



www.RecognitionForLearning.ca (RFL)

**CAPLA's online HUB
for PLAR/RPL**

***Staking Out a PLAR Research Agenda in Canada
CAPLA Conference
October 2006***

**Recognition
for Learning**





Welcome to **RecognitionForLearning** (RFL), an online community of practice dedicated to prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR). Our goals are to advance the assessment and recognition of learning, and promote the improvement of PLAR practice in Canada. If you want to find out about PLAR and PLAR services or if you are preparing to have your learning assessed, our community can help you. If you are interested in the practice of PLAR or research into PLAR, we provide opportunities for you to share information with colleagues, extend PLAR knowledge, network and develop expertise.

Enter RFL by choosing one of the boxes below.

Click here if you want to find out about PLAR and PLAR services or if you are preparing to have your learning assessed.

Learner


Click here if you are interested in the practice of PLAR or research into PLAR.

Practitioner

www.recognitionforlearning.ca

- A virtual national repository and knowledge exchange HUB for PLAR **research** and resources
- Supports various online communities of practice for PLAR/RPL/QR resources, news, **research** and discussion
- Dual Focus
 - For Learners to make use of PLAR
 - For use of PLAR in one's work (Practitioners)

RFL Research focus

Address  <http://recognitionforlearning.ca/practitioner/research.php>

Recognition for Learning The PLAR community in Canada

About RFL | Contact | Supporters | Site Map | MyRFL

Practitioners | Discussion

MENU | About PLAR | Profiles | News & Events | Resources | **Research** | PLAR Contacts | FAQs | Search

PLAR Research

Welcome PLAR researchers!

This is a place to locate PLAR research studies and research guides, discuss research with colleagues and plan research projects with peers. We need your help to make sure RFL Research meets your needs so please go to the Researchers section of our discussion board and join the "Planning RFL Research" discussion. This discussion is open to all PLAR practitioners with an interest in research.

If you want to work on a particular research project with colleagues, contact us and we'll set up a private discussion for your group. Select "Contact" above.

Select using one or more of the following:

Category:

- [13] All
- [13] All
- [2] Best Practice Guidelines
- [11] Research Studies - Reports
- [0] Research Studies in progress

Date: (or update)

All

OK RESET

CS&EW
Centre for the Study of Education and Work (CSEW) at the University of Toronto is a key partner with RFL in research on PLAR.
[LINK](#)

News/Event SHOWCASE
16 - 18 October, 2006
Live Webcasts from the Sixth International Forum on Prior Learning Assessment and Qualification Recognition
Can't make the conference in person? CAPLA is presenting one session in each time slot of the conference through live webcasting. You can sit at your own computer and see the speakers, hear the presentation, and even send in questions through live CHAT during Question and Answer sessions. If you can't make the conference in person, **don't miss this!**
For more details, click the link.
[MORE](#)

Resource/Research SHOWCASE
Canadian Adults' Interest in Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Formal Reports and Informal Feedback are both valuable 'research'

Learners:

- Gain information on statistical results (evidence based) of programs and projects re results/benefits and challenges of PLAR to help make decisions about participating in PLAR,
- Learn criteria for quality in PLAR systems and processes to help determine where to apply
- Need a central 'Hub' with links to assist with access

Quality research provides valid evidence and documented experience to assist with decision making

Learner Resources

PLAR Resources - Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address http://recognitionforlearning.ca/learner/resources.php

for Learning The PLAR community in Canada

Learners Practitioners Discussion

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PLAR Resources

The resources section of RFL features annotated links to articles, reports, books, and other resources and tools for those involved in PLAR. By helping us to identify and share additional resources you will be assisting in making this a continuously growing resource.

If you would like us to include a PLAR resource that's already developed, let us know. If you are an RFL member, use the Content section of MyRFL. If you are not a member, select "Contact" above.

New Multi-Media Learning Resources

[LINK](#) Identifying your Learning, and

[LINK](#) Introduction to Portfolios

These modules are follow up resources to the "Introduction to PLAR" module in the Learner's section of "About PLAR."

Select using one or more of the following:

Category:

- [22] All
- [22] All
- [3] Articles and Reports
- [2] Best Practice Guidelines
- [0] Bibliographies
- [0] Books
- [1] Canada's Portfolio
- [5] Glossaries
- [0] PLAR Training
- [0] Portfolio Training
- [5] Research Studies - Reports
- [6] Tools

Recognition for Learning

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MORE

Resource SHOWCASE

Canada's Portfolio

Canada's Portfolio is an ongoing showcase of the recognition and assessment initiatives that have helped tens of thousands of adults receive credit and recognition for the skills

Formal Reports and Informal Feedback are both valuable 'research'

Practitioners (anyone who uses PLAR in their work)

- Access to valid research and project results (evidence based) to help advocate for PLAR and develop quality systems and processes
- Identification of current research they could participate in (key results including own organization often helpful), and ability to identify research processes that would be valuable to implement
- Research analysis provides identification of trends, future directions, and useful pockets of 'passion' and interest re PLAR/QR

Quality research provides evidence based resources for own and cooperative use

Some types of research

- Use of PLAR, & benefits to learners & institutions/organizations
- Interest in and demand for PLAR/QR
- Best practices, models, and guidelines
- Policy & procedures comparisons
- Barriers and supports

What else would be valuable?

Add Research information yourself

Content - Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address <http://www.recognitionforlearning.ca/learner/myRFL.php>

myRFL Recognition for Learning

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Learners Practitioners Discussion

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Add Content to RfL

Adding content to the RFL main pages is easy. Click on the section below that best describes the content you want to post and our administrators will be informed immediately.

We are still developing some of the features of MyRFL. Please stay tuned...

[Help](#) [Back](#) [Main Page](#)

Select the content area from the list below and click its OK button...

- RFL News & Events** [OK](#)
Keep everyone up-to-date with PLAR news and events you know about. Choose this section if your content is PLAR news, a workshop, conference, or is time-sensitive.
- PLAR Resources & Research** [OK](#)
Do you have a PLAR resource or research project you want to share with RFL? Let us know about it.
- PLAR Contacts** [OK](#)
Keeping in touch with all contacts in PLAR is what we're all about. Let us know if we are missing a listing.

[We need your input. Evaluate this website... HERE](#)

News/Event SHOWCASE

November 24, 2005
Videos of Opening Panel: Introduction to Workshop Themes
Recorded at the CAPLA Fall Focus Workshop, November 24, 2005, these Windows Media Player videos are of the remarks by the opening panel: Sandie Birkhead-Kirk, Joan McArthur-Blair, Christine Wihak, and L. Andrew Cardozo. [MORE](#)

Resource SHOWCASE

Guide to Terminology Usage in the Field of Credentials

Recognition
for Learning



Link a Research Resource to your Discussion Board Topic, or set up a Poll

PLAR Research - Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address http://recognitionforlearning.ca/practitioner/research.php?t=st&a=all&d=all

Search Results

Select one...

A Slice of the Iceberg:
Cross-Canada Study of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

Development date: 1999
Author(s): Sandra Aarts, Deborah Blower, Roberta Burke, Eleanor Conlin, et al

The title of this study is based on a metaphorical "iceberg" created by Allen Tough (1976) depicting the concept that only a small percentage of adult learning is recognized in our society. The purpose of this study is to elicit information on PLAR in Canada and to observe whether PLAR lowers the waterline on the "iceberg" by increasing recognition of informal learning. It is also the Study's purpose to examine what has happened in PLAR in Canadian colleges over the last several years.

TOP [LINK](#) [CC](#)

A Spring 2003 Snapshot:
The Current Status of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) in Canada's Public Postsecondary Institutions: Part One

Development date: May 2003
Author(s): Bonnie Kennedy (A/Executive Director, Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA).)

This cross Canada snapshot of PLAR in Post-secondary institutions was prepared for the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), with funding from HRSDC.

TOP [LINK](#) [CC](#) [JOIN OUR DISCUSSION ON THIS](#)

An On-line Portfolio Development Model for the 'Going to Canada' Portal
Final report for Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Presenting and answering questions through live CHAT during Question and Answer sessions. If you can't make the conference in person, **don't miss this!** For more details, click the link. [MORE](#)

Resource SHOWCASE

Canada's Portfolio
Canada's Portfolio is an ongoing showcase of the recognition and assessment initiatives that have helped tens of thousands of adults receive credit and recognition for the skills, knowledge and credentials they've earned through their work, education, community activities, family life and personal interests. Projects and initiatives are added on a continuous basis by those implementing them. [MORE](#)

PLAR SHOWCASE

University of Winnipeg
The University of Winnipeg (UW) has a dedicated website for adult learners which provides a user-friendly resource for contacts and information for prospective and current students. [MORE](#)

We need cooperative Research efforts

Research results provide:

- Identification of regional and pan-Canadian trends
- Statistically valid information on needs, gaps and potential solutions to challenges
- Rationale for funding & continued work
- Information for awareness and communications pieces
- The 'front end' needs analysis, progress results, and continuous feedback for strategic direction for PLAR/RPL/QR

Remember the 3 'R's

- **R**esearch is valuable
- **R**ationale for PLAR/QR (through research)
- **R**epository & exchange Hub is effective and efficient for all

See us at the RFL Booth...

Next Steps – some possibilities

- Use today's results as first step
- Gain added feedback from PLAR community as to priorities and needs through online Discussion (RFL)
- Exchange ideas (RFL) – private or public
- Set up smaller discussion groups
- Post possible projects to identify interest in partnering/participating
- Advocate for future PLAR/QR research!

Promote Research Partnerships/Participation

- Research partners for CAPLA to:
 - identify needed research
 - identify completed research findings
 - develop and implement research projects
- Dissemination of research findings (RFL)

Contact us:

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