



LITERACY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: A PLAN FOR LANGLEY

COMMUNITY/DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN REPORT

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LITERACY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: A PLAN FOR LANGLEY

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



Mission: 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.

SUMMARY

Langley's Community Literacy Plan, "Literacy for the 21st Century: A Plan for Langley," was developed by the Langley Literacy Now Task Force over 2004-2007. It was the result of an extensive community process and was endorsed by representatives of the Langley community in February of 2008.

The Langley Literacy Now Community Steering Committee, with representation invited from a wide spectrum of community organizations and agencies, was formed to implement the Plan. Also in 2008, School District Boards of Education were charged with the annual review and submission of a District Literacy Plan. The School District and Literacy Now Community Steering Committee work together to implement the community literacy plan in Langley.

Many of the issues, challenges and gaps originally identified in the Community Literacy Plan are still valid. The top literacy priorities identified, remain priorities - strategic planning and coordination across, the community, addressing adult literacy needs, particularly for English as a Second Language (ESL) learners and disenfranchised adults and youth, and building participation in family literacy programs. Literacy Summits held in 2009 and 2010 have re-affirmed these priorities. A concern for senior's literacy issues emerged from these discussions and may be added to the adult priorities. Progress has been made on many fronts, but there is much that remains to be done.

Some of the issues concerning community knowledge of programs and effective service delivery of programs have seen improvement. The profile of literacy has been heightened. The Community Steering Committee has played a major role in this process. Communication, coordination and collaboration have improved, and work continues to further this process.

The most important piece of work accomplished during the 2010-2011 year was the revitalization of the Adult Literacy Group. This group has been charged with the task of more clearly defining priority populations and literacy assets and gaps, as well as developing a community-based and community-supported strategy and plan to move adult literacy forward in Langley. Support from Leona Gadsby and Lori Walker from Literacy Now, is helping this group move in a positive direction and providing structure and focus. The new Adult Literacy Group is vibrant and active and has made considerable progress in more clearly defining the challenges for adult literacy learners, and work has begun to address these challenges.

Over the course of 2010-2011 Literacy Now merged with Literacy B.C. to become Decoda Literacy Solutions. Partly as a result of this change and partly due to a need to refresh the profile of the Literacy Now Community Steering Committee the new name for the group will be the Langley Literacy Network. The Literacy Now website is currently undergoing a major facelift and will reflect the new name - www.langleyliteracynetwork.com

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Geography and Demographics:

The community of Langley is comprised of two municipalities - the City of Langley and the Township of Langley. The area is the ancestral home of the Sto:Lo First Nation and currently contains three First Nation Reserves - Kwantlen, Katzie and Matsqui. Langley is located at the eastern end of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) bounded by the City of Surrey on the west, Abbotsford on the east, the Fraser River on the north and the U.S. border on the south. As part of the Lower Mainland, the most densely populated area of the province, the community experiences both the advantages and disadvantages of urbanization. At the same time the significant area of land, in the Township of Langley, allocated to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) brings with it the advantages and disadvantages of rural life. This mix of urban and rural creates unique challenges for the Langley community.

The estimated 2010 combined population of the two communities is 130,555, with 25,858 people in the City and 104,697 in the Township. The City with about 3% of the land mass has 20% of the population, with a population density of 2,309 people per square kilometre. The Township with 97% of the land mass has 80% of the population with a population density of 305.4. Much of the land in the Township is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve. However, it also contains 5 distinct urban centres, with different characteristics and different needs.

The identified Aboriginal population in the City is 850 people (4%) and 2,450 (3%) in the Township. The fastest growing demographic group in Langley is immigrants. Between 2001 and 2006 the non-immigrant population in the City declined by - 3.6% while the immigrant population increased by 14.9%. A similar picture emerges in the Township with the non-immigrant population increasing by 5.9% and the immigrant population increasing by 19.1%. There is a significant population of Karen refugees in Langley City and many of the families moving into new housing in Willowbrook/Willoughby are Korean.

The City of Langley has been the long-established urban centre of the community as a whole, and growth has stabilized. With its greater density the City is home to more affordable housing, the local transportation hub, and the majority of social services. The City also has a higher incidence of the challenges often associated with greater density and urbanization - a lower socio-economic level, a greater dependence on B.C. Basic Income Assistance, a higher percentage of single parent families, and problems of poverty, homelessness, and substance abuse.

The Township, despite having over 80% of its area locked in the ALR, has grown steadily between the last two census periods and that trend is expected to continue. Most of this growth is concentrated in new communities along the Surrey border, particularly the Willowbrook/Willoughby area. The Township continues to struggle with the rural problems of isolation, transportation and effective service delivery, while coming to grips with the needs of an expanding and changing urban population.

The urban-rural nature of the community and the recent growth in parts of the community have exacerbated the challenge of effective service delivery for all service providers. A declining school age population in parts of the community has resulted in school closures, while schools in the newer communities along the western corridor face crowding issues. Many services still tend to be centralized in the City of Langley with little presence in the new communities. A larger proportion of new families in these areas are immigrants with ESL needs.

Reflections on the current year:

The original Langley Community Literacy Plan was based on the most recent census data available at the time.

A look at more recent data, indicates little significant change, however, like most communities, Langley has suffered from the economic downturn. The number of people on income assistance has risen from 2% in 2006 to 3% in 2009. The number of youth on income assistance has increased from 2% to 2.9%. Unemployment numbers are also increasing.

On a positive note, the percentage of people without high school completion has decreased from 16.5% to 9.6%, the percentage of people without post secondary completion from 45.4% to 39.4%, and the number of 15-24 year olds in school has increased from 49.5% to 62.3%. The six-year high school completion rate has risen to 83% in 2009/10. However, despite a number of post-secondary options available to Langley students post-secondary transition immediately after graduation is at 46%, well below the provincial rate of 51%. Increasing that number is a school district goal.

In regard to early learning, the number of Langley children identified as vulnerable has increased over the 4 years the Early Childhood Development Index has been administered in Langley. On the last assessment, 5 Langley communities had increased in vulnerability. Langley School District implemented Full-Day Kindergarten in selected schools this year, with implementation for the remaining schools in the fall of 2011.

Changes noted for the last 2 years continue to be valid:

- a greater awareness of, and attention to, poverty and homelessness
- immigrant population growth creating a more multi-cultural community
- a greater need for ESL services
- Uneven population growth creating capacity issues for schools and other agencies.

The original Community Literacy Plan identified Adult Literacy as the priority focus for literacy work. Work done in this area has resulted in the Literacy Community looking more closely at the adult and young adult population and defining, who needs support, where they are, and how the community can work together to most effectively address their literacy needs. It has also become abundantly clear that the ESL population is a very mixed group, from refugees to professionals in their own countries, and this is reflected in their literacy needs. One size will not fit all.

LANGLEY COMMUNITY LITERACY STEERING COMMITTEE

The Original Literacy Now Task Group

Langley's original Task Group, initiated by the Langley Literacy Association, completed its work in December of 2007.

The Community Literacy Steering Committee

Early in 2008 the Langley Community Literacy Steering Committee was created to implement the Langley Community Literacy Plan. The committee's focus was on the community-wide systemic aspects of the plan. "Pillar work" based on Early Childhood, School Age, Adult, and Aboriginal focus areas was to be done by working groups. The only other new committee established was the Adult Literacy Group. All the other groups were to incorporate the literacy goals in the committee work already being done, with each group having a representative on the Steering Committee - ECD, School district, and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee - to be a link between the two.

The Steering Committee was to meet monthly or bi-monthly for a total of 10 times a year. The Community would hold a Literacy Summit once a year, inviting a broad cross section of the community, and asking them to assess the ongoing validity of the plan and progress made and to suggest new directions if needed.

The first Langley Literacy Summit established a list of organizations that would be invited to sit on that committee, including representation from:

- City of Langley
- Township of Langley
- Aboriginal community
- Fraser Valley Regional Library
- Langley School District #35
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Fraser Health
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Langley Child and Youth Committee
- Langley Chamber Commerce
- Langley Literacy Association
- Aldergrove Neighbourhood Services

Several of these organizations have been consistently represented over the course of the last 3 years.

There has been some challenge in sustaining a viable Literacy Steering Committee for a variety of reasons, in particular attracting and holding committee members as organization resources dwindle. This is a community wide problem experienced by many committees currently operating in Langley. In an effort to create a more strategic community-wide service plan, the Public Partners Group is in the process of re-aligning and possibly merging

some of the many committees doing work within the community. The Literacy Outreach Coordinator has been attending these planning meetings with the purpose of ensuring that literacy finds a place in the final configuration.

At this point there are 3 committees/groups in Langley working on literacy - the Langley Literacy Network, the Langley Literacy Association and the Adult Literacy Group. They have a different mandate, but much of the work overlaps. It may make sense to discuss the relationship among these groups and ways of more efficiently conducting business.

The biggest challenge for the Community Literacy Committee, has been sustaining the work in the area of Adult Literacy. In order to revive and boost this work the Committee arranged a meeting with Adult Literacy providers in November. The purpose of that meeting was to discuss resources, identify gaps and challenges, and consider strategies for moving forward. A number of organizations attended including some that had not been there before. A new Adult Literacy Group was formed.

The core Steering Committee has met 8 times over the course of the 2010-2011 school years. The newly energized Adult Literacy Group has met 5 times. These meetings have been productive and are moving forward in developing a community-based and community-supported Adult literacy strategy and plan.

Current regular representation on the Community Literacy Steering Committee:

- Township of Langley
- Fraser Valley Regional Library
- Langley School District
- School District Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Langley Literacy Association
- Aldergrove Neighbourhood Services

Members of the Adult Literacy Group:

- Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)
- New Directions - ELSA program
- Fraser Valley Regional Library
- ESL Volunteer Group for Karen Refugee Seniors
- Langley School District
- Christian Life Assembly - ESLC (English Studies for Life in Canada) program
- School Principal
- Private ESL tutor
- C.O.O.L. for Adults program - one on one volunteer tutoring program
- Beat the Streets - Youth Homelessness Program
- Langley Seniors Table
- Township of Langley
- ESL teacher
- Langley Continuing Education

- St. Dunstan ESL Group
- Fraser Health
- Meals on Wheels - 3Rs for Seniors Project

With the dissolution of Literacy Now, and the formation of Decoda Literacy Solutions the Langley Literacy Now Community Steering Committee has changed its name to the Langley Literacy Network. That name change will also be reflected on the new website www.langleyliteracynetwork.com. The new logo has also been created.



Langley Literacy Network

Weaving Literacy Throughout The Community

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATION

Collaboration around literacy community development is happening in many ways, both formal and informal.

3R's for Seniors Initiative

Last year the Literacy Outreach Coordinator collaborated with Meals on Wheels to write a New Horizons for Seniors' grant application that included a literacy component. That grant was successful and an exciting seniors' project called "3Rs for Seniors," is collecting Recipes, Remedies and Reminiscences from seniors throughout the community. The stories will be transcribed and published in a book to be shared with the community. Partly as a result of this collaboration the coordinator for the new Seniors Planning Table now attends the Adult Literacy meetings, and the LOC is attending the Seniors Planning Table meetings and has been invited to do a presentation and initiate a discussion of senior's literacy.

The Fraser Valley Library

The Literacy Steering Committee has supported the library in enhancing its collection of high interest/low vocabulary adult books. The Literacy Outreach Coordinator helped connect the library to community ESL groups in order to facilitate the distribution of ESL workbooks as part of a FVRL library Adult Literacy Initiative. The library has been supportive of literacy throughout. Almost all C.O.O.L. for Adults tutoring sessions take place in the libraries. The City library, through its connection with C.O.O.L. for Adults, offers computer classes at the Gateway of Hope and has an arrangement with that organization to issue library cards to the homeless. The library provided the instructor and space for a Literacy sponsored Conversation

Circle Training workshop. Conversation Circles will be advertised and take place in selected libraries in the fall.

Gateway of Hope Homelessness Shelter

C.O.O.L. for Adults has had a relationship with the Gateway of Hope from the day it opened. At this point C.O.O.L. for Adults provides mainly assessment services and some tutoring to the Transitions Program. The Steering Committee assisted the Gateway of Hope in setting up a Book Exchange in its facility.

“Beat the Streets”

The Youth Homelessness Initiative, “Beat the Streets,” opened in Aldergrove last fall. The Coordinator for this project has been attending the Adult Literacy Group discussions. The Adult Literacy Group has agreed to support a grant application for a youth transition program that will include a Drop-In School.

Langley Literacy Association

The Langley Literacy Association (LLA) has supported and promoted literacy in Langley for the last 10 years and was instrumental in bringing the Literacy Now initiative to Langley. The relationship between LLA and Literacy Now remains strong. LLA has its own section on the new Langley Literacy Network website. The LOC is the current chair of LLA. This organization fundraises for and runs the annual Wrap-a-Read program. Wrap-a-Read provides a new book for every child whose family accesses the Christmas Bureau. Through the LOC, LLA became aware of the “Birthday Closet” which provides a birthday gift to children accessing the Food Bank. LLA is now attempting to increase fundraising efforts to provide a new book as part of that birthday present.

Early Childhood Education Committee - Planning Table

LOC participation in Early Childhood Development meetings has led to collaboration around the provisions of a Mother Goose program in an area previously not served by this program and at a non-traditional time (weekends). The Township of Langley is providing program space. Discussions are taking place around the idea of offering a multi-cultural Mother Goose program that would benefit both children and parents.

Middle Childhood Matters Committee- Planning Table

LOC participation in the Middle Childhood Matters Committee has led to a greater awareness of literacy as part of recreational programs as well as formal school. Activities supporting literacy of all kinds are embedded in the After School Clubs Program in Aldergrove. The Family Summer Activity Guide, distributed to all families with children aged 6-12, contains extensive information on Summer Programs at the library as well as a number of daily activity suggestions that support and promote literacy.

Community

The LOC regularly attends Child and Youth Committee (CYC) meetings and also attends a variety of special meetings, workshops, forums and focus groups throughout the community. Examples include a Township of Langley focus group on education and health, a Healthier Communities Forum, Public Partners strategy meetings, and more. The LOC has made Literacy presentation to the Child and Youth Committee and to local Service Clubs.

Adult Literacy Group

The most promising potential for community development comes from the newly revived and greatly expanded Adult Literacy Group. Even after a few meetings new understandings and new connections have already been made, particularly among ESL program providers. For example, Langley Community Services has teamed up with New Directions to survey the Aldergrove population in regard to ESL needs in that area.

GOALS AND ACTIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

The Community Steering Committee has been successful in raising the profile of literacy in Langley - promoting awareness, linking organizations and resources and supporting literacy programs. The newly established Adult Literacy Group is active and viable and participants are excited to learn more about what each is doing and how they can work together more effectively. A new literacy website is under way, with input from a variety of literacy service providers, who will be a significant user group. The Adult Literacy Group is also working on a "Cheat Sheet" with detailed program and resource information that can be shared among them and which will make it easier for service providers to refer people to the appropriate program or resource.

The biggest challenge for the Steering Committee was effectively addressing the adult literacy goals set out in the Community Literacy Plan.

The Literacy Summit held in September 2010 attracted a wide range of participants who assessed and prioritized the goals set out in the Community Literacy Plan. Summit participants confirmed the focus on adult literacy in the Community Plan and confirmed the goals in that plan. Several good ideas came forward, such as bringing Conversation Circles to the Libraries, but no clear over all strategy emerged. In the end, the result of the meeting was that the main area of concern identified through the original Literacy Now process was still valid, and that progress toward addressing that challenge had been made, but a community-wide, community-endorsed and supported strategic plan was still missing.

To begin to address this problem the Steering Committee invited Adult Literacy Providers to its meeting in November. It became clear that the Steering Committee needed to work with this group in order develop an effective adult literacy strategy and plan. With the support of

Leona Gadsby and Lori Walker from Literacy Now, 3 facilitated meetings with Adult Literacy providers were conducted from April - June.

Based on these discussions it appears that the adult literacy assets in Langley have increased over the last 4 years. However, there are still gaps and challenges that need to be addressed. The conversations have led to a clearer delineation of the population groups who need support, and the challenges and gaps that need to be overcome.

The adult population in need of literacy support is varied, and their needs also vary widely. The ESL population was the focus of the greatest amount of discussion, but there was also an understanding that there is a significant population of native-English speaking people who have literacy needs. The ESL population varies from refugees who are not literate in their own language to professionals who require English language skills. It is obvious that the challenges faced by these groups, and their literacy needs will also vary widely. There is no "one size fits all." The same holds true for the Native English speaking population. The issues that have kept these people from acquiring the necessary literacy skills may include mental health issues, substance abuse, learning disabilities and more.

Adult and youth literacy assets identified:

- ELSA Levels 1 - 5 provided by New Directions College
- Information and services provided by Fraser Health, but no programs
- 3Rs for Seniors Project - Funded through a New Horizons grant and coordinated by Meals on Wheels - a Literacy Now partnership
- Free ESL classes and conversation St. Dunstan's In Aldergrove - program organized and run by a group of volunteer retired teachers - a Literacy Now partnership
- C.O.O.L. (Community One-on-One Learning) for Adults - free literacy tutoring for low level learners - a Literacy Now, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Aldergrove Neighbourhood Services, Langley Literacy Association partnership
- A rich and varied array of services for adult learners, including low vocabulary/high interest books by Canadian authors, adult summer reading club, at Fraser Valley Regional libraries throughout the community. The high interest/low vocabulary book collections is a Literacy Now partnership
- Refugee and immigrant settlement services and ESL classes - provided by Langley Community Services Society
- Recreation and literacy services at St. Joseph's Church in Langley for youth - provided through the PuCKS program
- Adult Basic Education - provided at the Langley Campus of Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- A conversation program for Karen Refugees Seniors - provided by community volunteers at St. Joseph's in Langley
- English Studies for Life in Canada - provided by Langley Christian Assembly
- SWIS (Settlement Workers in Schools) Program and a Refugee Advisory Committee - provided by Langley School District
- A variety of resources and services for youth who are homeless or at risk for homelessness - provided by "Beat the Streets" Program in Aldergrove
- A variety of continuing education courses - offered by Langley Continuing Education - open to offering ESL classes, but little uptake

Gaps and challenges identified fell into three main categories:

(1) Knowledge of programs for both service providers and participants

- Information about programs
- Eligibility
- Location and times
- Contact information
- Communication among service providers

(2) Resources

- Dual language dictionaries
- Employment related material
- Curriculum materials
- Conversational materials - cds, dvds, tapes, etc.

(3) Barriers to accessing programs

- External barriers
 - No suitable program - gaps in ESL programs, no ELSAP program in Langley
 - Lack of employment related literacy programs
 - A lack of “bridging” programs to current upgrading programs
 - Location and Transportation
 - Time - not enough time, programs not available at times that work for participants
 - Child care
 - Cost
 - A lack of programs that link parents and children - no family programs
- Internal barriers
 - Lack of skills/confidence
 - Cultural barriers
 - “Survival” barriers - youth concentrating on surviving can not attend to their education
 - Immigrant youth, some graduated, without sufficient language skills or curriculum knowledge

Priority Groups Identified:

- English Language Learners (ESL) - Adults and youth
 - Karen Refugee population
 - New immigrants on the Willowbrook/Willoughby slope - a predominantly Korean well educated population
 - Vietnamese population - have been in Canada for a number of years, many are citizens, but English language skills are still lacking
 - Spanish speaking population

- A growing Punjabi speaking population in Aldergrove
- Youth who may have graduated, but still lack language skills as well as a knowledge of curriculum - not ready for employment or post secondary
- English speaking Adults and youth
 - Older youth and adults with literacy gaps due to a variety of reasons, including learning disabilities, mental health issues, substance abuse, gaps in education, etc.
 - Youth who are disengaged from the education system for a variety of reasons including homelessness, substance abuse, mental health issues etc.
 - Add older adults in future?

INDICATIONS OF SUCCESS

Accomplishments in 2010 - 2011 include:

- A new, updated Langley Literacy website well on its way to completion
 - The website will include a Resource Directory for Service Providers
- A successful renewal of the CALP (Community Adult Literacy Program) grant for a third year
 - Connecting the St. Dunstan ESL Program to CALP and Literacy Now
- Successful implementation of the 3Rs for Seniors project
- A well subscribed (17 participants) Conversation Circles volunteer training program
- Delivery of a well received and well subscribed Mother Goose Program in an underserved area, at a non-traditional time
- A revitalization of the Adult Literacy Group

An important indication of success is the increased understanding and awareness, among social service providers, particularly adult literacy providers, of what each of them does, whom they serve, and how they can work more effectively together. The Adult Literacy Group is in the process of putting together a Service Provider Resource List which will be published on the new website. They are excited about sharing knowledge and resources.

Another indicator of success is the growing awareness of literacy throughout the community, particularly adult literacy. The number of enquiries about literacy, particularly volunteering for literacy programs has grown significantly.

CHALLENGES

The work of the Steering Committee appeared to stall without a clear focus and direction for action. The Community Literacy Plan clearly identified the major adult literacy gap, but

specific goals were either not clear, or not very do-able. The Committee had also lost touch with Adult Literacy service providers.

The biggest challenge in the coming year for the Adult Literacy Group and the new Langley Literacy Network will be to further identify and prioritize needs, to develop strategies to meet those needs, and to allocate limited resources where they will be most effective.

The ongoing economic situation, and the budget cuts experienced by virtually all community organizations, will be a continuing challenge. The competition for all resources, including human resources, will continue to be a reality. The challenge will be to make the most efficient use of time, so that productive discussion, collaboration and work will continue.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The current work being done by the Public Partners Group, Healthier Communities Committee and MCFD, to develop a broad-based strategic plan for supporting children aged 0-19, and the potential re-organization of community committees, may provide an opportunity for literacy to become part of the “big picture,” to be embedded in the plan, and to become part of a broader community base.

The newly revived Adult Literacy Group provides an opportunity to develop concrete strategies to address adult literacy gaps and challenges. Discussions to date have already led to greater knowledge about what each group is providing and the beginnings of greater cooperation and collaboration.

The new Literacy website, when finished, provides an opportunity for more effective communication about, and engagement in, literacy. The challenge will be to keep it fresh and current.

GOALS, PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2011-2012

The new website www.langleyliteracynetwork.com will be completed and kept up to date. It will be important to encourage service providers and the public to use the website and provide feedback on improvements.

A “Cheat Sheet” resource will be completed and kept up to date. This resource will reside on the website, but other avenues for dissemination may need to be identified.

The main focus in 2011-2012 will continue to be adult literacy.

The new Literacy Network will continue to work with the Adult Literacy Group toward the development of a community-wide, community-supported plan that will address the priorities identified. A great deal of work has already been accomplished in terms of identifying assets and defining needs. Some prioritization of needs has also been done and projects to address these needs are being put forward.

The Adult Literacy Group will continue to meet in September to further discuss and work on priorities and next steps. Some next steps and potential goals for 2010-2011 are in place.

Focus on Priority Groups:

- English Language Learners
- Adults needing upgrading and support
- Youth in need of “bridging” to school and other services
- Add older adults/seniors in future?

Increase knowledge about Services and Programs (for service providers and the public)

- Develop strategies for effective use and dissemination of the “cheat sheet” for service providers currently being created
 - Develop a plan for effective dissemination of the information - identify who needs it and how to get it to them
 - Develop a plan for maintenance - keeping the information up to date - LOC role?
 - Identify inter-agency group(s) the LOC needs to be connected to in regard to this subject
 - Compile a list of who else should be part of the conversation
 - Develop other strategies for reaching and engaging other service providers - roundtable discussions
- Identify what literacy services need to be included in a Service Directory
 - Find a way to include informal as well as formal learning opportunities
 - Find a strategy for effectively including faith groups
 - Define the role of for-profit agencies that provide literacy services
 - Find strategies for reaching people who need services in other ways
- Further explore interest in moving ahead with other strategies in the Fall

Identify, share and increase resources for programs

- Develop an effective way to share resources and information about resources among service providers
- Further explore interest in moving ahead with other strategies in the Fall

Address barriers to accessing programs

- Continue to explore and strategize around the idea of a Drop-In School for youth

- Explore interest in offering or enhancing assessment/referral/advocacy for adult learners
- Identify who else needs to be part of this conversation and invite them in
 - Welcome Wagon, transition workers, employment agencies, RCMP, Housing, etc.
- Define the role of the library and how libraries can more effectively work with service providers
- Further explore the needs of adult learners
 - Assessment, referral, advocacy
 - Better bridging of learner needs and interests with program requirements and employment opportunities
 - Addressing specific issues - probation, mental health, learning disabilities, etc.
- More discussion around finding students (restaurants, churches, etc.) and making services accessible - explore effective strategies for matching learners and their needs to services
- More conversation and collaboration between formal and informal providers of ESL support and services

Ongoing discussion will point the way for prioritizing goals, objectives and actions for 2011-2012. The Literacy Network and Adult Literacy Group will have to thoroughly review, assess and adjust goals and objectives and activities as they unfold.

CURRENT LANGLEY LITERACY PLAN

The following goals are from the original Community Literacy Plan and still appear to be valid. Objectives may have changed slightly. No specific actions were set out in the Community Literacy Plan and were extrapolated from discussions held this year. An attempt has been made to include newly identified information into the plan.

One of the tasks for 2011-2012 may be to re-state and clarify adult literacy goals, objectives and actions.

Goal #1	Objective	Action
Increase access to adult literacy services in Langley	Develop, plan and implement, community-based, community-supported, concrete strategies and projects to support adult literacy learning in Langley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the Adult Literacy Group alive and vibrant • Updated website completed • Service provider “Cheat Sheet” completed • Continue to explore the idea of a Drop-In School for youth • Continue to follow-up on the idea of assessment/referral/advocacy services for adults

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify who else needs to be part of the conversation • More discussion of matching learner and service needs • Define the role of libraries in this process • Further explore the specific needs of Adult Learners • Explore potential for ESL advocate and enhancing marketing/advertising/engagement techniques
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Goal #2	Objective	Action
Build a community culture that values literacy and learning	This goal is very general and objectives are difficult to define	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish the current website re-construction • Stories and a newsletter on the website • Stories and a newsletter on the website • Continue to submit articles to the local newspapers

Goal #3	Objective	Action
Promote collaboration and partnerships among community agencies and organizations	Continue the building of communication, collaboration and cooperation among Adult Literacy Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the Adult Literacy Group alive and vibrant. • Create avenues and opportunities for encouraging communication, cooperation, sharing of resources - Literacy website, resource list with detailed information about all programs and share that information • Find a strategy for effectively including faith groups • Define the role of for-profit agencies that provide literacy services

Goal #4	Objective	Action
Build a strong communication system among community agencies and organizations and create new ways of reaching out to the public.	Continue the building of communication, collaboration and cooperation among Adult Literacy Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the Adult Literacy alive and vibrant. • LOC to develop and distribute, with the help of Service Providers, a Service Provider Information Guide with detailed information about programs offered by each

The following goals will need to be re-examined and re-assessed

Goal #5

Maximize the physical, human, and financial resources available for the community’s literacy services

Goal # 6	Objective	Action
Develop a governance and administrative structure to support literacy initiatives set out in a joint Langley Community/School District Literacy Plan.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-assess the current structure - include process for review, assessment and implementation • Continued participation in Public Partners discussion around the development of Strategic Community Plan and the re-alignment of various community committees

Comment:

The Literacy Network may want to re-assess the current structures and develop a structure and process to effectively carry out the implementation of the Community Literacy Plan

The following age-specific goals are included in the original Community Literacy Plan.

Goals 7 - 11 apply to adults and are best addressed by the Adult Literacy Group

Goal #7	Objective	Action
Upgrade literacy skills for young unemployed and	Objectives have not been defined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider employment related literacy issues

under-employed adults - still identified as a concern and an appropriate goal		
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Goal #8	Objective	Action
Develop literacy services for homeless youth Expand to include all youth at risk - still identified as a concern, and an appropriate goal	Develop and implement an accessible, effective program that helps homeless youth access literacy and educational resources to build skills and eventually allow them to graduate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Literacy Group to support the application by “Beat the Streets” for a grant to set up a Drop-In School for youth • LOC to support the grant application in any way required • Include consideration of youth graduated, but with no curriculum knowledge • Develop appropriate education programs for this group - “bridging” programs

Goal #9	Objective	Action
Increase the number and range of post secondary literacy services in Langley - still identified as a concern, and an appropriate goal	Objectives have not been defined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions are not yet developed

Goal #10	Objective	Action
Enhance community-wide age-appropriate literacy services for adults - still identified as a concern, and an appropriate goal	Develop and implement a range of appropriate and effective literacy services for adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of programs are already in place - continue support for these programs • Explore the need and feasibility of additional programs • Ensure programs are “adult friendly” • ESL conversational

		materials - dvds,cds,tapes
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Goal #11	Objective	Action
Develop literacy services for homeless adults - still identified as a concern, and an appropriate goal, but has been addressed to a large extend No longer as much of a priority	Develop a range of appropriate and effective literacy services and resources for adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs and partnerships are already in place - continue support for these programs

Goals #12 - #14 apply to early childhood

Goal #12	Objective	Action
Increase public awareness and parental awareness of the importance of early childhood development		

Goal #13	Objective	Action
Increase participation in early childhood programs		

Goal #14	Objective	Action
Improve effectiveness and increase capacity of early childhood programs		

New gaps and challenges identified

- Literacy around food could be improved - knowledge of nutrition, healthy choices, reading labels
- Seniors' literacy needs - inadequate financial literacy can lead to abuse.