

CAPLA's Vision

The Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA) envisions a Canada in which all people's skills and knowledge are formally recognized and valued regardless of where they were obtained. This recognition and value will be driven by the broad awareness, acceptance, and application of quality recognition of prior learning (RPL) processes. Quality RPL processes can enhance individuals' access to opportunities to achieve personal and career goals while strengthening the Canadian economy by filling skills gaps with competent workers and supporting social cohesion. RPL can be used effectively by lifelong learners who seek to:

- obtain academic credit for the skills and knowledge they can already reliably demonstrate
- find or retain paid employment based on demonstrable learning acquired through experience
- use their transferable skills to transition into, within, or out of occupations
- qualify for licensure, certification and membership by an occupational body
- volunteer in the community

CAPLA regards quality RPL processes as holding particular potential to serve groups of people currently underrepresented in the Canadian labour market and in post-secondary institutions, including Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, and newcomers.

CAPLA's Mission

CAPLA advances and advocates for the awareness, acceptance, and quality practice of recognition of prior learning processes in a variety of sectors throughout Canada and internationally.

CAPLA's Values

CAPLA is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization that has been operating since 1994 and continues to evolve through input from a variety of stakeholders. From the beginning, the Association was influenced by Indigenous customs and still retains the following foundational beliefs:

- Respect learners and all sources of their learning
- Be inclusive
- Value cultural diversity
- Provide formal recognition for appropriate learning achievements
- Reduce barriers to labour force participation
- Advocate for improvements to formal educational and credentialing systems

Supported by national and international input and promising practices, CAPLA's comprehensive resource, *The MANUAL: Quality Assurance for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Canada* articulates a set of values for shaping quality RPL processes through its "Guiding Principles for Quality RPL Practice in Canada." These stipulate that RPL be:

- Accessible
- Consistent
- Fair
- Respectful
- Valid

- Flexible
- Rigorous
- Transparent
- Professionally Supported

CAPLA's Strategic Goals

Goal 1

Promote the recognition and credentialing of prior learning in Canada, and internationally, as part of an adult lifelong learning strategy.

Strategies:

- Expand existing relationships, and explore new ones, with RPL practitioners, networks, and organizations in diverse communities locally, provincially/territorially, nationally, and internationally.
- Advocate for awareness, acceptance and practice of RPL within formal, informal, and non-formal settings for the purpose of reducing barriers to participation in employment, education, and training.
- Establish clearer links between RPL practice and skills recognition and competency assessment.

Goal 2

Create and distribute research and the development of resources for both RPL practitioners and users to improve RPL practice.

Strategies

- Foster innovation through the design and development of RPL-related products and services.
- Promote research in the field of RPL in multi-sectoral environments.

Goal 3

Deliver RPL professional development opportunities in a range of settings.

Strategies

- Draw upon RPL expertise in Canada and other countries to build knowledge and expand our understanding of RPL practice.
- Utilize the expertise of our members to deliver quality products and services.
- Enhance and promote an inclusive communication strategy towards the growth and development of the RPL community locally, provincially/territorially, nationally, and internationally.

Goal 4

Ensure the sustainability of CAPLA as a not-for-profit organization by mobilizing RPL supporters and stakeholders across Canada.

Strategies

- Build a business case in partnership with CAPLA members and other stakeholders to ensure long-term viability
- Engage local, provincial, territorial, and national partners and other decision-makers in problem-solving and innovative revenue generation activities.

Goal 5

Provide leadership and expertise to the Government of Canada and our provincial and territorial partners for research and development of a fully-funded, quality-assured, pan-Canadian skills recognition strategy.