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# PIAAC in Canada: a brief overview

Presentation at the Fall Institute 2011: IALS – Its  
Meaning and Impact for Policy and Practice

by

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# What is PIAAC?

- OECD initiative to assess skills and competencies of working-age adults across more than 20 countries, including most EU countries, the US, Japan, Korea, and Australia.

## PIAAC will:

- Assess literacy, numeracy skills and the ability to solve problems in a technology-rich environment in a coherent and consistent way across countries
- Focus on the key cognitive and workplace skills that are required for successful participation in the economy and in society
- Provide sound basis for international benchmarking and analysis of adult competencies
- Offer a far more complete and nuanced picture of the stock of human capital than has yet been available to policy makers

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# Why PIAAC?

- The world is changing for Canadians
  - Greater competencies are needed to remain competitive in the global economy and take advantage of new technologies
- Canadians are changing, too
  - Canada's society is becoming older, raising critical labour market concerns
- The Canadian economy is also evolving
  - Supply and demand for labour in uncertain economic conditions
  - Job-skills matching with declining and rising sectors of the economy

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# Benefits of PIAAC for Canada

- Allow for benchmarking of Canada's performance with peer countries and trade partners (e.g. US, other G7 countries, and Australia.)
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Canada's policies on the level, distribution, and growth of competencies.
- Only source of comprehensive and internationally comparative data on literacy and adult competencies, and how they relate to key factors such as demography and employment outcomes.
- Achieve economies of scale through international collaboration in the development of new assessment instruments.
- Provide Canada with access to high-quality expertise in the measurement of adult skills.
- Facilitate Canada's participation in international research.

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- Largest sample of all participating countries (approximately 25,000 respondents) in order to provide estimate at the national level, for both official languages and for each provinces and territories.
- Over sampling for targeted population:
  - Recent immigrants
  - Aboriginals
  - Linguistic minority (Anglophones in Québec, Francophone in Ontario, NB, and Manitoba)

- PIAAC in Canada is made possible by the involvement of the following partners:
  - Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
  - The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada representing all provinces and territories
  - Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
  - Citizenship and Immigration Canada
  - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
  - Public Health Agency of Canada
- Statistics Canada act as National Project Manager, while HRSDC and CMEC are leading the project in Canada.

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# PIAAC Timelines

Field test preparation	Jan 2009 – May 2010
Field test	May – August 2010
Field test data analysis	August – Dec 2010
Main survey preparation	June 2010 – Nov 2011
Main survey collection	Nov 2011 – June 2012
Main survey data processing and cleaning in Canada	July – August 2012
Canadian file delivery to the consortium	August 2012
Final file with final weights	October 2012
Preliminary results share with NPM- with preliminary plausible value (scores)	January 2013 to be confirmed
Final file with plausible value	May 2013 to be confirmed
International report	October 2013

***It is expected that the Canadian report for PIAAC will be released simultaneously with the international report.***

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# Longitudinal Platform

- The Longitudinal Platform (LP) is a new longitudinal data instrument focusing on the adult population that:
  - Covers major transitions and their key determinants in three domains using a life course lens:
    - Labour market, e.g. labour market entry, changes in employment status, changes in jobs, earnings trajectories, retirement
    - Learning & training, e.g., school graduation, return to school/training
    - Family, e.g., union formation/dissolution, birth/adoption, family income and sources of income
- The coordination of PIAAC and the LP will provide an opportunity to fill data gaps:
  - Adult competency tests available for some longitudinal platform respondents will allow for comparisons of adult outcomes and transitions with their measured competencies

***In the field, PIAAC in Canada will be called ISA: International Study of Adult, while the Longitudinal Platform will be called LISA: Longitudinal international Survey of Adult***

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## ▪ In a PIAAC household

- 1 person aged 16-64 receives a detailed background questionnaire (about 35 minutes) and the PIAAC assessment (about 1 hour)
- Other household members aged 15+ receive a basic background questionnaire (about 20 minutes)
- Income and employer information from all respondents will be linked from T1 and T4 data; information on pension programs will be obtained from Pension Plan in Canada data

## ▪ In a non-PIAAC household

- All members aged 15+ receive a basic background questionnaire (about 20 minutes)
  - Content derived from PIAAC background questionnaire
- All members aged 15+ receive up to 5 minutes of additional content

***PIAAC respondent will not receive additional content and other household members will receive a short background questionnaire based on PIAAC questionnaire***

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