

2008-2009 Reflections and Future Planning: Valemount and Area Literacy Plan, District Literacy Plan

The main priority this year 2008/2009 was:

- Maintaining existing the community literacy programs
- Expand literacy programs
- Increase registration
- Develop community capacity by providing workshops

For the 2008 2009 season programs:

- 'Play and Learn' (Young families)The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL)
- 'Babies Time' (young families)Public Health Unit
- 'Story time'.(Young families) Valemount Public Library
- 'Lights On' (community program') Tete Jaune Cache (CBAL)
- 'Cruise In' (6-18 year olds) (volunteer workplace literacy)CBAL VES VSS

Events with partnerships with different organizations:

- 'Family Marsh Day (Literacy Day)'CBAL and College of New Caledonia (CNC) NORE program
- 'Play and Learn' CBAL and Valemount Children's Activity Centre
- 'A Book Under Every Tree' CBAL/ The Adult Learning Centre/ Valemount Food Bank

Community Capacity Building-Two workshops were offered:

- 'Parents Reading Children Succeeding' participants from Valemount and McBride CBAL and Success by Six facilitator training
- 'Plain and Clear Language workshop CBAL and Prince George Literacy Outreach Coordinator

- Up coming Fall 2009 'Mother Goose' Facilitator training CBAL /Sx6

Challenges and Solutions

To recognize that for young families there are very few programs. In the Winter months programming for young families is almost non existent. The largest constraint on programming is lack of facilitators for recognized programs. The pressure on the child care community is large and fragile for the few people with required credentials are already employed and their time is at a premium.

The long term plan for Valemount is to create partnerships where ever possible and to gain access to and be invited into any training for interested people.

It is expensive to bring in facilitators or motivational speakers for community capacity building. However the School District #57 has Pro D days where training and speakers are brought into this community. It would advantageous to this community if School District #57 would communicate to the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy Coordinator their calendar of events. Notify who or what training is planned on Pro D days so that there could be consideration towards opportunity for other professionals in the community to attend (where possible), or to be able to plan for an alternative meeting or event for the community at large. We need to develop a good communication strategy and relationship with SD #57 in Prince George to understand and be sensitive to the requirements or needs on both sides is a topic for discussion.

Evaluation Methods for CBAL

- Registration
- Feedback forms
- Coordinator, staff
- Facilitator reflection
- Advisory committee

Community Collaboration

Valemount has organizations that are embracing the idea of partnerships and collaboration. This is a sampling of some of the organizations

- Valemount Health Clinic with the 'Integrated Health Network Plan'
- The Learning Centre
- Valemount Children's Activity Centre
- Success by Six
- Tete Jaune Community Club
- Adult Learning Centre
- Valemount Municipal Government
- VSS
- Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
- Valemount Arts and Cultural Society

Community Highlights

The Canoe Valley Recreation Centre recently opened a newly equipped 'exercise' room.

Community volunteers worked with the Municipal Government and Valemount Secondary School developing winter recreation.

- adult recreational sport in the winter season is important for establishing developing healthy bodies and healthy minds

Valemount Public Library added a new ESL book collection

- assisting new Canadians with a second language

This year the community literacy coordinator spent time developing, and establishing the advantages of collaboration and partnership, it is only through time and talking that we develop a working relationship building on

what we are good at or have. This does not come quickly. It builds on respect, trust and enthusiasm. What we have done so far works well. There are many other opportunities available but one 'success' talking to another 'success' can build up the strong collaborative infrastructure in the community we seek.

More work can be done to support the 'hard to reach' or vulnerable learners by learning best through what is interesting to an individual, through hope and busyness, future planning to work with the Valemount Food Bank for a literacy based program.

Changes in the community

- People are talking about community Literacy
- Conversations are often one to one
- Taking opportunities to make presentations to organizations about the opportunities for collaboration and that literacy has many faces.
 - Workplace literacy,
 - Bridging social barriers

Promoting a positive philosophy that we are all learners, 'life long, life wide'.

This is the second year for the Valemount and Area Literacy Plan the best way the Region can support community literacy is by helping build our community capacity and offer as many outreach workshops as possible for learners at minimal cost.