

District Literacy Plan

July 2011



DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN

School District No. 91

(Nechako Lakes)

2010-2011

Our Guiding Philosophy

In collaboration with our community literacy groups, School District No. 91 strives to contribute to the creation of positive outcomes in peoples' lives by creating opportunities for community members to participate more fully in their lives through enjoyable, relevant, innovative and purposeful learning. A more detailed description of the K-12 initiatives can be found within the Nechako Lakes Achievement Contract. A common thread that runs through all District actions is one that prioritizes respect for one another, the importance of positive relationships and the value of building supportive collaborative networks as its educators continue to develop their skills, and as the District reaches out to our communities to work more effectively together.

As the community literacy work has grown and become more established, it has helped the District extend beyond the traditional ways of thinking that typify school life and learning. This community work is creative, open ended, and when it works to reach those who are marginalized or may not have been successful in the education system, it is largely because the work doesn't look like typical school life.

Community Context

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

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof

- *Fraser Lake's population is growing slightly due to the expansion of the local mine. The mine is providing funds to schools and other community groups in an effort to contribute. The municipal district hired a community recreation director part time and the Literacy Outreach Coordinator (LOC) has made a connection with that program in an effort to support learning for youth.*
- *Vanderhoof's population is not growing but community groups continue to provide opportunities for learning in various ways. The Literacy committee partnered with several groups from both communities to support learning programs.*
- *There continues to be challenges around access to advanced education, as well as support to achieve upgrading for those who face multiple social and health barriers in life.*

Fort St. James

- *Fort St. James continues to be optimistic about prospects for population growth with the stabilization of the forest sector and its related jobs, and the addition of the Mount Milligan gold/copper mine coming into full operation in 2013 with some 450+ new employment opportunities. The construction phase of the mine project has garnered new employment opportunities for resident and non-resident populations. In the background the community is seeing significant change in real estate property sales for new housing starts as well as sales of existing homes and homes being constructed on speculation.*
- *Industry and contractors alike continue to demonstrate a commitment to workplace literacy through regular safety training courses requested from the College. In addition industry has recognized the need for increased workplace literacy with its immigrant workers where English is a second language and/or high school incompleteness has created barriers for possible job advancement. This has resulted in referrals to literacy assistance programs in the community.*

Burns Lake

- *The population in Burns Lake remains fairly stable although it seems that quite a few families are making the decision to move elsewhere as there is a lot of uncertainty with the mill, the town's main employer. A loss of doctors in the area, plus the inability to deliver babies at the Burns Lake hospital (necessitating expensive and difficult out-of-town birth planning) may also be resulting in some people making the decisions to move, or deciding NOT to move into the area. There are MANY homes for sale in the community.*

- *The Village of Burns Lake has hired a Recreation Director full-time and the LOC has met with him once to explore possibilities. He is actively seeking opportunities for youth and adults in the community and should be a valuable asset.*
- *Community groups remain active and the annual Children's Fair, held in conjunction with the Lakes District Fall Fair, has become a huge success over the past three years, with more than 300 families attending last year.*
- *Transportation remains a challenge for many families to be able to access programs and services from the large rural area of the Lakes District and the WOW (Words on Wheels) bus continues to fill a need by bringing some services to the people.*



Task Group:

How is the work of this group organized?

See Tables for member organizations

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof

- *A group of leaders and representatives from various organizations meets once a month during the lunch hour to discuss and act on goals, approve funds for projects that have been brought to the table, and to plan events.*

Fort St. James

- *A group of leaders and representatives from various organizations meets approximately three times a year to give feedback to the LOC and College, to discuss new ideas for awareness building and to plan events that build awareness and promote literacy.*

Burns Lake

- *Now that the main project for this task group (WOW bus) is running smoothly, this group of leaders and representatives from various organizations meets approximately two times a year to review progress. The LOC handles communication for the WOW bus and a steering committee that includes StrongStart facilitators and school district personnel meets two times a year to monitor programming for the early learning StrongStart program on the bus.*

Community Development and Literacy Collaboration:

What are the important collaborations that have taken place to support literacy and the work of the task group?

What are the essential ongoing collaborations? What makes collaborations work well?

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof

- *When the LOC comes into a project at the ground level of an organization (works with the person/people who do program delivery) it builds bridges with the bigger body. Starting from the top of a hierarchy is not effective in our area for having an impact on involvement in literacy improvements. Its strength is in the relationships that are built through personal contact. It builds up collateral that counts when trying to expand or get involved in other projects. For example, working with the Fraser Lake Recreation Director helped open doors into the political municipal world in that town.*

Fort St. James

- *There is a strong partnership between the College, Learning HUB and First Nation social health, employment & training departments. The Learning HUB continues to play a pivotal role in meeting the literacy needs of at-risk adult populations. The HUB facility houses Literacy Now, ESL , CALP and OARH projects. As such it facilitates a healthy level of referrals to other helping agencies as well as the School District's Adult Education Centre. Excellent partnerships with public library, First Nations Bands, RCMP, work sites, Caledonia Courier Newspaper, the education community, the business community, the District of Fort St. James and other local nonprofit organizations. The relationship with the local newspaper has been instrumental in raising awareness and celebrating literacy over the past year. A new development involves the local "Wolf" radio station agreeing to advertise both Literacy and CALP initiatives for us. So now we have both the printed media and radio on board. Regular contact with the provincial literacy associations and the school district literacy coordinator also helps build connections.*
- *An exciting project recently announced the awarding of a TD Literacy Grant to Tl'azt'en First Nation. The TD Financial Literacy Grant Fund, managed by Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI), is the first of its kind in Canada. One hundred seventy applications were received by the grant committee and Tl'azt'en Nation was one of only ten applications from across Canada awarded a TD Literacy Grant. This will see the creation of a financial literacy curriculum for First Nation communities in the Nechako Region. The College looks forward to working with Tl'azt'en on this initiative.*

Burns Lake

- *The LOC in Burns Lake is also the Community Liaison for Success by Six and Make Children First, as well as the chairperson/secretary for the Lakes District Community Service Network Committee. These roles enable the LOC to present a strong presence in many areas of the community, including working with the Village Office personnel on several projects. The LOC is also the Infant Development Consultant in Burns Lake and has her office in the Neighbourhood of Learning Centre right beside the StrongStart program, both of which are located in a school district facility. This has given us many opportunities for further collaboration with both of these programs/agencies that have been very beneficial.*

Goals and actions for the current year:

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?

See tables for each community in the appendices

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof

- *There were few adjustments necessary because most projects met their goals. The only event that needs to be reviewed is the Fraser Lake Family Literacy Night. The time of year and the title will be changed to the Magic of Learning in order to piggyback off the success of that first annual event in Fraser Lake this year. More details are available in the appendix.*

Fort St. James

- *First Nations are now dialoguing and asking for specific workshops for their communities. Relationships with the district has progressed to the point where they are not giving financial support for initiatives. The business community remains interested to the extent that they are receiving regular updates.*

Burns Lake

- *This past year several adjustments were made to try to access the maximum number of people. Last summer we arranged for the WOW bus to be at a lakeside park in Burns Lake one day a week to reach out to local families there. Due to the lack of response from the original community for visits after Christmas, it was decided to relocate the WOW bus to another community, one that had not been previously visited. This resulted in an increase in attendance immediately.*

Indications of Success

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.

What are the things that support literacy work?

For all regions, we look to participation numbers to tell use if the offerings are meeting needs. LOC Reports go into more detail with regards to numbers.

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof

- *People are becoming enthusiastic about learning and groups are returning to ask for continued support because their projects are attracting participants.*
- *Some ground work is being laid in that participants are starting to go outside their comfort zone and try new things.*
- *Each partner group we have supported provides a brief report so we can learn about their successes. A few examples of their stories/reports are attached.*

Fort St. James

- *There has been broad participation from the partners and community. The impact of which can be measure by the numbers of people receiving services. Three hundred fifty books were circulated at the children's festival in 2010 and 340 more in 2011. Comments from the community about how well the book bins are being received by people using them were positive. Inquiries from First Nations is one more indicator that people are becoming more aware of the possibilities of what college can provide through the literacy hub.*
- *The book bin in the Greyhound bus station needs to be refilled on a constant basis.*
- *Books are put into the local jail.*

Burns Lake

- *The WOW bus numbers of participants has remained fairly stable as compared to last year.*
- *The literacy website for the Lakes District has been developed and contains very valuable information for anyone looking for literacy related info. It is linked online right now to the Free Classifieds local website and hopefully will soon also available on the Village website. Many people have viewed the website and passed on glowing comments to the LOC.*
<http://www.lakesdistrictliteracy.ca/>

- *Literacy Bulletin Boards have been established in the Muriel Mould Neighbourhood of Learning Centre and as well there is a “Give a Book - Take a Book” exchange that has been extremely popular! Filling the book racks on a weekly basis demonstrates how much activity there has been in this area.*



Challenges:

What are the difficulties?

What would help?

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof

- *Child care, transportation, and lack of facilities for programs are the three biggest challenges in this region.*
- *Finding ways to leverage political support to deal with our biggest challenges would help move us toward solutions. These challenges are too large for a small volunteer committee to take on, but we continue to problem solve and advocate for answers. Our lobbying skills are limited as is our time, but raising the level of concern at the municipal and provincial political levels is critical for future success.*

Fort St. James

- *The implication that illiteracy carries a stigma contributes to why people don't attend courses. There is also a lack of transportation and child care. Illiteracy is still considered an unimportant issue. There is a lack of funding. The overseeing bodies federally and provincially need to be developing powerpoints and presentations for remote locations so people don't have to reinvent the wheel. Regional coordination would also help remote areas access the provincial literacy support and information more readily.*

Burns Lake

- *Without the LOC in place the challenge of operating our Words on Wheels bus project would be almost impossible; volunteers in our community are already at their maximum capacity. No-one has any more "free time" to donate.*
- *We have two volunteer bus drivers, but we must also use a portion of our funding to pay school district drivers from time to time when the volunteers are not available.*

Are there new opportunities, challenges, or issues in your community? How will you respond to those?

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof

- The LOC attended a community meeting and reported the following:

“Local access to advanced education and technical training remain barriers and contribute to an outflow of potential highly skills workers and younger population in the community: eg. Community Vision and Post-Secondary Planning Group is working on a plan to build a new post secondary institution (in the Vanderhoof area) that will include CNC & University of Northern BC that will offer advanced education, technical training, etc. This will offer the local younger population the opportunity to stay in the area and receive an excellent education (that will be affordable). It will also be a way of encouraging students from the outside area to come to this area to study.”

- The LOC will receive regular updates from the planning group and will participate where appropriate, and keep the committee informed of developments.

Fort St. James

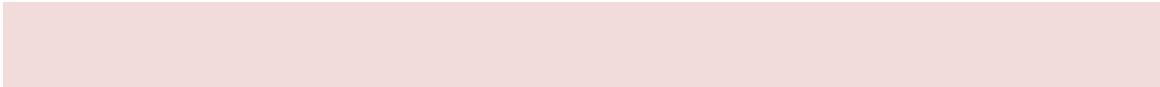
- Instead of always operating out of the hub, portable presentations are being taken out to community groups, such as seniors.

Burns Lake

- School enrolments have been declining in the area over the past few years, with kindergarten enrolments down substantially for this coming fall. This makes it difficult to increase or maintain our attendance numbers for our programs. The StrongStart Outreach facilitator funding is based on enrolment numbers and a drop could seriously impact our ability to operate this program as part of our services provided on the WOW bus.
- The Words on Wheels needs to expand and try to attract more parents when it comes into their communities. One way we think we can achieve this would be to try creating programs that would entice parents to come onto the WOW bus and at the same time, connect children with the ECE facilitator. Some suggestions were possibly scrapbooking or card stamping. The literacy committee might need to provide an honorarium for this second person who does the activities on the bus, as well as provide funding for craft supplies.
- Aboriginal books written in the Carrier language for the distribution to families may be something we support **in the fall**. Gord Poschwatta from Carrier Sekani Family Services

Mental Health Dept. has made this request. They are \$10 per book. We don't know how many books might be needed but will pursue fulfilling this request in September.

- *To deal with the challenge of building relationships with moms, the LOC will spend more time connecting with organizations that are already working with families on reserve. It may be a band councillor with the 'youth' portfolio who is providing activities or some type of support for families already. It may be Katie Hall who is working with the CNC Kid's Edge program, or there may be other contact people from within reserve whom we can begin to get to know and welcome. We have a bus with space, equipment and ECE expertise to offer in partnership. We can also offer supply money to provide adult literacy programming (like craft materials for moms who might like to learn new things on the bus).*



**What goals, priorities or objectives will you work on in the coming year?
What actions are planned against those goals?**

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof

- *We will continue to support community projects, to distribute the literacy newsletter and maintain the bulletin board in Fraser Lake. Two new areas of focus will be a) creating programs for youth and b) technology learning sessions in an attempt to support displaced workers and older workers who need support to develop skills for the 21st century. To move forward with youth programming, a relationship with the Good Neighbours Committee & Drop-In Centre will need to be forged. As well, a small technology committee will need to be formed to develop steps towards action and then to maintain the programs or offerings that are developed.*

Fort St. James

- *Summer Reading Program is called "Passport to Reading" and is open to every one of all ages. The rules require contestants to pick up a "Passport" from the Learning Hub or the College and to read a book or have a book read to them. Each book read receives one stamp in your Passport. Reading one book gets your name entered into a draw for a notebook computer, an iPod, or a digital camera. Every five books read after that gets your name entered again. To date some kids have read over 20 books! Please find in the appendices a digital copy of the Passport with the rules so you can have a look at it. Please note that it has 4 pages which you can scroll through via the tabs at the bottom left. Page 3 is blank and that's where the stamps are collected. Also included is a file showing the stamp that is given for each book read. The Library is going to be getting 150 Passports and all the schools in Fort St. James have received Passports for each of their students.*
- *Placemats: In order to promote literacy in the community it was decided that placemats promoting local themes could be distributed to the restaurants in town. A prototype of a placemat featuring the Legend of the Little People of Nak'azdli was circulated as was a draft of another placemat featuring the National Historic Site. A suggestion was made that these placemats might be useful in promoting cultural diversity and acceptance in the community. This idea was thought to be very valuable and has since been discussed further at the Hub. A draft placemat featuring the flags of the ethnic populations in Fort St. James will be produced.*

- Community Scrabble: Jo Ann Alexander presented her idea of a Community Scrabble contest which was well received. Jo Ann and Cam will work on developing the materials necessary to launch this initiative.
- Bingo the Bear Treasure Hunt: This project is aimed at supporting people to read text and documents over time. It consists of a “Legend” of a bear who came to help the people of his world, a map of Fort St. James to assist participants in their search, and a “Hunting License” which can be purchased for a dollar. Regular updates and clues will be published in the local paper until the “Bear” is found. This project is seen as cost neutral with the dollar admission being put towards the prizes. First prize is \$100.00 in “Fort St. James Bucks” in order to promote local business. The District of Fort St. James will be approached to donate the “Bucks.”
- The Everybody Book Review: Fort St. James citizens will be solicited to write book reviews for publication in the local newspaper. In order to not impose on the generosity of the newspaper by asking for free space, the space required to print these book reviews would be paid for (possibly at a reduced price) by local sponsors who would benefit from the publicity associated with being identified as a sponsor as a promoter of literacy in fort St. James. The principal of Sowchea Elementary will pursue this idea, and has offered that the school kick off the project as the first sponsor. LOC will promote this via e-mail to his community business distribution list.
- Community Outreach: Alex observed that although the storefront aspect of the Learning Hub seemed to be attracting good numbers of people, there were certain populations, seniors in particular, which were not being represented among the drop-ins. As such a PowerPoint presentation has been produced to introduce a modern vision of literacy to use in promoting literacy off-site. This PowerPoint will be offered for presentation to the Seniors Centre in the near future.
- Community Legends: This initiative which is still in the formative stages would see a presentation, possibly in collaboration with the Music Makers, by residents of Fort St. James sharing their oral histories and reminiscences about their lives in this community. Much work still needs to be done to ensure that individuals are identified, staging and preparations are discussed, and the traditional values of the First Nation community are respected.

Burns Lake

- We plan to continue to support and operate our Words on Wheels bus project and have already received approval to continue with a StrongStart Outreach facilitator on the bus for its four times weekly runs to rural outlying communities.
- We also plan to continue to support smaller projects such as the Children’s Fair, the Library Family Literacy day, Books for Babies, and other projects that meet our literacy objectives.
- Our literacy website, bulletin boards, and free book exchange are other projects that we will continue and expand in the coming year.

- *We have had a new request for books for children in the language of our local First Nations that could be distributed to families in the seven First Nations communities in our area. The LOC is following up on this request to find these resources.*

What will be required to meet the goals and effectively employ actions for the coming year?

All Regions:

- *Continued funding for the LOC position is critical to our ability to meet our goals for the coming year effectively. As well, funding for our projects continues to be a priority. In Burns Lake the committee has applied for other grants and has been successful in a few small areas (Community Foundation Grant), but unsuccessful in other areas where bigger funding was involved (New Horizons for Seniors grants). All committees continue to rely heavily on the grant available through Literacy Now for the majority of our project funding.*
- *Literacy Program Restructuring in BC: The combining of Literacy Now with Literacy B.C. the two major bodies providing literacy material and coordination in the Province, into one organization which should maximize their resources and avoid confusion among the public. What remains to be seen is how this new organization will address the issue of obtaining sustainable funding and whether any of that funding will be available to continue programs such as we have in Fort St. James.*

Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof Literacy Now Task Force – “Nechako Literacy Committee”

Literacy Outreach Coordinator: Larissa Cormier

Active Table Members: Robin Hendriksen (Nechako Valley Community Services Society), Don Rudland (Teacher, Musician, Volunteer), Jane Gray (Vanderhoof Public Library), Jennifer Barg (Vanderhoof Public Library), Audrey Fennema (Fraser Lake Public Library), John Stafford (SD Trustee), Gloria Olafson (Learning Disabilities Society), Ashley Koznak (Vanderhoof Recreation Dept.), Henry Bucher (Vanderhoof Neighbourlink)

Associates: Charlene Smilinski (College of New Caledonia), Melissa Meikle (Success By Six Coordinator), Michelle Miller-Gauthier (SD 91)

<u>Goal/Focus Area</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Progress to Date & Considerations for the Future</u>	<u>Who (responsibilities & partnerships)</u>
Coordination	Employ a Community Literacy Coordinator	January 2011 Larissa Cormier’s contract renewed for 15 hours per week	Committee
Support literacy in the surrounding communities	<p>Receive proposals from community service providers and projects that need financial support</p> <p>Support/Initiate projects that attempt to reach vulnerable families</p>	<p>Vanderhoof Neighbourlink Best Moms & Dads Program (Formerly called Neighbourlink Literacy Project). The program began as a way to engage and learn from community members from Saik’uz First Nation and Vanderhoof who weren’t participating in early learning or other educational programs for themselves or their children. The concept involved providing a place for people to learn a broad range of literacies from activity ideas that were participant generated (moccasin making, hand bag sewing, scrapbooking, rag quilts) and to provide free literacy tutoring for those who might need it. It has evolved into this and much more, although the tutoring continues to be a challenge to expand. People are reluctant to come forward to request help for reading, but three people have engaged in long term one-to-one tutoring to date (2 high school upgrading/finishing, 1 reading tutoring). This year, the group of moms attended a community Family Literacy Night at the public library and they took a nine-week parenting course titled You Make the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Vanderhoof Neighbourlink Society -SD Literacy Coordinator -Saik’uz First Nation -Vanderhoof Success by Six -Carrier Sekani Family Services -Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program -Community members donate supplies

		<p>Difference.</p> <p>It takes time to build trusting relationships and many of the participants operate at a fairly comfortable level of literacy for most of the tasks they are faced with on a day-to-day basis. The broad definition of literacy honours learning of all types and inspires learners to continue pursuing their goals.</p> <p>Those providing support for the program have the vision to offer a safe, supportive, non-judgmental, nurturing environment for parents who are typically marginalized in our community and society. They are often living in poverty, dependent on social assistance, and have few advocates for dealing with the government systems that they face and need to interact with on behalf of their children or their families.</p> <p>The program has strong connections to Saik’uz First Nation and many of the participants are from Saik’uz. The mothers meet twice a week to develop their literacy and expressive skills by creating photo-memory books (scrapbooks) and by learning new skills for life. For a detailed report and assessment see the appendix.</p> <p><u>Other Projects Literacy Committee Supported in 2009-10</u></p> <p>You Make the Difference (Fraser Lake): nine-week parenting program was held at the Mama Loves You Daycare space and was open for anyone who wanted to come and learn to work with children at their level.</p> <p>Fraser Lake Library Rejuvenation Project: The marketing and branding the new vision for the library is titled “Magic Happens Between the Covers.” The Literacy committee is supporting with funds and time for marketing this new vision.</p> <p>Magic of Learning Fair (Fraser Lake): First annual event with a focus on learning. This year a magician provided an interactive learning experience focused on literacy.</p> <p>Fort Fraser School Library: Purchased graphic novels for reluctant</p>	<p>-Vanderhoof Public Library</p> <p>All funding managed by Neighbourlink</p> <p>-Fundraising dinner brought in \$7200</p> <p>-Individual & corporate donations totaling \$10 000</p> <p>-Aboriginal grant funds \$6900</p>
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		<p>elementary school readers.</p> <p>Stellat'en Head Start Program: Parent Book Club (Aboriginal topics/novels; Parent lending library; Free book rewards for families that read with their children during drop in time)</p> <p>Nechako Valley Community Services Society Infant Development Program: Purchased resources (felt boards & stories); Book give away to families in the program.</p> <p>Family Literacy Day (Fraser Lake & Vanderhoof): Pizza & PJ's at the Vanderhoof Library; Family Literacy activities at the library.</p>	
<p>Communications & Marketing</p>		<p>Newsletter "Care to Learn: Lifelong & Lifewide Learning" is being distributed seasonally (Spring, Summer, Fall, & Winter). It highlights one program in detail and provides information about other services. Businesses, service providers, schools, and bulletin board displays are the distribution network. The School District provides black & white copying services for community distribution at a reduced cost, and schools that are participating are doing so for free. The Coordinator uses her personal business (local free publication) distribution route to deliver the newsletter.</p> <p>(Appendix)</p> <p>PP Presentations: Care To Learn Presentation to Organizations, Agencies, and Service Groups. No presentations were made this year. We have found that this wasn't the best way to reach a large number of people. Groups are usually small & in a hurry to get through their own board's agenda.</p> <p>Information Tables At Community Events: Fraser Lake Leisure and Recreation/Small Business Fair, Vanderhoof Recreation Leisure Fair,</p>	<p>-Coordinator with input from committee members and service providers</p> <p>-School District providing copying services (black & white) for a reduced price</p> <p>-LOC with input from committee members</p>

		<p>Magic of Learning Fair. Coordinator has made the table more approachable and fun. This way of presenting has made a difference. People are now more inclined to approach and talk about literacy.</p> <p>Bulletin Board in Fraser Lake – A bulletin board has been built & placed in a much used area of the Fraser Lake Mall. Information on Literacy and literacy programs, services, etc. is being posted and kept current by the LOC in order to get the word out about literacy. This idea has worked GREAT! Because it is situated in the middle of the mall area next to College of New Caledonia and the local general bulletin board. Everyone stops and spends time reading what’s happening in the community. This is a great way to connect with other community organizations such as Fraser Lake Public Library, Village of Fraser Lake/Recreation Dept. Crisis Centre, Silver Birch Lodge, Fraser Lake Community Health Centre, etc. By keeping in touch with these groups, talking with them on a regular basis, and posting any programs that they may have at the time, the LOC can also keep an eye out for any new partnerships that can be built to start new initiatives to fill the needs of the community.</p>	<p>-LOC</p> <p>-School District providing projector/screen</p> <p>-LOC</p> <p>-Nechako Literacy Committee member, John Stafford built it</p> <p>-LOC keeps the information updated</p>
Transportation & Isolation	Research a project that would bring services to isolated communities	A partnership with NeighbourLink and the Chief & Council in Saik’uz has continued to help make sure the Best Moms & Dads Literacy Group program was available to more families. Funding was given in 2010 to support paying for gas for a transportation van (from Saik’uz) to bring participants to the program. Since the van has been on the road, numbers of participants has been steady.	<p>-NeighbourLink</p> <p>-Saik’uz Band Council</p> <p>-School District Literacy Coordinator</p>

Fort St. James Literacy Now Task Force

Literacy Outreach Coordinator: Alex Michaels

Table Members: Alex Michaels (LOC), Ann McCormick (Project Planner, College of New Caledonia)

Michelle Miller-Gauthier (SD 91), Diana Uhrich (Librarian, FSJ Bicentennial Library), Ruby Taylor (Prenatal Outreach and Brighter Futures Coordinator), Mary Huffman (retired teacher), Cheryl Work (Success by Six Coordinator), Cam McCormick (Principal, Sowchea Elementary), Joanne Alexander (Public Health Nurse), Samantha Moise (Nak'azdli Health Director)

<u>Goal/Focus Area</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Progress to Date & Considerations for the Future</u>	<u>Who</u>
Coordination	Employ a Community Literacy Coordinator	Alex Michaels for 15 hours per week	Posted through the college system
Build Relationships & Partners	Increase Community Ownership of Literacy	<p>Coffeetalk is circulated biweekly. It is an easy read, and it is becoming quite popular.</p> <p>This objective has been met and continues with excellent ongoing relationships with the District of Fort St. James, The College of New Caledonia and local schools, the Caledonia Courier newspaper, the Fort St. James bi-centennial library, local businesses, First Nations, community groups and other literacy organizations in the region.</p> <p>The participation by the District of Fort St. James, the local education community, the local library, First Nations groups, the local newspaper and our other partners clearly demonstrates that there is a broad base of interest in the value and success of a literacy program and that this interest continues to grow.</p>	- Literacy Outreach Coordinator, College of New Caledonia
Centralize Community Literacy Information and Resources	The Learning Hub	From the beginning of Literacy Now in Fort St. James the Learning Hub has been identified as the locale which should serve as the focal point for literacy information and services in the community. It would be fair to say that this “branding” has been largely accomplished. The Learning Hub now houses Literacy Now, the Community Adult Literacy Program, English as a Second Language, driver education and work readiness programs in one location. This co-location has permitted the various organizations to provide mutual support to each other, to collaborate on projects and to provide easy	- Literacy Outreach Coordinator, College of New Caledonia

		one-stop storefront access for the public.	
Support family literacy in the community	Provide fun and accessible ways to engage in and celebrate literacy activities	A big children’s festival was held in May of 2011 and was a collaboration between this task group and Success by Six. “Give a Book Take A Book” bins are in strategic locations around the community and have to be filled on a frequent basis.	- Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Support literacy in the community of Fort St. James and surrounding area	Sustain existing community literacy services and resources	This objective was expanded to include categories pertaining to Disseminating Information, Book Distribution, Accessibility, Branding and Research. With respect to the first four themes these have been and continue to be addressed through our day-to-day activities in the community. With respect to Research into what other literacy groups are accomplishing across the province, we find that the commonly recognized barriers to literacy exist in Fort St. James as they do elsewhere. On a positive note other communities have looked to the initiatives which have been undertaken in Fort St. James and developed their own versions of projects such as “Literacy Rocks,” information distribution to the business community via e-mail, and articles on literacy to the general community via the local newspaper.	
	Increase Public Awareness:	Considerable effort has been put towards this objective with numerous contests from Literacy Rocks” to our Short Story and Poetry Writing contest delivered along with others, all of which have been successful. Promotional items such as buttons and pencils have been distributed as were children’s books at the Children’s Festival and dictionaries courtesy of the Rotary Club. The local newspaper continues to run articles on literacy on a regular basis. The business community is routinely advised of services which could be of benefit to them and how to access them in Fort St. James. In collaboration with the District of Fort St. James, street banners promoting literacy have been displayed on the lamp-posts as one enters the village as well as at the main campus of the College of New Caledonia. A PowerPoint presentation speaking to the 9 essential skills to college students taking	

		<p>communications courses and can be tailored for other groups.</p> <p>A "Literacy Week" was declared by the District of Fort St. James for November 22 to November 28, 2010. A number of events are scheduled including:</p> <p>Pyjama and Pizza Party from 6:00-7:30 pm for children aged 5-9 at the Centennial Library in Fort St. James where there were readings and a puppet show.</p> <p>Spelling Bee hosted by Harvey Goff and Gareth Gammon.</p> <p>"Catch me Reading" photo display which was seen all around town.</p> <p>Display of new "Literacy Lives" banners at Five Corners.</p> <p>Distribution of promotional items (pencils, balloons, posters and lapel buttons).</p> <p>A lunch hour workshop on "Literacy for Profits" held at the Learning Hub on November 23. Lunch was provided.</p> <p>Short Story and Poetry Writing Contests for which the first prize was a brand new iPod and in which all participating contestants received a prize.</p>	
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Lakes District Literacy Now Task Force (Burns Lake Region)

Literacy Outreach Coordinator: Joan Clancy

Table Members: Colleen Needoba (SD 91), Scott Zayac (College of New Caledonia & SD 91), Lori Boychuk (SD 91), Elaine Wiebe (Burns Lake Public Library), Beckie Watts (SD 91), Jennifer Peterson (IDP support worker), Michelle Miller-Gauthier (SD 91).

<u>Goal/FocusArea</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Progress to Date & Considerations for the Future</u>	<u>Who</u>
Coordination	Employ a Community Literacy Coordinator	January 2011 Joan Clancy's contract renewed for 10-15 hours per week	Committee decided to continue to employ the LOC
Support & Expand Existing Programs	Books for Babies Program	Donation made to support this program	-Committee
	Family Literacy Nights at the Library	Donation was not needed this past year but we remain able to support next year if necessary	-Committee
Transportation & Isolation	Retrofit and equip a W.O.W. bus (Words on Wheels), a project that brings services to isolated communities in the form of a transformed school bus redesigned to accommodate literacy based programs for children and adults.	<p>Words On Wheels Bus- The bus travels four days a week throughout the Fall, Winter and Spring and will continue to run 1-2 days during the summer. It has been hugely successful in every community it visits and there are many success stories. The community continues to donate many hundreds of books that are lent out to children and adults in very isolated communities. Service BC travelled with the bus once and IDP participated in the Fall of 2010.</p> <p>StrongStart Outreach is housed on the W.O.W. Bus and provides early learning opportunities each of the four days the bus visits communities. StrongStart funds paid for half the cost of retrofitting the bus.</p>	<p>-LOC</p> <p>-SD 91 Bus Garage & Maintenance Dept.</p> <p>-LOC</p> <p>-SD 91 Literacy Coordinator</p> <p>-StrongStart Outreach Facilitators (SD 91)</p> <p>-LOC</p> <p>-SD 91 Literacy</p>

		2 Volunteer bus drivers were solicited from the community.	Coordinator
Support literacy in the communities	Establish a Community Literacy Hub in a facility formerly a primary school	<p>Hub Model Plans- A concept being discussed for next fall (2010) is to establish a Community Literacy hub in a portion of the IDP office that will be moving into a recently closed primary school. We will have a much more visible presence in the community and can unify our approach to literacy in one location. The Hub will prompt Literacy awareness, have a Family Resources Lending Library, a Special Needs Resource Lending Library, and house the Books for Babies Program, The W.O.W Bus coordination, and the Parent & Child Mother Goose Program.</p> <p>A local literacy website was established in the Fall of 2010 and is maintained on a regular basis.</p>	<p>-LOC</p> <p>Hub established and operational since Fall 2010!!</p>
Awareness	Community information campaigns.	<p>Newsletter/Calendar is published monthly during the year and distributed along the W.O.W. bus route and at the Community Service Network meetings (appendix)</p> <p>An Information pamphlet was published and inserted in the Books for Babies packages distributed by Public Health to all families with a newborn</p> <p>Restaurant Table Tripods promoting Literacy have been developed and will be distributed around the community</p> <p>W.O.W. Bus Special Events- the W.O.W. bus will be set up at the Children’s Fair this September and participated in the June 21st Aboriginal Day parade.</p>	<p>-LOC</p> <p>-LOC</p> <p>-Still in the process</p> <p>-LOC</p>
Aboriginal Cultural Content		Carrier Sekani Family Services is still interested in putting staff on the bus to help them deliver their ‘Community Days’ Program in the region’s First Nations Band Offices.	<p>-Carrier Sekani Family Services</p> <p>This initiative did not move forward.</p>

Supporting People to Live their Best Lives

We are all Diamonds in the Rough



Important Reasons for Having this Group

For Moms:

- *It is a healthy environment for the women to be in (safe, drug and alcohol free, friendly) and it is unique to our area. There are no other groups like it in Vanderhoof.*
- *Women are learning new skills they wouldn't otherwise learn (sewing shoulder bags, rag quilts, moccasins, storytelling through memory books)*
- *Transportation is **very important** because many wouldn't get here without it*
- *It is an opportunity to go somewhere and get a break because someone helps with the kids*
- *Helps them make informed decisions about their lives*
- *Celebrating birthdays and special events, like the birth of a baby, honours the moms and the kids, makes them feel important*
- *Connects moms to resources (housing, food, early intervention for children)*

For Children:

- *Healthy socialization with other children*
- *Crafts, story time with Jennifer from the library, reading books and singing songs helps develop language and communication skills*

- *Healthy snacks help build strong bodies*
- *Playing in the StrongStart room during You Make the Difference exposed the children to a new and exciting learning environment.*

2010-11 Activities

<i>Moms</i>	<i>Children</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Craft Fair (made cards and ornaments to sell)</i> • <i>Scrapbooking-Storytelling through art and photography</i> • <i>You Make the Difference Parenting Program (9 weeks)</i> • <i>Sewing Rag Quilts (led by Chris Simrose)</i> • <i>Barbeques at the park (Sept & May)</i> • <i>Planting snacking gardens (June 13)</i> • <i>Swimming in Prince George (June 18)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fun healthy snacks made into little recipe books for the kids to take home (CPNP worker)</i> • <i>Kid activities were often theme based according to special occasions (Easter cookies, Valentine crafts, Christmas crafts)</i>

Other important events

- *One healthy baby born in November*
- *Three babies turned one (have been with the program for one full year and more if prenatal time is counted!)*
- *One more baby about to turn one year old in June*

Goals Some of the Moms Have Set:

- *Get a job*
- *Go back to school*
- *Find a new place to live*

DATA

September 2010 to June 9, 2011

Adult Visits	Child/Infant Visits
289	403

Total: 692 visits to the Best Moms Group!

Six hundred ninety-two opportunities to touch a life, to make a friend, to enrich our lives, to teach and learn from each other, to give back to our community, to grow a wonderful future for a child!!