



Literacy Plan Report

June 2013

Prepared by: Lynda Brummitt, Delta Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator

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Boys and Girls Club
Community Services
of Delta/Richmond

DELTA COMMUNITY LITERACY COMMITTEE

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Prepared for the Delta Board of Education

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REFLECTIONS ON THE CURRENT YEAR:

1) Task (Implementation) group:

a. Who takes part in the task group?

Members:

Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC (BGC) □ Roxanne Clark, Dianne Canning

Delta School District: Nancy Gordon, Catherine Watson, Jason Hodgins
Hemi Dhanoa, SWIS

Delta Board of Education □ Laura Dixon

DiverseCity □ Shabina Jahan-Chaudhary

Fraser Health Authority □ Sepia Sharma

Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) □ Frances Thomson, Gillian McLeod

Parent/Adults with Disabilities □ Shirley-Ann Reid

Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) □ Devinder Chattha, Eva Touzard

SOS Children's Village BC □ Corina Carol

Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) □ Peggy Plumstead McLeod

b. How is the work of this group organized? (See the following section "Reflecting and Renewing: Ways to review and set priorities for the community literacy plan each year" for information about how task groups are organized.)

Although our action/task group did not formally meet this year our members were actively involved in the development of partnerships that supported the literacy projects as well as implementing the projects themselves. Four members of the action group attended literacy training workshops provided by Decoda Literacy Solutions in November 2012.

Plans are underway for the meetings scheduled for 2013-2014. Three meetings are scheduled to review changing community needs, set goals and objectives, identify projects and partnerships to achieve goals and completing an annual review of progress. In addition to supporting on-going community literacy, the meetings will include a training component and opportunities to share learning to strengthen the overall literacy committee collaboration.

We have a steering committee with representatives of the partners: Boys and Girls Club of South Coast BC (host agency), Delta School District, and Fraser Valley Regional Library that meets two to three times per year to oversee financial decisions and project development support and report preparation.

2) Community context:

a. What has happened in the community over the past year that impacts people in the community and the ability of organizations to support literacy development? Consider both positive and negative impacts.

Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Project

A partnership of several non profit agencies was formed to initiate a welcoming and inclusive community project. The lead organization is Progressive Intercultural Communities Society (PICS) in partnership with Deltassist Family and Community Services and the Delta Libraries. The grant is funded by the province of BC and the goal is to foster welcoming and inclusive communities in BC where immigrants can realize their full potential, racism is eliminated and cultural diversity is valued and celebrated. Delta Community Literacy Committee is a community stakeholder to this project. It is felt that the efforts of this project will support and enhance the work of the literacy projects of North Delta that have provide literacy support to immigrant parents and grandparents which help to contribute to their sense of belonging.

Early Development Indicator (EDI), research conducted by Human Early Learning Partnership (UBC)

The latest EDI information for Delta was released in September 2011. The Delta School District is participating in collection of EDI data for 2013. A new report will be available during the next reporting period. The Delta Early Childhood Development Committee (ECD) ensures that the community is informed of the new results as they become available. Many of the members of Delta Community Literacy Committee are also members of the Delta ECD Committee and have access to the EDI report to inform the development of literacy projects.

Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) by Human Early Learning Partnership UBC)

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire completed by children in Grade 4. The questionnaire includes 71 questions related to the five areas of development that are strongly linked to well-being, health and academic achievement. Delta school district participated in this project in 2012-2013. The results will be available in the fall and the Delta Community Literacy committee will use the relevant data to inform new family literacy projects.

2011 Census Information

The population growth of Delta remains stable. There is a continuing decline in student enrolment in Delta that is expected to continue in a downward trend for a few years yet. In the meantime the proportion of the population that is over 65 years and older is continuing in an upward trend. Of the three Delta communities, North Delta is the most diverse. Of non official languages spoken, Panjabi is spoken most often in Delta, followed by Mandarin.

Urban Library Settlement Partnership

The George Mackie Library is one of several libraries that make up the Urban Library Settlement Partnership designed to bolster each of the partner libraries' ability to support the settlement and integration of newcomer immigrants. It aims to recognize, promote and sustain services already offered by libraries and settlement and integration providers.

3) Community development and literacy collaboration:

a. What are the important collaborations that have taken place to support literacy and the work of the task group?

The on-going collaboration of the School District, Fraser Valley Regional Library, Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast has been critical. This, along with the participation of community organizations and individuals, has helped us to reach out to individuals who have low literacy levels. This year, there were eight literacy projects consisting of partnerships of

organizations working together to meet the needs of specific groups who have lower literacy rates.

b. What are the essential ongoing collaborations?

1. **Steering Committee:** Delta School District, Fraser Valley Regional Library, Delta Libraries and Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC
2. **Parents as Literacy Supporters in Aboriginal Communities (A/PALS):**
Sep □ Dec 2012 □ Boys and Girls Club/Early Years Programs, Tsawwassen First Nation /Kla How Eya (Sep □ Dec 2012),
New partnership for May 2013 to Dec 2013 □ REACH Child and Youth Development Centre, Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre (formerly Kla How Eya) and Tsawwassen First Nation Smuyuqwa □ Lelum Early Childhood Education Centre
3. **English Conversation:** Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) and Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL)-George Mackie Library
4. **Hellings Adult Literacy Club** □ Hellings StrongStart/Hellings Elementary School
5. **Jarvis Adult Literacy Group** - Jarvis StrongStart/PICS/Jarvis Elementary School
6. **McCloskey Adult Literacy Group** – McCloskey StrongStart/McCloskey Elementary School
7. **Adult Book Club:** Tsawwassen First Nation/FVRL-Tsawwassen Library
8. **Page Turners Book Club** □ FVRL-Ladner Pioneer Library/ with volunteer training provided by Down Syndrome Research Foundation
9. **Community Book Distribution** □ North Delta Food Bank (provided by Surrey Food Bank/North Delta Evangelical Free Church), South Delta Food Bank (Ladner Christian Fellowship and community volunteers), Nobody's Perfect (Deltassist) and West Coast Family Gathering (Delta School District), George Mackie and Ladner Pioneer Libraries, Discover Books and Delta Hospital Thrift Store.

c. What makes collaborations work well?

Through collaboration, our members are able:

- to share and combine their knowledge and expertise of literacy to meet the needs of our priority groups (low income, immigrant/new Canadians and Aboriginal)
- to share in-kind resources that support the programs offered
- to provide resources to develop projects that address gaps that exist in our community

4) Goals and actions for the current year:

a. What priorities, goals or objectives have you addressed this year?

GOALS:

- Recognize Delta as a literate community with a supportive culture for literacy
- Continue to strengthen collaborative school, public library and community partnerships
- Locate and support the literacy needs of hard-to-reach individuals and families
- Secure funding to sustain, and if possible expand, effective literacy programs and practices

PRIORITIES ADDRESSED THIS YEAR:

- Family Literacy □ to continue to support investment of previous years □ projects including the development of adult focused family literacy
- Adult Literacy - to develop a pilot bridging project for a groups of hard to reach adults
- Community Awareness events

b. What actions were taken to reach these? What organizations and groups participated in these actions?

Family Literacy □ Parents as Literacy Supporters in Aboriginal Communities (A/PALS) - REACH Child and Youth Development Centre, Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre and Tsawwassen First Nation Smuyuqwa □ Lelum Early Childhood Education Centre (TFN), Community book and literacy kit distributions (partnerships identified above)

Family Literacy/adult focus - Hellings Adult Literacy Club (StrongStart/Elementary School) and Jarvis Adult Literacy Group (StrongStart and PICS) and McCloskey Adult Literacy (StrongStart/Elementary School)

Adult Literacy □ Adult Book Club (TFN/FVRL- Tsawwassen Library), English Conversation- for immigrants (PICS/FVRL-George Mackie Library),

Community Awareness –

- Co-sponsored the North and South Delta Baby Fair events with the Delta Early Childhood Development Committee (Delta ECD),
- Library Live and on Tour (LiLi), Adult Literacy Outreach from Fraser Valley Regional Library visits to North and South Delta Food banks and the Child and Youth Committee October meeting and Kennedy neighbourhood,
- Delta Leisure Guide Fall, 2012 □ Spring 2013 one page, interactive ad cosponsored with the Delta Early Childhood Committee □ Family Fun and Learning □ A Year of Opportunities □
- January 27, 2013 □ National Family Literacy Day □ activities hosted at all the Delta StrongStart Programs, 2 Family Resource Centres and at the 2 Delta Food Banks.

c. What adjustments were made to the plan? That is, as the year progressed were there new opportunities or were there changes that did not allow for some actions to be taken?

Family Literacy:

- Parent Child Mother Goose (PCMG) □ funding was restored to the Delta ECD and the Literacy Committee was not asked to assist with a financial allocation
- A/PALS □ the partnership of this collaboration changed and there was a delay while the groups involved realigned their project

Adult Literacy:

- Page Turners Book Club □ initially planned to run this book club for adults with special needs, under the New Chapter Book Club program, a community-based literacy and social program for adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The training was provided by Down Syndrome Research Foundation, and attended by both potential participants and volunteers who would facilitate. Unfortunately, the volunteers who took the training were not available when the book club was set up. Volunteer facilitators are a requirement for Next Chapter Book Clubs. The Ladner Pioneer Library staff (who also took the training), agreed to run the group but this required a name change to Page Turners Book Club.

Family Literacy (Adult Focus)

- Jarvis Adult Literacy Club originally planned to run their weekly group through to February 2013. However, on return after the summer break, the group did not reconvene. There were changes in staffing and some of the adult learners had

returned home for a visit. However, the group was able to reconvene in February, 2013.

- A group of immigrant parents and grandparents in McCloskey StrongStart program asked for a literacy support group at their location and a group was set up.

Community Awareness:

- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator is working with Delta ECD Committee to develop an engagement and communications strategy to reach out to Delta parents and families about importance of child development, early learning and literacy within families.

5) Indications of success:

a. How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy? What impact have the literacy initiatives had?

- see table

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
Family Literacy		
<p>Parents as Literacy Supporters in Aboriginal Communities – A/PALS (Sep – Dec/12) resumed May 2013 Format for monthly sessions with dinner. Program follows the A/PALS program manual</p>	<p>The original goal of project is to provide a place where non-Aboriginal families caring for Aboriginal children could come and learn about Aboriginal culture to share in the home and in raising their children. A second goal of the program is to provide a place where families can meet and form friendships.</p> <p><i>“We are a family of 6 and attended A/PALS every month. We moved to Ladner 2 years ago and knew no one..... Just this past July we adopted a sibling group of 3 to make a total of 4 First Nations Children that benefit greatly from the topics and activities at A/PALS. My husband recently was laid off from his job and support and sense of community we get for our time means a great deal to us.”</i></p>	<p>Partnership between BGC/Early Learning, TFN and Kla How Eya, connects more families to the program.</p> <p>New partnership formed Spring 2013 – REACH Child and Youth Development Centre, Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre (formerly Kla How Eya) Tsawwassen First Nation Smuyuq’wa’ Lelum Early Childhood Education Centre</p> <p>Elders participation in presentation of cultural teachings including – cedar, smudging, medicine wheel, spirit animals, space clearing</p> <p>Culturally rich environment of the location and the cultural art activities</p> <p>First Nations Holistic Lifelong Learning model used by facilitators</p>
<p>Community Book and Literacy Kit Distribution on-going Books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly visits to the North and South Delta Food banks • Nobody’s Perfect Parenting Groups offered through Deltassist Family 	<p>The goal is to support literacy development of children at home:</p> <p>1,975 books distributed annually and 119 literacy kits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Live and on Tour (FVRL) – adult literacy outreach program visited both food banks regularly • Parents regularly comment on the value of the books for their children and they appreciate that the books are recent editions (year 2000 and later) 	<p>Books, gently used, donated by Discover Books (formerly Reading Tree), Delta Hospital Thrift Store and Ladner Pioneer Library</p> <p>Literacy kits – assembled based on the themes of back to school, family games and Christmas holiday activity, etc.</p> <p>Connections to community – library staff visit food bank regularly, community information about family</p>

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
<p>and Community Services– books distributed to each of 3 groups offered this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Coast Family Gathering by Delta School District, April, 2013 <p>Literacy Kits: distributed at food banks semi-annually</p>		<p>literacy programs, library programs and services, adult education opportunities, employment services, legal aid, and other low cost/no cost community activities</p>
<p>Adult Literacy</p>		
<p>TFN/FVRL Adult Book Club July 2012 – Dec 2012, Renewed for 2013 monthly meetings, group selected books to be read and participants maintained journals for recording their comments, impressions and thoughts.</p>	<p>The primary purpose of the book club is to establish a trusting relationship upon which future literacy success can be built, including increased visits to Tsawwassen Library. Twelve to fifteen participants attend regularly.</p> <p>This has been an exciting year for the book club. Our numbers have not grown but they do change within the group. As people work or are away others come to fill their spot. The group continues to be a respectful part of the TFN community and this fulfills one of our original goals.</p> <p>This year brought more TFN families to the Tsawwassen Library to participate in Storytime and seek small business development information. We are welcoming two artists in residence in June and we continue to imagine ways that our two institutions may work together. None of these plans would be possible without first building the relationships that have come about because of the book club.</p>	<p>Partnership between TFN and Tsawwassen Library staff - group is co-facilitated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TFN provided meeting space - Library staff prepared the activities to support the discussion of each book by engaging the readers in elements of the setting of the book - Books and journals provided <p>Novels read:</p> <p>John Valiant “Tiger”; Cheryl Strayed “ Wild”; Miguel Ruiz “Four Agreements”; “Two Houses Half Buried in the Sand: Oral Traditions of the Hul’q’umi’num’ Coast Salish of Kuper Island and Vancouver Island”; Frenc Mate “Ghost Sea” Stephen Tyler “Does the Noise in my Head Bother You”; Michael J. Fox “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Future” ; Nicholas Spark, “Safe Haven”</p>

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
<p>English Conversation (formerly Back to Basics) - Sep – Nov 2012 – 2 hours per session 2 times per week; –help adult learners become capable of functioning effectively in real-life situations by helping them acquire functional competence in skills such as listening, speaking, reading, writing, numeracy and computers</p>	<p>The library location was easily accessible by all participants</p> <p>Participants engaged in lively discussions about different topics. They felt integrated in the community by attending regularly and sharing activities in a relaxed and friendly setting. For some, the sessions were the only distractions from home and family life and provided a much needed diversion and confidence booster. The sessions were participant centre. A tour of the library familiarized them with basic computer skills</p> <p><i>“In the class, I did not feel painful, but I learn a lot and corrected many drawbacks of my English. First of all, Eva corrected my pronunciation. English pronunciation still bothers me because of my accent. Through reading and conversation, Eva patiently showed her mouth’s shape to teach me how to make a correct pronunciation..... Most interesting, Eva gave us impromptu speech with English in class. Although this made me nervous, it is worth learning because it teaches me how to speak something in my mind to my audience.” Participant</i></p> <p><i>“Before, I am scared to speak English, but Eva made me talk a lot and I can’t stop now. I am a little bit upset because the class is too short. The three months is only a warm-up”. Participant.</i></p>	<p>Partnership of PICS and George Mackie Library Provision of English language instruction and support from PICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy rich environment provided by the library. Access to library membership cards, books and services • Literacy training in essential skills : Conversation circles topics included goal setting for a future career in Canada, cultural differences between China, Korea and Canada, Canada’s history, why people use drugs; partnership relations and its public display, planning, getting a job, re-entering the job market, dental hygiene. • Use of Toastmasters type model to practise short speeches on a wide range of topics – holiday celebrations, cultural practices, role of fathers, racism, stereotyping, etc. • Reading articles from local papers • Internet searches for information – bus and ferry schedules, use of idioms, planning trips to Victoria, Grouse Mountain
<p>Page Turners Book Club (formerly Next Chapter Book Club) – Sep/12 – Dec/13 based on a model that encourages adults with</p>	<p>Using 3 factors for success: numbers attending, variety of participants and enjoyment and suitability of library location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 participants – 6 men, 2 women, all over 19 years of age 	<p>Next Chapter Book Club training – provided by Down Syndrome Research Foundation</p> <p>Page Turners Book Club offered by staff of Ladner</p>

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
<p>developmental disabilities to both use libraries and public space to demonstrate their abilities to read. 12 weekly sessions, 2 times per year – total 24 sessions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participants have a range of abilities, some attend on their own, others have a support worker in attendance • In addition to using the library meeting room, they have held one session at a coffee shop and another at a local park. • Family support workers and participants value the book club and feel it is successful. • Members of the group have gotten to know each other. They greet each other, ask about their week and share what they have been doing. Initially they were quiet and reluctant to speak but through sharing stories they have gotten to know one another and look forward to spending time together. 	<p>Pioneer Library</p> <p>Self directed discussion about the book based on the cover</p> <p>Reading aloud – it took 2 months for participants to feel comfortable, but slowly each person reads a few lines for discussion. The facilitator models how to relate the story to life experiences.</p> <p>Pictionary – using words and phrases from the book and additional concepts such as seasons, food, holidays, sports, etc.</p> <p>Library resources – laptop hooked up to big screen TV allows Google searches to learn about story terms – such as Hoo Doo – a term used in a story about dinosaurs and archaeological digs, set at the Tyrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta.</p>
<p>Adult focused Family Literacy</p>		
<p>Hellings Adult Literacy Club Sep /12– Jun/13 – parents and grandparents of Hellings StrongStart have introductory and informal English Language support weekly</p>	<p>Building literacy skills shown through increased confidence of participants and increased participation in program activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year the involvement of the members of this club extended beyond the StrongStart room to the school where their children/grandchildren attend. They help teachers with “lice patrol”, when required, they help the PAC with jobs to be done, including the recent school carnival. • One participant is a stroke survivor who has suffered loss of memory, the program activities, with the repetition, help 	<p>Each session includes: one written activity, reading simple English book (from school ESL library), one physical activity, audio visual English, high tea (which the participants provide), board games, skits or informal conversation.</p> <p>This year a flat screen TV was purchased to make use of the internet resources from I pads – YouTube videos to help with English speaking skills and daily exercise</p>

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	<p>with her memory rehabilitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants ask for the links to the YouTube videos so they can use the material at home with their families • The field trip this year was a trip to Victoria to visit the legislature – for many it was their first trip on their own, without family members. The destination was selected by the participants. 	
<p>Jarvis Adult Literacy – Feb/13 – Jun/13 Modeled on the program offered at Hellings, to provide an informal setting for basic English and socialization on a weekly basis</p>	<p>High level of enjoyment and social connection through learning basic English together – building vocabulary and print awareness (pre-reading skills)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year the class dynamic has changed with the inclusion of 10 Chinese participants including seniors. In Canada they experience limited social life due to both cultural and language barriers • Participants are of similar age but different cultures and they engage in conversations about their countries and different cultural experiences. They converse about places they visit in the lower mainland. • They look forward to each session and are given resources to take home and practice with their family members. They stay behind after class to converse. 	<p>Partnership of Jarvis StrongStart and PICS</p> <p>Literacy rich environment of the StrongStart room</p> <p>PICS provides the needed resources for the program – literacy activities, supplies and English Language support</p> <p>Take home resources include journal, recipes and worksheets</p>
<p>McCloskey Adult Literacy – Apr/13 to Jun/13 Modeled on the program at Hellings, bi-weekly</p>	<p>To provide survival English and basic literacy skills</p> <p><i>Participant shared that she has never been to school and this was a great opportunity for her. Another participant was very happy that she could recognize her name and also print it without looking.</i></p>	<p>At the time of reporting this group was just getting underway</p> <p>Literacy rich environment of StrongStart room</p>

6) Challenges:

a) What are the difficulties? And b) what would help?

Generally, one significant challenge is that there are few community agencies based in Delta and they are active at several community tables, Early Childhood Development, Child and Youth Committee as well as the Delta Community Literacy Committee. On occasion resources are stretched thin as everyone works together to meet the diverse needs of Delta communities. We are fortunate that our community service agencies are dedicated to serving the people of Delta and are willing to work together to address community needs and gaps in service. We appreciate that a community development approach can be a time consuming process for them.

Our priorities are to reach out to individuals and families who experience barriers to access due to low literacy levels, particularly individuals and families with language barriers, low income or who experience aboriginal-related difficulties. It requires strong partnerships and communication to be able to identify the informal learning opportunities where we can make links with individuals and families who can benefit from a program or project that will introduce them to positive learning and instil confidence in their ability to learn.

Given our priorities to reach out to individuals and families who experience isolation and barriers to learning opportunities, there is a degree of isolation between our eight literacy projects. To address this, the format of the action group (task group) meetings for 2013 - 2014 will be adjusted to provide a forum for sharing experiences of what has worked and where help is needed; provide training component for members; and build on new community information and resources that can help to address challenges and strengthen the work of current literacy projects.

FOR THE COMING YEAR:

1) Are there new opportunities, challenges or issues in your community? How will you respond to those?

The Delta population remains stable but the age distribution is shifting from fewer children to more seniors. We see this trend reflected in our adult focused family literacy where it is mainly grandparents, who have care giving responsibilities for their grandchildren, and are asking for literacy support in their neighbourhoods where they are in familiar and safe surroundings. The introduction of the Welcoming Communities Initiative and the Urban Library Settlement Partnership are two new developments that the Delta Community Literacy Committee may be able to link with to strengthen literacy projects.

2) What goals, priorities or objectives will you work on in the coming year? What actions are planned against those goals?

Our goals remain:

- Recognize Delta as a literate community with a supportive culture for literacy
- Continue to strengthen collaborative school, public library and community partnerships
- Locate and support the literacy needs of hard-to-reach individuals and families
- Secure funding to sustain, and if possible expand, effective literacy programs and practices

Recognition of Delta as a community with a supportive culture for literacy occurs through our public awareness campaigns □ North and South Delta Baby Fairs, Family Literacy Day and participation in the Raise a Reader Campaign. We would like to expand this recognition through exploring opportunities for awareness with local government and business. Literacy as a strategy to build community is a new approach to how literacy may be viewed. We will identify opportunities through the resources of our existing partnerships to start this process.

We will continue to support literacy projects for hard to reach groups in our community. These projects have emerged in many cases at the request of those in need of literacy support and are provided in settings that the learners are already familiar with. We have also seen that in providing this support that there is increased engagement and involvement by learners in their community. Key to this approach is connecting with service providers, community organizations and individuals who work with or have relationships with people we would like to reach and working with them to establish projects that are meaningful to the people for whom they are intended.

We would like to know more about what makes projects successful and would like to explore ways to improve reporting that will identify success factors more clearly. The steering committee is proposing a training session in the inquiry spiral for the Delta Community Literacy Committee members to use in reporting on their work. We will also identify and implement creative ways for shared learning opportunities such as presentations, making videos and other strategies to be determined by action group members.

Building capacity is a way of addressing sustainability. By adding a training component to our meetings it is an opportunity for action group members and the staffs of their organizations to increase their skills and build their understanding of the importance of literacy for supporting the people they serve who face barriers.

3) What will be required to meet the goals and effectively employ actions for the coming year?

Meeting the above goals and effectively employing the actions related to them will require adjusting the format of action group meetings including scheduling and agenda items as well as building on existing resources and relationships of current literacy projects. In the upcoming year there will be an emphasis on improved communication within the Delta Community Literacy Committee to support opportunities to share the learning from the unique experiences of each literacy project.