STAKING OUT A PLAR RESEARCH AGENDA IN CANADA

Research – a PLAR Practitioner's Perspective

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CAPLA
PLAR/QR Forum
October, 2006
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


- 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!