



Moving On Up
Employment and Essential Skills Training

NOVA SCOTIA CANADA



Hire Local First

NOVA SCOTIA CANADA

Program Announcements Open to DCS Clients

To: Department of Community Service Income Assistance & Employment Support Services Staff

From: Lesley Dunn, Executive Director, Dartmouth Learning Network
200-260 Wyse Road, Dartmouth, NS B3A 1N3
(902) 463-9179 ext. 222 (902) 464-3052 (fax) email: executivedirector@dartmouthlearning.net
Web: www.dartmouthlearning.net Twitter: @DartmouthLearn

Date: Monday, December 22, 2014

Re: Launch of four new initiatives in January of 2015

HELPING HAND BETTER THAN A HAND OUT DARTMOUTH LEARNING NETWORK EXPANDS EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM WITH \$60,000 INVESTMENT FROM PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

(Dartmouth, NS) Nova Scotians needing literacy and skills development as a step toward employment will benefit from provincial funding of a program at the Dartmouth Learning Network. Community Services Minister Joanne Bernard announced an investment of \$60,000 for Moving on Up: Employment Readiness today, Dec. 17. "This program offers students a chance to change their lives," said Ms. Bernard. "By improving their skills and education, they can break down barriers to employment and seek a brighter future for themselves and their families."

The Dartmouth Learning has been delivering an Employment Readiness Program for the past five years with a maximum capacity of eight learners. "This new funding will allow us to reach a wider audience and to serve a greater number of participants. It will also enable the launch of both our e-Learning platform and our Hire Local First initiative. These programs will help to reduce barriers to employment for our learners by providing them 24/7 sustained access to basic adult education programs. By establishing connections with local industry partners and providing a platform for our learners to showcase their achievements we will attach more people to the labour market, in turn strengthening Nova Scotia's economy", says Lesley Dunn, Executive Director.

Skills transform lives, generate prosperity and promote social inclusion. Without the right skills, people are kept at the margins of society. Many working aged Nova Scotians did not graduate high school. Their skills run the gamut, as do their life goals and personal expectations. Individuals without a high school diploma or GED are two times more likely to be unemployed than they were a decade ago, and the length of time between jobs has increased, the number of hours worked fewer and the demand for income assistance higher. Entry level jobs previously performed by low literate, low skilled working aged adults have been changed by technology and the increased hiring of Temporary Foreign Workers.

"The Dartmouth Learning Network will go above and beyond for everyone," says Cathy Sampson, a graduate of the Dartmouth Learning Network. "If a student needs more learning time or extra support that isn't a problem. While at DLN I successfully completed my GED High School Equivalency Certificate and attended the Employment Readiness Program. As a result of the program I feel I have extra polish to be successful in the workplace and I am thrilled to be able to put what I have learnt into practice during my current work placement."

The Dartmouth Learning Network will work with community partners to assist 16-24 low literate, low skilled, low employed and unemployed working age adults residing in Dartmouth North to take a holistic approach to employment preparedness. We will follow four strategic pathways:

- Life Skill Development
- Employment Strategies
- Computer Training
- Industry Certifications