



District/Community Literacy Plan
June 2009

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Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Context

School district #42 encompasses three communities, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Katzie First Nation with a combined population of just over 84 000. **Maple Ridge** lies on the north shore of the Fraser River nestled against the Coast Mountains. The Maple Ridge community consists of rural areas such as Ruskin, Whonnock, Webster's Corners, fast growing suburban areas of development in the east near Albion and the central core area which includes the historic town of Haney. The city of **Pitt Meadows** is located on the north bank of the Fraser River between Port Coquitlam and Maple Ridge. Pitt Meadows consists of a large rural area still held in the agricultural land reserve (ALR) as well as a suburban, bedroom community of Vancouver. The Katzie reserve is located in Pitt Meadows.

The District is considered a middle class (SES) community with some areas of high need especially near the central core of Maple Ridge. Other important statistics:

	Maple Ridge	Pitt Meadows	Province
Population	68,949	15, 623	4,113,487
Median age	38.8	38.3	40.8
Population 15 and over	80%	81%	84%
Aboriginal population	1,870	385	196,070
English mother tongue	85%	79%	71%
English spoken at home	93%	89%	82%
New immigrants 2001-05	1,415	440	177,840
No high school diploma			
Ages 25-34	11%	6%	9%
Ages 35 and over	13%	12%	13%
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.5%	6%

The economic downturn had an effect in our communities, especially during the last half of 2008 when a major employer laid off over 200 workers. The new Golden Ears Bridge opened in June 2009 and hopes are high that this will stimulate growth in various sectors in the community.

The school district consists of 22 Elementary Schools, 6 Secondary Schools and a number of Alternate Programs. There are 4 Early French Immersion and 3 Late French Immersion schools, as well as 2 Secondary Schools offering French Immersion programming. In the 2008/2009 school year there were approximately 15,000 students enrolled in School District #42, as well as 244 adult learners taking courses through Community Education. Of these students, there were 1352 enrolled in French Immersion, 991 Aboriginal Students, 310 students with English as a Second Language and 407 International Students. In the 2008-09 school year there were 1468 Ministry identified students.

Introduction to the 2009 District Literacy Plan

A District Literacy Plan is a “statement of commitment by a school district to work with community partners to improve literacy locally” (BC ministry of Education, DLP Transitional Guidelines 2007-2008) as part of ongoing community development. The most important aspect of building a District Literacy Plan is developing working relationships within the community. District Literacy Plans provide a new way for school districts to support and collaborate with all members of the community to promote literacy. The school district is committed to providing resources and support for the Community Literacy Plan. The Ministry of Education requires that District Literacy Plans are:

- Inclusive of education from early learning through adult learning
- Collaborative
- Prepared annually
- Submitted to the Ministry of Education by July 15 of each year
- Published

Before a Community and District Literacy Plan can effectively be created it is important to have a common definition of Literacy. According to the International Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (IALLS 2005) Literacy is defined as “the ability to understand and employ printed information in daily activities, at home, at work, and in the community – to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential”. Thus, literacy not only includes the ability to read and write, but also includes social, emotional and interpersonal communication, the use of technology, and the arts. As this broad definition demonstrates, literacy is achieved through a number of routes, including formal schooling, our culture, our work, and our community connections, such as church, politics and social activities. Thus, the collaboration of the School District and the Community ensures a variety of routes to literacy are offered.

Our Vision

Community Vision

The following vision was created through dialogue and collaboration and was approved by the Literacy Now Task Force in June 2007.

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Literacy Now Vision Statement:

We will be a community where:

- people are encouraged to learn, read and play.
- literacy programs are available to all people.
- learners are valued for all their skills.
- learners feel safe to ask for help and use community literacy services.
- literacy initiatives are coordinated and happen in many parts of the community.

District Vision

As outlined in the achievement contract, the school district has mission and vision statements outlining its commitment to learners.

Our mission is to fully support all individuals in their personal development as successful learners and respectful contributors to society.

Our vision is for every individual to feel valued and for all learners to reach their full potential.

K-12 student achievement in the area of literacy is outlined in the Achievement Contract. Priorities are set for the 2009-10 school year. Much work is being done to reach out to the 'at risk' student.

In addition to the priorities outlined in the district achievement contract, the enhancement agreement outlines foci and literacy goals specific to Aboriginal Students within School District #42.

Enhancement Agreement

School District No. 42 lies within the traditional territory of the Katzie First Nation and the Kwantlen First Nation. The school district serves all Aboriginal students within the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows) was the third district in British Columbia to sign an Enhancement Agreement (EA) between the District, the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Education in 2000. The second agreement was signed on January 25th, 2006 to be in effect from July 1st, 2005 to June 30th, 2010. The 2010 school year will mark the beginning of the third Enhancement Agreement.

The primary objectives of the current EA are:

1. Improved literacy at all grade levels
2. Improved Numeracy at all grade levels
3. Improved grade to grade transition rates
4. Improved graduation rates

The 3rd EA will also include the following objectives:

1. Enhance Aboriginal students' sense of belonging.
2. Increase knowledge of and respect for aboriginal culture and history for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal students.

The purposes of Enhancement Agreement are to:

- facilitate excellence and the success of all Aboriginal learners at all grade levels.
- promote the importance of cultural education in order to increase the academic and social success of Aboriginal students.
- meet the needs of Aboriginal learners by maintaining and expanding academic, trades and cultural programs where possible while providing the resources for success.
- continue to build relationships in our schools that are welcoming and supportive of Aboriginal children, their families and the Aboriginal community.

The Principal of Aboriginal Education, Aboriginal Education support teachers, Aboriginal Education support workers, the Aboriginal Education cultural worker and the Aboriginal Education child care worker focus on interventions and support strategies to promote success for aboriginal learners across the district. Individual schools identify strategies and supports for their aboriginal learners in their School Improvement Plans.

Joint Vision

It is clear there are common values and beliefs within all aspects of our community. This is evident not only within the collaborative process in which the Community Literacy Plan and District Literacy Plan were created, but also within the overlap and connection between the specific goals and actions outlined in the Community Literacy Plan, the Achievement Contract, and the Enhancement Agreement. The focus on adult learners and the commitment to strengthen the links between community literacy programs and other community initiatives is clearly outlined in the Community Literacy Plan. The District Literacy Plan will describe the progress in relation to these priorities thus far.

Reflecting on our 2008 Plan

We are currently in the implementation stage of our Community Literacy Plan. Due to the ongoing efforts of the Community Literacy Facilitator, much was accomplished in terms of the action plan set forth last year. The focus has been on the largest gap identified in the 2007-2008 Community Literacy Inventory (see Appendix 1): supporting and/or establishing accessible and affordable community-based adult literacy programming, including a comprehensive volunteer tutoring program. This also included increasing services to ESL learners. The work undertaken by the Community Literacy Facilitator has led to more networking amongst community agencies, including the Community Network Table. The improved communication amongst these various groups has been one of the greatest impacts of the work thus far; we are confident that the groundwork that has been laid this year will lead to enhanced opportunities in the future.

Regular discussions have been held with stakeholders, including adult and ESL learners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of our work. In addition, we have used a variety of resources when assessing the success of our initiatives, including the following:

- Tools from 2010 Legacies Now, Literacy Now and Literacy BC
- Vancouver Community College resources
- ELSA Language Assessment Centre
- ESL handbooks and manuals from S.D. 42 and S.D. 36

Despite our progress in a number of areas, there have been a few challenges, particularly in the area of maintaining a strong Literacy Committee. Due to a number of reasons, the Community Literacy Committee did not meet as often as before which made it difficult to sustain momentum and to coordinate efforts. On May 27, 2009, a meeting was called in order to revitalize the Community Literacy Committee (see Appendix 2 and 3). Over thirty people, representing a wide variety of groups, brainstormed ideas for the new Community Literacy Plan, including suggestions for:

- a Steering Committee
- Kick Off Events
- a new Literacy Committee (structure and purpose)
- Communication
- Resources

There was a lot of interest and enthusiasm amongst the people who attended the meeting and we are excited about the possibilities. The information and ideas suggested during this meeting will form the basis for the new committee when it meets in September 2009 (Appendix 2 and 3). During the upcoming year, we plan to link more closely with the Regional Literacy Coordinator as we build on the work done so far and consider further actions and opportunities to enhance the literacy initiatives in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

We view our District Literacy Plan to be a working document that evolves and changes as needed. With this in mind, we have reorganized our priorities and goals to better reflect the needs of the community and the work that the Community Literacy Facilitator is able to undertake. The revised priorities and goals are as follows:

Priority #1: Based on the Literacy Now Inventory and input from community members, there is a clear and immediate need to increase free and community-based service to adult learners in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Goal # 1: Find suitable workplace for Literacy facilitator

Goal #2: Support existing volunteer programs; create volunteer adult tutoring program as needed

Goal #3: Create workplace literacy services which serve low literacy learners either active in the work force or unemployed.

Goal #4: Link ESL learners to existing and emerging adult literacy programming

Priority # 2: Create an increased Community Literacy profile in the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Goal #1: Increase awareness of community literacy issues through connections to community Hub initiative.

Goal #2: Increase awareness of community literacy issues and bridge gaps through existing literacy programs.

Priority # 3: Coordinate and cooperate with School District #42 as it works through its plans to incorporate early learning and adult literacy into its mandate

Goal # 1: Support initiatives to work with parents of pre-school and primary age children

Action Plan Update: what we did...where we are going...

The Action Plan created last year has been updated with information on what has been completed thus far and includes plans for the future. Overall, it is the goal of the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows community to continue to work collaboratively with all community partners toward increased literacy in our community. With a continued focus on the priorities described in this District Literacy Plan and a commitment from all parties to support and offer resources to meet the needs of all learners, particularly the adult learners who are the current focus of our community, we know progress will be made.

Priority #1: Based on the Literacy Now Inventory and input from community members, there is a clear and immediate need to increase free and community-based service to adult learners in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Goal # 1: Find suitable workplace for Literacy facilitator

<i>Action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>	<i>Future Plans</i>
Investigate housing the facilitator in the community Hub	Hub Committee Literacy Task Force Literacy Facilitator	September – '08/March '09	After discussions, it was determined that there was not sufficient room for the facilitator in the community Hub Literacy Facilitator will work out of home and the Maple Ridge Public Library	Completed

Goal #2: Support existing volunteer programs; create volunteer adult tutoring program as needed

<i>Action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>	<i>Future Plans</i>
Research existing programs in Lower Mainland	Literacy Facilitator	May 2008 – December 2008	Literacy Facilitator met with various service providers.	Completed
Develop tutoring program; support volunteers.	Literacy Facilitator	Jan 2009-Ongoing	Literacy Facilitator has developed a program (Literacy and ESL Classes) based on individual needs; worked with 49 adults; worked with and supported volunteers; matched tutors with adult	To expand ongoing service

			learners; referred adults to other service providers	
Liaise with School District #42 and neighbouring colleges to develop a tutoring program. Seek support and possible funding partnerships	Literacy Facilitator S.D. 42	June 2008- August 2008	Investigated possible partnership with Douglas College and Ridge Meadows College; so far what they offer does not match our current adult literacy needs.	Investigate possibility of partnering with S.D. 42 Continuing Education to develop tutoring support materials
Increase tutoring programs within BC Correctional Centres	Literacy Facilitator SD 42 District Librarian SD 42 Secondary Literacy Facilitator BC Correctional Centres Staff	September 2008 – ongoing	School District offers a graduation program within the prison through Community Education Initial meeting with B.C. Correctional Centres staff was held to discuss ways to work together	SD 42 to investigate partnership with Alouette Correctional Centre: provide and/or recommend appropriate resources Literacy Facilitator to work with B.C. Correctional Centres to assist in providing literacy volunteers

Goal #3: Create workplace literacy services which serve low literacy learners either active in the work force or unemployed.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>	<i>Future Plans</i>
Develop and implement a workplace essential skills initiative based on the Douglas College model.	Literacy Facilitator	January 2009 - January 2010	Attended an Essential Skills Workshop at Douglas College in June 2009.	Develop a Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows version based on the Douglas College model
Work with agencies and businesses serving underemployed and homeless adults to investigate the need for literacy services. If there is a high need, create program outline and	Alouette Homeless Committee Literacy Facilitator Literacy Committee, Interested CYFN members	November '09 - December 2010	Literacy Facilitator spoke to various community agency reps to determine the literacy needs amongst the homeless and underemployed; the facilitator was given information	Completed

search out funding.			outlining current services; deemed sufficient at this time.	
Raise awareness of literacy issues (e.g., document literacy) in the business community.	Literacy Facilitator UCFV's students in the adult literacy program and/or a local law firm Volunteers and employment agencies	June '09-June '10 Ongoing	Literacy Facilitator held preliminary discussions with employment agencies, UCFV staff and potential volunteers	Literacy Facilitator will work with employment agency staffs to inform businesses of literacy workshops. Will also work with local law firm to promote 'legal literacy.

Goal #4: Link ESL learners to existing and emerging adult literacy programming

<i>Action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>	<i>Future Plans</i>
Support efforts to increase free ESL services to reduce wait lists	Literacy Committee School District Literacy Facilitator	Ongoing	Literacy Facilitator has liaised with other ESL providers to ascertain whether they are able to offer volunteer tutoring. Literacy Facilitator is contacted regularly about ESL services; refers people to existing programs when appropriate; recruits and trains volunteers if needed (see goal #2 above)	Continue
Determine need to bridge ESL students to various types of programming	Literacy Facilitator SWIS Worker	Ongoing	Literacy Facilitator is in contact with ESL and multicultural organizations; organizes outings in the community in order to provide language experiences outside of the classroom; has included	Continue

			parents and their school aged children in programs and refers them to tutoring services when applicable	
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Priority # 2: Create an increased Community Literacy profile in the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Goal #1: Increase awareness of community literacy issues through connections to community Hub initiative.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>	<i>Future Plans</i>
Attend Hub meetings	Literacy Now Task Force Literacy Committee Literacy Facilitator School District staff	September 07-ongoing	Literacy Facilitator attended scheduled meetings	Continue
Develop spaces within Eric Langton & Davie Jones for the creation of community hubs.	SD 42 Early Learning Facilitator Literacy Facilitator HUB Committee Community Literacy Committee Literacy Facilitator	June 2008 – ongoing	Hub at Eric Langton; Hammond, Blue Mountain, Glenwood, Davie Jones have Strong Start Centres	Gather materials and supplies for each Hub Use Strong Start Centres to connect with parents in the community Use RSL and PALS to connect with parents 3 new Strong Starts for September 2009: Harry Hooge, Fairview and Highland Park

Goal #2: Increase awareness of community literacy issues and bridge gaps through existing literacy programs.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>	<i>Future Plans</i>
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Create volunteer tutoring program brochure to deliver in person to at-risk groups	Literacy Facilitator Literacy Now Task Force Community Literacy Committee	September 2009 - Dec. 2010 and ongoing	Literacy Facilitator met with service providers working with at-risk groups. They are aware of the community volunteer opportunities available for their clients.	Completed
Inform business and employment counselling agencies of volunteer tutoring program and other community initiatives.	Literacy Facilitator Literacy Now Task Force Community Literacy Committee Rep.	September 2009- Dec. 2010 – ongoing	Literacy Facilitator connects with agencies through community network meetings. The business and employment counseling agencies are regularly updated.	Continue
Work with community newspapers to create a series of articles and ‘fillers’ on literacy, word of the day etc.	Literacy Facilitator Writers/volunteer s	August 2008-ongoing	Local newspapers included numerous articles reflecting positive educational activities, initiatives etc. in the area of literacy; Literacy Facilitator and library staff will continue to work on promoting community literacy initiatives through our local papers	Literacy Facilitator has contacted <i>The News</i> and editor is willing to give monthly space to promote literacy
Create posters to promote literacy	Contract out	September 2009	Due to cost of contracting out services, it was decided to use available posters; Literacy Now posters have been distributed within Ridge Meadows	Completed
Brainstorm and	Literacy Facilitator	January 2009-	Literacy	Involve Literacy

develop other non-text resources	Community Literacy Committee	December 2009	Facilitator has linked retirees/seniors with literacy/ESL learners to work in our community gardens at CEED and the Willow Manor. Learners also attend community kitchens	Committee in developing other non-text resources. Connect adult ESL learners with SD42 Community gardens.
Distribute information about ESL volunteer tutoring program.	Literacy Facilitator	January 09 - ongoing	Brochure created and widely distributed Website linking literacy and ESL learners to service providers is in the process of being created.	Monitor how many ESL students and service providers access website and determine how valuable information is; adjust as needed

Priority # 3: Coordinate and cooperate with School District #42 as it works through its plans to incorporate early learning and adult literacy into its mandate

Goal # 1: Support initiatives to work with parents of pre-school and primary age children

<i>Action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>	<i>Future Plans</i>
Explore ways to connect adult volunteers with SD 42's Summer Reading Racers (RR) Program	SD 42	June 2009	Students entering SETA program (Special Education Teacher Assistant Program at Ridge Meadows College) volunteered in July 2008 (RR)	Continue partnership with SETA programs Volunteers have been and are being recruited from the literacy/ESL learners at the library to help with SD 42's summer school Reading Racer Program
Target parents to increase positive attitude to reading with their children and modeling	ECD committee ESL multicultural groups	January 2009-ongoing	Literacy Facilitator has met informally with parents to discuss how best to help their children in	Work with school Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) Continue to link

reading	Literacy Facilitator SD 42 Facilitators		the area of reading. Parent education component included in PALS, Ready, Set, Learn and Strong Start Centres	with parents, their children through Ready, Set, Learn, PALS and Strong Start Centres
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APPENDIX 1

Community Literacy Inventory

PRENATAL PERINATAL	BIRTH TO 5 YEARS	KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3	GRADES 4 TO 7	GRADES 8 TO 9	GRADES 10 TO 12	ADULTS	SENIORS
School District 42 Future Steps	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Storytime for Babies & Preschoolers	School District 42: Literacy Teachers in all schools (0.2 to 0.4 FTE)	School District 42: Literacy Teachers in all schools (0.2 to 0.4 FTE)	School District 42: Literacy Teachers in all schools (0.2 to 0.4 FTE)	School District 42: Literacy Teachers in all schools (0.2 to 0.4 FTE)	School District 42 Community Education: Adult Basic Education Program & GED	School District 42 Community Education: Adult Basic Education Program & GED
Books for Babies	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Library Collection for children	School District 42 Early Intervention Program	School District 42 Reading Comprehension Project (Grades 3 – 6)	School District 42 Literacy Project (bridging) for Grades 7 - 8	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Library Collection	Katzie First Nation GED Upgrading	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Library Collection
	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Theme based Storytelling Kits	School District 42 Reading Comprehension Project (Grades 3 – 6)	School District 42 Non-fiction skills test for District Assessment Reading Teams	School District 42 Non-fiction skills test for District Assessment Reading Teams	Pitt Meadows Libraries Outreach to Grade 10's	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Library Collection	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Adult Book Club; Booktawk; Adult Summer Reading Program; Computer & Internet classes
	School's Cool: Family Education & Support Centre MRPM Community Services	School District 42 Reading Racers and Rocket Readers – summer reading programs	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Library Collection for children	In-library programs for school aged participants: Teen Tuesdays; Student Library Council; Herding Wild Cats Book Club Teen Book Club	Community use of library (non library services): ESL tutors ; ESL & international students – meeting & studying place; Japanese school;	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Adult Learners collection Audio tapes on day-to-day dealings in English (ESL)	Library Outreach: Storytime for Seniors at senior's residences
PRENATAL PERINATAL	BIRTH TO 5 YEARS	KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3	GRADES 4 TO 7	GRADES 8 TO 9	GRADES 10 TO 12	ADULTS	SENIORS

	Parents as Literacy Supporters: SD 42, R M Early Childhood Development Committee and RMACL	All Aboard for Kindergarten – FVRL initiative supported by the school district	Library outreach: Katzie Summer Reading Program	Library outreach: Reading Challenge Link	Strena Language Services - ESL; French Immersion; English language literacy skills (for profit tutoring service)	Ridge Meadows Women’s Centre lending library and book donations	Community use of library (non library services): Conversational English;
	Katzie First Nation Health Centre H.I.P.P.Y. – Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Children	School District 42 Language Enhancement Kindergarten (for ESL)	Library outreach: (in schools) Have Books Will Travel	Community use of library (non library services): ESL tutors ; ESL & international students – meeting & studying place; Japanese school;	Sylvan Learning Centre (for profit tutoring service)	Community use of library (non library services): Conversational English;	Family Education & Support Centre Immigrant Settlement Services Multicultural Women’s Group ESL classes
	Family Education & Support Centre Child Development Play Focus Groups	Maple Ridge Library Reading Buddies Program	Library outreach: Katzie After School Program	Strena Language Services - ESL; French Immersion; English language literacy skills (for profit tutoring service)	Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy: Math, English, Socials, Science; ESL programs including writing, grammar & reading	Family Education & Support Centre Immigrant Settlement Services Multicultural Women’s Group ESL classes	School District 42 Community Education English Language Services for Adults (federally funded)
	Family Education Support Centre Learning Together – literacy/ ESL	Maple Ridge Library Readers.com	Community use of library (non library services): ESL tutors ; Japanese school;	Sylvan Learning Centre (for profit tutoring service)	Westcoast Reader easy reader newspaper (low literacy levels/ ESL)	SD42 Community Education English Language Services for Adult	School District 42 Community Education Fee for service ESL
	MRPM Community Services Toddler Rhyme Time	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Summer Reading Club	Strena Language Services ESL; French Immersion; English language literacy skills (for profit tutoring service)	Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy: Math, English, Socials, Science; ESL programs including writing, grammar & reading	Registered Music Teachers Association members	School District 42 Community Education Fee for service ESL	Golden Ears Retirement Centre Volunteer reader
PRENATAL PERINATAL	BIRTH TO 5 YEARS	KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3	GRADES 4 TO 7	GRADES 8 TO 9	GRADES 10 TO 12	ADULTS	SENIORS

	MRPM Community Services Little One ders	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Libraries Library Collection for children	Sylvan Learning Centre (for profit tutoring service)	Westcoast Reader easy reader current events newspaper (lower literacy levels & ESL)	Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living Information & resource lending library	Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy: ESL	Royal Crescent Gardens Assisted Living reading and discussion group
	MRPM Community Services Child Care Resource & Referral Program Activity Theme Boxes	Library outreach: Katzie Summer Reading Program	Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy: ESL programs including writing, grammar & reading	Registered Music Teachers Association members	Maple Ridge Museum & Archives - outreach	Westcoast Reader easy reader current events newspaper (lower literacy levels & ESL)	Bailey House one-to-one volunteer often reads to residents; Ridge Meadows Hospital Auxiliary library cart
	Community Partnership Baby Sign Language: MRPM Parks & Leisure Services MR ACT Westcoast Family Resources & Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre	Library outreach: Katzie After School Program	Westcoast Reader easy reader current events newspaper	Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living Information & resource lending library	Maple Ridge Reading Town –ESL and English Grammar, vocabulary and reading skills for students ages 6 to 19; (for profit tutoring)	North Fraser Freenet Internet training	Rosewood Cottage book sharing library
	Community Partnership Baby Touch See and Play MRPM Parks & Leisure Services, MR ACT Westcoast Family Resources & Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre	Big Brothers & Big Sisters in-school mentoring program	Registered Music Teachers Association members	Maple Ridge Museum & Archives - outreach	Ruah –ESL tutoring for international students Grades 11 & 12 and recent immigrants from older teenagers to adults	School District 42 Community Education Alouette Correctional Centre for Women education programs; Fraser Regional Correctional Centre GED & ESL programming	Ridge Meadows Seniors Society computer program
PRENATAL PERINATAL	BIRTH TO 5 YEARS	KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3	GRADES 4 TO 7	GRADES 8 TO 9	GRADES 10 TO 12	ADULTS	SENIORS
	Community Partnership Boppin' Babies MRPM Parks & Leisure Services, MR ACT Westcoast Family Resources & Ridge	Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy: ESL programs including writing, grammar & reading	Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living Information & resource lending library	Maple Ridge Reading Town –ESL and English Grammar, vocabulary and reading skills for students ages 6 to 19; (for		Registered Music Teachers Association members	

	Meadows Child Development Centre			profit tutoring)			
	Maple Ridge Arts Council Various programs for babies to 5 year olds including Musical Rainbow series	Sylvan Learning Centre (for profit tutoring service)	Maple Ridge Reading Town – ESL and English Grammar, vocabulary and reading skills for students ages 6 to 19; (for profit tutoring)			Maple Ridge Museum & Archives - outreach	
	Kindermusiik	Registered Music Teachers Association members				Ruah –ESL tutoring for international students Grades 11 & 12 and recent immigrants from older teenagers to adults	
	Music for Young Children	Maple Ridge Reading Town – ESL and English Grammar, vocabulary and reading skills for students ages 6 to 19; (for profit tutoring)					

	Gen Population – free or subsidy	Free Targeted	Fee for service	Music & computer lit	ESL programs & services per age group
Early Years	<p>Active: Books for Babies; Future Steps; Library Storytime for Babies & Preschoolers; Community Partnership – Baby Sign Language; Boppin’ Babies; Baby Touch, See & Play;</p> <p>Passive: Library collections for children;</p>	<p>Active: Mother Goose; School’s Cool; PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters); Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Children (H.I.P.P.Y.); FESC Child Development Play Focus Program; FVRL & SD 42 All Aboard for Kindergarten</p> <p>Passive: Child Care Resource & Referral Program Activity Theme Boxes; Library theme based storytelling kits;</p>	<p>Active: MRPM Community Services - Toddler Rhyme Time, Little One ders,</p>	<p>Active: Fee for service: Kindermusik; Music for Young Children; Maple Ridge Arts Council various programs for babies to 5 year olds including Musical Rainbow Series;</p>	<p>Active: FESC Learning Together; SD 42 Language Enhancement Kindergarten</p>

<p>Middle years/teens</p>	<p>Active: Library Reading Buddies program; Library Reading Challenge; Library Readers.com;</p> <p>Passive: Library Summer Reading Club; Library Collection for Children; Library Teen Programs and Book Clubs; MR Museum Archives & outreach</p>	<p>Active: SD 42 Early Intervention Program; SD 42 Reading Racers & Rocket Readers; Library Outreach – Katzie Summer Reading Program; Katzie After School Program; Library outreach - Have Books Will Travel; SD 42 Literacy Project for Grades 7 & 8; Reading Project for Grades 3 – 6; Library Outreach to Grade 10’s; SD 42 non-fiction skills test for District Assessment Reading Teams Grades 3 - 9; School Based literacy teachers – 0.2 -0.4 FTE per all schools;</p> <p>Passive: Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living – Information & Resource Lending Library; Westcoast Reader (easy reader current events); Big Brothers & Big Sisters in school mentoring program; Foodbank/Black Bond Book partnership;</p>	<p>Active: Kumon tutoring; Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy; Sylvan Tutoring; Strena Language Services; Mainland Tutoring service; Patricia Bailey Tutoring; The Learning Centre;</p>	<p>Active: Fee for Service: Registered Music Teachers</p>	<p>Active: Private tutors: Strena Language Services; Ruah; Brainchild; MR Reading Town;</p>
<p>Adults</p>	<p>Passive: Library collection; Library book clubs; Ridge Meadows Women’s Centre library; Maple Ridge Museum & Archives;</p>	<p>Active: SD 42 ABE; SD 42 Community Ed partnership with Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and Fraser Regional Corrections Centre – GED & ESL</p> <p>Passive: Library Adult Learners Collection; Westcoast Reader (easy reader current events newspaper); Library outreach – Storytime at senior’s residences; Golden Ears Retirement Centre – 1 volunteer reader; Royal Crescent Assisted Living – read aloud discussion group; Bailey House one-to-one volunteer reads to residents;</p>	<p>Active: Sylvan Learning Centre; Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy; RM GED Adult Upgrading</p>	<p>Active: North Fraser Freenet; Ridge Meadows Seniors Society computer program at MR and PM;</p>	<p>Active: Two Family Education & Support Centre conversational ESL groups; ELSA; SD 42 fee for service ESL; Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy; Ruah</p> <p>Passive: Library Audio-tapes on day-to-day dealings in English; Westcoast Reader (easy reader current events newspaper);</p>
<p>ESL</p>		<p>Active: Learning Together;</p>	<p>Active: SD 42</p>		

		Language Enhancement Kindergarten; Two Family Education & Support Centre conversational ESL groups; ELSA Passive: Library Audio-tapes on day-to-day dealings in English Westcoast Reader (easy reader current events newspaper)	Community Ed fee for service ESL I, II, III; Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy ESL; Private tutors: Strena Language Services; Ruah; Brainchild; MR Reading Town		
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Δ Summary of Community Literacy Gaps/Strengths and Links

This summary is organized into four categories: Early Years, Middle/Teen Years, ESL and Adult. It includes a list of existing strengths, identified gaps, and possible future links to other initiatives. The summary was prepared by the MR/PM Literacy Now researchers with input, information and expertise from the task force and community partners.

EARLY YEARS

Early Learning Strengths and Links:

- › The school district mandate now includes early learning including: Strong Start programs, increase in overall SD #42 Early Childhood Development funding, community ECD, 0.3 FTE, daycare discussions.
- › The Early Childhood Development Committee and SD #42 work in a highly cooperative way to target the at-risk community and increase early learning sites. A recently completed asset mapping project has identified assets and areas of need in early childhood.
- › Library story times remain the most sought after service. A model of success. Free. Drop-in.
- › The school district’s new mandate will guide early literacy initiatives in the near future.

Early Learning Gaps and Barriers:

- › Lack of sustainable funding of long-term projects
- › Need for ESL School’s Cool/ integration at preschool level of ESL children
- › Coordination between Literacy Committee and ECD/Community Connections Hub committee.
- › At- risk families lack access to, awareness of and consistent involvement in Early Learning programming
- › Need for a comprehensive early learning program incorporated into a universal federally funded daycare policy.

Possible Future Links:

- › Strong ties between the community and the school district have been established and there is strong cooperation as the school district mandate for early learning takes shape. Community members have called for the inclusion of play-based learning as the priority for young children in the school district’s early learning plan. A community literacy facilitator involved in community ‘hub’ discussions would help ensure this focus remains. There is a possible link with a school district early learning program to include an adult literacy component to ‘family literacy’ sites housed in community hubs. There is strong best practices research to support the idea of locating in hubs and re-establishing ties to literacy through children.

MIDDLE YEARS

Middle and Teen Years Strengths and Links:

- Literacy is the first of four goals for SD # 42 in 2007-08. Additional literacy grants are available to teachers in grade 3/4 level to increase literacy. Non-fiction focus in grades 5-6.
- Summer reading programs exists for at-risk readers, Grades 1-3: Reading Racers. Rocket Readers for older grades.
- Cooperation between SD # 42 and MR/PM Libraries is strong.
- Library is a leader in programming for middle years: Student Library Council, Have Books Will Travel, Reading Buddies, Reading Challenge Link, Teen book club, Grade 10 support program being discussed.
- Library outreach to Cythera Transition House and Katzie First Nation

Middle and Teen Gaps and Barriers:

- The main gap in service appears to be for those who cannot access additional support available through either private agencies, the school district or libraries – because of cost, lack of transportation, lack of support, or lack of knowledge of service. Seen as major gap in early and teen years by both school district and library staff.
- There is a need for transportation and support for at-risk readers to attend summer Reading Racers and Rocket Reader sessions.
- Attracting boys to reading at schools/ library. Library staff has organized gaming book and magazine nights. The school district has an emphasis on boys and non-fiction.
- Lack of sustainable funding for outreach work

Possible new links:

- Discussions at the community level could encourage funding from sources such as MCFD/ School Community Connections etc. to address specific needs. A literacy facilitator could support library staff and school board to create a plan to encourage at-risk children to attend library/summer/reading buddies programs.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

ESL strengths and links - Children:

- Language-enhanced kindergarten is available for children. Support exists in all schools.
- Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy (Ridge Meadows College) fee-for-service ESL tutoring.
- Community driven ESL component for children has been added to one community early learning program at Family Education Centre.

ESL strengths and links – Adults:

- Two conversation groups at Family Education center. Waiting lists exist. Links to ESL community growing.
- English Language Services for Adults (ELSA) program available at SD # 42 Comm. Ed.
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) and GED upgrading.
- New one-to-one free peer tutoring for ESL students at SD # 42 Comm. Ed. Department.
- Ridge Meadows Tutoring Academy (Ridge Meadows College) fee-for-service ESL tutoring.
- ELSA and GED available in prisons.

ESL Gaps and Barriers:

- Use of Immigrant Settlement Services in the community has doubled over the past year. Quarterly targets set by the federal government have been exceeded by 168 percent.
- ESL programming appears to be happening in isolation to date.
- Free community-based ESL programming is an identified need for isolated mothers and aging women. Waiting lists exist and are growing for free, drop-in service with childcare.

- ESL preschool programming. - Immigrant settlement facilitator suggests an ESL School's Cool program.
- English Language Support for Adults (ELSA) is free but criteria are strict: only available to immigrants in Canada less than three years; screening in Surrey; refugees not eligible for funded programs.
- The school district and Ridge Meadows College formal ESL programming is fee-for- service
- Need for ESL programming specific to men's learning style with varied focus.

Possible new links:

- There is a need for an ESL School's Cool program according to ISS staff. This information could be relayed to the ECD/School Board planning and funding committees.
- Additional free programming could be encouraged at the school district.
- Increased literacy services and consideration for cultural needs for growing ESL population should be included in any adult literacy project.
- Encourage more links between ESL programs and adult education to ensure that ESL is included in all adult literacy initiatives.
- Lobbying for more ESL services through Federal Government

ADULTS

Adult Literacy Strengths and Links:

- SD#42 has been given a new mandate to address adult literacy
- All Community Education on-line upgrading is now free
- New one-to-one, peer tutoring of ESL students is in beginning stages.
- Katzie First Nation on-site Adult GED upgrading courses at capacity. Partners with SD#42.
- Free GED upgrades in local prisons.

Adult Literacy Gaps and Barriers:

- **Lack of volunteer one-to-one tutoring program.** Volunteer tutoring programs are often cited the backbone to successful efforts to reduce stigma, link learners to community, and to build a base of learner-driven literacy services.
- **Workplace literacy:** Low literacy a barrier noted by employment agencies, homeless advocates, some businesses. Successful programs exist in neighbouring communities.
- **Stigma for low literacy learners**
- **Lack of sustainable program funding** e.g. for programs such as English and GED upgrading at Katzie First Nation
- **Cost of ESL and upgrades**
- **Lack of knowledge of services by learners and by agencies accessed by low literacy learners.**
- **Need for Senior's reading buddies at care homes:** Senior's retirement centres, intermediate and long term care have identified the need for volunteers to read to residents who have either low literacy, are visually impaired, or are immobile.
- **Prisons** - cost of ESL upgrades and need for one-to-one tutoring and reading.

Possible new links:

- It is clear that a volunteer training and tutoring program would be valuable. Similar programs have proven successful in communities of similar size and demographics to both support the learner and reduce stigma.
- The school district's new mandate to address community and adult literacy is an opportunity for the community to build on cooperation formed at the at the Early Childhood Development level. There is a template for cooperation on literacy issues at this level. Discussions could begin immediately to create

programs - both inside and outside the school system - which respect the needs of the school district, community based programs and the learner.

- There is a possible link with School District early learning program to include an adult literacy component to 'family literacy' sites housed in a community hub

APPENDIX 2

COMMUNITY LITERACY MEETING

Thomas Haney Secondary School

May 27, 2009

12:00 pm.

MINUTES

Present: Joanne Rowen (chair), Siew Tang (chair), Lisa Jakeway, Trevor Connor, Sue Schleppe, Donna de Castro, Suzanne Hall, Dana Ionson, Pat Rorick, Wendy Blaine, Rose Doyle, Corrie Kock, Sheila Pratt, Elaine Yamamoto, Jessie Hill, Heidi Yu, Agnes Kim, Candace Gordon, Emmanuel Shamatutu, Christine DeGiamberardine, Lynne Stevenson, Dave King, Sheila Singh, Rajindar Singh, Gerdi de Boer, Patty Bossort, Harry Draaisma, Doug Hoey, Jassy Duggal, Dale Hunter, Barbara Hallam (minutes).

1. Introductions:

Lunch was served at 12:00, and Joanne called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Introductions were made by all – names were given along with what organization each belonged to.

2. A New Beginning:

Joanne gave an overview of the Community Literacy organization that met for years, but eventually fell apart due to inconsistency, job and position changes with its members. The goal of this meeting is to build a community vision – come up with common themes, ideas, structure and a plan. Joanne gave an overview of the literacy mandate, looked at challenges within Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Lots of opportunity for early learners, but less for adult learners, including adolescents, non-working individuals and English language learners.

Siew gave a PowerPoint presentation and talked about the need for a community vision with regards to literacy, and action plan that needs to be implemented, and different strategies that can be used.

Community & District Literacy Plan – Siew can show this to anyone interested in looking at it.

3. Guest and Organization Speakers:

- Heidi Yu and Agnes Kim – both expressed the importance of literacy in their lives, talked of their experiences, the frustrations of not knowing English as being a barrier, appreciation of ESL programs, and both would like to pass on the positive experiences of ESL and in volunteering.

- Doug Hoey – Principal of Aboriginal Education. Out of the 15,000 students enrolled in our schools, 1,700 are Aboriginal students, mainly Katzie and Kwantlen. Talked of an enhancement agreement to improve literacy and numeracy, and the *My Story Program* available to all students to expand on their oral language communication and traditions.

- Patty Bossort – Douglas College Regional Literacy Coordinator. Each college has 1 full-time literacy coordinator and offers workplace essential skills related with literacy. Her role is to support and strengthen community literacy groups. Mentioned *Essential Skills* workshop for June 10 at the David Lam Campus. Details emailed to Literacy Group members June 1.

- Christine DiGiamberardine – Parks and Recreation. Discussed the importance of school garden projects – transfer of experiences, cultures, recipes, stories, languages and connects different generations. Has a booth at the Farmer’s Market.

- Trevor Connor – Principal Community Ed. - ELSA big network offered through non-profit assoc. Landed immigrants can get free foundational skills courses offered at different levels. Expressed frustration at getting the word out to people who need this service.

- Harry Draaisma – Corrections. Talked about the need of bringing literacy into the prison, but faced with challenges of various groups within the prison – gangs, different security levels, etc.

4. Brainstorming Activity:

Everyone broke into groups of 4 to come up with ideas for the new Community Literacy Plan to include:

- Steering Committee – who should be on it – a consistent core group and sub committees
- Kick off Events – how to launch it
- Committee, Structure, Purpose – work together to meet needs and goals identified
- Communications –develop networks
- Resources – identify human resources and leadership

Siew and Joanne will go over all the brainstorming activity charts and collate to come up with common themes, ideas, structure and plan.

5. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting to be announced.

APPENDIX 3

Community Literacy Meeting – May 27th, 2009

Brainstorming:

- What successes of the committee can we build from?
- Are there projects, processes in progress that could be further enhanced, developed?
- Use networks / connections to get word out of what exists / resources available – levels of classes, on line, volunteer. (frame differently – meet in home, social network)
- Recruit volunteers from our networks. Volunteer Fair / Literacy Champions / Community Volunteer Inventory
- Referral Resource (situation / resource / criteria) flow chart
- Library – literacy – volunteer inventory – matching interests.
- Community education campaign – learning is lifelong, remove the stigma.
- Committee members need responsibilities / actions.
- Defer literacy work to other community tables but keep the adult focus (youth gap) – school district resources – need connection to community.
- Sustainability – funding (Starbucks, Rotary)
- Learn, Read, Play (snappy tag line)

Purpose:

- Implementation of a community literacy plan
- Public awareness of community literacy plan and local resources
- Feedback loop / adjustment of plan
- Wider distribution of working document (CYFN)
- Presentation to Chamber of Commerce
- Increase awareness about literacy and encourage others to become involved
- Presentations to service clubs / legion / seniors network / cythera / church groups / immigrant groups
- Fulfill goals of the community literacy plan.
- Work through subcommittees (community network green band)
- Need a champion
- September 26 – family resource fair
- Are our students an untapped resource?
- Plan events (Farmers' Market / Maple Ridge Fair / Home Show / Employment office). Attractive booth? Example prize wheel, draw, food samples, multi-lingual.
- What are we kicking off?

- Fun ideas: picnics for ELL, celebrities a la Raise a Reader
- Workable, specific goals inclusive (all members given roles, tasks.....)
- Meet monthly

