

Connecting Generations: Community and District Literacy Plan and Implementation Report

Update: 2012-2013

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

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

July 15, 2012

Introduction

Connecting Generations: Community and District Literacy Plan has been developed and implemented collaboratively by North Coast Literacy Now and Prince Rupert School District 52. The ongoing plan focuses on building strength at all age levels, birth through Elders, while connecting generations through reciprocal learning.

Previous years of planning and collaboration have provided the opportunity for the *Community and District Literacy Plan* to identify links among community organizations, align the Plan with the School District's goals and objectives, respect and acknowledge community literacy planning and programs, expand the School District's understanding and involvement in literacy learning within the community, document the process of collaborative planning and implementation, identify joint goals and actions, and describe implementation processes.

Prince Rupert School District 52 and North Coast Literacy Now acknowledge, with sincere gratitude, the contributions and support of Decoda Literacy Solutions, the BC Ministry of Education, and Raise-a-Reader, without whom it would be impossible to implement the Community and District Literacy Plan.

North Coast Literacy Now wishes to thank the Board of Education of School District 52 and the Aboriginal Education Council for their invaluable support over the past 8 years, since we began as a pilot program in September 2004.

Reflections on 2011-2012

Task Group/Steering Committee

Our Task Group is referred to as the North Coast Literacy Now Steering Committee. Representatives from these groups and organizations are members of the Steering Committee:

- Northwest Community College, Administration
- Northwest Community College, Teaching Staff
- 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
- Fraser Street Tutoring Program
- North Coast Immigrant and Multicultural Society
- Association des Francophones et Francophiles du Nord-Ouest
- Northwest Region Performance Based Schools Network
- Senior Centre

Between September 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, we met as a complete Steering Committee six times: September 27, November 8, January 17, February 21, April 24, and May 29. During each meeting, we share an update of what is happening in our community to enhance literacy and we provide an update of North Coast Literacy Now activities and projects.

Over the year at our meetings we outline the immediate goals for the coming year, determine projects and programs to support, support Family Literacy Day activities, plan for the annual Celebrating Literacy community event, put on the event and assess to determine changes to be made, seek out new members of the steering committee, review the goals of the current literacy plan and determine changes for the coming year, and review the updated plan to be submitted in July.

Community Context

Although there are comments in the press that Northwest BC is on the verge of an economic boom, positive changes on the North Coast have not yet materialized and we continue to face significant economic challenges.

The decline in population has affected the schools in our area. Continuing decreases in student populations and aging infrastructure were among the reasons for major restructuring in the school district this year. Beginning September 2011, reorganization of schools resulted in one secondary school, one middle school, five elementary schools (K-5), 1 village school, and a multi-grade school, Pacific Coast School.

Further, economic challenges have affected Northwest Community College, which is a major supporter of North Coast Literacy Now. Programs have been eliminated, resulting in some of the members of the North Coast Literacy Now steering committee losing their programs and their employment with the College.

Regardless of the challenges, the communities of the North Coast remain generous with their time and resources and members of the Steering Committee of North Coast Literacy Now continue to work to support the well-being and health of young children, school-aged children and youth, adults, and Elders.

We are extremely proud of and appreciative of the involvement of the organizations that are part of the Steering Committee and of the work they do within our community.

Community Development and Literacy Collaboration

With each year, our ability to broaden and deepen our collaboration with other agencies increases. In the beginning, our collaboration was limited to the discussions and partnerships that took place at the steering committee table. People were able to meet others and to more easily arrange to support each other, to ask and answer questions, and to find out what was happening in the community.

In the past three years, there has been a much more focused effort to reach out to other organizations with related goals. The Coordinator has attended meetings with or been part of joint initiatives with the following:

- *Celebrating Literacy* community event, annually
- Family Literacy Day planning and attendance, annually
- Working Together to Celebrate Life (Youth Health), as a member
- Community Enrichment Services for joint development of proposal for Community Action Initiative for youth

- Early Learning Group, as a visitor
- Fraser Street Tutoring Services regarding potential programs for adult learners
- ESLSAP Program regarding Family Literacy Programs
- PALS for Vietnamese Families planning and implementation
- Advisory Committee, Fraser Street Tutoring Program
- Chamber of Commerce
- Women in Business
- Website development
- RCMP regarding community involvement in healthy living and anti-drug education
- Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning meeting

Accomplishments

- We have strengthened and broadened our relationships with other organizations over the past year through meetings, discussions, our annual Celebration, and joint planning.
- We continue to expand the Steering Committee so that we have greater representation from significant groups within the community. Our *Celebrating Literacy* event expanded this year, and includes representation from a number of sectors: finance, health, education, Elders, museum, Aboriginal organizations, early learning, adult learning, and employment training.
- We have representatives from multiple languages on our Steering Committee, including English, Sm'algyax, and French. We are also strengthening ties with programs for immigrant and refugee families.
- We organized our third annual community event, *Celebrating Literacy*, which was held at the Rupert Square Shopping Centre. Hundreds of people engaged with 16 community organizations involved with literacy. *Celebrating Literacy* brought together many groups, from those providing services to young children to Elders sharing their teaching of culture knowledge and wisdom. This event was well covered by the local newspaper and increased our visibility in the community.
- 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.
- Our *Community and District Literacy Plan* includes initiatives and goals that are funded and supported by the School District, the Aboriginal Education Council, and Northwest Community College who are key members of the Steering Committee.

As in all small communities, our collaborations generally work because of the commitment of people to the health of their community, the need for people to support others who are actively involved in programs and initiatives, and the relationships that build up over time.

Update on goals and actions for last year, 2011-2012:

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 that do not require competition.
 - Our website was launched this year, <http://www.northcoastliteracy.ca>; our email address is northcoastliteracy@gmail.com.
 - We organized our third annual community event, *Celebrating Literacy*, on March 12, 2011.

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 provided funding for Books for Babies last year, this year, and will continue to do so in coming years.
 - There continues to be very strong early learning participation in the *Celebrating Literacy* community event this year, including StrongStart BC, School District 52, Berry Patch, and Prince Rupert Aboriginal HeadStart. Once again we included a storytelling room with stories in French, Sm'algyax, and English.
 - There is joint representation on the Early Years Table, through the School District Early Learning Coordinator and Aboriginal Education Services Department.
 - There are four very active StrongStart Centres in Prince Rupert, including one based in the secondary school. Success by Six has an ongoing partnership with the StrongStart centres and provides \$1000.00 per year for each centre. Westview Childcare Centre is also a partner in the StrongStart centres.
 - This past year a new program started in the community: 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 two years and is a member of the Steering Committee beginning September 2012.

- The School District has developed Receptive Language Kits for young children.
 - The School District has developed training for the Fun Friends program to help young children deal with anxiety.
3. Enable every student to successfully complete Grade 12 and make a smooth transition to post-secondary employment or education
- 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.
 - 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 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 new 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.
 - This year there was planned ongoing inservice with Faye Brownlie to support these school district goals. Due to province-wide circumstances, this has been postponed.
 - There is ongoing collaboration and focus on students K-12 through the NCLN Steering Committee, which includes School District 52, Northwest Community College, Hecate Strait Employment Development Services, Charles Hays Secondary School, Prince

Rupert Public Library, Early Learning, Fraser Street Tutoring Services, and other related groups.

- In order to support relationships with families, the District Parent Advisory Committee has sponsored family workshops, transition meetings, and the Full Day Kindergarten Program. They have also set up a Parent Advisory Committee in the new 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 provided the Essential Skills for Work (ESWK) Program in many northwest communities, including two in our area: Lax Kw'alaams and Kitkatla.
 - There is ongoing collaboration and focus on youth and adults through the NCLN Steering Committee, which includes School District 52, Northwest Community College, Hecate Strait Employment Development Services, Charles Hays Secondary School, Prince Rupert Secondary School, Prince Rupert Public Library, Early Learning, Fraser Street Tutoring Services, and other related groups.
 - 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 2011-2012 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 began our website and now have our own email address. We printed North Coast Literacy Now bookmarks which we distribute as frequently as possible.

We have joined the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce and the Women in Business group. We continue to build relationships with community organizations and become more involved in healthy 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 three years. Next year, we hope to spend more time looking back over the years to see what we have accomplished through building greater awareness and through the partnerships that have been built to focus on literacy in our community.

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—

- Recognition that it takes time to build relationships, link with other organizations, and learn to work collaboratively to make a noticeable impact on our community;
- The difficulty of measuring and documenting impact.

For the coming year

We will continue to implement the Community and District Literacy Plan goals, as noted in the Literacy Plan section, below.

In our community, we have a gap between the needs of the community and the skills and education that many youth and adults bring to the workplace. We intend to focus on workplace literacy, involving the business community, and making links to City Council.

We hope to examine the work we’re doing using Appreciative Inquiry questions to consider what we are doing well, what we need to learn more about, what we need to add to our work, and where we can strengthen relationships within the community.

Community and District Literacy Plan: Goals and Partnerships

Through collaboration, joint planning, and implementation we have focused 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

Actions/Strategies	Responsible
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 fourth 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 using appreciative inquiry and other positive processes	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 AAFNO 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 current school district early learning initiatives, as noted in the Appendix</p>	<p>Aboriginal Education Council School District StrongStart Centres Westview Child Care Centre The Early Years Table</p>

	<p>Berry Patch Friendship House Success by Six PACES Hub Prince Rupert Public Library AAFNO 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 in Full-Day Kindergarten programs</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"> • Continue the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program to link Aboriginal students to local businesses • Continue the Ace-It Program to offer secondary/college credit for trades programs • Establish stronger links between secondary and post-secondary institutions and the business community in Prince Rupert in areas of skills, preparation, and mentorship through workplace literacy initiatives. • Support collaboration between secondary schools and post-secondary institutions concerning bridging opportunities for students • Support collaboration between secondary schools and post-secondary institutions concerning programs, instruction, and assessment of English Language literacy • Continue Rising Stars Program, partnership between NWCC and Chamber of Commerce • Support Adventures in Industry Program • Support Teacher Appreciation Day in September 	<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 Prince Rupert Port Authority</p>
<p>Differentiate instruction within schools by knowing our students, understanding their needs, planning for appropriate instruction, and</p>	<p>Aboriginal Education Services School District Northwest Community College</p>

<p>connecting to their learning styles. In addition to regular programs in all schools, specific programs include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LUCID • Grade 9 Pilot Program • Pacific Coast School • Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program • Career Preparation Programs 	<p>University of Northern British Columbia Simon Fraser University Special Services Department Paul Martin Foundation Business and industry sectors</p>
<p>Support inservice and meetings about literacy within schools, the community, and Northwest Community College</p>	<p>School District Northwest Community College Berry Patch Decoda Literacy Solutions District Parent Advisory Council</p>
<p>Support cultural literacy programs and initiatives in schools and the community</p>	<p>Lax Kw’alaams Grandmothers Coast Tsimshian Academy Metlakatla First Nation School District Aboriginal Education Council Prince Rupert Public Library</p>
<p>Maintain and enhance connections between families, the community, and schools</p>	<p>District Parent Advisory Committee School Parent Advisory Committees Elementary schools Secondary Schools Aboriginal Education Services Northwest Community College University of Northern British Columbia Prince Rupert Public Library First Nations Training Centre Prince Rupert Special Events Society Chamber of Commerce</p>

	<p>Ridley Terminals Inc. Community Action Initiative Group Committee 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 Prince Rupert Port Authority</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"> • College and Career Preparation Advisory Committee • Adult literacy programs • Adult Dogwood Certification • Tutoring programs • Career-related training courses (workplace training programs) • Mature worker training programs • Aboriginal workers’ training programs • Technology training programs • Bladerunners (construction program) • Adventures in Industry Program • Rising Stars Program 	<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 Prince Rupert Port Authority 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 Ridley Terminals Inc. Community Action Initiative Group Hecate Strait Employment</p>

	<p>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

Actions/Strategies	Partnerships
<p>Support initiatives to connect generations and intergenerational learning, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sm’algyax language courses for adults • Elder’s cultural teachings in Lax Kw’alaams • Adult literacy programs • Connections between young people and Elders and seniors • Mentorships among generations in the North Coast • Career and College Prep courses • Essential Skills for Work Programs • Mother Goose Programs • Mentorship Training Programs • National Aboriginal Day 	<p>Hecate Strait Employment Development Services</p> <p>Aboriginal Education Council</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>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>

Appendix: Partial Lists of Community Programs

Young Children, Birth Through 6 Years	
<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 Vietnamese Families</p>
School Aged Children, K-12	
<p>Sm'alg̱ax 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 Restorative Justice Student Support Services Summer Camps for learning Lax Kw'alaams Grandmothers Ice House Gallery: Post card writing contest</p>

Youth and Adults	
Teen Parents' Program Planet Youth 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 Vietnamese Families North Coast Immigrant and Multicultural Services AAFNO Tri-Corp programs	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 Hecate Strait Employment Development Services programs Essential Skills for Work Program Community Futures of the Pacific Northwest Rising Stars Program Lax Kw'alaams Grandmothers Northern Health Programs
Elders and Seniors	
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