



The Canadian Learning Trust

KEEP ON LEARNING

January 2023 eFlash!

Online Learning

The Canadian Learning Trust (the CLT) is a lifelong learning community that encourages all kinds of learning by all ages of learners. Our dream is of a prosperous Canada enriched with learning – a Learning Canada.

Hello, Fellow Lifelong Learners!

Micro credentials in learning are a growing trend. These short courses are apparent in all types of learning, in particular for tech learning, where they introduce learners to a longer program. Their appeal seems to be in their attractiveness to learners for ‘bite-size’ learning as they upgrade their current skills or try on new.

This eFlash is devoted to the recommendations of online learning by 4 lifelong learners – LS, OG, MK and LT who we thank for sharing.

LS speaks highly of **Athabasca University** <https://www.athabascau.ca> which has been long renowned as an excellent online/distance education institution - even before the pandemic and the rise in popularity of online learning. Here’s what LS says, “It is through Athabasca U that I am working through courses in pursuit of a Human Resources & Labour Relations certificate. What I love about Athabasca U’s courses is that they are designed with the working person in mind. In my experience, courses are flexible and can be completed at the learner’s convenience. The only deadlines are that of the end of a course term, which is usually a year in which case all assignments, quizzes, tests, and the final exam (if there is one) must be completed.”

Coursera is also recommended by LS. “Coursera is a fantastic open resource for individuals looking for learning opportunities. Coursera is a host for a wide range of courses from universities around the world. Many of them are free to take, some you can opt to pay a small fee for a certificate when completed. Other courses do have a fee. LS is doing <https://www.coursera.org> I am doing the free ‘Indigenous Canada’ course by the U of Alberta and hosted on Coursera. I may opt to pay for the certificate at the end of the course. When I buy the certificate, I will be able to post it to my LinkedIn profile and include it on resume.”

LS lastly recommends **LinkedIn Learning** as a great online learning source. She says: “This is a great resource to seek out if you are looking to improve your skills, especially where the workplace is concerned. I have done several MS Excel courses using LinkedIn Learning to improve my skills in creating and using Pivot Tables and more.” LinkedIn Learning <https://www.linkedin.com> is subscription based and expensive if purchasing on your own. However, most public libraries (at least in Alberta) have subscriptions so that their patrons can access LinkedIn Learning for free with their library cards.

Sometimes an extra little help with your junior high school work is needed. OG takes a virtual French class that is one on one with a teacher <https://www.bridgetutorcoach.com>. What he likes best is “that

he can be anywhere and still attend". His mom likes it, because it can be adjusted to work around the rest of his homeschooling.

MK recently finished a Standard first aid/CPR Blended (online/in class) through www.swoop911.ca created by The Canadian Red Cross. MK says, "This was a hybrid course that allowed me to do part online and part in class. I loved that I only needed to physically be in class one out of two days. The tricky part was the exam questions seem to set students up for failure so that the students must then return to the module and redo the exam. The course instructor was great!"

On the other hand, there was no instructor in the online course that LT took. "In 2022, I completed three online courses. The most recent was AVoIP Foundations from [Avixa \(https://www.avixa.org/\)](https://www.avixa.org/). My favorite part: the course was offered as on-demand training, and I could rewind and re-watch a lesson or section. The only thing there was no human instructor for questions. I googled the questions I had so it wasn't so bad".

LS, MK and LT all made note of how important that you consider your personal learning style, time for learning and self-discipline. Then consider each one for its own particular approach. For instance, LS offered that "LinkedIn Learning resources are go-at-your-own pace, and therefore very flexible for those with a busy schedule. However, this again means that one must have self-discipline and motivation to set aside personal time. There is such a wide range of courses offered online all with varying approaches, costs and instructional relationships."

If you're thinking about what to learn next, consider the GoldEye as a way to help you plan.
<https://canlearntrust.org/goldeye-learning-planner#02c25696-551b-477b-907b-b4cd89162e80>

If you need financial help to support your learning, checkout the Gift of Learning program.
<https://canlearntrust.org/gifting-of-learning>

Want to purchase unique CLT merch? You can also easily make a donation to The Canadian Learning Trust online. <https://canlearntrust.org/the-clt-shop>

ANSWER TO THE DECEMBER FOR FUN: There are (at least!) 10 ways to give to lifelong learning in Canada.

QUESTION FOR THE JANUARY FOR FUN: Are all online courses expensive?

As always, if you have any Learning Treasures, a unique and exciting story related to learning, please forward them to info@canlearntrust.org. The February eFlash focuses on learning about Canada. This January e Flash is put together by all of us at the CLT!

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