

**Connecting Generations:  
Community and District Literacy Plan and Implementation Report  
2010-2011**

**Submitted to  
BC Ministry of Education and 2010 Legacies Now Society**

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

**July 15, 2010**

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**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.

The *Community and District Literacy Plan* supports and builds on the North Coast Community Literacy Plan, the School District Literacy Plan, the School District Achievement Contract, and the Aboriginal Education Partnership Agreement. Previous years of planning and implementation have provided the opportunity for the *Community and District Literacy Plan* to align with the School District's goals and objectives, to respect and acknowledge community literacy planning and programs, to expand the School District's understanding and involvement in literacy learning within the community, to document the process of collaborative planning and implementation, to identify joint goals and action plans, and to describe implementation processes.

Prince Rupert School District 52 and North Coast Literacy Now acknowledge, with sincere gratitude, the contributions and support of the BC Ministry of Education and 2010 Literacy Now, without which it would be impossible to effectively implement the joint Community and District Literacy Plan.

North Coast Literacy Now also wishes to thank the Board of Education of School District 52 for its ongoing support. Prior to funding being available for Literacy Outreach Coordination, the Board voluntarily contributed funding to support community literacy coordination.

## Reflections on 2009-2010 Year

Over the past year we were able to make progress on a number of the goals and actions identified in the 2009-2010 Community and District Literacy Plan, as described in the “Status” sections of the *Action Plan*. We feel that our greatest impact over the year has been increasing the visibility of North Coast Literacy Now and making connections with organizations that can strengthen our understanding and enable us to provide greater support for literacy learning within our communities.

While the North Coast continues to face significant economic challenges, we are extremely appreciative of the involvement of the organizations that are part of the Steering Committee and of the work they do within our community.

Major accomplishments include the following:

- We expanded the steering committee so that we will have greater representation from several significant groups within the community: those who are dealing with poverty; adults, mature workers, and immigrants who are taking part in employment training; and young children. We have strengthened our links to other organizations and the villages over the past year through meetings, discussions, and joint planning.
- We organized a very successful community event, *Celebrating Literacy*, which was held at the Rupert Square Shopping Centre. Hundreds of people engaged with 15 community organizations involved with literacy. The *Celebrating Literacy* event 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.
- Over the past years, we have provided funding for an inter-generational talking/reading circle at Coast Tsimshian Academy, a Mother Goose Program through Success by Six, and Moe the Mouse through Kaien Anti-Poverty Society, a visiting author, and an adult Sm’algyax Language program in the Metlakatla community.

Our *Community and District Literacy Plan* also includes initiatives and goals that are funded and supported by the School District and the Aboriginal Education Council, who are key members of the Steering Committee. These initiatives are vital to the well-being of members of our community and to literacy learning. They include—

- The Ts’msyen Developmental Standard Term Certificate Program, which brings Elders as mentors and teachers to those who will be teaching Sm’algyax Language and Ts’msyen culture in Prince Rupert public schools.
- The Full-Day Kindergarten Program in 2 schools, which includes the Kindergarten Sm’algyax Language Program.

- Differentiating instruction to meet the needs of every student, by knowing our students, understanding their needs, planning for appropriate instruction, and connecting to students' learning styles. This goal includes the LUCID program which incorporates culturally responsive education within an Imaginative Education framework; Universal Design for Learning that incorporates instructional resources, hardware, software, and ongoing professional development, enabling differentiated learning for all students; and the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program, which provides quality instruction and mentorships for students.
- Smooth transitions through K-12 and into post-secondary education and the workplace, which is a continuing initiative in our Plan and takes place through joint programs and collaboration of many community partners, including School District 52, Northwest Community College, Hecate Strait Employment Development Services, secondary schools, and other groups.

For the coming year, we hope to strengthen our connections to the business community in the North Coast. Several of the organizations on our Steering Committee, including Northwest Community College and Hecate Strait Economic Development Services, already have well-established relationships with the business community and the Chamber of Commerce. Their experience and expertise will be invaluable. We also hope to develop a Communications Plan to consider ways to better develop connections and relationships with the business sector.

By spring 2011, we hope to examine the work we're doing using ~~Appreciate~~ **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.

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### Highlights of 2010-2011 Goals

Goal 1: Maintain a regional framework that builds and strengthens partnerships to enhance literacy and lifelong learning in our communities

Goal 2: Support healthy development for infants, toddlers, and young children

- Maintain communications and relationships with early learning organizations and partnerships in the community.

Goal 3: Enable every student to successfully complete Grade 12 and make a smooth transition to post-secondary employment or education

- Work toward smooth transitions for students within K-12 ~~and from secondary to post-secondary training and employment.~~ Repetitive??
- Differentiate instruction within schools by knowing our students, understanding their needs, planning for appropriate instruction, and connecting to their learning styles.

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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

- Support current and new community programs that enable transitions to employment.

Goal 5: Honour and support every Elder in our communities; support connections and learning between generations

- Support initiatives to connect generations and intergenerational learning.

## **Community Context**

The North Coast of British Columbia includes six communities: Prince Rupert, Port Edward, and the villages of Gitga'ata (Hartley Bay), Gitxaala (Kitkatla), Lax Kw'alaams, and Metlakatla. Prince Rupert School District 52 administers public schools in three of these communities: Prince Rupert, Port Edward, and Hartley Bay. Students from Metlakatla travel by water taxi to attend school in Prince Rupert. Schooling in the village of Lax Kw'alaams is provided by the Coast Tsimshian Academy, a private institution. Lach Klan School in Gitxaala (Kitkatla) became a Band-operated school in September 2009. The community of Prince Rupert also includes Annunciation School, which is administered by the Diocese of Prince George.

## **Aboriginal Community**

Aboriginal people make up one-third of the population of the North Coast. They are Ts'msyen, Haida, Nisga'a, Gitksan, and members of other First Nations. Seventy-four percent (74%) of the population of the villages is Aboriginal.<sup>1</sup> The villages of Gitga'ata, Gitxaala, Metlakatla, and Lax Kw'alaams are Ts'msyen communities and are part of the greater Ts'msyen Nation, which extends from the mouth of the Nass River to the north, along the Skeena River for 200 km to the east, and south to the central coast community of Kitasoo.

Almost sixty percent of the students in School District 52 are Aboriginal. The Aboriginal Education Partnership Agreement outlines a vision and goals for Aboriginal students in the school district. The Partnership Agreement Annual Report has tracked student progress for the past 7 years. The Agreement is being revised following a two-year consultation process throughout the North Coast communities.

## **Prince Rupert School District**

Prince Rupert School District 52 currently provides educational services to approximately 2,400 students in 10 schools—six elementary, two secondary, one village school, and Pacific Coast School (Grades 10-adult). Enrollment has steadily declined from 4000 students in September 1997 to the current enrollment, due to a significantly changing local economy and concurrent population decline. The school continues to experience significant budget cuts, resulting in ongoing changes in staffing and programs.

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<sup>1</sup> 2006 Census.

## Vision

The vision for *Connecting Generations: Community and District Literacy Plan* was developed through the initial two years of community planning and guides the work of community and School District partners:

*We recognize that our diverse communities are located on traditional Ts'msyen territory and therefore we envision the respectful development and integration of community resources, ranging from individual, organizational and cultural to local, provincial and federal partnerships. This will be undertaken in an effort to broaden the potential of people in the region, through implementation of community-based programs that reduce barriers to the lifelong acquisition of knowledge and literacy.*

## Community and District Literacy Action Plan

A major goal of planning for literacy and life-long learning is to build and strengthen community relationships through collaboration among community partners. Many organizations within our communities, like our schools, are comprised of people who are passionate about their work and how it contributes to the health and strength of the people who live here. Planning and implementation enables us to better understand the significant role that the school district plays within our communities and the equally significant role that community organizations play in the education of people of all ages.

Through collaboration, joint planning, and implementation we have focused on the following goals, which cover the lifespan:

1. Maintain a regional framework that builds and strengthens partnerships to enhance literacy and lifelong learning in our north coast 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.
6. Support connections and learning between generations.

The Community and District Action Plan builds on these goals and indicates progress. Please note that the actions/strategies in this section do not duplicate ongoing school and district goals, actions, and strategies to support literacy and reading comprehension. There are many more initiatives that support literacy within the plans of the school district and other organizations in the community.

**Goal 1: Maintain a regional framework that builds and strengthens partnerships to enhance literacy and lifelong learning in our communities**

<b>Actions/Strategies</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p>Ensure that membership of the literacy steering committee equitably represents the communities; assess steering committee terms of reference</p>	<p>Steering Committee</p>	<p>We expanded the steering committee to include representatives from the poverty groups in the community, adult employment training services, and early learning groups.</p> <p>The steering committee continues to include representation from the villages and we provide transportation and accommodation.</p> <p>The chair maintains membership on various councils and committees within the community.</p> <p>The coordinator has attended Early Learning Group meetings and meetings with the Success by Six coordinator. She has also been involved in joint planning of community events with related organizations.</p>
<p>Update the Terms of Reference for the North Coast Literacy Now Steering Committee</p>	<p>Steering Committee</p>	<p>Our terms of reference will be reviewed for the 2010-2011 year in September 2010.</p>
<p>Determine financial guidelines and protocols for equitable distribution of resources to support community-based initiatives</p>	<p>Steering Committee</p>	<p>We have developed clear and easily completed forms for projects and initiatives. So far, these have worked well and do not require competition for funding.</p> <p>In order to support initiatives, we will also help groups search out and apply for grants.</p>

Actions/Strategies	Partnerships	Status
Identify community and provincial literacy resources covering all age levels, and make these accessible through the North Coast Literacy Now website.	Steering Committee	We will be providing links to community and provincial resources on our newly-developed website.
Organize the second annual <i>Celebrating Literacy</i> event at the Rupert Square Shopping Centre; organize an event for Family Literacy week.	Steering Committee and many community partners	We organized a very successful event, <i>Celebrating Literacy</i> . Hundreds of people engaged with 15 community organizations involved with literacy. This event was well covered by the local newspaper and increased our profile in the community. We will continue this next year.
Develop a Communications Plan to expand relationships and partnerships, focusing on a priority goal.	Steering Committee	This will be a new initiative and plan for 2010-2011.
Evaluate planning frameworks, protocols, steering committee composition, resource distribution, and other areas, using appreciative inquiry and other positive processes.	Steering Committee	We will examine and review our structures throughout the year, as needed.
Develop a Community and District Literacy website	Steering Committee	Planning has begun for this website; we hope to have this operative by fall 2010

**Goal 2: Support healthy development for infants, toddlers, and young children**

Actions/Strategies	Partnerships	Status
Maintain communications and relationships with early learning organizations and partnerships in the community.	Aboriginal Education Council School District The Early Years Group North Coast Literacy Now	There is joint representation on the Early Years Group and North Coast Literacy Now through the School District Early Learning Coordinator.  The NCLN coordinator was a member of the joint committee for a Children's Parade and Celebration.  There was strong Early Learning Group representation at the <i>Celebrating Literacy</i> event in March 2010.  We have provided funding for early learning programs at Coast Tsimshian Academy, through Success by Six, and at Kaien Anti-Poverty Society.
Continue current school district early learning initiatives	Aboriginal Education Council School District Other community partners	We are continuing early learning programs identified below, within the school and community.
Continue Kindergarten Sm'algyax Language Program in Full-Day Kindergarten programs in two schools	Aboriginal Education Council School District	The School District will continue the Kindergarten Sm'algyax Language Program in Full-Day Kindergarten classes

<b>Additional programs and initiatives for young children, ages birth through 6 years old</b>	
Books for Babies	POPS (Parents of Primary Students)
Aboriginal Head Start	Speech/Language Services
Day Care Centres	Ready, Set, Learn
Pre-School/Nursery Centres	Welcome to Kindergarten
Supported Child Care	Success by Six
Infant Development Program	PACES 'Hub'
StrongStart	Aboriginal Cross-Curricular Units
Roots of Empathy	Aboriginal Role Model Program
Let's Play	Helping Our Children Learn Family Workshops
Full-day kindergarten	Mother Goose Program
Talking Tables	Berry Patch Resource and Referral Program
PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters)	Moe the Mouse
Lax Kw'alaams Treehouse, Parent-Tot Drop in Group	Summer Read and Play
	Friendship House, Parent-Tot Drop in Group

**Goal 3: Enable every student to successfully complete Grade 12 and make a smooth transition to post-secondary employment or education**

Actions/Strategies	Partnerships	Status
<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"> <li>• Continue the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program to link Aboriginal students to local businesses</li> <li>• Continue the Ace-It Program to offer secondary/college credit for trades programs</li> <li>• Establish stronger links between secondary and post-secondary institutions and the business community in Prince Rupert, in areas of skills, preparation, and mentorship</li> <li>• Support collaboration between secondary schools and post-secondary institutions concerning bridging opportunities for students</li> <li>• Support collaboration between secondary schools and post-secondary institutions concerning benchmarks for English Language literacy</li> <li>• Support collaboration between</li> </ul>	<p>Elementary schools                      Secondary Schools                      Aboriginal Education Services                      Northwest Community College                      Hecate Strait Employment Development Services                      Other community post-secondary training institutions</p>	<p>This is a continuing initiative and takes place through joint programs and collaboration. One way that this goal is supported is through the work and collaboration of partners on the NCLN steering committee, including School District 52, Northwest Community College, Hecate Strait Employment Development Services, Charles Hays Secondary School, and other groups.</p> <p>In 2010-2011 we anticipate including representatives from the business community and the Chamber of Commerce on our steering committee and in our work. We intend to include this as a goal in our Communications Plan, to be developed.</p>

<p>Northwest Community College and the villages, to provide greater opportunities for students to make successful transitions.</p>		
<p>Differentiate instruction within schools by knowing our students, understanding their needs, planning for appropriate instruction, and connecting to their learning styles. This goal includes the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LUCID (Learning for Understanding through Culturally Inclusive Imaginative Education)</li> <li>• Universal Design for Learning</li> <li>• Aboriginal Entrepreneur Course</li> <li>• Additional differentiated instruction, resources, and strategies</li> </ul>	<p>Aboriginal Education Services                  School District and all schools                  Northwest Community College                  Simon Fraser University                  Special Services Department                  Paul Martin Foundation                  Business and industry sectors in Prince Rupert</p>	<p>The LUCID program incorporates culturally responsive education within an Imaginative Education framework. The school district has been part of a 5-year project in collaboration with Simon Fraser University.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u><a href="#">15 educators recently attended Carol Ann Tomlinson’s Differentiating Instruction Institute and are now planning a series of workshops for other educators</a></u></p>
<p>Maintain and enhance connections between families, the community, and schools</p>	<p>School District and Schools                  Aboriginal Education Services                  Community groups</p>	<p>This is an ongoing process and includes a number of programs and initiatives, including the Helping Our Children Learn family workshops, PALS, POPS, Summer Read and Play, Family Resource Workers, and others (see below).</p>

**Additional community programs and initiatives for school children:**

Sm'algayax Language Program	Teen Parents Programs
Talking Tables	Aboriginal Cross-Curricular Units
PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters)	Aboriginal Role Model Program
POPS (Parents of Primary Students)	Aboriginal Counsellors
Summer Read and Play	Aboriginal Family Resource Workers
French Immersion	<i>Honouring the Salmon</i> materials
Homework Clubs	Restorative Justice
Speech/Language Services	
Special Education Services	

**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	Status
<p>Support current and new community programs that enable transitions to employment, including—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College and Career Preparation Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Workplace training programs</li> <li>• Adult literacy programs</li> <li>• Adult Dogwood Certification</li> <li>• Tutoring programs</li> <li>• Employability and Life Skills training programs</li> <li>• Career-related training courses</li> <li>• Mature worker training programs</li> <li>• Aboriginal workers' training programs</li> <li>• Technology training programs</li> </ul>	<p>Northwest Community College                      Hecate Strait Employment Development Services/ North Coast Distance Education School                      Fraser Street Tutoring Services                      First Nations Training and Development Program                      Aboriginal Education Services                      School District 52                      Chamber of Commerce and business community                      Other community post-secondary training organizations</p>	<p>Our steering committee this year includes greater representation from organizations that are committed to maximizing opportunities and reducing barriers for youth, adults, and Elders.</p> <p>We will support and contribute to these initiatives, including providing partial or complete tuition costs for those who are unable to afford tuition.</p> <p>The steering committee meetings provide a forum for communication and collaboration among different community partners in this area.</p>
<p>Continue Ts'msyen Developmental Standard Term Certificate Program and development of Sm'algyax resources</p>	<p>Aboriginal Education Council                      University of Northern BC                      School District</p>	<p>Through the partnership, students received a Developmental Standard Term Certificate recognized by the College of Teachers and enabling them to teach in public schools. Several students are continuing on to study for the B.Ed. degree.</p>

**Additional programs and initiatives for youth and adults:**

Teen Parents Program	North Coast Victim Support Services
Planet Youth	Community Futures of the Pacific Northwest
Public Library Programs	Community Living Services
The Edge Youth Employment Centre	Community Enrichment Society
Fraser Street Tutoring Services	Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society
Career Resource Centre	NW Inter-Nation Family and Community Services
North Coast First Nations Training and Skill Development	Salvation Army
Hecate Strait Employment Development Society	Northern Health Programs
Friendship House Programs	Lax Kw'alaams Essential Skills Workplace program
North Coast Transition Society	Hecate Strait Employment Development Services programs
Rising Stars (Mentorship Program at NWCC)	

**Goal 5: Honour and support every Elder in our communities; support connections and learning between generations**

Actions/Strategies	Partnerships	Status
<p>Support initiatives to connect generations and intergenerational learning, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sm’algyax language courses for adults</li> <li>• Elder’s cultural teachings in Lax Kw’alaams</li> <li>• Adult literacy programs</li> <li>• Technology training programs</li> <li>• Connections between young people and Elders and seniors</li> <li>• Mentorships among generations in the North Coast</li> </ul>	<p>Hecate Strait Employment Development Services</p> <p>Aboriginal Education Council School District</p> <p>Fraser Street Tutoring</p> <p>Northwest Community College</p>	<p>North Coast Literacy Now supported a program at Coast Tsimshian Academy bringing Elders and school-aged children together for Talking Circles/Reading Circles.</p> <p>North Coast Literacy Now continues to support the Metlakatla community in offering an adult Sm’algyax Language program.</p> <p>The Ts’msyen Developmental Standard Term Certificate Program brings Elders as mentors and teachers to those who will be teaching Sm’algyax Language and Ts’msyen culture in Prince Rupert public schools.</p>
<p>Support the Mature Workers program</p>	<p>Hecate Strait Employment Development Services</p> <p>Other community organizations</p>	
<p>Support adult literacy programs that are accessible and responsive to the needs of Elders and senior</p>	<p>Fraser Street Tutoring Services</p> <p>Northwest Community College</p>	

**Additional programs and initiatives for elders and seniors:**

Friendship House Elders Group	Salvation Army
Northwest Community College	Home Support Programs
North Coast Victim Support Services	Seniors' Centre
Community Enrichment Society	Public Library Programs
Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society	Hecate Strait Employment Development Services
Fraser Street Tutoring Services	programs