



Eastern Regional Partnership for Adult Education
(ERPAE)

Ontario's (Canada) Adult Education Strategy

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Agenda

- Introduce the project
- Describe the specific sector
- Overview of the research activity
- Challenges
- Outcomes
- Building sustainable research capacity



Ontario Ministry of Education Mandate

Key goal of the Adult Education Strategy

“To support the commitment made in “Achieving Excellence...
...to ensure that the adult education system better supports
adult learners in their efforts to finish high school and
successfully transition to postsecondary education, training or
the workplace.”





What is adult and continuing education in Ontario?

A&CE programs are flexible and include different supports for adult learners.

Targeted to enable adult learners to achieve their learning and or employment goals.

A&CE programs in Ontario school boards include:

- credit courses leading to a high school diploma,
- language support programs literacy and academic upgrading to help people transition to credit,
- employment to post-secondary to apprenticeship or to independence.

Sector specific training programs are offered in various boards.

The Ontario Adult Education Strategy

The four key areas in scope for the Adult Education Strategy

Regionally Coordinated Access to Flexible Delivery	Access to coordinated information, intake, assessment, and referrals
Regionally coordinated access to consistent Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)	Regional guidance, career counselling and pathway planning

Challenges!

- Lack of internet infrastructure, lack of transportation
- No standardized intake or referral processes across region
- Adult education seen as “second cousin” to K-12
- Stigma of returning to adult education
- Complicated funding envelopes
- Compassion fatigue
- Competitive boards

Overcoming the challenges!

We valued the following:

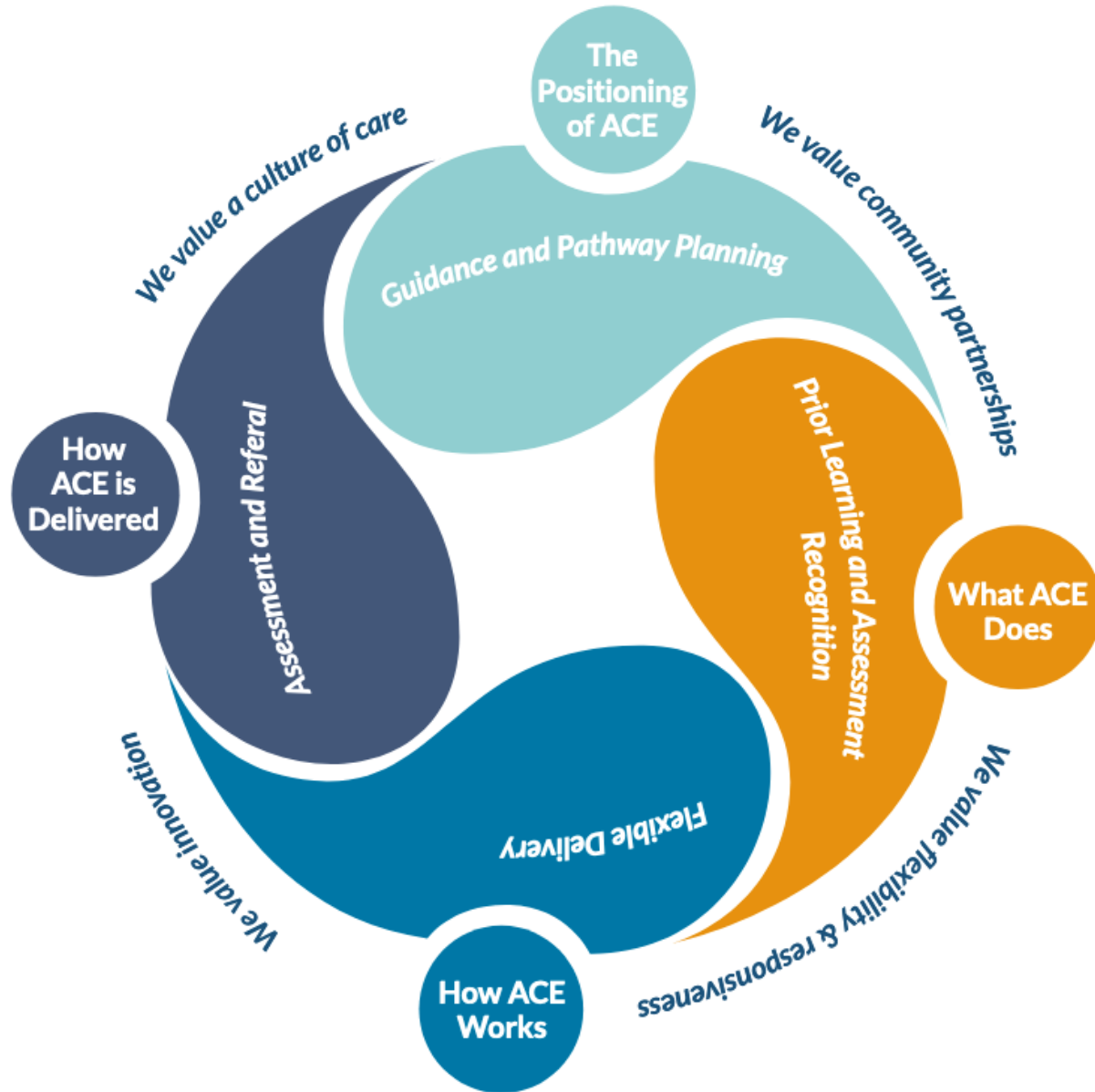
- *A culture of care, rooted within a holistic approach to learning.*
- *Diverse learners, with unique qualities.*
- *Flexible approaches, to support learning.*
- *Provision of service, within local communities.*
- *Community partnerships, that enhance service.*
- *Pathway planning to support the acquisition of an OSSD and/or successful transitions.*
- *Innovation and creativity, that facilitate continuous improvement.*
- *Meetings*
- *Study groups*
- *PD for all*
- *Feedback to the Table (Superintendents/senior administrators)*
- *Data gathering throughout*
- *Capacity building in year 2*
- *Support with implementation*

Year One: What we achieved



- Creation of regional partnership
- Environmental scan
 - Survey across all boards
 - Interviews with 124 learners
 - Interviews with 63 staff
- Develop multi-year strategic plan

Visual Representation of ACE in the ERPAAE



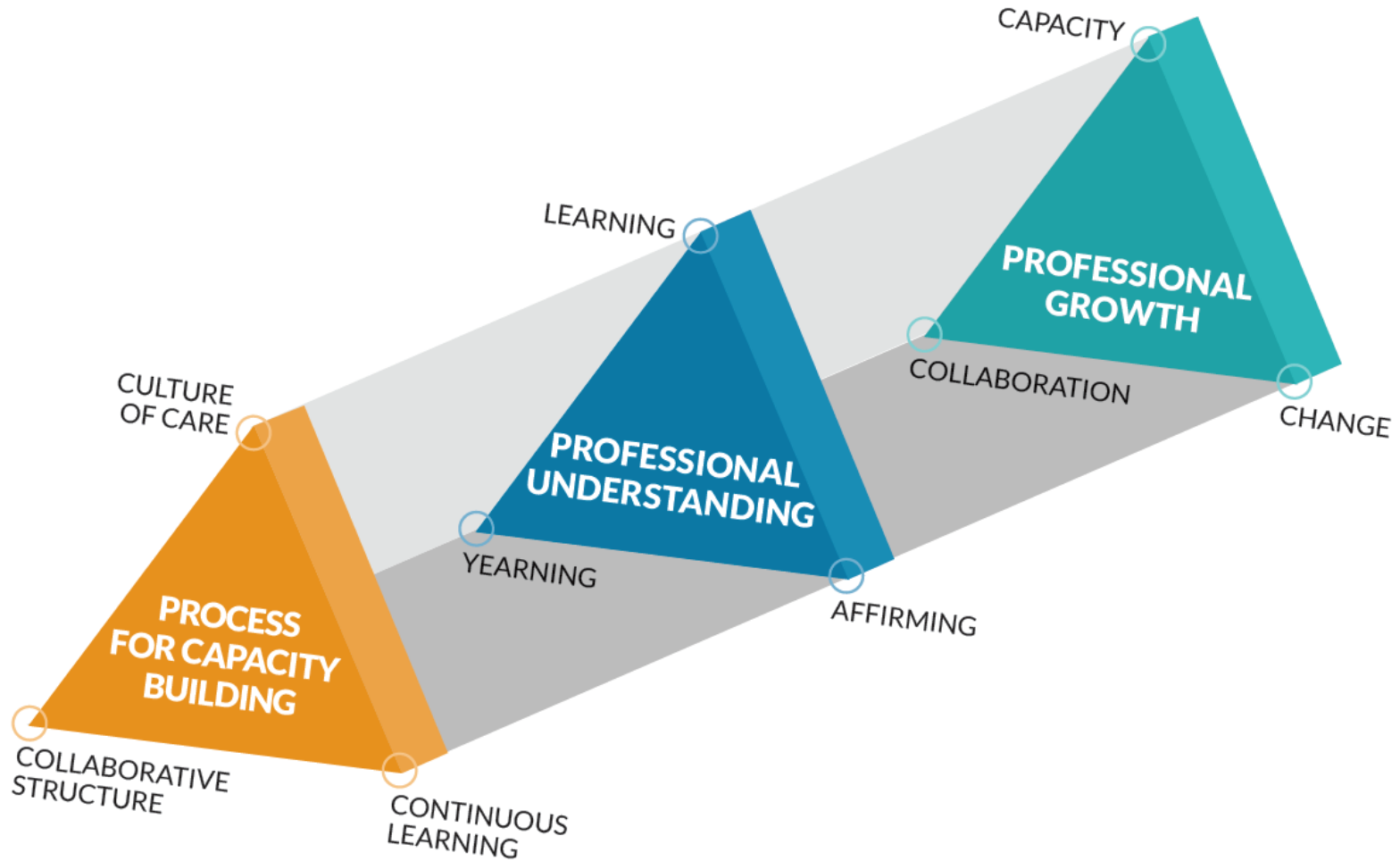
Year Two: What we achieved



- Learning from inside region
- Learning from outside of region
- Sharing and developing innovative best practices
- Data collection
 - Survey across each of the boards
 - 25 interviews

Collaborative Coalition Model for Professional Development

(Godden & Youmans, 2018)



Year Three: What we achieved



- Implementation of best practices
- Monitoring and evaluating
- Action research

ERPAAE Innovative Pilot Projects by Mandate

BOARD	INTAKE, ASSESSMENT, AND REFERRAL	GUIDANCE AND PATHWAY PLANNING	PLAR	FLEXIBLE DELIVERY	POSITIONING OF ADULT EDUCATION
ALCDSB					
CDSBEO					
HPEDSB					
LDSB					
OCSB					
OCDSB					
RCDSB					
UCDSB					

Shared Principles

Ethics of Hope	Ethics of Caring
Ethics of Transparency	Ethics of Responsibility

ImpAct



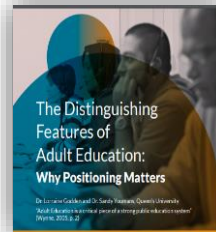
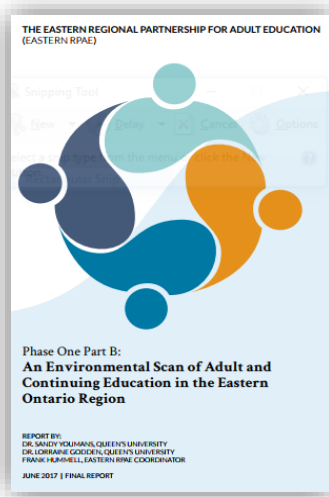
- Boards created their proposals based on their own needs
- Training was provided on developing research questions and action research methodology
- Researchers provided ongoing support
- Boards executed pilots and collected own data
- Each board presented findings
- Sustainable research capacity was built
- Ongoing networking & sharing

Sharing our Work and Resources



Our reports and monographs can be downloaded from:

<https://www.eosdn.on.ca/initiatives/adult-education-strategy>



On behalf of the ERPAE, thank you for inviting me here!



I welcome your questions!

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