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**Language learning pilot project benefits new Canadians**

Edmonton ... A pilot project offered through Alberta's public libraries will help new Canadians learn English and provide literacy support for people in their own communities.

The \$260,000 project provides one-year licensing of Auralog's *Tell Me More* language learning software tools for public libraries. The software covers all areas of language learning – including speaking, listening, comprehension, reading and writing – enabling libraries to better support Alberta's culturally diverse communities.

Funded by a grant from Alberta Municipal Affairs' Public Library Development Initiative, the project is administered by the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN), part of The Alberta Library, a provincial library consortium.

"The government is committed to supporting a strong public library service that meets the needs of Albertans," says Municipal Affairs Minister Ray Danyluk. "I've seen this software in action, and I'm confident it will help newcomers adjust to the province and begin to take advantage of all that we offer."

"Public libraries are a major resource that newcomers turn to," says APLEN Director Karla Palichuk. "Since libraries play a major role in the process of integrating newcomers and temporary foreign workers into their communities, this project gives them an important tool to help people."

Palichuk notes that not all communities in Alberta have social agencies that work with new Canadians. And in communities where English as a Second Language courses are offered, not all newcomers and temporary foreign workers are able to access courses due to cost or scheduling issues.

The benefits of Auralog's *Tell Me More* software include access via the Internet, self-paced learning and a range of skill levels, from beginner to advanced. Other languages that can be learned with the software include French, Spanish, German, Italian and Dutch. A 24/7 online advisor is available to answer questions.

Project Coordinator Marian Enow was born in Mogadishu, Somalia, and came to Canada in the late 1980s. "I had little knowledge of English when I arrived, and even though I took ESL classes, practicing was hard," Enow says. "This program would have helped me with comprehension, pronunciation, vocabulary and practice time. Learning English would have been less stressful and less intimidating for me, so I'm happy that we are able to offer the program to benefit others."

- 30 -

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