CAPLA RPL Standards Working Group

Terms of Reference

June 2008

Purpose:

To facilitate and promote discussion regarding development, validation and implementation of:

- o standards and guidelines for the practice of RPL in Canada, and

- o voluntary standards and certification for individual RPL practitioners*

The term Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be used and is defined as noted in the CAPLA Strategic Plan (2007).**

Term of Committee:

Committee will remain in existence until formation of a formal Advisory Committee upon approval of project funding.

Formation Details:

Over the years of CAPLA's existence, there have been many discussions, workshops and proposals drafted on the need for RPL standards and guidelines. Research conducted by CAPLA in 2000 resulted in Benchmarks for PLAR (specifically related to the advisor and assessor roles) and Guidelines for the Canadian PLAR Practitioner. Noted in that research and in later discussion sessions at CAPLA conferences and with the CAPLA Boards of Directors, was the need for voluntary standards and certification for RPL practitioners.

This current committee was formed in response to an increasing interest and need for the further development and implementation of standards and guidelines for the RPL field in Canada and to explore standards and voluntary certification for RPL practitioners. It was/is important to identify interest in and, to further clarify the issues, to document in future proposals for funding.

Role:

To lead discussion with the CAPLA Board, CAPLA membership and other stakeholders on a framework for, the need for, and desire for voluntary standards and guidelines for the practice of RPL and for the training and certification of RPL practitioners.

To assist the CAPLA Executive Director with the development of proposals for funding of related initiatives.

Note:

 * RPL practitioners are individuals who are involved with RPL, who use or implement RPL in their work.
 **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a holistic term and relates to all aspects of formal and informal recognition and assessment by combining PLAR processes and Qualification recognition processes. In the case of foreign trained individuals, RPL would also include recognition of international credentials.

Functions:

1. To make recommendations for discussion outlines and for venues and to lead discussions with CAPLA membership and the broader community.

2. To engage a broader PLAR/RPL community in issues related to quality RPL practice and the connection to Standards and Guidelines

3. To liaise with CAPLA's Executive Director, the CAPLA Board of Directors and CAPLA'S Education and Training Committee on issues relevant to the topic.

4. To work with CAPLA Executive Director, to define the scope of a proposal for funding.

Membership:

o Minimum 3, maximum 20 CAPLA members in good standing

o One Member of CAPLA's Board of Directors (minimum)

o Executive Director of CAPLA

o Coordinator of CAPLA RFL

Conduct of Meetings:

o Meetings will be held on an as needed basis (mainly electronically and by teleconference), at the call of the Chair /Co-Chair

o Recording of meetings will be on a volunteer, turn taking basis

Governance

o The CAPLA Board of Director representative on the committee will act as the liaison to the CAPLA Board, and will be responsible for reporting to the Board and making the necessary connections with other Board committees.

o The CAPLA Board of Director representative on the committee will Chair the committee, or will co-chair the committee with a non-CAPLA Board member.

o The committee will not have any decision making power on behalf of the CAPLA Board, but will make recommendations to the Board for their decisions.

o Committee conclusions will be on the basis of consensus of those participating in discussion on the topic, within communication methods circulated and within timeframes identified.