

# **Connecting Generations: Community and District Literacy Plan and Implementation Report**

**Update: 2013-2014**

**Submitted to  
Decoda Literacy Solutions and BC Ministry of Education**

**Submitted by  
North Coast Literacy Now and Prince Rupert School District 52**

**July 15, 2013**

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## **Introduction**

*Connecting Generations: Community and District Literacy Plan* is developed and implemented collaboratively by the North Coast Literacy Now and Prince Rupert School District 52, with involvement by Northwest Community College.

The ongoing plan provides a yearly snapshot of major literacy partnerships and relationships throughout the north coast. It guides the activities and resources of North Coast Literacy Now.

North Coast Literacy Now wishes to thank the Board of Education of School District 52 and the Aboriginal Education Department for their invaluable support over the past 9 years.

## **Reflections on 2012-2013**

### **Task Group/Steering Committee**

Our Task Group is referred to as the North Coast Literacy Now Steering Committee and includes representatives from these organizations:

- Northwest Community College
- Prince Rupert Public Library
- Hecate Strait Employment Development Society
- Aboriginal Education Council, School District 52
- Administration, School District 52
- Teaching Staff, School District 52
- Board of Education, School District 52

- Metlakatla First Nation
- Lax Kw'alaams First Nation
- Early Learning Group
- Northern Savings Credit Union
- Fraser Street Tutoring Program
- North Coast Immigrant and Multicultural Society
- Association des Francophones et Francophiles du Nord-Ouest
- Northwest Region Network of Inquiry and Innovations
- Prince Rupert Senior Centre
- Welcome BC
- First Nations Training and Development Centre
- Prince Rupert Port Authority

Between September 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, the Steering Committee met six times: September 25, November 13, January 15, February 14, April 23, and May 29. The meetings provide a forum for the following:

- Welcoming new members to the steering committee
- Sharing updates of what is happening in our community to enhance literacy
- Reviewing and identifying goals for the coming year
- Planning for and reporting on North Coast Literacy Now events and activities
- Supporting community activities related to learning and literacy
- Planning for and implementing the *Celebrating Literacy* annual event
- Providing an update of North Coast Literacy Now projects.

### **Community Context**

Although many community members in Prince Rupert continue to face significant economic challenges, all sectors in our area are anticipating economic and population growth in the near future. This has led to increased efforts to respond to the training and employment needs of residents and business/industry.

## Community Development and Literacy Collaboration

The school district, Northwest Community College, businesses and industry, and the agencies represented on the steering committee are in the midst of major changes focusing on meeting the future economic and educational needs of the community.

North Coast Literacy Now has been part of a number of discussion, meetings, and organizations focused on integrating community development and literacy. These include:

- *Celebrating Literacy* community event
- Family Literacy Day events
- Meetings with Northwest Community College regarding a number of new initiatives
- Meetings with Welcome BC regarding focus on newcomers and literacy
- Member of the Early Learning Group
- Member of Success by Six Council of Partners
- Member of Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce

## Accomplishments

- *Celebrating Literacy* includes representation from a number of community sectors: finance, health, education, Elders, museum, Aboriginal organizations, early learning, adult learning, and employment training. Our fourth annual *Celebrating Literacy* event took place on March 9, 2013.
- This year our steering committee expanded to include Welcome BC and the Prince Rupert Port Authority.
- We have representatives from multiple languages on our Steering Committee, including English, Sm'algyax, and French.
- We provided letters of appreciation and support for the Prince Rupert Rotary Club for their support of *Celebrating Literacy*, for Prince Rupert Public Library, and for a continued CALP program for our community.
- We continue to provide funding and support to projects and programs that connect generations in learning. Specifically this year we supported a Mother Goose program that took place at Acropolis Manor, the residential care unit in Prince Rupert. We are also supporting a year-long literacy program in Lax Kw'alaams, which connects Elders and young children.
- Our *Community and District Literacy Plan* includes initiatives and goals that are funded and supported by the School District, the Aboriginal Education Department, the Aboriginal Education Council, Northwest Community College, and others.

### Update on goals and actions for last year, 2012-2013:

1. Build and strengthen partnerships to enhance literacy and lifelong learning in our communities
  - We continue to have strong, committed representation on the Steering Committee.
  - The steering committee includes representation from 2 of the 4 villages.
  - The chair and the coordinator maintain memberships on various councils and committees within the community.
  - We have developed clear and accessible processes for access to funding.
  - Although we have not received additional implementation funding for a number of years, we continue to provide funding and manpower to support literacy activities that fall within our literacy plan and priorities.
  - We organized our fourth annual community event, *Celebrating Literacy*, on March 9, 2013.
2. Support healthy development for infants, toddlers, and young children
  - Ready, Set, Learn is a part of all of the community and village schools.
  - NCLN has provided funding for Books for Babies and will continue to do so in coming years. This year we also provided additional funding to provide bi-lingual books.
  - There continues to be very strong early learning participation in the *Celebrating Literacy* community event.
  - The NCLN coordinator is a member of the Early Years Group and Success by Six Council of Partners.
  - There are five very active StrongStart Centres in Prince Rupert, including one based in the secondary school and another based in the Rupert Square Shopping Centre.
  - The school district has started a new program, PALS for Immigrant Families, building on a previous program, PALS for Vietnamese Families.
  - Northern Health is an active partner with the school district in Ready, Set, Learn and the Kindergarten Fair. Northern Health has been a very active partner in the *Celebrating Literacy* event over the past three years and is a member of the Steering Committee beginning September 2012.
3. Enable every student to successfully complete Grade 12 and make a smooth transition to post-secondary employment or education

- Differentiated instruction within schools means that teachers and administrators know their students, understand the students' needs, plan for appropriate instruction, and connect to their learning styles.
- The goal of differentiated instruction includes several continuing initiatives, including LUCID (Learning for Understanding through Culturally Inclusive Imaginative Education), Universal Design for Learning, Aboriginal Entrepreneurship, Differentiated Instruction, Assessment for Learning, and Inquiry.
- The School District is guided by four foundational principles that are also integral to the Community District Literacy Plan:
  - Aboriginal Education: The District recognizes its role in aboriginal student success, cultural relevancy, creating a sense of belonging, pride, and inclusion.
  - Assessment For Learning: The District uses assessment for learning to guide instruction to meet the needs of all learners and support students' ability to take control of their learning.
  - Differentiated Instruction: The practice of differentiated instruction celebrates diversity and ensures the learning needs of every child are met.
  - Inquiry: The District has adopted an inquiry approach in order to focus instructional practices on the needs of students.
- The LUCID program incorporates culturally responsive education within an Imaginative Education framework. Teachers are supported in this process through the work of a coordinator and after-school meetings and workshops. A second cohort for an M. Ed. Program through Simon Fraser University started in September 2011.
- Universal Design for Learning incorporates instructional resources, hardware, software, and ongoing professional development. It is a continuing, cross-district, cross-grade initiative integrating technology and curriculum and enabling differentiated learning for all students.
- The school district has provided a number of high quality, ongoing professional development experiences this year. These are available for educators and others, including the First Nations Training and Development Centre and DPAC. Facilitators include Fiona Morrison and Faye Brownlie.
- In order to support relationships with families, the District Parent Advisory Committee has sponsored family workshops and transition meetings. They set up a Parent Advisory Committee in the middle school, which opened in September 2011.
- Each year, Northwest Community College presents an interactive open house for Grade 11-12 students which is very well attended and designed to ease the transition from the secondary schools to the College.

4. Maximize opportunities for life choices for youth, adults, and Elders and reduce barriers to the lifelong acquisition of knowledge, literacy, and essential skills
  - Northwest Community College has new leadership this year and is building on past partnerships and forging new partnerships to provide programs that benefit everyone in the north coast communities.
  - Northwest Community College embeds literacy strategies within trades programs; it is also beginning programs to support learning through learning coaches, learning centres, and online support.
  - Northwest Community College and the school district have planned a new program, Coastal Pathways, to begin in September 2013. This provides training for millwrights and in industrial/electrical work. This program involves several key partners: Northwest Community College, the school district, Ridley Terminals, the Prince Rupert Port Authority, British Gas, Metlakatla First Nation, and Smit Marine.
  - The school district, the Aboriginal Education Department, and Prince Rupert Port Authority jointly developed an online learning resource, Gateway Learning.
  - Northwest Community College continues to provide the Essential Skills for Work (ESWK) Program in many northwest communities. Literacy and essential skills are now being woven through the trades programs offered by NWCC.
  - There is ongoing collaboration and focus on youth and adults through the NCLN Steering Committee.
  - North Coast Literacy Now supports the Lax Kw'alaams Grandmothers and Elders in providing information about cultural literacy each year at the *Celebrating Literacy* event.

## **Indications of Success**

Over the past year we felt we were able to make progress on a number of the goals and actions identified in the 2012-2013 Community and District Literacy Plan, as noted above.

We have increased the visibility of North Coast Literacy Now, highlighting the work of the many organizations that contribute to literacy and learning in our communities. We are represented on a number of community organizations and councils and are included in community sessions focusing on learning and training.

We continue to build relationships with community organizations and become more involved in community initiatives. These activities enable us to provide greater support for literacy learning within our north coast communities.

There has been an increase in the number of people and organizations involved in literacy through the Steering Committee, increased learning from each other through the *Celebrating Literacy* event, and an increase in the involvement of the coordinator in community organizations.

We have now had a Literacy Outreach Coordinator for four years. In June 2014, our chair, Debbie Leighton-Stephens, will retire. Debbie has been chair of the steering committee since we began as a pilot group. She will be greatly missed. We will take the opportunity in the spring to examine our work to see if we wish to make any major changes in the coming years.

Within the context of the document, *Community Literacy Planning Guide: Working Together for Literacy*, North Coast Literacy Now would likely be at the Engagement Stage of community development: “As communities become more engaged in thinking about literacy, they find ways to work together to support programs and to embed learning in activities across the community. There is a broader understanding about literacy in communities and increased participation in literacy initiatives. Services become more effective and more sustainable (p. 29).”

## **Challenges**

Two major challenges that we face are—

- Continuing to build relationships within the business/industry sector
- Finding ways to become meaningfully involved in training and education initiatives

## **For the coming year**

We will continue to work with partners to implement the actions noted in our plan, below.

## **Community and District Literacy Plan: Goals and Partnerships**

We continue to focus on the following goals, which cover the lifespan:

1. Build and strengthen partnerships to enhance literacy and lifelong learning in our communities.
2. Support healthy development for infants, toddlers, and young children.
3. Enable every student to successfully complete Grade 12 and make a smooth transition to post-secondary employment or education.
4. Maximize opportunities for life choices for youth, adults, and Elders and reduce barriers to the lifelong acquisition of knowledge, literacy, and essential skills.
5. Honour and support every Elder in our communities; support connections and learning between generations.



**Goal 1: Build and strengthen partnerships to enhance literacy and lifelong learning in our communities**

<b>Actions/Strategies</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Ensure that membership of the literacy steering committee equitably represents the communities	Coordinator, Chair, and Steering Committee members
Strengthen relationships with the business community	Coordinator, Chair, and Steering Committee members
Identify community and provincial literacy resources covering all age levels, and make these accessible through the North Coast Literacy Now website	Coordinator, Chair, and Steering Committee members
Organize the fifth annual <i>Celebrating Literacy</i> event at the Rupert Square Shopping Centre; support Family Literacy week	Coordinator, Chair, and Steering Committee members Community partners
Discuss and assess steering committee composition, resource distribution, and other areas	Coordinator, Chair, and Steering Committee members
Maintain the North Coast Literacy Now website	Coordinator
Continue to build relationships and support initiatives through membership in related organizations	Coordinator, Chair, Steering Committee members

**Goal 2: Support healthy development for infants, toddlers, and young children**

Actions/Strategies	Partnerships
<p>Maintain relationships with early learning organizations in the community and support programs and initiatives</p>	<p>Aboriginal Education Council                      School District                      StrongStart Centres                      Westview Child Care Centre                      The Early Years Table                      Berry Patch                      Friendship House                      Success by Six                      PACES Hub                      Prince Rupert Public Library                      AFFNO                      Aboriginal Head Start                      Rupert Square Shopping Centre                      Community Enrichment Society                      First Nations Training Centre                      North Coast Immigrant and Multicultural Society Services                      Prince Rupert Rotary Club                      Raise a Reader                      Northern Savings Credit Union                      Northern Health                      Community Link                      Changing Results for Young Readers (Ministry of Education)</p>
<p>Continue current school district early learning initiatives, as noted in the Appendix</p>	<p>Aboriginal Education Council                      School District                      StrongStart Centres                      Westview Child Care Centre</p>

	<p>The Early Years Table  Berry Patch  Friendship House  Success by Six  PACES Hub  Prince Rupert Public Library  AFFNO  Aboriginal Head Start  Rupert Square Shopping Centre  Community Enrichment Society  First Nations Training Centre  North Coast Immigrant and  Multicultural Society Services  Prince Rupert Rotary Club  Raise a Reader  Northern Savings Credit Union  Northern Health  Community Link</p>
<p>Continue Kindergarten Sm'alg yax Language Program</p>	<p>Aboriginal Education Council  School District</p>
<p>Initiate focus on health and physical literacy</p>	<p>Prince Rupert Recreation Department  School District  Northern Health  Community Sports Groups</p>

**Goal 3: Enable every student to successfully complete Grade 12 and make a smooth transition to post-secondary employment or education**

Actions/Strategies	Partnerships
<p>Work toward smooth transitions for students within K-12 and from secondary to post-secondary training and employment, including the following—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program to link Aboriginal students to local businesses</li> <li>• Continue the Ace-It Program</li> <li>• Implement the Coastal Pathways Program to offer secondary/college credit for trades programs</li> <li>• Continue strong links between secondary and post-secondary institutions and the business community in areas of skills preparation and mentorship through workplace literacy initiatives</li> <li>• Continue collaboration between secondary schools and post-secondary institutions concerning bridging opportunities for students</li> <li>• Support the Port of Prince Rupert Learning Gateway, a web learning resource and partnership between the Port of Prince Rupert and the school district</li> <li>• Support Adventures in Industry Program</li> <li>• Continue Rising Stars Program, a partnership between NWCC, the school district, and Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Continue planning for a dual credit Entrepreneurship Program through NWCC through partnerships with Prince Rupert School District and Haida Gwaii</li> </ul>	<p>Elementary schools                      Secondary Schools                      Aboriginal Education Services                      Northwest Community College                      University of Northern British Columbia                      First Nations Training Centre                      Prince Rupert Special Events Society                      Chamber of Commerce                      Ridley Terminals Inc.                      Community Action Initiative Group                      Hecate Strait Employment Development Services                      Business Community as mentors                      RCMP programs                      Community mentors                      University of Northern British Columbia                      Port of Prince Rupert                      Prince Rupert Rotary Club                      Community Futures of the Pacific Northwest                      Northern Savings Credit Union                      Port of Prince Rupert                      Ridley Terminals                      British Gas                      Smit Marine                      Metlakatla First Nation</p>

<p>School District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue planning for online learner support through partnership of NWCC, Prince Rupert School District and Haida Gwaii School District</li> <li>• Support Teacher Appreciation Day in September</li> </ul>	
<p>Differentiate instruction within schools and the College by knowing our students, understanding their needs, planning for appropriate instruction, and connecting to their learning styles. In addition to regular programs in all schools and the College, specific programs include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LUCID</li> <li>• Universal Design for Learning</li> <li>• Self-Directed IEPs</li> <li>• Focus on Self-Regulation</li> <li>• Pacific Coast School</li> <li>• Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program</li> <li>• Changing Results for Young Readers</li> <li>• Career Preparation Programs</li> <li>• Career and College Preparation Programs</li> <li>• Interweaving essential skills and literacy throughout NWCC trades programs</li> </ul>	<p>Aboriginal Education Department  School District  Northwest Community College  University of Northern British Columbia  Simon Fraser University  Student Support Services  Paul Martin Foundation  Business and industry sectors  Ministry of Education  Bulkley Valley School District</p>
<p>Support inservice and meetings about literacy within schools, the community, and Northwest Community College</p>	<p>School District  Aboriginal Education Department  Northwest Community College  Berry Patch  Decoda Literacy Solutions  District Parent Advisory Council  First Nations Training and Development Centre  Fiona Morrison</p>

	Faye Brownlie
Support initiatives that prevent bullying and ensure safe and caring school communities	School District Ministry of Education RCMP MCFD Northern Health Child and Youth Mental Health
Support cultural literacy programs and initiatives in schools and the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education training, First Nations Training and Development Centre and Prince Rupert School District</li> <li>• NWCC development of curriculum materials for Massett dialect of Haida language.</li> <li>• NWCC preparing curriculum materials for Skidegate dialect of Haida language</li> </ul>	Lax Kw'alaams Grandmothers Coast Tsimshian Academy Metlakatla First Nation School District Aboriginal Education Department First Nations Training and Development Centre Aboriginal Education Council Prince Rupert Public Library
Continue Remote/Rural Community-Based Field Experience to provide a range of community experiences for potential teachers to the region	School District UBC
Maintain and enhance connections between families, the community, and schools	District Parent Advisory Committee School Parent Advisory Committees Elementary schools Secondary Schools Aboriginal Education Department Northwest Community College University of Northern British Columbia Prince Rupert Public Library First Nations Training and Development Centre Prince Rupert Special Events Society Chamber of Commerce

	<p>Port of Prince Rupert British Gas Smit Marine Ridley Terminals Inc. Metlakatla First Nation Lax Kw'laams First Nation Hecate Strait Employment Development Services Business Community as mentors RCMP programs Prince Rupert Rotary Club Community Futures of the Pacific Northwest Northern Savings Credit Union Success by Six Early Years Group</p>
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**Goal 4: Maximize opportunities for life choices for youth, adults, and Elders and reduce barriers to the lifelong acquisition of knowledge, literacy, and essential skills**

Actions/Strategies	Partnerships
<p>Support current and new community programs that enable transitions to employment, including—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College and Career Preparation Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Adult literacy programs</li> <li>• Adult Dogwood Certification</li> <li>• Career-related training courses (workplace training programs)</li> <li>• Mature worker training programs</li> <li>• Aboriginal workers’ training programs</li> <li>• Technology training programs</li> <li>• Bladerunners (construction program)</li> <li>• Adventures in Industry Program</li> <li>• Rising Stars Program</li> <li>• Fraser Street Tutoring Program</li> </ul> <p>Continue planning for School of Marine and Coastal Studies to begin implementation in 2014</p> <p>Continue community partnership for Life Skills Program for those who are homeless</p>	<p>Northwest Community College                      Hecate Strait Employment Development Services                      North Coast Distance Education School                      Prince Rupert Public Library                      Fraser Street Tutoring Services                      Aboriginal Education Services                      School District 52                      Pacific Coast School                      Chamber of Commerce and business community                      Port of Prince Rupert                      Prince Rupert Rotary Club                      Other community post-secondary training organizations</p>
<p>Support National Aboriginal Day</p>	<p>Elementary schools                      Secondary Schools                      Aboriginal Education Services                      Northwest Community College                      University of Northern British Columbia                      First Nations Training Centre                      Prince Rupert Special Events Society                      Chamber of Commerce</p>



	<p>Ridley Terminals Inc. Community Action Initiative Group Hecate Strait Employment Development Services Business Community as mentors RCMP programs Community mentors University of Northern British Columbia Port of Prince Rupert Prince Rupert Rotary Club Community Futures of the Pacific Northwest Northern Savings Credit Union</p>
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**Goal 5: Honour and support every Elder in our communities; support connections and learning between generations**

<b>Actions/Strategies</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>
<p>Support initiatives to connect generations and intergenerational learning, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sm’algyax language courses for adults</li> <li>• Elder’s cultural teachings in Lax Kw’alaams</li> <li>• Adult literacy programs</li> <li>• Connections between young people and Elders and seniors</li> <li>• Mentorships among generations in the North Coast</li> <li>• Career and College Prep courses</li> <li>• Essential Skills for Work Programs</li> <li>• Mother Goose Programs</li> <li>• Mentorship Training Programs</li> <li>• National Aboriginal Day</li> </ul>	<p>Hecate Strait Employment Development Services</p> <p>Aboriginal Education Council</p> <p>Aboriginal Education Department</p> <p>School District</p> <p>Fraser Street Tutoring</p> <p>Northwest Community College</p> <p>Hospice Organization</p> <p>Success by Six</p> <p>Lax Kw’alaams First Nation</p> <p>Metlakatla First Nation</p> <p>Prince Rupert Public Library</p> <p>Northern Health</p>
<p>Support adult training and literacy programs that are accessible and responsive to the needs of Elders and seniors, including mature workers and immigrant workers</p>	<p>Aboriginal Education Department</p> <p>School District</p> <p>Fraser Street Tutoring Services</p> <p>Northwest Community College</p> <p>Hecate Strait Employment Development Services</p> <p>Other community organizations</p>
<p>Support programs for Elders and seniors living in Acropolis Manor</p>	<p>Success by Six</p> <p>North Coast Literacy Now</p> <p>Helen Moore, Mother Goose Program</p> <p>Acropolis Manor</p>

**Appendix: Partial Lists of Community Programs**

<b>Young Children, Birth Through 6 Years</b>	
<p>Books for Babies                      Aboriginal Head Start                      Day Care Centres                      Pre-School/Nursery Centres                      Supported Child Care                      Infant Development Program                      StrongStart BC                      Roots of Empathy                      Everyone Plays                      Talking Tables                      PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters)                      Lax Kw’alaams Treehouse, Parent-Tot Drop in Group                      Summer Read and Play                      Prince Rupert Public Library, Tales for Two; Story Hour</p>	<p>POPS (Parents of Primary Students)                      Speech/Language Services                      Ready, Set, Learn                      Welcome to Kindergarten                      Success by Six                      PACES ‘Hub’                      Aboriginal Cross-Curricular Units                      Aboriginal Role Model Program                      Helping Our Children Learn Family Workshops                      Mother Goose Program                      Berry Patch Resource and Referral Program                      Friendship House, Parent-Tot Drop in Group                      AFFNO                      PALS for Immigrant Families                      StrongStart Outreach</p>
<b>School Aged Children, K-12</b>	
<p>Sm’algyax Language Program                      Talking Tables                      PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters)                      POPS (Parents of Primary Students)                      Summer Read and Play                      French Immersion                      Homework Clubs                      Speech/Language Services                      Youth Hub                      LUCID                      Prince Rupert Public Library, Summer Reading Program</p>	<p>Teen Parents Programs                      Aboriginal Cross-Curricular Units                      Aboriginal Role Model Program                      Aboriginal Counsellors                      Aboriginal Family Resource Workers  <i>Honouring the Salmon</i> materials                      Aboriginal Community Services                      Camp Jupiter for grade 3-4                      Student Support Services                      Summer Camps for learning                      Lax Kw’alaams Grandmothers</p>

<b>Youth and Adults</b>	
Teen Parents' Program Public Library Programs Fraser Street Tutoring Services North Coast First Nations Training and Skill Development Hecate Strait Employment Development Society Friendship House Programs North Coast Transition Society Rising Stars (Mentorship Program at NWCC) North Coast Victim Support Services PALS for Immigrant Families North Coast Immigrant and Multicultural Services	Community Living Services Community Enrichment Society Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society NW Inter-Nation Family and Community Services Salvation Army Northern Health Programs Lax Kw'alaams Essential Skills Workplace program Community Futures of the Pacific Northwest Lax Kw'alaams Grandmothers AFFNO Tri-Corp programs
<b>Elders and Seniors</b>	
Friendship House Elders Group Northwest Community College North Coast Victim Support Services Community Enrichment Society Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society Fraser Street Tutoring Services Lax Kw'alaams Grandmothers Hospice Group programs	Salvation Army Home Support Programs Seniors' Centre Public Library Programs Hecate Strait Employment Development Services programs Essential Skills for Work Program