Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning
Professional Learning Program

ABEL seeks to improve student success and transform teacher professional practice through the use of broadband technology in schools in Canada. The ABEL program engages teachers in a new culture of teaching and learning through sustainable inter-jurisdictional and inter-institutional collaboration. It offers a full range of fully collaborative, job-embedded, professional learning choices which originate at various institutions however, appear seamless to ABEL participants. Through videoconferencing, online discussions with experts, and other teaching and learning techniques, this program is using the CANET4 research network, provincial high-speed networks such as ORION and SuperNet and other broadband networks, to develop a model for an innovative, collaborative means of online professional development for teachers and faculty.

University of Alberta - Master of Education in Educational Studies: Leadership & School Improvement Masters Program
University of Calgary – Graduate Division of Educational Research: Inquiry and ICT
Seneca College Masters and OCT Accredited Programs
York University – Additional Qualification Programs
Computers in the Classroom (Part I, 2, Specialist)

ABEL Program: Participant-Driven Activities and Collaboration

University of Alberta – Master of Education in Educational Studies: Leadership & School Improvement
The Master of Education in Educational Studies is an alternative delivery graduate degree program designed for professional teachers and education administrators who wish to enhance their own professional knowledge and improve their educational practice. This two-year program emphasizes research skills in practical contexts, along with the leadership and self-direction you will require to make lasting positive impacts on your teaching and learning environment. Flexible project designs and individualized support from qualified and experienced faculty ensure that you will have ample opportunity to focus your studies in your own area of interest. The program is designed for working professionals; therefore it allows you to complete your master’s degree without taking time off from your work. While key components are delivered online, supportive collegial relationships and intensive professional dialogue have their roots in face-to-face interaction. As such, you will be expected to attend two, 3-week summer residencies as part of your program requirements. These are offered each July in Year One and Year Two of your program. Go to http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/mes/ for more information.

University of Calgary – Graduate Division of Educational Research: Inquiry and ICT
This course is specifically designed for those who seek greater depth in their understanding of issues of practice that integrating information and communication technology into inquiry-based teaching and learning raises.

Seneca College Masters and OCT Accredited Programs
Seneca College offers two online accredited programs for ABEL participants. The CTC series and the eTL Teaching and Training series assist teachers and faculty gain experience developing online resources while at the same time gaining credit in either Masters or PLP at OCT. Registration information for these programs is available in the ABEL community.

York University Faculty of Education
Additional Qualification Computers in the Classroom – Parts I, 2, Specialist programs are available to ABEL teachers from York University. Registration information for interested ABEL teachers is available in the ABEL community.

ABEL Program: Participant-Driven Activities and Collaboration
The ABEL professional learning program is participant driven in its design, job-embedded, reflective, and includes a mentoring element. In the growth program, teachers assume responsibility for collaboratively developing innovative curriculum projects incorporating broadband technologies. Teachers and faculty participate in a combination of large group videoconference events that focus on key themes (e.g., use of ABEL tools, inquiry learning, effective videoconference techniques) and small group subject area-specific videoconferences and face-2-face sessions to brainstorm, plan learning events, or coordinate curriculum. A key feature is that university faculty from two faculties of education collaborate with classroom teachers and student teachers who are placed in ABEL classrooms for their practicum experience. There is a variety of nine (9) structured programs available as well as opportunities for independent learning options.

As well, the ABEL program integrates the professional and staff development programs offered by the participating local institutions. In the ABEL program teachers and faculty greatly value the learning they gain collaborating with colleagues both formally and informally. The strong sense of community that develops amongst participants cuts across school and provincial jurisdictions providing rich and varied professional learning opportunities and experiences.

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