



COMMUNITY LITERACY PLAN

REPORT TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(REPORT SUBMITTED TO 2010 LEGACIES NOW AND TO SCHOOL DISTRICT #35'S BOARD OF EDUCATION)

Langley School District completed a comprehensive Community Literacy Plan for the July 2008 submission to the Ministry of Education. The community still sees the original plan as viable and supports the ongoing work planned in that document. This report summarizes the progress made over the past year and the community's intentions for the upcoming year.

"Weaving literacy, in all its forms, throughout the fabric of the community, creating learning opportunities for all."



Submission Date to Legacies Now:
Submission Date to Board of Education:

June 15, 2010
June 15, 2010

THE COMMUNITY OF LANGLEY

1) Changes observed in the 2008/2009 update continue to be valid and are as follows:

- The greater awareness of the issue of poverty and homelessness. Both have become more visible and concerning in the community as a whole. As a result there has been increased action on this issue. The Salvation Army Gateway of Hope opened in October 2009. A Youth Homelessness Resource Program is in the process of being developed.
- Population growth is continuing to create a more multi-cultural population. What has become clear, over the last year or so, is that the ESL population is very varied - ranging from refugees to relatively well educated new immigrants. Identifying and meeting the needs of these varied groups is a challenge.
- The School District continues to experience declining enrolment across most of the District, and a growing population in one area. Providing educational space, let alone space for other activities for children and families in the growing area, is a significant problem. This is where the population of young families is highest and the need for services to families is greatest.
- The general financial downturn and decreases in funding from government and other sources is a challenge for the School District and all local social service organizations.

LANGLEY'S LITERACY PLAN

2) Priorities/objectives and actions from the 09/10 school year's community literacy plan that have been addressed are:

- A second Literacy Summit was held in June 2009. The Community Literacy Plan was reviewed and reaffirmed by the community representatives participating in the Summit.
- The Literacy Now Steering Committee continues to meet on a regular basis.
- The Steering Committee and the Pillar groups regularly review, assess and amend the Literacy Plan. Examples are as follows:
 - A goal to address seniors' literacy issues.
 - A marketing plan has been earmarked as a major focus for work in 2010-2011.
- The three-working/pillar groups continue to meet. Literacy has become a standing agenda item on the Family Strengthening Committee. The lack of a separate Aboriginal Pillar Group has some challenges, but Kwantlen First Nation and urban Aboriginal people are well represented on the Steering Committee.
- The Langley Early Childhood Development Committee has completed a profile of young children aged 0-5 living in the Township and City of Langley and a map where various early childhood development programs and resources are located.

- A new Bedtime Parent-Child Mother Goose Program is being delivered in Aldergrove.
- A new Traditional Language Appreciation Program will start at Kwantlen in September 2010. The program was to have started in May, but was delayed.
- The Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) grant was renewed for a second year allowing continuation and growth of the Volunteer Adult Literacy Program.
 - The program name was changed to C.O.O.L. for Adults.
 - The number of learners and tutors continues to grow.
 - Small conversation groups have been added to the program.
 - Discussions are underway with Douglas Park Community School and Apex Alternate Secondary to offer literacy-tutoring services to parents.
- A CALP grant renewal for 2010 - 2011 has been submitted.
 - The renewal application includes a plan to implement a writing/conversation group for ESL learners who have reasonable reading levels and conversation skills, but need writing practice (A possible partnership with Trinity Western University TESL program. Implementation planned for 2010 - 2011).
- Langley City Library has established a partnership with the Gateway of Hope to provide library access for the residents, and to provide computer classes 3 - 4 times a year in the Gateway of Hope computer lab.
- C.O.O.L. for Adults has established a partnership with the Gateway of Hope. The program provides assessment and tutoring services for people in transition housing.
- The Gateway of Hope's mandate does not extend to youth. However, the new Youth Homelessness and Resource Project has been approached to work with Literacy Now to develop and provide literacy resources for homeless and marginalized youth.
- A grass-roots ESL conversation group is up and operating Sunday afternoons at St. Dunstan's Church in Aldergrove. The class is led by 4 retired teachers, and is attracting up to 12 participants, all women, often attending with their children. The Literacy Outreach Coordinator (LOR) is providing support for this group. The C.O.O.L. Coordinator will provide tutor training to support the class leaders. Another retired teacher is considering joining the group to work with the children.
- A grant application for New Horizons for seniors, to implement a literacy project, has been submitted in partnership with Langley Meals on Wheels.
- The Langley Literacy Association partnered with the Langley Christmas Bureau in December 2009, and delivered 1,922 books to 1,569 children, including 123 Karen refugee children.
 - \$8,200 has already been raised for Wrap-a-Read 2010
- Little Readers' Book Club continues to grow.
 - The Little Readers website includes a monthly newsletter full of excellent information easily available to families.
- A list of books relating to Olympic Sports was compiled by the LOC and distributed during the 2010 Olympics.
 - Future book lists need to be formatted and distributed in a more marketable format.
- A list of books related to the 2010 B.C. Summer Games in Langley has been compiled. The LOC is working with the Summer Games Organizing Committee,

the Township of Langley, the FVRL libraries and the School District to design a bookmark that will be distributed through the schools, libraries and the B.C. Summer Games venues.

- The Langley Literacy Now website is in the process of being updated.
- The C.O.O.L. for Adults program was featured in one of the local newspapers.
- Wrap-a-Read, as part of the Christmas Bureau, was received good coverage in all the local newspapers.

3) Major impacts of this work include:

- A much broader understanding of literacy and the world of literacy in Langley is unfolding for all members of the Literacy Steering Committee.
- Awareness of, and attention to, adult literacy issues has been enhanced throughout the community.
- C.O.O.L. for Adults continues to be successful in recruiting learners and tutors.
- The needs of low-level learners are being better met through the Adult Tutoring Program.
- Learning opportunities for adult low-level learners have increased.
- C.O.O.L. for Adults continues to establish relationships with other groups in the community and providing support for adult literacy learning initiatives.
- Awareness of the multicultural population and understanding of their needs has increased.
- There is better coordination around literacy initiatives.
- The FVRL libraries in Langley are more involved in community literacy initiatives.
 - Examples include the Gateway of Hope, the sports bookmarks and involvement next year in the School District Speechfest.
- Better understanding of the literacy needs of the Aboriginal population and building relationships with the Aboriginal community is leading to productive discussion around effective programs.
 - Access to the FVRL system by Kwantlen First Nation is being facilitated.
 - A Traditional Language Appreciation Program will start at Kwantlen First Nation in September.
 - Preliminary discussions are about to begin around bringing Aboriginal resources into the libraries.
- Literacy has been linked to sports through sports book lists.
 - This has increased awareness among sports groups of how sports and literacy can be linked.
- The Community Literacy Plan continues to provide focus and direction for community literacy efforts.
- The Community Literacy Now Steering Committee continues to bring together a broad-based representative group and focus attention on literacy concerns and initiatives in a new way.

4) Adjustments that have been made to the literacy plan are:

- The realization that ESL literacy services need to be tailored to a wide variety of needs requires further work in identifying community assets and gaps in this area and working toward better coordination of services.

- A better understanding of the complexity of Aboriginal literacy needs and finding respectful and effective ways of working with the Aboriginal community will help shape how Aboriginal literacy goals are approached and implemented.
- Some of the goals in the plan are too large for the Steering Committee to pursue:
 - An Aboriginal Place (Friendship Centre)
 - A place for young people to gather
 - A bus/van to bring literacy resources to hard-to-reach populations.
 These goals will remain in the plan, but implementation will not be possible unless other, larger organizations are part of the process.
- A seniors' literacy goal has been added to the plan.
 - A senior's literacy program has been developed and funding has been applied for in partnership with Langley Meals on Wheels.
- The Adult Pillar Group identified a need for high interest/low vocabulary books for adult learners.
 - The Steering Committee agreed to set aside funds to work with the libraries to purchase and make available some of these books.
- The School District Achievement Contract continues to focus on literacy.
- The development of Literacy Marketing Plan has been earmarked as a priority for next year - 2010-2011.

TASK GROUP AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5) Vision and mission statement:

Vision Statement: "Weaving literacy, in all its forms, throughout the fabric of the community, creating learning opportunities for all."

Mission Statement: "Langley Literacy Now is committed to building on community strengths to encourage lifelong learning by ensuring that residents of all ages have access to sufficient and appropriate information, services, and support, to meet their literacy needs."

6) Number of people participating in the Community Literacy Task Group or Advisory Committee:

There are ten members of Langley's Literacy Now Community Steering Committee.

7) Sectors involved in the Steering Committee include:

Langley School District #35
 Township of Langley
 Kwantlen First Nation
 Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society
 Langley Child and Youth Committee
 Langley Early Childhood Education Committee
 Fraser Valley Regional Libraries
 Langley Literacy Association
 Aldergrove Neighbourhood Services

8) **Number of times that the Task Group/Advisory Committee met:**

- The Advisory Committee met seven times

9) **Examples of statements/actions that indicate a shared understanding of the issues and needs:**

- Awareness, understanding and motivation to address adult literacy needs continues to progress.
- There is a broader understanding, at least among the Steering Committee, of how literacy impacts all facets of life.
- An interesting new understanding that has emerged from discussion with service providers for ESL learners. Once these people have a job they can no longer attend daytime classes. They request evening classes but are often too tired to learn effectively and sometimes fall asleep. The popularity of the Sunday afternoon conversation class at St. Dunstan, especially for women with children, underscores this point.

LITERACY OUTREACH COORDINATION

10) **The Literacy Outreach Coordinator position enhanced literacy work in Langley by:**

- Providing a person who can do the “leg work” for the Steering Committee.
 - Develops agendas for Steering Committee meetings.
 - Brings issues, concerns and new literacy developments to the committee.
- Making and maintaining contact with the community, Literacy Now, other LOCs
 - Refers people to the literacy programs and resources.
 - Works with other LOCs to help people access resources and programs.
- Ensuring that the Community Literacy Plan is reviewed, assessed and adjusted as necessary.
 - Refers all literacy activities back to the plan.
- Helping to organize and conduct the annual Literacy Summit.
- “Weaving” literacy into any and all community activities (where possible).
- Championing literacy at every opportunity.
- Chairing the Adult Literacy Group.
- Chairing the Langley Literacy Association.
- Partnering with other community organizations and agencies to develop programs, write grant proposals, share resources, and effectively deliver programs.
- Establishing relationships throughout the community that will help support and promote literacy initiatives.

11) The Literacy Outreach Coordinator attended the following community tables/regularly scheduled community meetings this year:

Local:

- Langley Literacy Association - 10
- Township of Langley Recreation Culture and Parks - 10
 - Langley Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee - 3
- Langley Spirit of B.C. Committee - 2
- Aldergrove Community Planning Committee - approx. 6
- Middle Childhood Matters Committee - 10

Regional/Provincial

- United Way of the Lower Mainland joint Early Childhood/Middle Childhood Coordinators meetings - 2
- Association for Community Education B.C. (ACEbc) Board of Directors - 5

One-time Events

- Township of Langley Seniors' Consultation session
- SWIS Workers Open House
- CYC Resource Fair
- Campbell Valley Country Celebration
- Township of Langley Municipal Awareness Day
- Healthier Communities Partnership Table

COLLABORATIONS

12) The following organizations have been involved in collaborating in service/event delivery:

- Fraser Valley Regional Libraries
- Salvation Army Gateway of Hope
- Langley School District
- Aldergrove Neighbourhood Services
- Langley Community Services
- St. Dunstan Anglican Church
- Langley Meals on Wheels
- Kwantlen First Nation
- Township of Langley
 - B.C. Summer Games
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Langley Christmas Bureau
- Langley Meals on Wheels

13) Examples of collaborations:

- Most adult tutoring sessions take place in the libraries with some occurring at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Gateway of Hope.
- The CALP grant is a joint Kwantlen Polytechnic, Aldergrove Neighbourhood Services, Langley Literacy Association project.
- The New Horizons for seniors project development and grant application was done in partnership with Langley Meals on Wheels.
- Fraser Valley Regional librarians created the Summer Games Book list, the Township of Langley will design the bookmark, the school district will print them and the schools as well as Summer Games will distribute the bookmarks.
- The Township of Langley will host the Literacy Summit in September.
- Steering Committee meetings take place at the School Board Office.
- Little Readers Book Club books are sorted and shipped using school district facilities.
- C.O.O.L for Adults activities take place at the Gateway of Hope.
- Langley City library facilitates Gateway residents the use of the library and delivers computer workshops at the Gateway of Hope.
- The Traditional Language Appreciation project is the result of collaboration with Kwantlen First Nations and will take place in their Band Office.
- The Wrap-a-Read program is delivered as part of the Christmas Bureau.
- Retired teachers coordinate the ESL Conversation Class. St. Dunstan's Anglican Church provides space by donation. The group has been linked to Literacy Now and will now receive training from the C.O.O.L. for Adults Coordinator. They have received discarded books in good shape from the library to give to the children who are coming with the parents. The children are reading the books to their parents. The LOC is working with this group to access a small amount of funding for their program.

INITIATIVES

14) Initiatives that have been instituted include:

- Putting into place a partnership with the Gateway of Hope to deliver C.O.O.L. for Adults at the Gateway.
- Linking the Langley City Library to the Gateway of Hope.
- Establishing a Bed-Time Mother Goose program.
- Development of the Traditional Language Appreciation Project.
 - This program was set to start in May 2010, but that start has moved to September 2010.
- Establishing a relationship and developing a seniors' Literacy Project in partnership with Meals on Wheels and writing a grant to support the project.
 - Waiting for word from New Horizons for seniors.
- Connecting with ESL Conversation class at St. Dunstan's Anglican Church.
 - Literacy Now has been able to provide support, but there has also been huge opportunity to learn about a group of ESL learners not easily accessed.
- Olympic and B.C. Summer Games book lists and bookmarks.

15) Initiatives that have been expanded or continued are:

- The C.O.O.L. for Adults volunteer tutoring program continues to flourish and grow.
- Little Readers Book Club continues to flourish and grow.
- Strong Start Centres have expanded from 6 to 9.
- The Aboriginal Eagles Kindergarten program continues at two schools.

16) Programs/projects/events that have ceased to exist:

- Funding for the youth program at Aldergrove Secondary ended so the “Zine Workshops” were also discontinued.
- The Langley ECD Coordinator’s funding has been cut in half. This will impact the amount of work that can be done by the ECD Committee.

17) Successful aspects of initiatives this year:

- The most successful aspect of all initiatives is how various organizations, agencies and groups come together to bring ideas and resources to the table.
- Langley Literacy Now has been able to support literacy initiatives with a relatively modest amount of expenditure by linking organizations and resources.
- The continued “health” of the Steering Committee. Committee members remain engaged in supporting and promoting literacy in Langley.

18) Challenges were as follows:

- Translating awareness, goodwill and good ideas into tangible projects.
- Staying focused and “on-track” when tasks are not always clearly defined.
- The will is there to collaborate, and the amount of collaboration achieved is exemplary, but there are systemic challenges - “turf” issues, union contracts, insufficient funding, lack of communication and understanding, etc.
- Ensuring that the right people are at the table and committed enough to stay there.
 - The Steering Committee is missing some important sectors - MCFD, Fraser Health and the business community.
 - Invitations have been extended with little result.
- Melding the Community Literacy goals with the school district literacy goals.
 - More work needs to be done in this area.

19) Participation:

The Report to Legacies Now requested the number of:

- Adult participants in programs specifically focused on adult literacy.
- Adult participants in programs specifically focused on family literacy.
- Books or other articles given out in special projects.

This information will be tracked in the 10/11 year so that it can be accurately reported.

RESOURCES

Grants that were applied for to support initiatives were:

20) Number of successful grant applications:

- Renewal of the CALP grant.
- Raise-a-Reader funding for a Bed-time Mother Goose Program.

21) Total value of successful grant applications:

- This information will be tracked in the 10/11 year so that it can be accurately reported.

22) **Estimated value of in kind resources contributed from organizations that participate in program and event delivery:**

- This information will be tracked in the 10/11 year so that it can be accurately reported.

23) **Value of actual funds contributed from organizations that participate in program and event delivery**

- This information will be tracked in the 10/11 year so that information can be accurately shared.

24) **Fundraising events:**

- The Community Literacy Plan Steering Committee has supported fundraising endeavors of other organizations/groups.

Partner contributions:

25) **Value of in kind resources contributed from organizations that participate in program and event delivery:**

- Most of our support is in-kind meeting space (libraries, school board office, and other organizations), refreshments for meetings, photocopying and clerical help.

26) **Fundraising events that were held included:**

- The Langley Literacy Now Steering Committee has not yet held any fund raising events however we are researching an Adult Spelling Bee, Scrabble tournament or Trivial Pursuit Game.
- The Langley Literacy Association fund raises each year to buy books that are given to children and youth as part of the Langley Christmas Bureau activities each December.

LINKS

Langley Literacy Now website - www.langleyliteracynow.com

Little Reader's Book Club website - www.littlereadersbookclub.com