

The Survey Says?

Well, we haven't sent it out yet, but we are looking forward to hearing your views. Last year, the Training and Learning Centre (TLC) was funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation to explore whether or not a mobile learning lab would work here in Renfrew County. In nutshell, we wanted to find out whether more people would be interested in, and willing to sharpen their essential skills **IF** the training could come to them. This would look like a retrofitted school bus complete with high-speed internet access, workstations and computers. The bus would travel to where our learners are, in particular those learners who have no easy way of getting to one of our storefront locations in Eganville, Barry's Bay or Pikwkanagan.

If TLC couldn't make use of the bus on a full time basis, we would offer it out to partners who might want to deliver mobile library services, mobile after-school programs or even an outreach food bank.

We want to answer two questions: Are you interested in improving your reading writing, math, or computer skills? If the training could come to you, would you take advantage of it? In the area we serve, more than 62% of adults have either no educational certification of any kind, or high school completion only. That means our potential client base could be close to 9000. Yet we only have 30 or so taking advantage of the free training we can offer. Why is that so? We used to think it was primarily because the lack of public transportation in the county.

Now we want to find out. With the help of Canada Post, TLC will be sending out a short survey along with information about the mobile learning lab directly to households outside our community locations. It will come to your mailbox in the coming weeks. We don't want you to treat it as junk mail. So we're offering some cash prize incentives to those who complete and return the survey. You can remain anonymous and it won't cost you a penny to send it back to us. If you live closer to one of our locations, we want to hear from you, too. Copies of the survey will be available in all our three locations.

Please help us out. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call TLC at 613-628-1720. We want to hear from you!