adult Learning (QAAL)** is a not-for-profit English-language association that supports those who support adult learners.

Our **MISSION** is to:

- **advocate** for a culture of lifelong learning,
- **raise public awareness** of adult learning issues,
- **facilitate the exchange** of information and resources,
- **bring together** everyone for whom a learning society is a shared ideal.

Supporting  
those who  
support  
adult  
learners

### QAAL Conference Committee

**Leah Moss, Co-chair**  
**Mario Pasteris, Co-chair**  
**Michael Brooker**  
**Hugh Maynard**  
**Irene Menear**  
**Susan Oliver**  
**Ana Osborne**  
**Will Penny**  
**Deborah Valdez**

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Room LB 568-3  
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8  
Tel: (514) 848-2424 (Ext: 2036)  
Fax: (514) 848-4520  
E-mail: [qaal@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:qaal@alcor.concordia.ca)  
Web site: <http://doe.concordia.ca/qaal/>

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