Unpacking LINC Placement, Delivery & Assessment

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Poll # 1

How are you viewing today's presentation?

• Alone or
• in a group?
Agenda

1. Krista Walsh-Murray, CCLB

2. Vasso Vahlas, Surrey Language Assessment & Referral Centre

3. Marie Irving, Immigrant Welcome Centre

4. Wes Schroeder, Western ESL Services

5. Q & A
Krista Walsh-Murray
Project Manager;
Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB)
About the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB)

- Centre of expertise in support of the national standards in English and French
- Describe, measure and recognize second language proficiency of adult immigrants living and working in Canada.
What are the CLB?

- CLB: Canadian Language Benchmarks
- National language standards for adult immigrants living and working in Canada
- 12 Benchmarks
- 3 stages of ability (basic, intermediate, advanced)
- 4 Skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing
- Community, study and workplace related tasks
How CLB are used

CLB/NCLC STANDARD

- Assessment
- Language Training
- Teaching Resources
- Citizenship
- Employment and Essential Skills
- Benchmarked Occupations
Poll # 2

Please rate your current knowledge level of CCLB’s slate of assessment tools.

- High
- Medium
- Low
The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB) and offers CLB aligned assessments.

- CLBPT (*English placement*)
- CLB-LPT (*literacy placement*)
- WLA (*workplace focused, placement*)
- NCLC-AEL (*online self-assessment*)
- BTC (*French placement*)
- Milestones (*high stakes - English*)
- BTR (*high stakes - French*)
- CELBAN (*high stakes - nursing*)

**Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA)**

is the method of assessment used in LINC programs.
Licensed Assessment Sites

- **Role:** Assess and recommend placements of learners into appropriate language classes.

- **Approval:** CCLB must receive a letter from their funder providing support information for their approval.

- **Services:** Sites can provide assessments in their various locations if they choose to; provided the assessors are indeed certified individuals.

- A list of **approved** CLBPT assessment sites can be found on our website.
Accountability

- **CCLB**
  - promotes the CLBs as practical, fair and reliable national standards
  - is the developer of CLB/NCLC aligned assessments
  - approves sites for licensure
  - maintains a database of trained assessors and licensed sites
  - Reinforces the appropriate use of its tools
  - does not support use of the tools outside scope

- **CLBPT licensed sites are responsible for:**
  - Keeping track of all active assessors at their site
  - Keeping all client assessment results safely secured
  - Safeguarding all CLBPT materials
  - Administering CLBPT assessments within the scope of the tool
CLB Assessment Tools
CLBPT: Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test

- Low stakes **placement** test
- Less formal, interaction is friendly and tailored to the individual
- Assesses 4 skills, separate BM for each skill
- Margin of error of plus or minus one benchmark
- Face-to-face, itinerant and remote administration options
Remote CLBPT Assessment

• 27 licensed CLBPT assessment sites in BC.

• 3 of these sites offer a remote assessment option:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>SPO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>The Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia ISSof BC (specific for their workplace training)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>Western ESL Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appropriate Use

The Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test (CLBPT) is a **low stakes assessment** developed for **placement** into a federally or provincially funded LINC, EAL or training program that has a language component.

With a margin of error at plus or minus one benchmark, any assessment outside the scope of the tool and the license **is not endorsed** by the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB).

CCLB, licensed CLBPT assessment centres and certified CLBPT language assessors are not liable when results are used for purposes outside the scope of the tool.
Appropriate Use

A disclaimer about appropriate use was added to the form a couple of years ago.
Poll # 3

Please rate your ability to explain CCLB’s high-stakes versus low-stakes tests.

- Confident
- Sufficient
- Needs Improvement
Future directions - CLBPA

- A collaborative initiative involving expertise from both The Centre for Education and Training (TCET) and CCLB

- A new low-stakes language assessment for immigrants wishing to enter federally-funded language training programs
CLB-OSA

- Online Self-Assessment (CLB-OSA) [https://clb-osa.ca](https://clb-osa.ca)
- FREE, available to anyone with access to Internet
- Provides general CLB levels in reading and listening.
- Assess English or French on a scale from BM 1-8
- **Not used** at Language Assessment Centres.
CLB-LPT – Literacy Placement Tool

- New tool available
- Low stakes assessment tools for literacy clients
- Include a first language screener task (35 languages)
- CCLB is in the process of working with IRCC to implement in assessment centres.
WLA and ELTPA (placement, low stakes)

- Workplace Language Assessment (WLA)
- Enhanced Language Training Placement Assessment (ELTPA)
- Reference CLBs
- Evaluate 4 skills (Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing) related to work or work-readiness settings.
Milestones - high stakes

- IRCC using Milestones as part of its 2018-19 LINC program evaluation
- Covers BM 3- to 9+
- More rigorous, standardized, formal 4-hour administration
- Designed and validated for high-stakes contexts
Portfolio Based Language Assessment (PBLA)

- Teaching and assessment model designed to enhance nationwide consistency and standards of quality in English as an Additional Language (EAL) training for adult newcomers to Canada

- CCLB is supporting IRCC in the implementation of PBLA in LINC and EAL programs across Canada

- Info on PBLA and the PBLA Practice guidelines can be found: [http://pblaepg.language.ca](http://pblaepg.language.ca)
Questions?

Tools and resources around CLB/NCLC and assessment can be found on CCLB’s website: www.language.ca

Contact:
info@language.ca
Submitting Questions

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• Tweet using **#AMSSAevents**
• Email to **sdumittra@amssa.org**
Vasso Vahlas

Executive Director of Surrey Language Assessment Centre
Surrey/Tri-Cities/Langley/Fraser Valley
More on Accountability

Measuring Demand

• Determine placements & refer clients to training facilities based on level & needs/preferences:
  ✓ Location
  ✓ Instruction times e.g. part/full time
  ✓ Child care availability

• Measure need for language training
Separating Placement from PBLA

- Collaborative referral
- Supported client integration & mobility
License vs Certification

• Certified Assessor ≠ Licensee

• Usually, licensee is LTO that is employing the CLBPT Assessor

• Assessors who cease working for Licensee are no longer licensed to use CCLB tools
Best Practices Regarding Testing Materials

- Assessment materials/kits belong to licensee
- Protocols for safekeeping of testing materials
- Protocols for ensuring return of materials to licensee when employment ceases
- Notify/remind assessors they should not be working without license/”independently”
Submitting Questions

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Poll # 4

Please rate your awareness of placement and assessment in smaller language training centres?

- High
- Medium
- Low
Marie Irving

CLBPT Assessor

Immigrant Welcome Centre
LINC Placement in a Rural Setting

Multicultural Immigrant Services Association of North Vancouver Island

Immigrant Welcome Centre
Roles in the Organization

• LINC coordinator & instructor
• CLBPT assessor
• PBLA lead teacher
• volunteer coordinator
• LINC team manager
Organizational Background

• two locations
  – Comox Valley
  – Campbell River

• serves area of 40,301 km²

• clients from 100 different countries

❖ newly-funded LINC provider in 2017
CLBPT Assessment Site

- two certified assessors
- approximately 70 assessments per year
- assessments for
  - LINC placement
  - LINC Home Study referrals
  - other
CLBPT Administration

- Face-to-face CLBPTs at either Comox Valley or Campbell River locations

- Itinerant assessments in locations such as Port Hardy
Role of Assessor

- client information from settlement and/or LINC intake
- determine level of priority
  - IRCC/Prov
  - ≈ LINC level
  - class availability
  - needs of the client
- book assessment time
- Assess & refer client

≈ 3-4 assessments per month
Challenges

- determining priorities
- time constraints
- funding challenges
- facility limitations
- catchment size
- funder priorities
- potential conflict of interest
- referring to LINC Home Study
Benefits of Rural Model

• one location for clients to access a variety of services
• instructor has an opportunity to meet with clients prior to class
• excellent communication between settlement and LINC
• no pressure from clients for certificates or retesting
• opportunity to build long-term relationships
Submitting Questions

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Poll # 5

Please rate your awareness the process of LINC level designation.

- Robust
- Average
- Limited
Wes Schroeder

Proprietor/Manager of Western ESL Services
LINC Assessment Centre
Vancouver/Burnaby/Richmond/North Shore
Benchmarks vs. LINC Level

• Learners are placed in a class based on “completed” benchmark plus 1
• There are no skill-specific LINC classes in BC
• Learners need to be placed in “integrated” classes
• Most learners do not receive the same benchmarks in all four skills
Placement Principles

• Placement is determined by a set of algorithms
• Example 1: if L/S/R/W = 4/4/4/4 client is placed in LINC 5
• “Spiky” L/S/R/W profiles require averaging formulas
• More weight is given to Listening/Speaking benchmarks
• Example 2: L/S/R/W = 5/4/6/4 = LINC 6
Placement Principles cont.

- Example 3: L/S/R/W = 6/5/4/3 client is placed in LINC 5
- Depending on how much higher the L/S average is than the R/W average the LINC placement may be flagged with the letter B
- Example: 4/4/6/6 = LINC 5 but 6/6/4/4 = Linc 5B
- Algorithms, a placement grid spreadsheet and a computer macro are available
Literacy Placements

- Learners scoring “Pre-Benchmark” in Reading and Writing are placed in LINC 1
- CLBPT doesn’t measure L1 literacy
- First language pre-literate learners are placed in LINC Literacy
- CLB-LPT not used in assessment centres in BC
Level Re-designations

- LINC level placements are a "recommendation" by the assessor.
- LINC training providers have the ability to "re-designate" a learner’s level after intake.
- Training providers are asked to inform the assessment centre when re-designating a learner’s LINC level.
Other

- LINC assessment centres are funded only to provide assessments to LINC eligible clients
- Western ESL Services provides no fee-for-service assessments
Submitting Questions

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Question & Answer Session
Poll # 6

Which of AMSSA’s resources have you found most useful? Click all that apply.

• Info Sheets
• Webinars
• E-Symposia
• Settlement Net
• In-person events
Closing Remarks

• Online Evaluation Form

• Settlement Net:
  http://www.amsssa.org/settlement-net/

Thank you!