

Breaking New Ground: 'Framing' English for the construction sector

Patricia Fahrni, MOSAIC

Lisa Robertson, Camosun College

Mavis Smith, Camosun College

TESL Canada

October 13, 2012



WHY ENGLISH FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR?

- Labour shortage
 - 200,000 construction job vacancies in next 6 years
 - Northward migration of construction workers
 - Increasing housing starts
 - Aging labour workforce
- Underemployment of skilled immigrants in the construction trades



THE PROJECT PARTNERS



MOSAIC

- **MOSAIC**

- a Vancouver-based non-profit agency that serves the needs of immigrants and refugees
 - settlement, integration, translation, and English language training

- **Industry Liaison**

- Olaf Neilsen, Trades Training and Development Coordinator, Camosun

THE CURRICULUM “CREW”



RESEARCH PHASE

- Consultation
 - Focus group
 - Industry experts / liaison
 - Other programs
 - Lit review
- Direct observation
 - Construction worksites
 - Job Activity Language Analysis
- Key findings



Microsoft Office
Word Document

Effective integration of skilled workers into the construction workplace



- Authentic workplace language
 - General construction language enhancement
 - Common terms – tools, safety, materials
- “Workplace” fit
 - Socio-cultural competencies
 - Participating in workplace interactions

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

- Research-based curriculum development process
 - Five key areas of competencies → Curriculum Modules
 - Getting a job and getting ahead
 - Learning on the job
 - Team work – doing tasks and getting along/fitting in
 - Safety



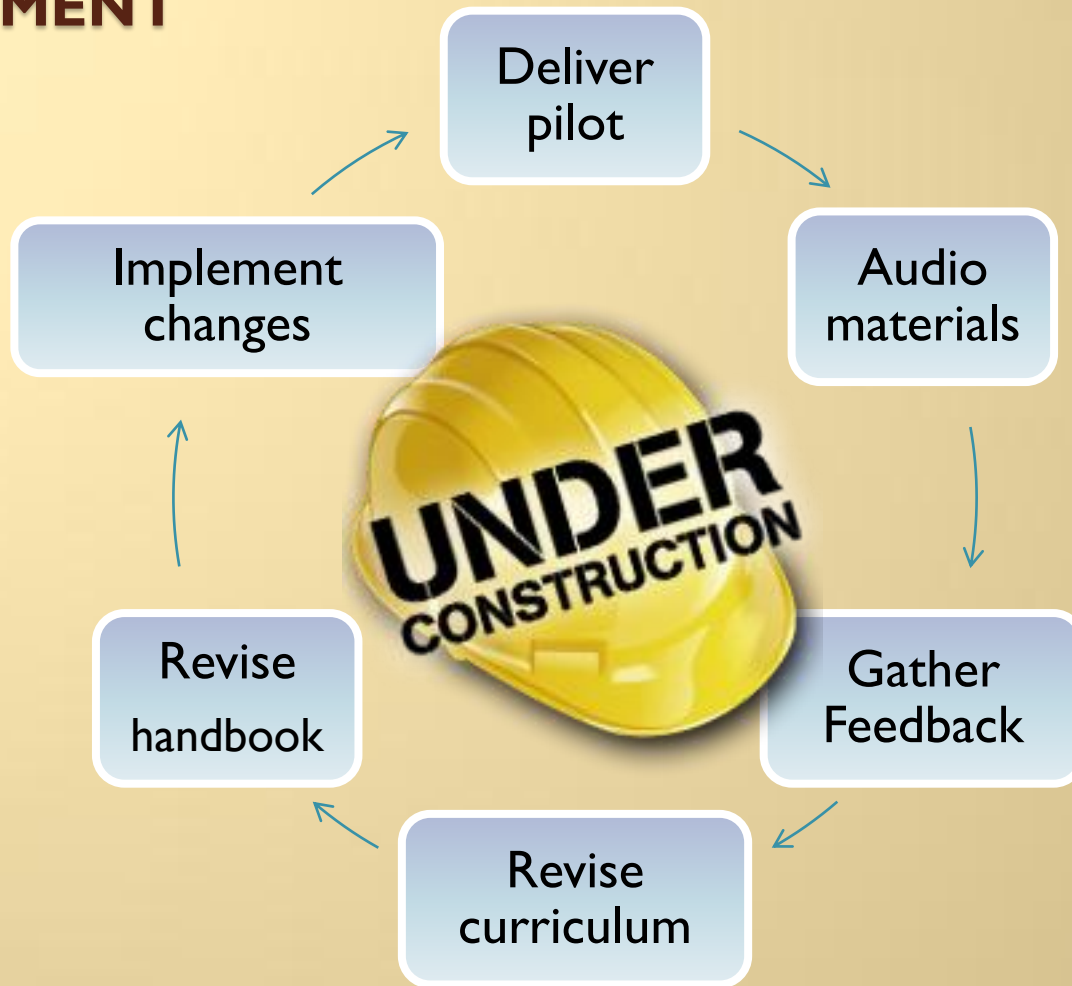
COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Course goal #1: Fit into the Canadian construction workplace effectively and safely by using communication strategies
- Course Goal #2: Re-engineer / adapt one's occupational persona through increasing knowledge of the Canadian construction sector

CURRICULUM DELIVERY

- Classroom application
 - Scenario approach – Willis Method
 - Audio materials 
 - Sector resources and experts
 - Student centered projects and case studies
- Pilot program delivery - Oct 2012 – Feb 2013
 - Participants
 - Timing

NEXT STEPS – CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT



IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Sustaining this type of programming
- Partnerships
- Eligibility





Questions / comments?

CONTACT INFO

- Patricia Fahrni, Curriculum Developer,
Pilot Coordinator, and Instructor
 - pfahrni@mosaicbc.com
- Lisa Robertson, Curriculum Developer
 - robertsonL@camosun.ca
- Mavis Smith, Lead Curriculum Developer
 - smithm@camosun.ca