



## Expression of Interest

### Indigenous Adult Literacy Resources, Curriculum and Training Development

Are you interested in developing Indigenous adult literacy learning resources, curriculum and training which supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors?

The Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association (ECALA) funds non-profit organizations to provide foundational learning opportunities to adult Edmontonians who face social or financial barriers to learning. ECALA funding supports Indigenous literacy and learning programs that meet the unique needs of Indigenous learners based on First Peoples Principles of Learning ([www.fnesc.ca](http://www.fnesc.ca)).

Starting in 2016 ECALA made changes to its funding guidelines to prioritize culturally relevant programming for Indigenous peoples:

- Incorporating Indigenous knowledge and obtaining community input to provide an opportunity for Indigenous communities to articulate their own literacy needs;
- Trauma-Informed approach to ensure the impact of Intergenerational trauma and subsequent impacts on learning are addressed and supported in all learning opportunities;
- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational;
- Recognition of Indigenous oral tradition and learning is embedded in memory, history, and story;

ECALA participates in and coordinates capacity building initiatives with a range of partners, including the Indigenous Working Group, community agencies, educational institutions and traditional Knowledge Holders. Collectively the goal is to provide diverse learning opportunities for Indigenous adults in Edmonton. Opportunities are designed to meet learner literacy and foundational learning goals. Examples include preparing to learn, literacy and life skills, literacy and lifelong learning, and literacy and employment.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous agencies offering culturally relevant learning opportunities funded by ECALA using Community Adult Learning Program Grant funding, have identified challenges in accessing resources and curriculum to consider when supporting adult basic literacy for urban Indigenous people.

**ECALA is reaching out to the Indigenous Community to meet with individuals or Indigenous Colleges to contract the development of Indigenous Adult Literacy Resources.**

Project deliverables include:

1. Literature review of literacy in the context of Indigenous peoples with a strong focus on adult foundational education to inform the development of an introductory materials" kit" for educators or tutors (e.g., self-guided professional development resources, classroom tools and materials)
2. Development of introductory materials kit for educators, tutors working with Indigenous adult learners
3. Relationship building with applicable agency individuals



4. Literature review of literacy in the context of Indigenous peoples with a strong focus on adult foundational education to inform agency recruitment, support, and transition practices
5. Participate in knowledge sharing and cultural sessions with a diverse group of Elders, Knowledge Holders, educators and Indigenous adults to inform deliverables
6. Develop an evaluation tool (survey or interview questions) to help determine, among Indigenous stream funding applicants, what was useful, what was needed, what was appreciated, unappreciated, what could be done in the future in terms of the funding, delivery and reporting process from the perspective of agencies who applied for this funding stream (optional)
7. Analysis of engagement responses (optional)
8. Communicate with and report to Executive Director as required
9. Operate as an independent contractor who is responsible for all Canada Revenue Agency source deductions and remittances.
10. Complete all deliverables within a total cost of \$30,000.00 plus approved expenses for design and printing, resources in the kit, protocol, and stakeholder engagement

### **Information to include in the written response to this Expression of Interest**

1. Brief description of your plan to meet the deliverables.
2. Information outlining your experience with and knowledge of research and community engagement in an Indigenous context, including use of questionnaires and interviews as data collection tools
3. Brief description of your experience working with agencies whose mandate is to work with Indigenous adults seeking to improve their foundational skills and literacy goals
4. Knowledge of Indigenous peoples' cultures, customs, and related protocols
5. Knowledge of an Indigenous language (optional)
6. An undergraduate or graduate degree (a combination of lived experience, education and cultural knowledge will be considered)
7. Draft timeline for each deliverable
8. Cost for each deliverable (Total not to exceed \$30,000.00)

**Preference will be given to Indigenous applicants.**

**Timeline for the Initiative: January 2022 to December 15, 2022.**

**Community Review and Guidance:** ECALA Indigenous Working Group, Indigenous Education Liaison, Executive Director, funded Indigenous and Non-Indigenous agencies, Indigenous College staff working with adult foundational learners and Indigenous Adult learners currently enrolled in learning opportunities.

**Written Expression of Interest**—Email Debbie Clark, Executive Director [ed@ecala.org](mailto:ed@ecala.org) to arrange a time to discuss the contract opportunity prior to submitting a response.

Submissions should be brief and respond using the information above to explain your interest in developing materials, curriculum and training to [ed@ecala.org](mailto:ed@ecala.org) by **Monday, January 10, 2022.**