



**Manitoba Prior Learning Assessment Network**

# Building a Vibrant Provincial PLAR Network

## *Case Study: MPLAN*

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# Overview

1. Who we are, what we do
2. Beginnings to present day
3. How it works
4. Challenges
5. Solutions
6. Where to from here?

# Our Vision & Mission\*

- A province-wide volunteer organization
- Supports and advocates for continuous learning opportunities and for recognition of previous learning
- Supports CAPLA and its vision

\*MPLAN By-laws April 2004



# Who we are, what we do

- Community of Practice
  - informal networking for learning, performance support & work search
- Newsletter, mailing list, website
- PD and social events
- RPL champion: PEARL Awards, CAPLA
- Members participate in RPL research & implementation projects
- Community advocate, policy stakeholder, channel to the external world of RPL



# MPLAN today

**Our membership: 110-130 strong**

– **Who are they?**

Education, community organizations, regulatory bodies, industry, government, sector groups, independent educators and consultants...

– **Where are they?**

- Winnipeg
- Rural Manitoba
- Saskatchewan

– **Next target for increased membership**

Industry, employers and HR professionals



# Types of Membership

- Individual (\$24.00)
- Student (\$12.00)
- Organizational (\$120.00)
  - Maximum of 15 individuals per organization
  - Each branch of gov't a separate 'organization'
- Life Membership
- Honorary Membership
- Interested parties



# Thumbnail History



- Germinated at RRC in 1995
  - Deb Blower (ECE) & Donna Meder (RN) sent a letter to 50 stakeholders which led to founding meeting
  - First year: 8 meetings, Mission Statement & Vision, established member priorities
- 1995->present: connection to CAPLA
- 1998 - 2001: connection to Manitoba PLA Centre (PLA Centre shut down 2001)
- 2001-present: finding a new balance

# Professional development examples

- 1996: (with RRC) Conference with Susan Simosko
- 1997: Conference with Paul Zakos/ CAPLA, & CSTECC
- 1999: Presentation by Robin Millar, MB PLA Centre
- 2000: Presentation on CAPLA Research (Slice of the Iceberg) by Deb Blower
- 2003: National conference in Winnipeg
- 2004: 1<sup>st</sup> videostreaming event through RRC studios
- **2005: MPLAN 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary:** workshops, videostreaming, MPLAN eportfolio
- 2007: Hands-on ePortfolio workshop



# How we do it: MPLAN Board

- Minimum 6 members:
  - Past Chair, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 1 member at large
- No maximum of members at large
- Board members must be voting members of MPLAN
- ‘Minimal’ by-laws



# Committees\*:

- Standing Committees
  - Executive
  - Program Planning
  - Membership
  - Nominating
  - Awards (recently added)
  - Promotion (recently added)
- Ad hoc initiatives (e.g. PATH strategic planning update)



*\*Committees are chaired by members of the Board*

# Revenue & Sustainability

- Membership Fees
- Regular meetings/PD events
  - break even
- Workshops & conferences
  - make money
- Sponsorship
  - funding, in-kind meeting support & prizes

# Some challenges

1. Succession: continuity, consistency
2. Relationship with the government (i.e. roles)
3. Broadening membership
  - Programming diversity, declining administrative support from smaller organizations
4. Membership administration
5. Communications
  - Technology and process improvement
6. Administrative support
  - Communications, promotion, follow-up
7. Sustainable, predictable revenue
  - PD events, promotion, attendance support, administrative help
8. Balancing growth/sustainability with roots & values

# 2008 Strategic Planning\*

1. Becoming a professional association, RPL certification stakeholder
2. Becoming a community partner for funded research projects
3. Increasing, broadening membership by 50%
4. Securing a full-time Administrative Coordinator
5. Developing, implementing a more effective marketing strategy

*\* update of 2002 Strategic Plan*

# MPLAN ePortfolio

**MPLAN** Manitoba Prior Learning Assessment Network  
*10th Anniversary ePortfolio*

- Mission / Goal
- Chronological Record
- Outcomes
- Evidence / Documentation
  - Outcome 1
  - Outcome 2
  - Outcome 3
  - Outcome 4
  - Outcome 5
  - Outcome 6
- Strategic Plan



## Showcase

[Outcomes](#)  
[Chronological\\_Record](#)

## Goals

[2008\\_PATH\\_Strategic\\_Update](#)  
[2002\\_Strategic\\_Plan](#)

## Evidence

[Video\\_Evidence](#)  
[Image\\_Evidence](#)

[PLAR\\_Administrator\\_Competercies](#)

We will survive...

# Contacts

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## MPLAN website & email

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