

YWCA Building Sustainable Futures Project

PHASE ONE

In 2010, YWCA Toronto produced their first publication of a *Compendium of Best Practices in Employment Programming* and an accompanying *Professional Business Practices Curriculum* designed to work with marginalized women. The pilot project helped to build the capacity of Literacy and Essential Skills service delivery organizations and raised interest in the field amongst a wide range of stakeholders nationally.

As Phase One of the YWCA Building Sustainable Futures project, internal data collected at YWCA Toronto shows that participants were enabled to develop essential skills and improve their lives and employment prospects by partaking in our programs. Documented outcomes based on combined analysis of the LEAP (Learn, Explore, Assess, Prepare), MOTS (Moving on the Success) and SDC (Skills Development Centre) programs included:

- greater ability and self-confidence to make informed decisions about employment goals,
- increased self-esteem, awareness of employability skills and a clearer, more realistic long-term career direction,
- reduced isolation and enhanced access to meaningful Canadian work experience,
- improved quality of job/pay, promotion path, and employment retention, and
- access to new personal and professional networks for additional support as they transition into employment.

See below to download resources of this project, free of charge:

- [Compendium of Best Practices in Employment Programming](#)
- [Professional Business Practices Curriculum](#)