

“Innovation is the creation of the new, or the re-arranging of the old in a new way.”

- Mike Vance

“When you know better you do better.”

- Maya Angelou

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If you are interested in accessing Rural Routes services, please contact a member of our team:

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Introducing the newly designed ESL Rural Routes newsletter!

The Rural Routes team is excited to present a fresh look and feel to the Rural Routes newsletter to reflect NorQuest College's new brand. This newsletter is a valuable tool for those offering English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and services across Alberta.

Hosted by NorQuest College, Rural Routes is a provincial initiative funded by Alberta Human Services and Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education.

Rural Routes provides the following free services:

- Mentoring services – ESL consultants support and coach community practitioners through phone, email, Skype, videoconferencing and onsite visits.
- Professional, customized development workshops in: ESL, ESL Literacy, Canadian Language Benchmarks, activities for the classroom, pronunciation, grammar and more.

We're pleased to offer resources and various workshops based on your community needs. For more information on these services contact the Rural Routes team at ruralroutes@norquest.ca.

Professional Development

NorQuest College Intercultural Communication Practitioners certificate

The **Intercultural Communication Practitioners** certificate is a three-course program that prepares professionals from a variety of backgrounds to communicate effectively in culturally diverse classrooms, workplaces and communities. Participants gain a sophisticated set of skills and perspectives in culturally diverse contexts. The courses offer strategies for creating a positive climate for cultural diversity and increasing people's abilities to anticipate, recognize and resolve culture-based misunderstandings.

Course 1: Intercultural Foundations (20 Hours)

Course 2: Intercultural Perspectives (20 Hours)

Course 3: Intercultural Strategies (20 Hours)

Course Date: January 2012

Days: Every Thursday

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Delivery: Video conference

Offered in: Camrose, Edson, Killam, Hanna, Hinton, Olds (Mountain View), Rocky Mountain House and Vegreville

Contact: [Jacqueline Brisebois](mailto:Jacqueline.Brisebois@norquest.ca) for more information.

The Rural Routes Team

LOIS MACDONALD

Rural Routes Consultant



Lois MacDonald loves teaching. She began teaching in the public school system but later made a change to teaching adult learners when she worked as a literacy coordinator in Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, and rural Parkland County. While in this position she discovered her passion for working with newcomers to Canada. She returned to school to receive her certification for Teaching English as a Second Language. She currently teaches in two Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) programs; these are the Rural Delivery program (RDP) and the HomeStudy program (LHS). Lois became a consultant for the Rural Routes program in 2010 and enjoys working with Community Adult Learning Councils and Volunteer Tutor Adult Literacy Programs. She works primarily with the communities within the NorQuest Stewardship region but also supports other communities.

Community Snapshot – Drayton Valley

Community Snapshot is a new addition to the newsletter. It highlights an Alberta community to help you stay connected with what's happening throughout the province.

Our first community snapshot is on Drayton Valley. Drayton Valley & District Community Learning Association's Executive Director Allie Spicer-Riess provided some great information about the Drayton Valley community below.

Community Profile

- Nationalities represented: Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, South Africa, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Russia, China, Uruguay, Mexico, Belize, France, Germany, Pakistan, India, England, Australia, United States, Egypt and Lebanon.
- Majority of learners are literate in their own language. However, there are individuals learning to speak, read and write English for the first time.

English Language Learner Support Services

Volunteer Tutor Adult Literacy Service

- Individual and group learning. To set up an appointment and assessment, call Allie at 780.542.3373.
- ESL, citizenship, math, reading, writing and spelling.
- Beginner level and beyond.

Drayton Valley Community Adult Learning Council

- Every Monday, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- Offers an International English Language Testing System preparation class.
- Intermediate to upper intermediate learners.

Mom's ESL Group

- Every Tuesday, 2:00 - 3:30 pm at the [Parent Link Centre](#) (childcare is provided).
- Content developed by participants.
- External speakers are brought in for topics such as budgeting, first aid and parenting.
- Information provided on community events, amenities, doctors and schools in addition to providing English language instruction and pronunciation.
- The English skill level of the group ranges from intermediate to advanced.

Community Challenges

- Our community as a whole has not yet fully embraced cultural diversity as a positive opportunity and myths around newcomers still exist.
- Having enough volunteers to meet the demands and number of learners

Community Support

Allie would like to acknowledge the Drayton Valley Multicultural Association for its support of newcomers in the community. This social group hosts and participates in a number of events throughout the year including Canada Day, a Christmas Party, and a Temporary Foreign Worker welcome and appreciation party. Membership to join the Drayton Valley Multicultural Association is \$10 per year.

The Rural Routes Team

SUSAN OGUCHI

Rural Routes Consultant



Susan Oguchi comes to Rural Routes with a diverse and extensive background working with English language learners. Her teaching career took her to Japan for six years where she taught in a variety of English as a Foreign Language programs. Since her return to Canada 12 years ago, she has worked in English for Academic Purposes, ESL and ESL Literacy focused programs in university, college and business settings. Her most significant contribution was towards the establishment of the 'Youth in Transition Program' at Lethbridge College. Her passion lies in working with immigrants and refugees to Canada, which has inspired her to investigate learners' educational backgrounds and its impact on language learning.

Resources

Online

The revised [Canadian Language Benchmark](#) document is now available for download. This document replaces the CLB 2000 document and is a framework to explain the progression of language levels in English language learners.

The [Regina Public Library Online ESL Tutor Training Tool](#) is easy to sign up for and use. This is a great information tool for those working with English language learners.

[Tutela](#) is a national online repository and community for Canadian ESL and French as a Second Language professionals. Tutela is a federal-provincial joint initiative funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. This website has an abundance of resources, activities, research and more.

Activity for your class

To improve speaking skills, learners must become better at discriminating between sounds.

'What's my phone number?' is a fun and quick activity that works well with a small classroom. This activity can be used to practice other letters, pure vowels or consonants.

Write 10 words on a board and pair each word with a number between 0-9. Review all of the word sounds. Tell the students a phone number using the sounds. The first student to get the phone number right is the winner. Students can also take turns giving their number to the class or one another. To make it more fun, tell students the number is your bank account number. They may get really excited!

Sample word and number pairing:

Low - 0 Loud - 1 Lay - 2 Lie - 3 Loin - 4 Leer - 5 Lair - 6 Lure - 7 Lore - 8 Alarm - 9

Current News

New language level requirements for Canadian citizenship exam

Most citizenship applicants will soon be required to provide up-front objective evidence of their language ability at the time they apply. This change will be implemented on November 1, 2012

"Extensive research has consistently shown that the ability to communicate effectively in either French or English is a key factor in the success of new citizens in Canada," said Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney. Information taken from www.cic.gc.ca.

Does this information affect newcomers in your communities? We would love to hear your feedback or stories. Please let us know at ruralroutes@norquest.ca.

Literacy and Learning Symposium

Thank you to everyone who attended the Literacy & Learning Symposium on October 17-19, 2012. We hope it inspired a new energy and enthusiasm for the amazing work you do in your communities. The theme of the conference was "Sharing stories/Changing lives". This was a great topic as many learners may have their stories with you and you can help change their lives. Special thanks to the organizers and agencies.

Rural Routes Consultant Susan Oguchi delivered a session at the Symposium called "One Size does Not Fit All – Meeting the needs of English language learners." She shared the importance of discovering who your learners are before deciding on programming. Participants learned about conducting a community needs assessment and the importance it plays in determining what program should be offered. If you would like more information on the workshop, contact [Susan Oguchi](#).



The Rural Routes Team

BARBARA HUDKINS

Rural Routes Project Manager



Barb Hudkins has a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and an Early Childhood diploma from MacEwan University. Barb has led a variety of innovative projects, including the development and coordination of an educational computing course for pre-service educators. She has also worked on community engagement and development programs, and the integration and adoption of various technologies in learning environments. Through her knowledge of new technology, Barb has developed many systems to support learning initiatives.

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Language training resource prepares learners for real-life scenarios

Adding to NorQuest College's excellence in [language training programs](#), a new and exciting language training resource, [Interactive English 2 \(IE2\)](#), is now available online and on DVD.

This is an excellent resource for learners in rural Alberta where the Internet can sometimes be difficult to access.

The user-friendly online resource includes a stories section in the main menu where learners are taken through practical settlement experiences. The episodes focus on scenarios where English is crucial, such as going to the doctor or attending a parent-teacher interview.

For more information on Interactive English 2, contact [Barbara Penner](#) or [Katherine Rankin](#).

Collaborative Delivery of Foundational Learning for Rural Learners

Funded by Rural Alberta Development Fund, NorQuest College is piloting an innovative collaborative delivery model to increase access to quality learning opportunities for rural adult learners. Four content streams targeted to rural learning needs will be offered from September 2012 to April 2013. The content streams are pre-high school math, language and essential skills, Aboriginal language arts and intercultural education. The math course is the first to be delivered. It started on September 17 and continues until December 14, 2012. The other courses start in January 2013. The project pilots a more coordinated approach to recruiting, supporting and teaching adult learners in rural communities, as well as optimizing the quality of instruction through customized regional support services and a curriculum management system. Nine communities in NorQuest's stewardship region and beyond are participating in the project.

If this is something that can add value to your community, please contact:

[Jacqueline Brisebois](#), Project Manager

[Cheryl Whitelaw](#), Project Lead

Literacy and Essential Skills

Through a number of initiatives such as training and mentorship, [Literacy Alberta](#) is working to increase awareness of literacy and essential skills and program capacity at the community level. Essential Skills Fieldwork is made possible through the generous support of Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education.

Essential Skills Fieldwork is led by Certified Career Development Practitioner Lorraine Moulding. Lorraine has extensive experience in conceptualizing, designing, developing, delivering and evaluating programs and services. Her innovative work at embedding essential skills into programs includes trades training and employment services for women. She also supported the integration of intercultural skills into essential skills for employment and career service training for immigrants.

Please contact Lorraine to find out more about initiatives and opportunities in your community. You can reach her at 403.410.6775 or by email at lmoulding@literacyalberta.ca.

New Rural Routes website

We are excited about the new Rural Routes website, which will launch in March 2013. The new website will serve as an online source for information and resources to further support Alberta ESL providers and instructors. The website is funded by Citizenship & Immigration Canada.

Please feel free to share your ideas and opinions for the new website with any member of the Rural Routes team.

Connections

Have you developed resources or discovered unique ways to meet your community's needs? Do you want to be featured in our community snapshot feature? Contact us to share your knowledge and ideas. Phone 403.331.0030 or email ruralroutes@norquest.ca.