



## **New Strategic Advisory Panel on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

The Strategic Advisory Panel on RPL had its first meeting in Toronto at the Metropolitan Hotel on November 13, 2009 in conjunction with CAPLA's Fall Focus Workshop and Annual General Meeting. All of Canada's provinces and territories have appointed representatives to sit on the Panel, primarily through the Deputy Ministers' or Assistant Deputy Ministers' offices. In addition, the federal government, key national organizations and non-governmental organizations are also involved.

The Panel was created in response to suggestions by several jurisdictions wanting CAPLA to strengthen its leadership role as a well-established and unique pan-Canadian network and community of practice for online RPL resources, research, information-sharing and dialogue.

Panel members all agree that RPL is an important labour market strategy. Finding out the workplace competencies, skills and abilities which adults have is the first and most critical step before gap education and training is undertaken or new employment secured. Through a collaborative process, Panel members are identifying priority issues, exploring partnership opportunities and establishing tasks and timelines for the forthcoming year.

The Panel's membership list and Terms of Reference will be posted shortly.

“The enthusiasm was pretty clear at our face-to-face meeting. Panel members see huge benefits in working together on broad issues and on particular activities such as RPL resources online to reduce duplication and to share best practices. CAPLA is willing to facilitate this collaborative effort so we're excited about moving forward” said meeting facilitator Kathleen Morrow, who is a member of the Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada. Kathleen is the Director of the Foreign Qualifications Recognition Unit in Alberta.