

Michel Simard, Canada
Director, Centre de recherche et d'expertise en littératie
des adultes (CREMA), Collège Lionel-Groulx
Michel.simard@clg.qc.ca

**Loss of literacy skills among adults and the impact on
expected levels of acquired skills in technical programs**

We are convinced that the educational level of an individual does not guarantee the strength of literacy skills. These skills degrade over time and in fact accelerate if they are used little or not at all. In Canada, 67% of adults who are admitted into technical programs possess literacy skills ranging from weak to very weak. This represents an almost insurmountable challenge for an adult wishing to complete a technical program successfully. This communication will demonstrate that the loss of literacy skills in adults produces situations of skill deficiency and has an impact on the ability to acquire specific skills in a technical program. After presenting a portrait of the literacy skill levels of the Canadian population and workforce, we will then explain the expectations of the labour market using our model of the "offer and demand pyramid" for skills. Finally, recommendations for promising future avenues will be presented.