

Dear CLO members,

We are sure that you have been reading various news articles on the recent federal budget and its potential impact on the Labour Market Agreement and skills training. Community Literacy of Ontario has gathered various responses to the Federal Budget 2013 from respected organizations with a variety of perspectives to share with you. We have also shared this information on social media.

1. Here is the link to the **Federal Budget 2013**: <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2013/doc/plan/toc-tdm-eng.html> and here is the direct link to the training section of the budget: *Chapter 3.1: Connecting Canadians With Available Jobs* <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2013/doc/plan/chap3-1-eng.html>
2. Here is the **Canadian Literacy and Learning Network's** response to the Federal Budget 2013. This helpful response commends the focus on skills, notes the skill mismatch in the federal budget, and raises the need for literacy and how literacy skills are linked to success in the skilled trades: <http://www.literacy.ca/news/general/clln-responds-to-federal-budget-2013/>
3. "**Supporting Literacy Would Be the Best Investment Jim Flaherty Could Make**" is great article in the Huffington Post by Canadian Literacy and Language Network's CEO Lindsay Kennedy: [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/lindsay-l-kennedy/literacy-skills-flaherty-budget\\_b\\_2907059.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=tw](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/lindsay-l-kennedy/literacy-skills-flaherty-budget_b_2907059.html?utm_hp_ref=tw)
4. The response by Ontario's **Minister of Finance** to the 2013 Federal Budget: <http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2013/03/statement-by-minister-of-finance-on-2013-federal-budget.html>
5. Here is a very good analysis of the Budget from consultant **Brigid Hayes**. Brigid is extremely knowledgeable about the LMA/LMDA. She has done extensive consulting and training in this area at the national level and is highly respected for her work: [www.literacy.ca/content/uploads/2013/03/Brigid-Hayes-budget-2013-impact-labour-market-training.pdf](http://www.literacy.ca/content/uploads/2013/03/Brigid-Hayes-budget-2013-impact-labour-market-training.pdf)
6. Here is **Imagine Canada's** reaction to the budget. **Imagine Canada** shares information on the potential impact of the budget on the nonprofit/charitable sector and also briefly discusses the impact of the skills training initiative on the sector: [http://www.imaginecanada.ca/files/www/en/pressrelease/budget\\_2013\\_summary\\_03222013.pdf?utm\\_source=Imagine+Matters+%2F+Actualit%C3%A9s+d%E2%80%99Imagine+Canada&utm\\_campaign=627acb9f3e-Budget+2013+Summary+English&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.imaginecanada.ca/files/www/en/pressrelease/budget_2013_summary_03222013.pdf?utm_source=Imagine+Matters+%2F+Actualit%C3%A9s+d%E2%80%99Imagine+Canada&utm_campaign=627acb9f3e-Budget+2013+Summary+English&utm_medium=email)
7. **Canadian Chamber of Commerce's** response: "*Ottawa Moves to Confront the Skills Challenge*": <http://www.chamber.ca/index.php/en/news/C197/ottawa-moves-to-confront-skills-challenge/>

8. *Canadian Labour Congress* – Analysis of the Budget (training is in section C) <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/news-room/publications/2013-budget-analysis>
9. Budget Highlights – *Huffington Post*: [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/03/21/federal-budget-2013\\_n\\_2883904.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=canada](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/03/21/federal-budget-2013_n_2883904.html?utm_hp_ref=canada)
10. Budget Highlights – *Toronto Star* [http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/federalbudget/2013/03/21/federal\\_budget\\_2013\\_6\\_key\\_features\\_of\\_the\\_budget.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/federalbudget/2013/03/21/federal_budget_2013_6_key_features_of_the_budget.html)
11. Budget Highlights – *National Post*: <http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/03/21/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-2013-budget-cheaper-clothes-for-baby-better-weather-forecasts-and-other-highlights/>

CLO wants to commend the *Canadian Literacy and Learning Network*. They have shown proactive leadership and have positively and helpfully engaged in the Federal Budget 2013 issue in the media. They have been nonpartisan, and respectful but not afraid to speak up for literacy. It has been extremely helpful for all of us who are concerned with this issue! Way to go CLLN! Thank you!

As you probably already know, CLO has been actively sharing our newly updated *Literacy: Why It Matters* [http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/resource/literacy\\_why\\_it\\_matters.pdf](http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca/resource/literacy_why_it_matters.pdf) and other information with key stakeholders and on social media both prior to the budget and afterwards.

Through *Literacy: Why It Matters* and by sharing other resources as well CLO is seeking to:

- Highlight the importance of literacy and its link to other issues, such as the current skill mismatch and the need for training and jobs
- Highlight to both the provincial and federal government the importance of Literacy and Basic Skills programs in meeting these needs
- Highlight the fact that LBS programs are accountable, effective and efficient
- Highlight the fact that the Labour Market Agreement funding was effectively used in Ontario.

We will continue to share information as it arises. If you come across any helpful news articles or responses to the budget, the Labour Market Agreement or other related issues, please do share them with us.

Warm regards from your friends at **Community Literacy of Ontario**

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**Literacy: Why it Matters:** [www.nald.ca/clo/resource/literacy\\_why\\_it\\_matters.pdf](http://www.nald.ca/clo/resource/literacy_why_it_matters.pdf)