



Centre DÉBAT

(Développement de l'éducation de base au travail)

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PRESS RELEASE

Learning to Learn en route to English-Canada

Montreal, September 12, 2007 – It's back-to-school time, and it is with enthusiasm that the Centre DÉBAT is launching a wide-spread promotional campaign for the *Learning to Learn* program, directed at leading anglophone practitioners involved in the elimination of illiteracy in English-Canada, including some 700 groups or organizations throughout Canada's ten provinces and three territories. Jointly achieved by the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the Centre DÉBAT, a literacy group working in an impoverished district of Montreal, *Learning to Learn* was initially published in French in the autumn of 2000, then translated into English and launched in Montreal in April 2006.

The blatant needs – The success – more than 800 copies sold – and the relevance of **this first ever training program aimed at teaching adults with little schooling the methods necessary to learn** indicates the blatancy of these adult learners' training needs. In Canada, "close to 50% of adults with low-level literacy live in low-income households, compared with only 8% of those with high-level literacy skills."¹ Thus, poverty and limited access to employment are added to the social isolation and the injustice of ignorance.

The individual and collective gains – *Learning to Learn* brings about individual and collective tangible gains: it provides an invaluable tool for the trainers of adults, offers a master-key to individuals in the training process, and provides a world of strategic interventions for businesses. Indeed today, globalization and ISO standards demand a greater mastery of generic competences from the worker, as well as a highly developed capacity and aptitude to learn. And this is precisely the genius of the *Learning to Learn* program, based on the conviction and evidence that intelligence develops at ANY AGE, which gives true hope to individuals with little schooling who have experienced exclusion and all sorts of school-related difficulties. Owing to activities applied to the participant's real-life situations, the individuals become accustomed to recognizing and using the behaviours that help them to learn and exercise better control over their lives.

"Learning is like constructing a new path in the mind." Stop believing that past failures or disappointments are due to an innate lack of aptitude or intelligence in front of which we are forever powerless. *Learning to Learn* enables adults with little schooling to understand that their learning difficulties are attributable to strategies, which they themselves can learn and control. The *Learning to Learn* program was achieved with financial support from the National Literacy Secretariat. The program, pedagogical guide and workshop activities can be obtained from the Centre DÉBAT: 514-522-8691 • learningtolearn@bellnet.ca.

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Source: The Centre DÉBAT (Développement de l'éducation de base au travail)
Information: Lise Duplain, 514- 522-8691 • www.centredebat.qc.ca

¹ Vivian Shalla and Grant Schellenberg, The Centre for International Statistics Canadian Council on Social Development, *The Value of Words: Literacy and Economic Security in Canada*, page 1. Downloadable publication from the Statistics Canada website: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/89F0100XIE/value.htm>