

# **District Literacy Plan 2008-2009**

**COWICHAN VALLEY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Presented to the Board of Education  
July 2, 2008**

# **District Literacy Plan**

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction

Community Context and Demographics

Goals and Objectives

Next Steps

## **Attachment**

A Community Literacy Plan for Cowichan – June, 2008

## Introduction

District Literacy Plans promote community partnerships and alignment of literacy initiatives within the broader community. An important part of building a District/Community Literacy Plan is developing and extending working relationships within the community.

A Literacy Now Cowichan Task Group, made up of key community stakeholders, was formed in May 2007 to develop a Community Literacy Plan using the Provincial Literacy Now Community Planning Process. The task group worked diligently throughout the 2007-2008 school year to identify goals, objectives and strategies to address literacy needs in the Cowichan region. The Community Literacy Plan was finalized on June 23, 2008.

The District Literacy Plan reflects goals and objectives from both the District Achievement Contract and The Community Literacy Plan and speaks to an on-going commitment to improve literacy across the Cowichan Valley School District. The process for consultation is outlined in the Community Literacy Plan (see attached).

Both the District and Community Literacy Plans include a focus on the four pillars of ReadNow BC: Early Learning, The K-12 System, Adult and Aboriginal Learning. Feedback received from the community indicated that the needs of Aboriginal learners be embedded throughout the plans and not be identified separately.

## Community Context and Demographics

The Cowichan Valley is located on the west coast of Canada on Vancouver Island between the cities of Nanaimo and Victoria. The Cowichan Valley is predominately a rural (63%) community of approximately 63,000 people. Approximately 2.5% of homes are non-English speaking and about 9% are Aboriginal. The major industries in the area are pulp and paper, forestry, fishing, farming, tourism and wineries.

The Cowichan Valley is situated on the territory of ten First Nations Bands. Cowichan has significant cultural diversity; the largest cultural groups are English, Aboriginal, Dutch, German and Indo-Canadian.

School District #79 Cowichan Valley has a student population of approximately 8,300. Students attend the following schools:

- 18 Elementary Schools
- 4 Middle Schools
- 4 Secondary Schools
- 6 Alternate satellite sites
- 2 Adult Education Centres

## Goals and Objectives

The District Achievement Contract focuses on improving success for each student by improving literacy skills, numeracy skills and socially responsible behaviours.

**Goal 1:** To improve success for each student

**Objective 1** - Improve student literacy skills in elementary, middle, and secondary levels with a focus on our vulnerable learners.

**Objective 2** – Improve K-12 student numeracy skills, with an emphasis on helping vulnerable learners.

**Objective 3** – Improve and maintain socially responsible behaviour of students in a safe, caring environment in K-12, with a focus on Grades 1-9.

### Community Literacy Plan Goals

The Community Literacy Plan goals include:

**Goal 1:** To coordinate and integrate literacy programs and services

**Goal 2:** To support literacy programs and services for those in need

**Goal 3:** To encourage employer-supported literacy programs

### District Literacy Plan

The June 2008 District Literacy Plan reflects the collaborative efforts of many community partners.

The district literacy plan provides a focus for literacy in the early years, kindergarten to grade twelve and adult learning. It is consistent with goal two of the Community Literacy Plan to support literacy programs and services for those in need. The District Literacy Plan goals for next year include:

**Goal 1:** To support literacy programs and services for those most in need in the Early Years

**Goal 2:** To support Literacy programs and services for those most in need in Kindergarten to Grade 12.

**Goal 3:** To support literacy programs and service for those adults most in need.

**GOAL 1: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need in the Early Years**

Objective	What happens first	Resources	Timeline
<p><b>A. Increase the accessibility of literacy activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to strengthen communication and to build relationships between all educational sites</li> <li>• Identify and remove barriers to attendance</li> <li>• Strengthen involvement of the aboriginal community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Now Cowichan</li> <li>• School District/ First Nations Schools/ Independent Schools/Child care centres</li> <li>Community organizations, agencies, businesses, clubs, churches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January – June 2009</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Promote the use of the Early Learning Framework (ELF) in programs and services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on good work of existing programs in the community</li> <li>Meet with service providers to review Early Learning Framework and training needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Education</li> <li>• 0-6 Coalition</li> <li>• Early Childhood Educators of BC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September – November 2008</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. Promote pre-literacy skills (speech and language)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities to integrate speech and language into other community-based services</li> <li>• Strengthen coordination of early learning programs and services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service providers</li> <li>• 0-6 Coalition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September – December 2008</li> <li>• On-going</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Increase school readiness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze Early Development Instrument (EDI) and Understanding the Early Years (UEY) data to identify needs</li> <li>• Develop a long-term plan to address school readiness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School District/ First Nations Schools/ Independent Schools/ Childcare Centres/ Preschools</li> <li>• Understanding the Early Years</li> <li>• 0-6 Coalition</li> <li>• Service Providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 2008 – June 2009</li> </ul>

**Responsibilities:** Literacy Now Cowichan; School District 79/Independent Schools/First Nations Schools; Service Providers

**Indicators of Success:** Increase number of children ready for school.

**GOAL 2: To support Literacy programs and services for those most in need in  
KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>What happens first</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
<b>A. Improve student reading and writing skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support teacher instructional practices, differentiation of instruction</li> <li>Use assessment strategies to support classroom instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School District 79: K-12 Literacy Committee, District K-12 Literacy Plan, District Specialist Teachers, ESL/ESD Teachers, Instructional Intelligence Planning Committee</li> <li>Independent schools/First Nations Schools Teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going</li> </ul>
<b>B. Increase the success of at-risk learners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to review needs of at-risk learners, including English as a Second Language/Dialect learners</li> <li>Develop an action plan with goals and strategies to reduce number of at-risk students</li> <li>Implement School District Alternate Education Task Force recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School District 79: Student Achievement, Learning Assistance, Aboriginal Education, Teachers and Librarians</li> <li>Independent Schools/First Nations Schools Parent Educators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going</li> <li>September 2008 - June 2009</li> </ul>
<b>C. Improve transition rates from middle school to secondary school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze transition and graduation rates data to identify who is at risk</li> <li>Develop strategies to keep students in school</li> <li>Develop strategies to reconnect with students who have left school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School District 79</li> <li>Independent Schools/First Nations Schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 2008 – June 2009</li> </ul>
<b>D. Improve grade to grade success rates within the Graduation Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify barriers to successful grade-to-grade transition</li> <li>Develop strategies and interventions</li> <li>Determine support needed for all students to be successful</li> <li>Work with the community to develop support strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School District 79 Fresh Start Program</li> <li>Independent Schools/First Nations Schools</li> <li>Interagency Reclaiming At-Risk Youth Grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 2008 – June 2009</li> </ul>

**Responsibilities:** School District 79; Independent Schools; First Nations schools

**Indicators of success:** Increased transition and graduation rates; increased achievement scores

**GOAL 3: To support literacy programs and services for those Adults most in need**

Objective	What happens first	Resources	Timeline
<p><b>A. Increase outreach to adults</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine locations in Cowichan for outreach programs and services</li> <li>• Identify service providers as partners to develop programs and services</li> <li>• Identify adult literacy needs in outlying communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Now Cowichan</li> <li>• Regional Literacy Coordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January-June 2009</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Increase programs and services for adults</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research “best practices” for adults in other communities and in Cowichan</li> <li>• Develop an action plan to provide programs and services</li> <li>• Work with service providers on consideration of a free community-based adult volunteer tutoring program</li> <li>• Continue to identify programs and services needed in Cowichan for adults</li> <li>• Work with School District 79 as they expand their mandate of early learning to adults/seniors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Now Cowichan</li> <li>• Service providers</li> <li>• Funding for staff time for research and planning</li> <li>• Regional Literacy Coordinator</li> <li>• School District 79</li> <li>• Vancouver Island Regional Library</li> <li>• Community organizations, agencies, businesses, clubs, churches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 2008-June 2009</li> </ul>

**Responsibilities:** Literacy Now Cowichan; Service Providers, School District 79; Faith Community

**Indicators of success:** Increased number of adults in programs; programs and services available to meet needs; strong partnerships developed.



## Next Steps

Literacy Now Cowichan completed a Community Literacy Plan, which includes a community vision for literacy for all ages, an inventory of current literacy assets, resources and programs, as well as goals, action plan and ways to evaluate success. School District 79 has been well represented in this collaborative community process. In the fall of 2008, participants of Literacy Now Cowichan will reconvene to work together to implement the goals of the Community Literacy Plan. By July 2009, the School District plans to submit one joint Community/District Literacy Plan.