

Hand with Reflecting Sphere
(Self-Portrait in Spherical
Mirror) M.C. Escher

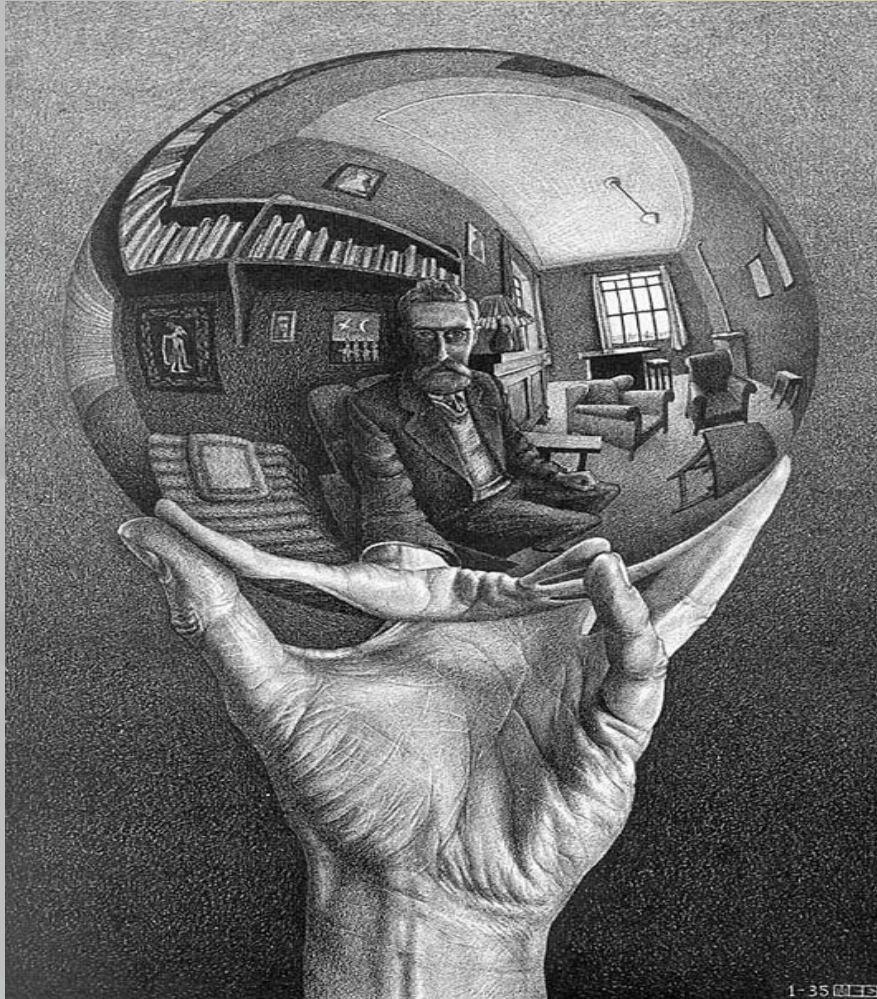


Recognition of Learning for Newcomers; a Continuing Evolution

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Reesha Siddiqui moves to Canada



- Excitement about living in Canada
- Desire to begin contributing to new home right away
- High Points were awarded
- Confused to discover that credentials and experience from Pakistan were not recognized
- Depression
- Sense of identity loss

Statistics and Effects

- Immigration is expected to account for virtually all of the net growth in the Canadian labour force by the year 2011
- 3 in 4 recent immigrants to Canada now belong to visible minority groups
- Employment is the primary settlement need for most newcomers, not least because it helps reduce other barriers to settlement
- 67% of newly arrived immigrants have a post-secondary degree or higher



EMCN history



- *Began as a response to the Vietnamese migration of boat people*
- *Expanded year by year as newcomers to Edmonton began coming from different countries*
- *10 years ago we began a bridging program that used PLAR as a means of determining eligibility*
- *Developed a competency-based test for entry into our accounting program*
- *A partnership between EMCN and the Halifax PLA Centre has resulted in-Portfolios*
- *Applying PLAR principles with our career counselors and our settlement workers*

What is Portfolio assisted PLAR?

Answers from the room

The Halifax PLA Centre's Skills and Learning Portfolio

- Process is the essence
- ten weeks
- 3/hrs 'face-to-face' group activity
- 6/hrs 'personal' reflection, collection, and projection
- facilitation and guidance with PLAR practitioner

This is a more holistic approach to learning which validates and recognizes that learning can occur everywhere.



PRODUCT



- 3 ring binder
 - Collection of file folders
 - E-Portfolio (web page)
- Show Reesha's.

**using a template is never as comprehensive or effective as a facilitated process*

Reesha's Portfolio Process

Self-Recognition of Skills

Barrier identification

Understanding of what skills and knowledge are valued in Canada

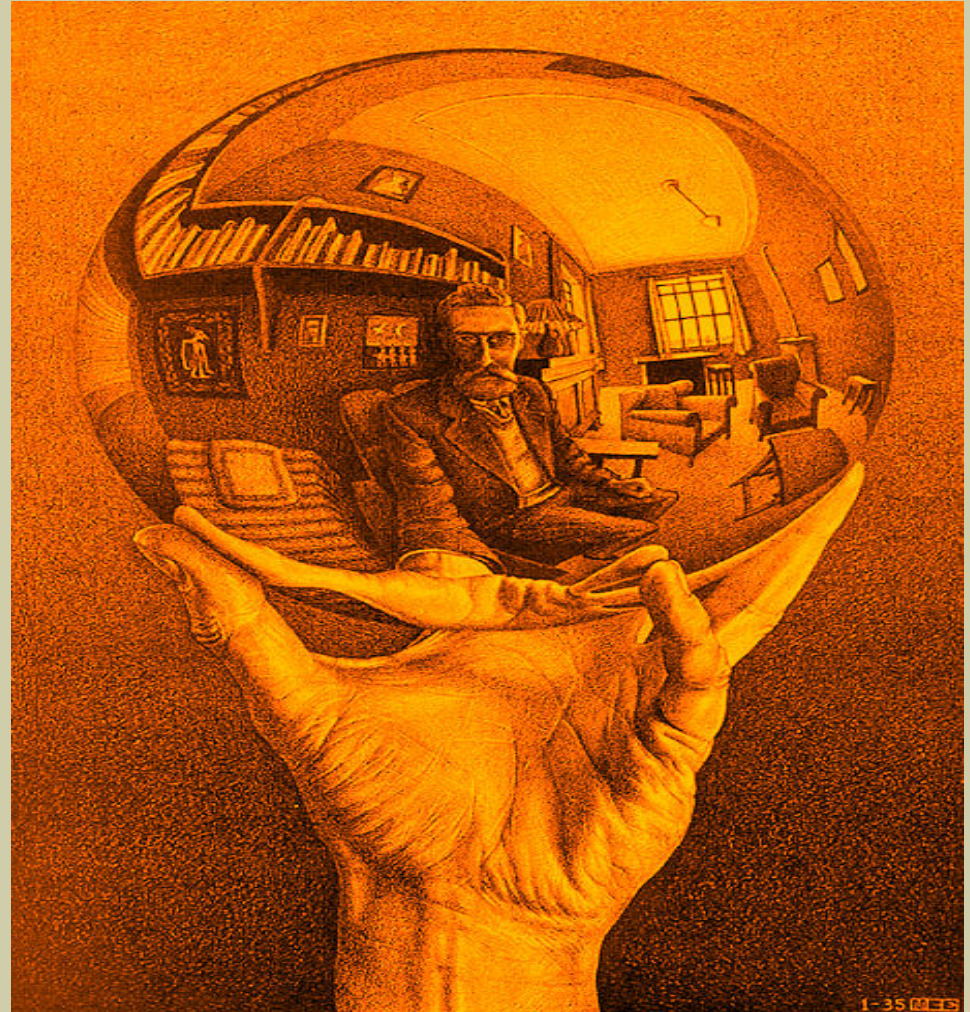
Confidence to tackle the barriers as well as achieve goals



POWER OF PORTFOLIO

- Introspection
- Articulation
- Self-confidence
- Goal setting
- Job search

**Not a magic bullet*



Recognition of Learning

Definition of
Multiculturalism

Small group work
Larger group recap



Multiculturalism

- “Of, relating to, reflecting, or adapted to diverse cultures”.
- Immigrants must be willing to integrate to some extent into the mainstream of society
- The mainstream must be welcoming and accepting
- The ideal community, sociologically speaking is one made of a variety of cultures, religions and affluence. Let’s get to know one another!

Recognition of Learning



Definition of
Citizenship

Small Group
Work

Larger Group
Recap

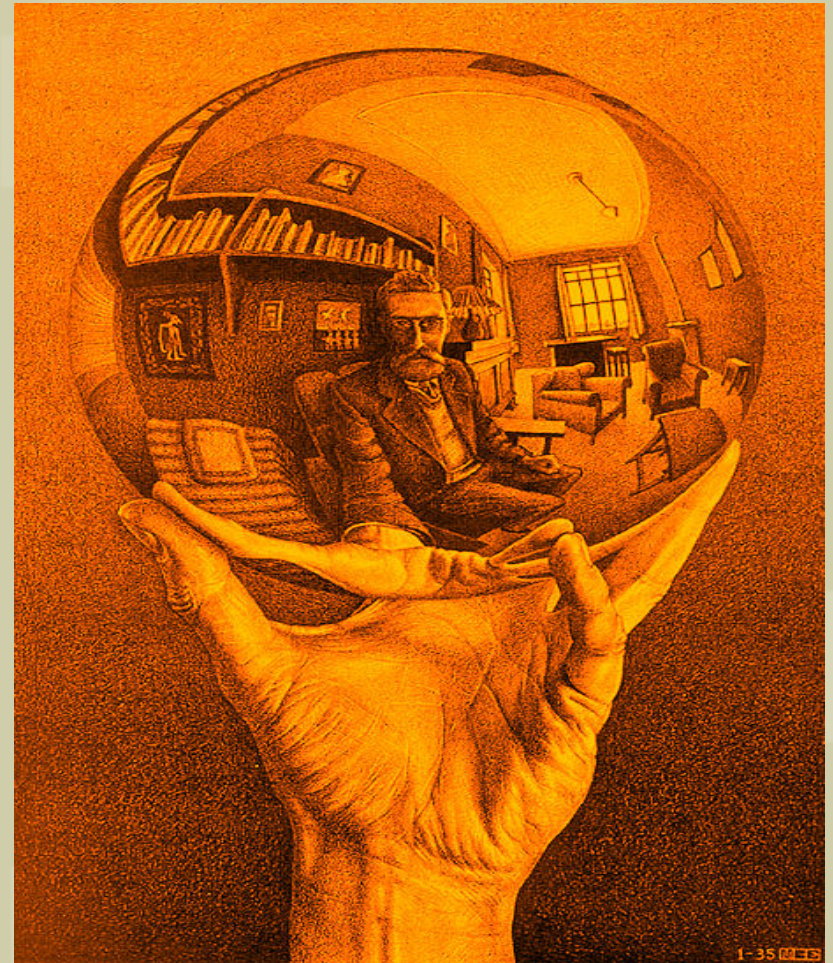
Citizenship

- “An inhabitant of a city or town; especially; one entitled to the rights and privileges of a freeperson”.
- “Membership in a community”.
- “Ownership”.
- “The quality of an individual’s response to membership in a community”.

How does PLAR/RL fit in?

PLAR for Newcomers asks for the one-way adaptation of immigrants but it could be so much more in terms of how it can allow people to question and demand a two-way exchange of openness and learning.

Let's get rid of the river
we must bridge



Questions and Answers

- Thank you for coming and please feel free to contact us at
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