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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2016AVED0121-002388  
Nov. 18, 2016

Ministry of Advanced Education

### **Adult learners benefit from literacy funding**

VICTORIA – A total of 85 communities throughout B.C. will benefit from \$2.4 million in funding toward community adult-literacy programs that will support adults wishing to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

“Our government is investing in adult-literacy programs to help British Columbians gain the skills they need to achieve their educational and life goals,” said Advanced Education Minister Andrew Wilkinson. “This funding gives adult learners the opportunity to learn close to home in schools and communities throughout the province.”

Provincial funding for community adult-literacy programs is distributed to not-for-profit community groups to offer free training that is easily accessible in local places such as schools, Aboriginal friendship centres and community centres. In 2016-17, 91 grants will be funded, supporting 9,000 adult learners in British Columbia.

“As the adult-literacy program co-ordinator at the Campbell River Literacy Association, I meet learners who come through our door beaten down from a life of low literacy,” said program co-ordinator for the Campbell River Literacy Association Sherry Bujold. “For the learners that embrace the program, I am privileged to witness a transformation that brings with it confidence and pride that leads to opportunities provided by their new literacy and numeracy skills.”

Trained volunteers teach the adult-literacy programs, offering one-to-one tutoring or small group classes. Each program is tailored to suit the needs of adults with low reading, writing and/or math skills.

“I have empowered myself and overcome hopelessness, anger, confusion and powerlessness,” said Campbell River Literacy Association adult learner Marina Robinson. “For the past four years I have been working on improving my education. I look back at my life now and say to myself, ‘Wow! You have grown and are continuing to learn.’ I remind myself every day to never give up.”

Local community organizations deliver the programs in partnership with public post-secondary institutions in their regions. The partnerships encourage the transition of adult learners from community adult-literacy programs into post-secondary studies and employment training.

“Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House Family Literacy Outreach is a partnership with Vancouver Community College that connects low-level literacy families with volunteer tutors,” said community connections co-ordinator for Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House Blanca Salvatierra. “To date, 23 immigrant and refugee families have been connected to facilitate learning in families’ homes. This funding will help us continue to provide services that

strengthen literacy skills, create connections to community resources and foster a welcoming community.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested more than \$27 million in community adult-literacy programs, helping approximately 109,000 adults improve their reading, writing and math skills.

**Learn More:**

To find out more about community adult-literacy programs please visit: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/adult-education/adult-upgrading>

A backgrounder follows.

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## BACKGROUND

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### **Funding supports adult-literacy programs throughout B.C.**

Communities that will benefit from the \$2.4 million in funding for community adult-literacy programs include:

- 100 Mile House: Thompson Rivers University/Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy Society
- Abbotsford: University of the Fraser Valley/Abbotsford Community Services
- Agassiz-Harrison: University of the Fraser Valley/Agassiz-Harrison Community Services
- Atlin: Northern Lights College/Atlin Access Centre
- Barriere: Thompson Rivers University/Yellowhead Community Services Society
- Bella Coola: North Island College/Bella Coola Valley Learning Society
- Burnaby: Simon Fraser University/South Burnaby Neighbourhood House
- Campbell River: North Island College/Campbell River Community Literacy Association
- Castlegar, Grand Forks, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson, Salmo, Slocan Valley, Greater Trail: Selkirk College/Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
- Chetwynd: Northern Lights College/Chetwynd Public Library
- Chilliwack: University of the Fraser Valley/Chilliwack Community Services
- Chilliwack: University of the Fraser Valley/Chilliwack Learning Society
- Clearwater: Thompson Rivers University/Yellowhead Community Services Society
- Courtenay: North Island College/Comox Valley Adult Learning Centre
- Dawson Creek: Northern Lights College/The Literacy Society
- Dease Lake: Northern Lights College/Dease Lake Reading Centre
- Duncan, Mill Bay, Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill, Crofton: Vancouver Island University/Literacy Now Cowichan
- Fort Nelson: Northern Lights College/Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society
- Fort St. James: College of New Caledonia/Fort St. James Public Library
- Fort St. James: College of New Caledonia/Nak'azdli Band Social Development Department
- Fort St. John: Northern Lights College/Fort St. John Literacy Society
- Fraser Lake: College of New Caledonia/Fraser Lake Library
- Gitxaala Nation: Northwest Community College/Gitxaala Education Society
- Golden, Windermere Valley, Creston, Cranbrook, Kimberley, Elk Valley: College of the Rockies/Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
- Haida Gwaii: Northwest Community College/Literacy Haida Gwaii
- Hazelton: Northwest Community College/Learners Opportunity Group Society
- Hazelton: Northwest Community College/Storytellers' Foundation
- Hope: University of the Fraser Valley/Read Right Society
- Houston: Northwest Community College/Houston Link to Learning
- Kamloops: Nicola Valley Institute of Technology/Skeetchestn Indian Band
- Kamloops: Thompson Rivers University/Elizabeth Fry Society and School District

- Kamloops: Thompson Rivers University/Twin Rivers Education Centre, School District 73
- Kelowna: Okanagan College/Project Literacy Kelowna Society
- Kispiox Nation: Northwest Community College/Kispiox Band Council
- Kitimat: Northwest Community College/Kitimat Community Services Society
- Langley: Kwantlen Polytechnic University/Encompass Support Services Society
- Lillooet: Thompson Rivers University/Lillooet Area Library Association
- Mackenzie: College of New Caledonia/Mackenzie Public Library
- Malahat: Vancouver Island University/Malahat First Nation
- Maple Ridge: University of the Fraser Valley/Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Community Literacy Committee
- McBride: College of New Caledonia/Robson Valley Support Society
- Mission: University of the Fraser Valley/Mission Literacy in Motion
- Nanaimo, Chemainus, Ladysmith, Nanoose Bay, Gabriola Island: Vancouver Island University/Literacy Central Vancouver Island
- North Vancouver: Capilano University/North Shore Neighbourhood House
- North Vancouver: Capilano University/St. John Evangelist Anglican Church
- Parksville: Vancouver Island University/Central Vancouver Island Jobs Opportunities Building Society – The Career Centre
- Port Alberni: North Island College/Literacy Alberni Society
- Powell River: Vancouver Island University/Powell River Employment Program Society
- Prince George: College of New Caledonia/Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Prince Rupert: Northwest Community College/North Coast Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society
- Quesnel: College of New Caledonia/Literacy Quesnel Society
- Revelstoke: Okanagan College/Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
- Revelstoke: Okanagan College/Revelstoke Literacy Action Committee Community Group
- Richmond: Kwantlen Polytechnic University/School District 38
- Salt Spring Island: Camosun College/Salt Spring Island Literacy Society
- Samahquam: Capilano University/Samahquam Band
- Sechelt: Capilano University/Sechelt Public Library
- Smithers: Northwest Community College/Smithers Community Services Association
- South Okanagan: Okanagan College/Okanagan Regional Library
- Squamish: Capilano University/Squamish Volunteer Centre Society
- Squamish: Capilano University/Sea to Sky Community Services
- Surrey, White Rock: Kwantlen Polytechnic University/Read Surrey-White Rock Society
- Terrace: Northwest Community College/Literacy Terrace Society
- Tofino, Zeballos and Nuu-chah-nulth communities: North Island College/Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
- Tumbler Ridge: Northern Lights College/Tumbler Ridge Public Library
- Valemount: College of New Caledonia/Community Basin Alliance for Literacy
- Vancouver: Capilano University/Carnegie Community Centre
- Vancouver: Capilano University/Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of B.C.
- Vancouver: Capilano University/REAL Family Literacy Program - Hastings Elementary School
- Vancouver: Capilano University/Strathcona Community Centre
- Vancouver: Vancouver Community College/Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House

- Vancouver: Vancouver Community College/Atira Women's Resource Society
- Vancouver: Vancouver Community College/Native Education College
- Vanderhoof: College of New Caledonia/Vanderhoof Public Library
- Victoria: Camosun College/Literacy Victoria
- Whistler: Capilano University/Whistler Public Library
- Williams Lake: Thompson Rivers University/Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy Society

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