

Essential Skills for Employment (ESE) National Project: An Introduction

YWCA Toronto is happy to announce the launch of a new national pilot project Essential Skills for Employment (ESE), an initiative designed to share the promising practices and lessons learned of organizations delivering Literacy and Essential Skills (LES) programming. The aim of the ESE project is to strengthen the capacity of LES organizations across Canada and ultimately improve the economic prosperity outcomes of those being left behind from fully participating in the labour market.

The project was launched in March 2014 and is funded by The Government of Canada's Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program (ALLESPP). Through this project, YWCA Toronto is facilitating a learning community that will work together to focus on supporting groups such as Aboriginal, youth, mature and immigrant workers as they build their capacity to prepare for, engage, and advance in today's knowledge-based economy.

Organizations nationally are developing and implementing innovative ESE programming that meets the unique needs of the communities they serve. YWCA Toronto has integrated LES training into employment programs for many years. Designing and delivering specialized and flexible employment programming for vulnerable women has been our strength. The program models have proven to be successful, with thousands of women's lives being transitioned into economic prosperity. The models are based on customized, needs-based interventions that assist individuals in building a foundation of essential skills.

The ESE project is a four-year initiative designed to compile and share the promising practices and lessons learned of YWCA-YMCA organizations nationally that are delivering Essential Skills for Employment (ESE) training. In July 2014, YWCA Toronto extended an invitation to YWCA/YMCA member associations to be a part of the ESE learning community through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. We are happy to announce that we will be collaborating with YWCA Hamilton and YWCA Moncton as key collaborators together with YWCA Halifax, YWCA/YMCA National Capital Region, YWCA Saskatoon, YWCA Metro Vancouver, YWCA Agvvik (Iqaluit) and YWCA Thompson.

We hope to share the outcomes and products of this exciting project with over 50 organizations through national, regional and local community networks who help prepare job seekers to compete in today's knowledge-based economy. If you are interested in learning more about the project and receiving updates, you can join the ESE database by emailing Naomi Schatz, Coordinator- Essential Skills for Employment at nschatz@ywcatoronto.org. Thank-you for your support and interest in this exciting initiative!

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Funded by The Government of Canada's Adult
Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program