

RPL Glossary of Terms

- Formal learning occurs within an educational institution, in the presence of a knowledge expert with an established curriculum to be completed within a specified time toward a credential.
- Informal learning can occur anywhere, anytime and with anyone. Along with acquiring learning that goes beyond courses taken, from colleagues, networks, committees or boards either at work or in the community or from self-study, it is how individuals manage their everyday lives, such as: dealing with emerging health issues, rearing children, conducting household renovations, volunteering in the community, hobbies and managing tasks at work
- Learning and experience are not the same. Experience is a way of learning and people learn through experience. It is possible to have ten years of work experience but not have the equivalent amount of learning. With RPL, credit is not awarded for experience; it is only awarded for learning. It is not what you did that counts; it is what you learned from what you have done.
- Non-formal learning is any educational activity that has clear learning objectives but which takes place outside of an educational institution or does not lead to credentials: non-transferable continuing education courses, vocational or training credentials, conferences, seminars and workshops through the workplace, training for volunteers and community programs.
- Non-Transferable courses, workshops, training sessions, conferences are organized educational events that are not usually recognized by a post-secondary institution as transfer credit.
- Post-secondary education is an optional stage of formal learning that occurs after secondary (high-school) education.
- Reflection is an in-depth consideration of events or situations: who was involved, what was experienced and what was thought/felt about it. This involves reviewing or reliving the experience to bring it into focus, and replaying from diverse points of view to gain an understanding of what was learned from the experience. Reflection helps you make connections with what you've learned and how that demonstrates your readiness for university studies or mastery of the course(s) you choose to challenge.