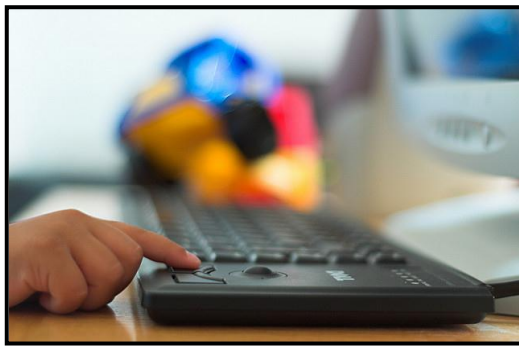


DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN 2011 – 2012

North Peace



NORTH PEACE DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN 2011/2012

The ***North Peace Literacy Alliance*** was the name given to the literacy task force, established four years ago within the geographic region of School District 60 in the Peace River Valley. With a population of 64,000, this region includes the communities of Fort St. John, Prespatou, Upper Pine, Clearview, Taylor and Hudson's Hope. Fort St. John is the largest regional service centre in northeast B.C. with a population of over 18,000. Three industries employ the majority of people in Fort St. John: oil and gas, agriculture and forestry. Taylor is located on Mile 30 of the Alaska Highway, 18 km south of Fort St. John. It is home to 1,400 residents. Hudson's Hope is situated 90 km. west of Fort St. John and is a town of 1,200 people. Fort St. John is a hub for the Northern B.C. Treaty 8 First Nations Communities; included in this region are three reserves: Blueberry River, Doig River and Halfway River First Nations. There is a small but growing immigrant population in the area, with approximately 2,000 people speaking English as a Second Language.

1. COMMUNITY CONTEXT

What happened in the community over the past year that impacts people in the community and the ability of organizations to support literacy development?

Over the past year a number of community literacy needs, goals and initiatives were identified and implemented by the North Peace Literacy Alliance to support individuals and organizations in literacy development. These initiatives included continuing with an awareness campaign, maintaining a website and database of literacy services, and facilitating specific community-based programs targeting early learning, children in kindergarten to grade 12, adults and seniors. These initiatives supported the ten essential skills of literacy: reading text, document use, numeracy, writing, oral communication, working with others, continuous learning, thinking skills, computer use and financial literacy.

2. TASK GROUP

a) Who takes part in the Task Group?

The North Peace Literacy Alliance (task group) has 88 representatives from education, industry, government, business, non-profit agencies and local First Nation communities. The Literacy Outreach Coordinator continually updates the NPLA contact list to include regional stakeholder organizations and individuals with an interest in community literacy.

b) How is the work of this group organized?

Since July 2010, the Literacy Outreach Coordinator held four meetings with the N.P.L.A. roundtable to identify needs, target groups, potential community partnerships, specific initiatives and outcomes.

Date	Purpose
Sept 21, 2010	Sub-committee meeting with N.P.L.A. organizations interested in the LOC's proposed research project initiative "Client Voice: Literacy in the NE". The research project will access barriers faced by existing and potential literacy clients in the region
Jan 19, 2011	NPLA sub-committee meeting to further discuss research methodology for the research project "Client Voice: Literacy in the NE"
Feb 15, 2011	NPLA meeting for all participating orgs to prioritize current needs and build collaborations for specific community literacy projects using 2010-2011 implementation funding
June 7, 2011	NPLA meeting to assess accomplishments through 2010-11 DLP, identify continuing and new issues, and prioritize goals for 2011/2012

An informal steering committee of the North Peace Literacy Alliance, comprised of the following five individuals, meets once a month with the Literacy Outreach Coordinator to oversee the follow-through of initiatives decided by the Alliance roundtable. The Fort St. John Literacy Society provides day to day supervision of the LOC (through their Executive Director), and is also the financial steward.

Name	NPLA Partner Organization
Lesley Lahaye	School District 60
Bill Sutton	Fort St. John Public Library
Jean McFadden	Fort St. John Literacy Society
Rosolynn Kalb	Fort St. John Literacy Society
Andy Ackerman	Member-at-Large

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LITERACY COLLABORATION

a) What are the important collaborations that have taken place to support literacy and the work of the Task Group?

Community Stakeholder Meetings:

Since August 2010, the Literacy Outreach Coordinator has regularly attended community roundtable meetings to keep updated on the activities and needs of local organizations, service providers, and clients. Through presentations to these groups,

she has discussed available literacy services in the community and encouraged collaborations for literacy programs (see specific collaborative projects under: *#4 Goals and actions for the current year*). Roundtables she attended regularly included the following:

- 1) Early Childhood Development / Families First (30 community organizations with a stake in issues affecting children 0 - 6 yrs of age and their families)
- 2) NP3 Table – for Executive Directors of community non-profit agencies
- 3) Welcoming & Inclusive Communities & Workplaces Program planning table
- 4) Healthy Living Alliance – Northern Health roundtable
- 5) Literacy Coalition Table – School District 59 & 60

The Literacy Outreach Coordinator was involved in planning initiatives and activities for specific events, linking community groups and facilitating collaborative projects. These included:

Event	Partners	Activities
Family Literacy Day (Week long events: January 12-27)	Community Early Learning Coordinator, FSJ Public Library, School District 60, District of Taylor and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Immigrant Services, local businesses	- LOC promoted literacy and literacy week activities in the media; LOC and community groups set up & facilitated board games in cafes and sports facilities; library held a Scrabble Tournament
International Literacy Day September 8	Local media	- LOC on local radio program "Questions and Answers" to discuss literacy issues

Regional and Provincial Activities:

Since August 2010, the Literacy Outreach Coordinator participated in the following regional and provincial activities:

- 1) Presentation to Aboriginal Success by Six
- 2) PALS Training Session
- 3) UNBC Open House
- 4) Regional Strong Start
- 5) Social Service Worker Advisory Committee Meeting
- 6) Personalized Learning and the Ministry of Education Visions Conference
- 7) Regional Literacy Outreach Coordinator Meeting
- 8) 2010 Energy Conference
- 9) Fort St. John Friendship Society Community Luncheon

- 10) BC Association of Social Workers Conference
- 11) Presentation to School Boards 59 & 60
- 12) Presentation to Fort St. John City Council
- 13) MLA Open House
- 14) Economic Development Commission Open House
- 15) Presentation to Peace River Regional District
- 16) United Way Community Engagement Dinner
- 17) SD #60 Parent Conference
- 18) Northern Health Men's Event

b) What are the essential ongoing collaborations?

The essential collaborations take place between community groups sitting at the NPLA round table.

c) What makes collaborations work so well?

As a small community, agencies often come together to discuss community needs and issues at roundtables with a myriad of focuses including early learning, healthy living, newcomers to Canada, literacy, etc. By interfacing on a variety of fronts, individuals from these agencies develop relationships that encourage collaborations for projects.

4. GOALS AND ACTIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

What priorities, goals or objectives have you addressed this year? What actions were taken to reach these? What organizations and groups participated in these actions?

- i) Actions to be spearheaded by the Literacy Outreach Coordinator:

Identified Need	Goals/Outcomes	Target Groups	Initiatives
Awareness Campaign	Address regional stigma and disregard towards literacy	-general public -employers -potential clients	- articles and information about literacy and community literacy programs on N.P.L.A. website, Facebook, Twitter, and Energeticcity.ca, -Family Literacy Day events
	Create a positive attitude shift towards supporting literacy		
	Increase regional knowledge of literacy services		

Identified Need	Goals/Outcomes	Target Groups	Initiatives
Database of Organizations	To provide "one stop shop" for clients, agencies and the general public looking for specific information and services that include a literacy component	-agencies -clients -general public	- maintain a current database of organizations who provide literacy services and resources
Website	Maintain a website for the N.P.L.A. that includes community links, information for learners and service providers, and information on community literacy	-agencies -clients -general public	- provide information about local literacy resources and initiatives, as well as educate the public about literacy in general

ii) Early Learning

A province-wide early childhood development survey by U.B.C. in 2006 reported that children living in northeast B.C., including the geographic region of School District 60, are among the least ready to start kindergarten in areas of language and cognitive development. In 2010-11, the N.P.L.A./Task Force identified a number of actions and "next steps" to support early learning the community level:

Goals	Target Groups	Community Partners
<u>Words on Wheels bus:</u> review and maintain stops, lending library and home-based activities	- Aboriginal communities, rural families	-NPLA r/table; SD#60
<u>Daddy and Me/Strong Start Gym Nights:</u> to engage dads with pre-school aged children by combining two established programs and offering them at non-traditional times (evenings/weekends);	- men with pre-school aged children	-School District # 60; North Peace Community Resources

<u>Mother Goose for ESL Families</u> : to provide additional ESL supports for newcomers and build capacity of the existing “Mother Goose Program”	- newcomers to Canada; English-speaking Canadians	- Literacy Society; North Peace Community Resources
<u>Collaborating on Professional Development Opportunities</u> : collaborate around training opportunities and open learning events to partner groups; example: P.A.L.S. – Parenting as Literacy Supporters, Train the Trainer Workshop	- community agencies and daycares offering early childhood education programs - ECD Roundtable	- SD #60

iii) Kindergarten to Grade 12

Goals	Target Groups	Community Partners
<u>Tutoring for Youth</u> : to provide academic support to youth including homework help, ESL support, and support for LDs during evening youth tutoring program at Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre	- for youth 14-18 yrs of age including aboriginal learners; new Canadians; low-literacy/ vulnerable learners	- Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre; Literacy Society; SD #60 (Settlement Workers in Schools)

iv) Adult/Senior

Goals	Target Groups	Community Partners
<u>Client Voice: Literacy in the NE</u> : - to critically examine the relationship between potential clients and community literacy services; and the relationship between potential learners and their own personal barriers (a research project to be conducted by the LOC)	potential learners who do not access services	- 17 individuals from the Public Library, Literacy Society, Northern Lights College, School District 60, Métis Nation, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. immigrant services; Northeast Library Federation, Enform, City of Fort St. John; North Peace Economic Development Commission

<u>Women's Financial Literacy Project:</u> to create a financial literacy workshop series for women to cover budgeting, understanding credit and banking; debt management; financial goals	- marginalized women	- FSJ Women's Resource Centre; Healthy Living Alliance; Credit Union; Royal Bank of Canada; LOC
<u>Computer Skills Training:</u> basic computer skills training and information literacy, working one-to-one with computer educator on self-determined learning goals;	- adults/seniors; low-income; marginalized individuals	- FSJ library; FSJ Women's Resource Centre

What adjustments were made to the plan? That is, as the year progressed were there new opportunities or were there changes that did not allow for some actions to be taken?

A gap in service occurred between March 2011 and May 2011 when the original Literacy Outreach Coordinator left the position. A new Literacy Outreach Coordinator was hired in May 2011.

This disruption in service put the research project, "Client Voice: Literacy in the NE", on hold. Continuation of this project will continue in September 2011 with changes to the Research Advisory Committee, as some members are no longer in their original positions of employment.

5/6. INDICATIONS OF SUCCESS & CHALLENGES:

a) How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy? What impact have the literacy initiatives had? It is important to include examples to illustrate the impact.

Project:	Measurable Outcomes:
<u>Awareness Campaign</u> Since January 2010 followers on Facebook, Energeticity.ca and Twitter increased significantly.	<u>January 2010:</u> <i>Energetic City:</i> 3 blogs created; 300 to 400 hits per blog <i>Facebook:</i> 9 Members <i>Twitter:</i> 11 Following; 3 followers

	<p><u>June 2011:</u> <i>Energetic City:</i> 2 Blogs created; 300 to 400 hits per blog <i>Facebook:</i> 48 Members <i>Twitter:</i> 57 following; 77 followers</p>
<p><u>Community Events:</u> Family Literacy Day (January 12 – 27, 2011)</p>	<p><i>Family Literacy Day</i> included numerous activities that took place throughout Fort St. John and Taylor.</p> <p>From January 12th to 26th, the Community Early Learning Coordinator and the Literacy Outreach Coordinator organized lunchtime literacy activities for children and parents at four separate locations: Patch Java, CJ's on Main, North Peace Cultural Centre and Taylor pre-school.</p> <p>On January 27th, four literacy activities took place throughout the day at Patch Java in Fort St. John. This included games on the WOW Bus. As well, three elementary schools (Alwin Holland, CM Finch and Robert Ogilvie) facilitated literacy events throughout the day for students and parents. Also, the Fort St. John Public Library hosted a Scrabble tournament.</p> <p>Community partners included: School District 60, Fort St. John Public Library, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Fort St. John Literacy Society, WOW Bus, Patch Java, CJ's on Main, North Peace Cultural Centre, District of Taylor, City of Fort St. John and Moose FM.</p>

Project:	Measurable Outcomes:
Daddy and Me Strong Start Gym Nights	<p><u>Participation:</u> 34 Adults 53 Children</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> April 20th to June 15th, 2011</p>

Impact Statement:

The program included many active children, fathers and grandfathers. The first Daddy and Me Strong Start Gym Night was a huge success with 20 adults and 27 children. As

momentum for the program grows, numbers are expected to grow significantly with approximately 250 children and 150 caregivers in Fall 2011. Community partners, such as RE/MAX, contributed greatly to the program through donations of food for snacks.

Challenges:

The May and June events coincided with Canuck playoff games, which greatly decreased numbers. Also, the program will switch locations in the Fall due to gym availability. Hopefully, this will not impact attendance.

Project:	Measurable Outcomes:
Mother Goose for ESL Families	<u>Participation:</u> 18 Adults 26 Children <u>Number of resources given away:</u> 20 <u>Duration:</u> April 7 th to June 16 th , 2011

Impact Statement:

Offering the evening Parent/Child Mother Goose Drop-In program fills a gap in the community for accessible programming for working parents with young children. By offering the evening programming, parents can enjoy a natural environment for children to develop and strengthen their social skills, while strengthening the parent-child relationship. The program also offers safe and friendly networking opportunities for parents.

Challenges:

The Family Place partnered with the Fort St. John Literacy Society to encourage ESL families to join the Parent/Child Mother Goose Drop-In program. The participating families greatly enjoyed the experience; however, only one ESL family attended the session. Timing of the program may be a contributing factor for low ESL attendance, as well as the short duration of the program to date. It will take time to make connections for more ESL families to attend on a regular basis.

Project:	Measurable Outcomes:
Tutoring for Youth	<u>Participation:</u> Pending <u>Duration:</u> Program will commence in June 2011 and complete in September 2011

Impact Statement:

With the high demand for educated and skilled employees in our ever-changing work environment, the need to ensure academic success for our young people is critical; for Aboriginal youth in particular. With the increased budget cuts schools are now facing while numbers of high school students are increasing, there is a high need for as much academic support as the students can receive. School district 60 has over 1980 students, with 421 of them being Aboriginal. The school district does offer some tutorial services to students during school hours, but the demand for tutorial services far exceeds the time available. Tutoring services offered previously at the Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre have exceeded the capacity of the Centre's resources. The current program is expected to be very successful.

Project:	Measurable Outcomes:
Women's Financial Literacy Project	<u>Participation:</u> Pending <u>Duration:</u> Program will commence in July 2011 and complete in September 2011

Impact Statement:

The initiative is well on its way to meeting the goals set out by the NPLA and in our proposal. Starting in July, we will start a contract position that will coordinate our workshop and article series. This position will also coordinate a training program in partnership with SEDI (Social and Enterprise Development Innovations) to enhance service provider capacity for promoting financial literacy. This is an exciting development in our project that will help create a legacy for financial literacy promotion in Fort St. John.

Project:	Measurable Outcomes:
Computer Skills Training	<u>Participation:</u>

	57 Adults <u>Duration:</u> May 5 th – June 24 th , 2011
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Impact Statement:

The initiative offered a wide range of computer literacy skills to a broad spectrum of the community. Lower income individuals benefited from the free program and comprised a large portion of the students. The one-on-one sessions provided a safe and welcoming place for people of all ages and abilities to learn computer literacy skills. Based on survey feedback, students had their needs met throughout all aspects of the program. The initiative surpassed goals and there was a continual waiting list of clients.

Challenges:

The number of available hours could not accommodate the high volume of clients.

Project:	Measurable Outcomes:
Clients Voice: Literacy in the N.E.	- The LOC drafted a research proposal - Two key meeting took place to discuss the project

Impact Statement:

With a noticeable absence of adult clients at the roundtable meeting in April 2010 to discuss Adult Literacy, the Task Group suggested that the LOC implement a “formalized research process to seek out this missing voice in Literacy in the NE.”

Since September 2010, the Literacy Outreach Coordinator organized a committee of the Task Group/NPLA to help facilitate the research project, “Client Voice: Literacy in the NE”.

As of November 2010, the Research Advisory Group included 12 individuals from the Fort St. John Public Library, Fort St. John Literacy Society, Northern lights College, Government of British Columbia, School District 60, Metis Nation BC, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Northeast Library Federation, Enform, City of Fort St. John, and North Peace Economic Development Commission.

Challenges:

From March to May 2011, the Literacy Outreach Coordinator position was not staffed. Consequently, this project was put on hold until the fall, 2011. A new Literacy Outreach Coordinator started at the end of May 2011.

b) What are the things that support literacy work?

- Collaborative Projects
- Roundtables, Conferences, and Meetings
- Awareness Campaigns at Key Community Events
- Family Literacy Events
- Internet-based Awareness Campaign

7. FOR THE COMING YEAR

Task Force Goals

In June 2011, the N.P.L.A. Task Force met to further assess gaps in service for literacy clients. The Task Force identified seven key goals. These goals will be addressed by projects that will commence in September/October 2011 through the next round of N.P.L.A. implementation funding.

Identified Need / Goals	Target Groups	Specific Actions	Potential Partners
Self-Regulation	Early Learning Aboriginal K – 12 Adult/Senior	TBD	Early Childhood Development School District 60 Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre (NENAS) North Peace Community Resource Society
Fast Forward for Adults and First Nation Communities	Aboriginal Adult/Seniors with learning disabilities	TBD	School District 60 Fort St. John Literacy Society Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre/NENAS Northern Health
Men’s Literacy	Adult/Senior Aboriginal	TBD	Fort St. John Literacy Society North Peace Community Resource Society

			Salvation Army Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre/NENAS Northern Health
Roots of Empathy/Seeds of Empathy	Early Learning Aboriginal	TBD	School District 60 Early Childhood Development North Peace Community Resource Society
Youth Tutoring	K – 12 Aboriginal	TBD	Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre/NENAS School District 60
Computer Literacy	Adult/Senior Aboriginal K – 12	TBD	Fort St. John Public Library School District 60 Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre/NENAS Fort St. John Literacy Society
Financial Literacy	Adult/Senior Aboriginal K – 12	TBD	School District 60 Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre/NENAS Fort St. John Women’s Resource Society

Literacy Outreach Coordinator Goals

Identified Need / Goals	Target Groups	Specific Actions	Potential Partners
Awareness Campaign	Early Learning Aboriginal K – 12 Adult/Senior	- N.P.L.A. Website - Facebook Page - Twitter Account - Energetic City Blog - Media Campaign - Family Literacy Day - Clients Voice: Literacy in the N.E.	- Early Childhood Development - School District 60 - Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre (NENAS) - North Peace Community Resource Society - S.U.C.C.E.S.S. - Fort St. John Literacy Society - City of Fort St. John

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Groove - Moose FM - District of Taylor - District of Hudson's Hope - Healthy Living Alliance - Family Friendly - Doig River First Nation
Website and Community Database	Early Learning Aboriginal K – 12 Adult/Senior	Maintain a N.P.L.A. website, which includes a updated list of organizations that offer literacy services, resources, and programming	Community and district-wide initiative