



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: 1st videostreaming event through RRC studios
- **2005: MPLAN 10th 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_Compencies](#)

We will survive...

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