

**Dear Advocacy Folks,**

As a LINC teacher, I am interested in helping my students meet the program outcomes and equip them with the skills needed to build their life in Canada. When the recently administered needs assessments showed that they want to learn about Canada so they can take the Canadian Citizenship Test in the near future, I was excited about their choice and decided to educate myself about obtaining the Canadian Citizenship process. However, I was taken aback when I skimmed *Discover Canada*, the guide required for the test, because of the depth of the information about Canada's history and the required language proficiency to understand it. My class includes students with different CLB levels and embarking on this task seems like a *Mission: Impossible* (sorry Tom Cruise!). I am overwhelmed and don't know where to begin!!

Sincerely,  
Lost in Medicine Hat

**Dear Lost in Medicine Hat,**

I understand how overwhelming it can be when you have to teach high content instructional materials that require linguistic proficiency levels that students might not have. I think knowing that you are not alone and the fact that there are ready-made materials that can give some direction of where to start might be helpful. Here are a few resources:

**(A) Materials:**

**(i) Citizenship Resource:** a guided activity resource based on the same topics/chapters in the *Discover Canada* guide. All the chapters provide activities and organize them by CLB levels 1-8

Toronto Catholic District School Board (2010). Citizenship Resource: A classroom resource for teaching citizenship topics to adult English language learners: Canadian Language Benchmarks 1-8. Retrieved from <http://atwork.settlement.org/downloads/atwork/Citizenship%20Resource/Citizenship%20Resource.pdf>

**(ii) Citizenship Study Materials**

**Manitoba Labour and Immigration (2011). Citizenship Study Materials for Newcomers to Manitoba; Based on the 2011 Discover Canada Guide. Retrieved from <https://www.icmanitoba.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Citizenship-Study-Materials-for-Newcomers-to-Manitoba.pdf>**

**(iii) Know Canada:** which is a simplified version of *Discover Canada*

Community Foundations of Canada. (2018). *Know Canada: A plain language study guide for the citizenship exam*. CALP: Canada. Retrieved from [https://www.ecala.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/KnowCanada\\_Final\\_webversion.pdf](https://www.ecala.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/KnowCanada_Final_webversion.pdf)

**(iv) Websites to practice the test:**

OCASI : Citizenship Counts <http://www.citizenshipcounts.ca/>

V-Soul.com (2020). Free Online Canadian Citizenship Practice Test - Alberta. Retrieved from: [http://www.v-soul.com/onlinetest/calgary\\_alberta\\_citizenship\\_test.php](http://www.v-soul.com/onlinetest/calgary_alberta_citizenship_test.php)

Apna Toronto.(2020).Pass, first time: Canadian citizenship test  
<http://www.apnatoronto.com/canadian-citizenship-test-practice/>

Please know that since the *Discover Canada* guide is based on Canada's political and economical past and present, attempting the Canadian citizenship test requires focused instructional courses. For example,

**(B) Organizations to connect with:**

(i) Catholic Social Services offers an online course  
<https://newcomers.cssalberta.ca/calendar>

Contact: Emrah.Keskin@cssalberta.ca

(ii) Immigrant Services Calgary  
<https://www.immigrantservicescalgary.ca/our-services/settlement-integration-support/citizenship-preparation-classes>

Contact: [teresal@immigrantservicescalgary.ca](mailto:teresal@immigrantservicescalgary.ca)

**(C) Conclusion**

You might be happy to know that the ATESL Advocacy Committee has identified citizenship preparation as one of our key strategic issues and we are working to advocate for more accessible citizenship teaching materials.

Best wishes,  
The Advocacy folks