

STAKING OUT A PLAR RESEARCH AGENDA IN CANADA

Research – a PLAR Practitioner's Perspective

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Why is research important for the PLAR/RPL field?

- ❖ helps put our work into a broader perspective
- ❖ provides resources to make our work more efficient and effective
- ❖ provides solid rationale and direction for our work
- ❖ provides support for our advocacy role
- ❖ key links to other resources and expertise
- ❖ critical for planning and implementation of credible quality PLAR practices and systems

PLAR Practitioner Competence

- **Advisor**
- **Assessor**
- **Facilitator/Administrator**
 - CAPLA's Recognition for Learning site www.recognitionforlearning.ca
 - Red River College's PLAR Practitioner competency profile (knowledge, skills and abilities) identified
 - Research as a key skill
 - RRC PLAR Foundation and PLAR Practitioner (advanced) Courses
 - Using research in our practice

Key Research for PLAR Practitioners

- Feedback from Learners: A Second Cross Canada Study of PLAR (S. Aarts et al 2003)
- A Slice of the Iceberg: Cross Canada Study on PLAR (S. Aarts et al 1999)
- Developing Benchmarks for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition ~ Practitioner Perspectives (CAPLA 2000)
- Brain Gain (Conference Board of Canada 2001)

Key Research for PLAR Practitioners

- A Spring 2003 Snapshot: The current status of PLAR in Canada's Public Post Secondary Institutions: Part I (B.Kennedy, CAPLA 2003)
- Canadian Adults' Interest in PLAR –A 2004 National Study (D. Livingston 2005)
- PLAR State of the Field Review (C. Wihak 2005)

New research

- ❖ Adult Learner Friendly Institution – Canada (ALFI Can) Study (P. Zakos/M. Day 2006-07)
- ❖ Recognizing the Prior Learning of Immigrants to Canada: Moving Towards Consistency and Excellence (M. Riffell/CAPLA 2006)

CAPLA's Role

- the national voice for PLAR/RPL
- Research is a strategic goal for CAPLA
- CAPLA's online hub for PLAR/RPL
(www.recognitionforlearning.ca)

Future Research

- further development of PLAR/RPL national standards
- quality assurance in PLAR/RPL
- PLAR Practitioner competence – standards, training and certification

Future Research

- Learner access and success
- RPL in Canadian colleges and universities
- PLAR/RPL transferability

Thank you !