

ActiveCitizen

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"At this festive time of year, I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with peace, happiness, and prosperity. Thank you for giving me the opportunity and the honour to meet so many of you as we continue our important work on behalf of the people of Ontario."

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Holiday Message

This is the time of year when Ontario families from all backgrounds share in the joys of the holiday season. Many of us have already celebrated Eid and Diwali and Hanukkah is currently underway. Later this month, families in all corners of Ontario will gather together to celebrate Christmas, and many Ontarians will also celebrate Kwanza.

On behalf of the entire Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, and Minister Eric Hoskins, we wish you very happy holidays.

Language Training on the Job



More than 650 newcomers in Halton, Mississauga and Brampton will become better equipped to succeed at work through [specialized language training](#) courses developed as part of the Ministry's new language training pilot projects.

Specialized language training strengthens language skills, with a specific focus on language

used in the workplace.

In late October, [Minister Hoskins](#) told the audience at Mississauga's Panalpina Inc. that Ontario's specialized language training courses help newcomers strengthen their language skills so they can get jobs that reflect their qualifications or perform their existing jobs more effectively.

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Important dates

December

- 1 – National Day (Romania)
- 1-9 – Chanukkah
- 2 – National Day (United Arab Emirates, Laos)
- 2 – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (UN)
- 5 – International Volunteer Day (UN)
- 6 – Independence Day (Finland)
- 9 – Independence Day (Tanzania)

Cynthia Cui, Inside Sales Rep at Panalpina Inc., would agree. As a recent participant in the job-specific language training course held in her workplace, she is “much more confident speaking with customers now and can perform her job much better.”

Specialized language training addresses learners’ language barriers while responding to the needs of employers in a number of sectors, including accounting, business, finance, engineering, healthcare, hospitality and skilled trades.

Panalpina Inc., Vice President Bruno Zwiker suggests that specialized language training has a very positive impact on his company’s bottom line. “It increases our productivity and I would say it is a full win-win scenario because it benefits us as well as the students who attend these classes.”

Ontario has invested \$4.3 million, over three years (2009-2012), to provide specialized language training to approximately 3,800 newcomers.

Sixteen school boards offer specialized language training, in partnership with employers, in classroom settings or in the workplace.

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- 10 – Constitution Day (Thailand)
- 10 – Human Rights Day (UN)
- 12 – Independence Day (Kenya)
- 13 – National Day (St. Lucia)
- 17 – Independence Day (Bhutan)
- 18 – National Day (Qatar, Niger)
- 18 – International Migrants Day (UN)
- 20 – International Human Solidarity Day (UN)
- 21 – Independence Day (Nepal)
- 25 – Christmas Day
- 26 – Boxing Day
- 31 – New Year’s Eve



Veterans Honoured at Queen’s Park

On an unseasonably warm and sunny November 11, hundreds of Ontarians – young and old – came to Queen’s Park to honour Canadian soldiers who served and gave their lives in both world wars, in Korea, in peace keeping missions around the world and in Afghanistan.

The Remembrance Day ceremony began at 11 o’clock with two minutes of silence, during which veterans, soldiers and cadets removed their hats and bowed their heads in respect. A bugle call signalled the end of the silence and the start of a program that included readings of ‘In Flanders Fields’ and a Youth Pledge. The People’s Wreath was built throughout the day from poppies added by the public.

Dignitaries in attendance included Premier McGuinty, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Minister Eric Hoskins, Secretary of Cabinet Shelly Jamieson and diplomats from 14 countries.

This marks the fifth annual provincial Remembrance Day ceremony at the Veterans’ Memorial at Queen’s Park.

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Partnership Project Report Update

Roundtable and on-line consultations ended in October. Co-chairs, the Honourable [Dr. Eric Hoskins](#), Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and [Helen Burstyn](#), Chair of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, attended nine regional consultations as well as various other sector-specific consultations.



The report is currently being written and designed and will be delivered to Premier McGuinty before the end of December.

Check the [Partnership Project website](#) for more information and updates.

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**Thirteen Exceptional Ontarians
Awarded Ontario Medal For Good
Citizenship**

Jeanne E. Warwick-Conroy of Sudbury was one of [thirteen outstanding Ontarians](#) to receive the [Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship](#) from the Honourable [David C. Onley](#) Lieutenant Governor of Ontario at a ceremony held in Toronto on November 23.

Ms Walker-Conroy tirelessly volunteers, fundraises, advocates and supports organizations such as St. Joseph's Foundation, Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Sudbury Regional Police and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Recipients of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship are recognized for outstanding achievement. Each has made their communities better places to live and their contributions serve as an example to all Ontarians.

2010 Bartleman Awards Recipients

Thirteen-year-old Forest Rain Maracle of Deseronto who wrote about the spirits of lost loved ones in her poem "Dancing Colours," was one of six recipients of the [James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Awards](#) on November 26.



The award is named in honour of former Lieutenant Governor James K. Bartleman for his outstanding service as Ontario's first Aboriginal Canadian Lieutenant Governor.

[Lincoln M. Alexander](#) Awards on December 8. Watch January's issue for a

story.

Honours and Awards – December Deadlines

- [Hilary M. Weston Scholarship](#) – December 15, 2010
- [Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers](#) – January 31, 2011

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