ASSESSING NON-FORMAL LEARNING AT TRU: THE CREDIT BANK AND SO MUCH MORE

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Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- I am honoured to be living, working, playing, and learning on the traditional grounds of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

- Embracing the principle of Pelkwaílc-kt es knucwentwécw-kt (we come together to help one another)

OVERVIEW

- PLAR as an Emerging Pedagogy

- 4 PLAR Pathways at Thompson Rivers University (TRU)
  - Competency-based
  - Course-based
  - Challenge Exams
  - Credit Bank

- MC, an Interesting Twist

- War on Talent

- A Glimpse Into Our Future?

- So What?!

PLAR AS AN EMERGING PEDAGOGY

- Identify, document, reflect on learning

- What learnt from experience(s)

- How applied to other areas

- Taking the discursive to the structured

- Learning is codified and assessed (validated)

GIF source: http://www.appstate.edu/~logesdg/animated-gifs.html

4 PLAR PATHWAYS

Competency-based

Course-based

Challenge Exams

Credit Bank (formal and informal)

1. COMPETENCY-BASED PORTFOLIOS

- Demonstration of students' broader learning background

- Students are asked to complete an online tool with 48 questions to gauge their readiness

- Portfolio requires students speak to eight competencies (right) that are reflective of TRU's ILO

- Block of credits applied to unspecified electives

- Advisors give guidance and feedback

- Team of two assessors review portfolio and conduct interview

- Credits can be anywhere from 3 to 75

Competency-Based Portfolio
Student Handbook
An in-depth resource for students as they work through the
Competency-Based Portfolio process

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Communication

Teamwork & Leadership

Info Gathering & Organization

Problem-Solving & Decision-Making

Numeracy

Critical & Creative Thinking

Independent Learning & Intellectual Maturity

Applied Knowledge & Skills

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2020

2. COURSE-BASED PORTFOLIOS

- Credit for specific courses

- Students follow the course learning outcomes to develop their portfolio, describing their learning, reflecting on the course theory, and providing evidence to support their learning claims

- Assessors may require additional identification of learning such as samples of work, completion of a project related to the course, demonstration of skills, an interview, or other assessment methods

Course-Based Portfolio Information Package

A Summary of the Course-Based Portfolio Process

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3. CHALLENGE EXAMS

Students can take a summative exam for a particular course(s)

Exam study guides are provided

Exams are proctored
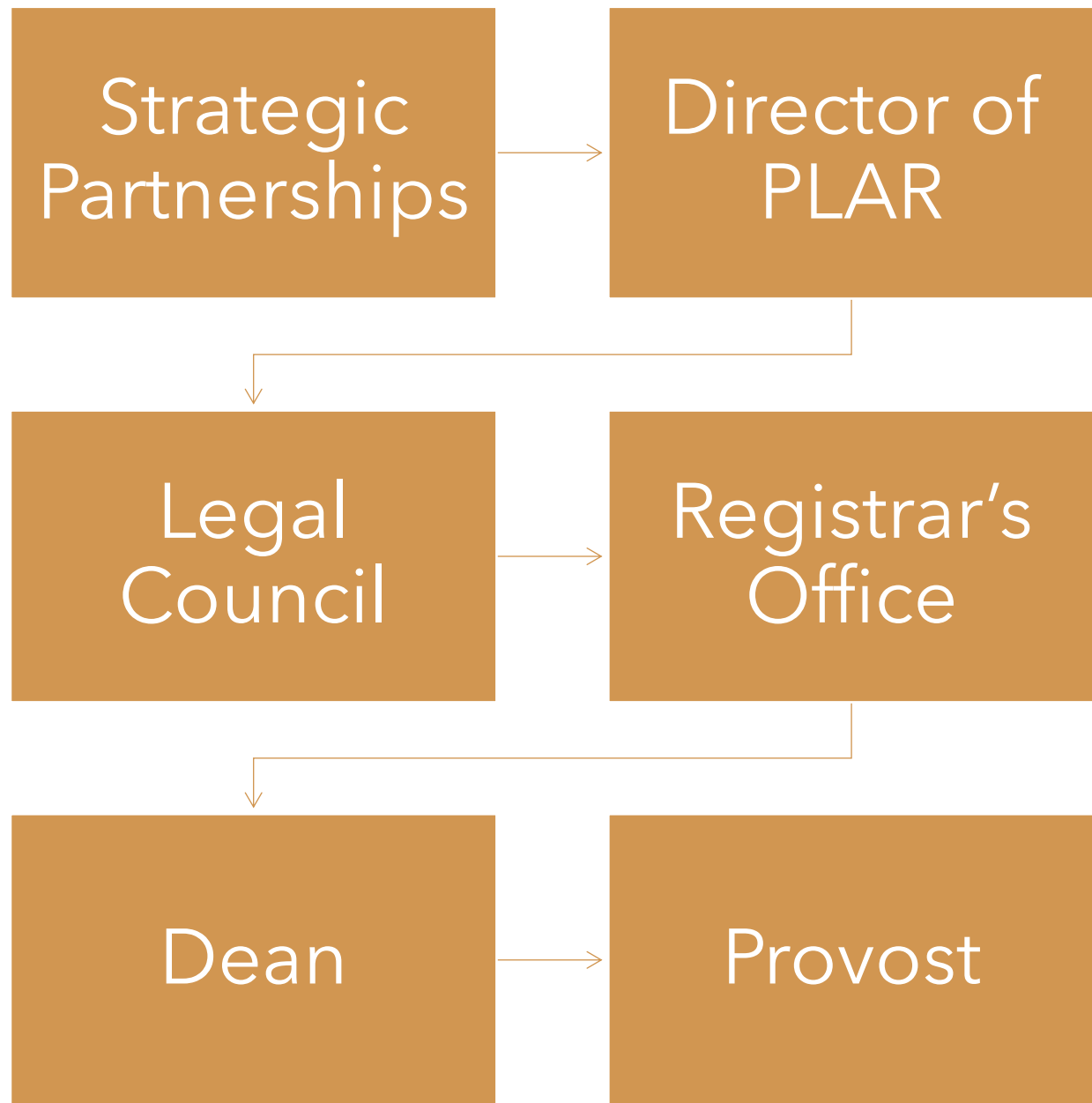
4. CREDIT BANK

Formal Credit Bank

- Credit for pre-assessed training from selected employers and private training organizations

- 2-3 Assessors Review
  - Program/course outline
  - Entrance requirements
  - Learning objectives
  - Lesson plans/syllabus
  - Assessment methods
  - Instructor & course evaluation
  - Instructor qualifications
  - Regulatory body requirements, if any

Internal Credit Bank

- Credit for training from select employers and private training organizations

- Subject Matter Expert (SME) assess a course or program for direct PLAR credits

- PLAR Credit Bank Worksheet completed (with assistance of PLAR Dept) and signed off by Dean or Associate Dean

https://www.tru.ca/distance/plar-ol/creditbank.html

CREDIT BANK APPROVALS

Strategic Partnerships → Director of PLAR

Legal Council → Registrar's Office

Dean → Provost

AGREEMENT SAMPLE

- Cambrian College

- Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists

- Canadian College of Massage and Hydrotherapy

- Canadian Institute of Health

- City of Calgary Emergency Service

- Native Education & Training College

- Okanagan Valley College of Massage Therapy

- The City of Winnipeg (Fire Paramedic Services)

- Toronto College of Dental Hygiene

- Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene

- Vancouver Academy of Music
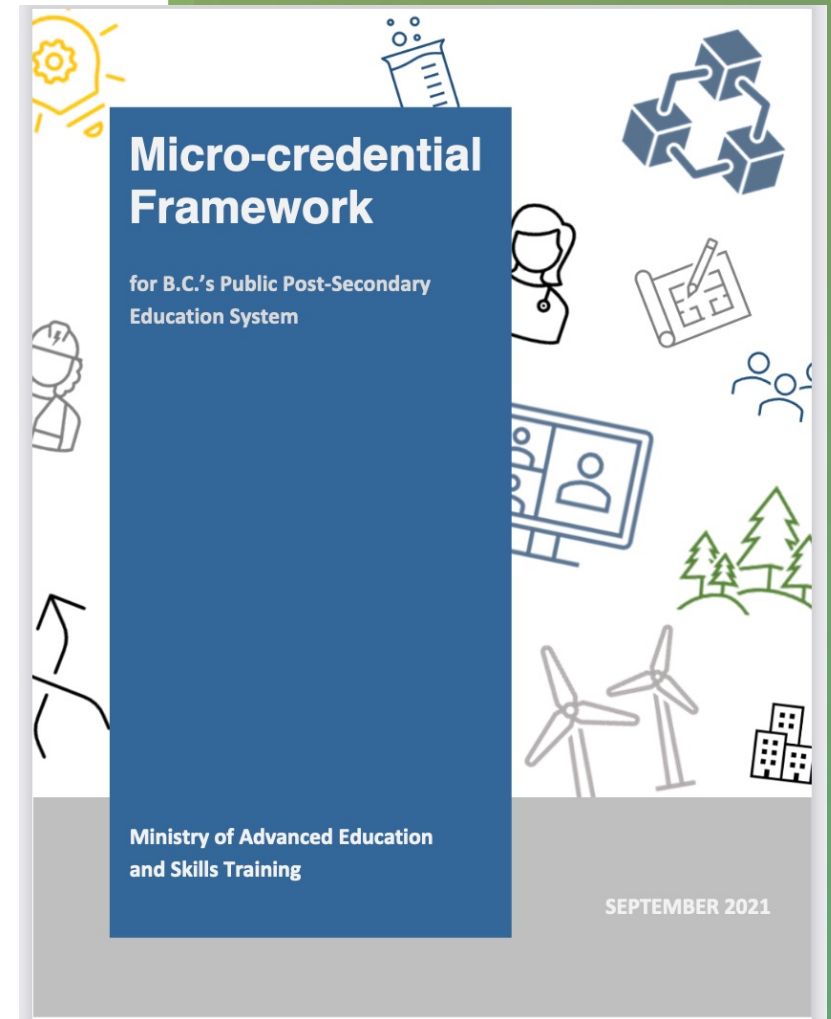
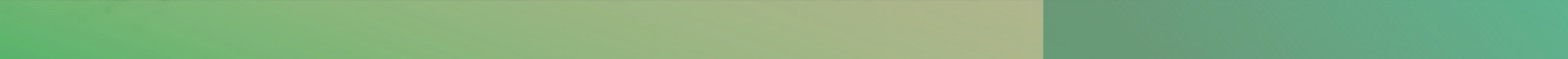- West Coast College of Massage Therapy

AN INTERESTING TWIST...

- Awarded funding by province to explore using PLAR methods to assess micro-credentials
  - Assessment committee, 6 PSIs, BCCAT, Ministry official
  - Develop a shared framework
  - Assess up to 15 micro-credentials
  - Report on findings and recommendations (Scalable? Repeatable?)

Micro-credential Framework

for B.C.'s Public Post-Secondary Education System

Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

SEPTEMBER 2021

WHAT COULD BE NEXT?

"WAR ON TALENT"

- Labour market shortages & need for more education
- America's Call for Higher Education Redesign, shares that 75% of Americans would be more likely to enroll in higher education if they could receive credit for what they already know.
- Enhanced collaboration between PSI for transfer and stackable credit?
- Provincial credit bank?
- Use of blockchain, where credentials can be instantly verified?
- Assessing more micro-credentials and other non-formal learning?

- Another 100 courses being assessed right now

What courses on Coursera are ACE credit recommended?

Course	Effective Dates	Recommended Credits
Deep Learning Specialization	04/01/2022 - 03/31/2025	10
Facebook Social Media Marketing Professional Exam	11/1/2021 - 10/31/2024	1
Facebook Social Media Marketing Professional Certificate	11/1/2021 - 10/31/2024	2
Google Project Management Professional Certificate	08/01/21 - 07/31/24	9
Google UX Design Professional Certificate	08/01/21 - 07/31/24	10
Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate	08/01/21 - 07/31/24	12
Google IT Support Professional Certificate	09/01/19 -	12

A GLIMPSE INTO OUR FUTURE?

- Ontario invested $70 m in growth and advancement in virtual learning

- 1/3 of PSI in US use RPL/PLAR, this includes graduate level education

- Credential As You Go

- From just 7 schools in US over 1.2 million credits awarded to service members

- IBM is targeting 30 million people by 2030 using https://skillsbuild.org/

- Watch for growth of badges, digital wallets, meta-data, that is self-sovereign

- EU is targeting 60% of adults will participate in LLL by 2030, $12 m marketing funding to start

- Using AI for assessment - iReveal is testing

So What?

What does this mean for the students you serve and the work you do?

RESOURCES

- Holon IQ:
  - Education in 2030, https://www.holoniq.com/2030
  - Annual list of the most promising EdTech startups around the world, https://www.holoniq.com/global-edtech-1000

- Lightcast (previously EMSI), 2023 Global Talent Playbook, https://lightcast.io/resources/research/2023-global-talent-playbook

- IBM Skills Builder: https://skillsbuild.org/

- Credential As You Go: https://credentialasyougo.org/

- Transformation Map, World Economic Forum, https://intelligence.weforum.org/?utm_source=Weforum&utm_medium=Topic+page+TheBigPicture&utm_campaign=Weforum_Topicpage_UTMs

- BC Labour Market Stats, https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/employment-labour/labour-market-statistics

- Education in Canada, https://www.statista.com/topics/2863/education-in-canada/#topicHeader__wrapper

- America's Call for Higher Education Redesign: https://www.luminafoundation.org/files/resources/americas-call-for-higher-education-redesign.pdf

- Lego GIF: http://www.appstate.edu/~logesdg/animated-gifs.html

- Future Image: https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/03/a-glimpse-into-the-future-of-behavioural-sciences/

Kukwstsétsemc (thank you)

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