

Valued partners,

On May 18, 2021 the federal government, through Employment and Social Development Canada and the Office of Skills for Success (previously identified as OLES) officially released a new skills model to replace what was previously identified as Essential skills. The new model, *Skills for Success*, is positioned to closely align with the evolving needs of the Canadian workforce, economy and labour market.

Bow Valley College recognizes the extensive efforts made through research, national consultations and expert contributions that led to the development and launch of the Skills for Success model. This modernized approach responds to the realities of changing skill demands by repositioning and expanding some skill areas, and introducing others. Despite these changes, the Skills for Success maintains the core objective of supporting the foundational skills needed by the Canadian population to reach their full potential in working, learning, and life

More information on the Skills for Success model can be found [here](#).

Bow Valley College appreciates the importance of this evolution and acknowledges that the transition to the Skills for Success will take time. A collective response to supporting new and ongoing research within this field will be important to any successful implementation. This is a key focus for Bow Valley College moving forward, and we will continue to engage and collaborate with stakeholders, experts, and the Office of Skills for Success to support the adaptation and transition to the new model. Bow Valley College has already begun preliminary research in this area, leveraging our extensive collection of historical assessment data to analyze and better understand the integration of document use among other skill domains. We look forward to sharing our findings and best practices with our partners next year.

Throughout this transition period, TOWES, Bow Valley College and the work that we collectively undertake as practitioners remains valuable. The evaluation, acquisition and upskilling of the foundational literacy skills is essential to supporting meaningful and successful participation in learning, working and life.

This is an exciting time for our field, and we look forward to collaborating with you, our partners, throughout this transition.