

District-Community Literacy Plan
School District #51 - Boundary

Serving the Communities of:

**Christina Lake, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Midway, Rock Creek,
Bridenville, and Beaverdell**

2013- 2014



Prepared by Sheila Dobie
Community Literacy Coordinator,
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL)

April 2013

Table of Contents

	Page #
<u>Section 1: Reflections on the Current Year</u>	
A. The Community Literacy Task Force/ Advisory Committee	3
B. Community Context:	3
i. Scan of Past Year	
ii. Collaborations	4
C. Goals and Actions of the Current year	5
i. What goals have we addressed?	
ii. What Organizations have participated?	
iii. What Adjustments were made?	
D. What are our indicators for Success?	6
E. Challenges	6
<u>Section 2: District Community Literacy Plan for the Years 2013-2016</u>	
A. The Process – and What is Literacy	7
B. Opportunities, Challenges and Issues	7
C. The Plan	11
<u>Appendix</u>	
Community Literacy Advisory Committee-Task Force: List of Members	15
Photos of the Literacy Planning Day	16

Section 1: Reflections of the Current Year

A) The Community Literacy Task Force/ Advisory Committee

- One of our goals for this year was to diversify our Task Force membership to include business representation. This was partially accomplished with one new member from the business sector and local government. This will continue to be a goal as we work with Selkirk College on the Workplace Skills development strategies.
- A turnover of members will be taking place in the coming year with new personnel taking on roles within the School District. We welcome Kevin Argue and Doug Lacey to the table, replacing Superintendent Michael Strukoff and Director of Instruction -Maxine Ruzicka.
- We enjoy a well-rounded Task Force that strongly represents youth, literacy tutors, active community organizations, and local government.
- The Task Force was a strong contributor to the planning of our new Community District Planning process.
- The complete list of Task force members is in the appendices. We meet 4 times a year to review the progress of the Community District Literacy Plan and to provide updates on the various activities of the member agencies.

B. Community Context

- i. Scan of the Past Year The following list highlights both the positive and negative points that mark the past years community literacy efforts.
 - During our planning process in 2012 our Community District Literacy Plan was seen as being completed and a new plan would be a priority for 2013. The work of the Community Literacy Task Force over the year leading up to this process was a key part to the success of the planning session.
 - Community wide collaborations and service agency commitments continue to provide a rich literacy environment for families and adults in the region. See some of these listed below in the collaborations section.
 - A successful pilot took place at the Habitat for Humanity House. House residents as well as other special needs individuals living independently took part in an Emergency Awareness program that was developed and delivered by staff from Sunshine Valley Community Services and CBAL.
 - A new partnership was developed that will allow for an Adult Basic Education program to be delivered at the Glanville Center in the fall of Sept.

2013 Instructors from Selkirk College will support this program and child-minding will take place in the same building.

- West Boundary literacy planning and development continues to be evolving with opportunities being taken to integrate and expand programming in adult computer sessions.
- Limited resources to respond to new opportunities remain, despite the capacity available with collaboration. This is made even more challenging with the costs and complications of geography in such a large region. Travel costs and limited community transportation continue to be a major barrier for people who wish to access programming and for agencies to deliver needed services.

ii. Collaborations

The Boundary region continues to benefit from a tremendous commitment to collaborative planning and program delivery. The outcome of these partnerships is due to the commitment from the agencies involved as well as the coordination that is offered to support and direct them.

These on-going collaborations were strengthened and expanded:

- Grand Forks Public Library; Community Learning Place, Family Literacy Day, Screen Time project and Storytelling Festival
- Greenwood Library/ CBAL Community Learning Place drop-in
- Within the School District CBAL Rhyme Times programming took place in the Strong Start Centre at Hutton, GFSS Computer Lab used for adult/senior computer classes, West Boundary school spaces for youth programming
- Success by Six/ BCCRR/BFISS continued delivery of preschool family literacy programming, and parenting support programming
- BFISS/Selkirk College/CBAL successful planning around a supported ABE program for the Sept. 2013
- Interior Health / CBAL Health Fair and Flu Clinic
- SVCS / CBAL Habitat for Humanity House with a 5 week Emergency Awareness program and special needs literacy programming

C. Goals and Actions of the current year - Based on the past District Literacy Plan:

- i. Goal #1 - Community Awareness – embed learning and literacy activities in community settings:

We have addressed this goal in the following ways:

- Use of social media and online calendars by all partners
- West Boundary literacy group continues to evolve and be connected to the wider regional literacy planning
- Literacy is present at a variety of community events and locations- Farmers Market, Family Nights, Early Years Fairs, Reach a Reader campaign, Favourite Word Contest, Health Fair/Flu Clinic
- Collaborative programming in our public libraries such as Community Learning Place, Family Literacy Day, computer workshops

- ii. Goal #2 Planning: Provide resources and supports for those children, youth and adults that may not be engaged in literacy activities. Support literacy success in early learning, school and adult programs for our aboriginal population.

We have addressed this goal in the following ways:

- Continuation of the Afterschool Homework Club within the School District Aboriginal program
- Expanded collaborations between CBAL and Strong Start with programming during Strong Start sessions
- Literacy present at community planning tables
- Continuation of Homeschool program
- Continued Community Learning Place Drop-in for adult literacy needs at two libraries in the region

- iii. Goal #3 Evaluation: Sustain and strengthen the existing literacy programs and resources that encourage children, youth and adults to become literate and enjoy literacy activities.

We have addressed these goals in the following ways:

- We have revisited our Community Literacy Plan – and have engaged the community with a new set of goals and direction
- Interior Health and CBAL collaborated on a Health Fair that took place concurrently with the Flu Clinic
- CBAL and Sunshine Valley Community Services have successfully completed a collaborative program at the Habitat for Humanity House
- Continued delivery collaborations with Selkirk College, BCCRR , BFISS, and School District, GF public Library

- A donation was received from Roxul for two lap-top computers that are enhancing adult literacy at the Grand Forks Public Library

D. What are our Indicators of Success?

- Thirty four people from around the region attended the Community District Literacy Planning Day. This was the result of a year-long commitment of the Community Literacy Advisory Committee to ensure that a diversity of people and agencies would be present. The Committee also identified the demographic groups of Youth, Families, Seniors, Adults/Workplace, and School Ages be also considered in the planning.
- Expanded collaborations and planning for new and existing programs. See collaboration section above.
- Continued connections with West Boundary literacy interests, with program delivery and planning for the future.
- A steady and in some cases growing attendance continues to show that these programs are necessary and benefiting families and individuals.
- The things that support literacy work are the shared values between community agencies, active collaborations, the relationships that emerge right from the learner to the people that connect and support that learner, access to meaningful and relevant resources that empower the learner, and community settings that validate lifelong learning

E. What were our challenges?

- The past year's Community District Literacy Plan was limited in new scope and direction. This resulted in a year where there was more of looking ahead rather than responding to current ideas and directions. This also allowed for time to deepen partnerships and explore new opportunities that can now be integrated into the new plan such as the Habitat for Humanity program and the planning for the ABE program at the Glanville Centre.
- Community Literacy continues to be challenged by limited capacity. This limits the available time and resources to do the scope of the work needed. This impacts all organizations involved.
- Adjustments made: West Boundary computer workshop plan needed to be adjusted. The level of interest did not warrant the use of the computer lab to be brought in. This was then adapted as an opportunity for workshops to be held with the computers at the Midway and Greenwood libraries. A similar adjustment needed to be made with the Mother Goose program in Beaverdell. Insufficient participation required that the location be moved to Rock Creek. The impact of little to no community transportation and cost of travel is seen as a barrier to participation for West Boundary programs.

- Measures that would help these challenges are being addressed with the new literacy plan, continued coordination with West Boundary literacy groups, and within the collaborations between agencies.

Section 2: District Community Literacy Plan for the Years 2013-2016

What is Literacy?

The definition of literacy is wide and includes a functional view of literacy as the ability to accomplish tasks and participate in the world around us.

Accordingly, the International Adult and Literacy and Life Skills Survey (2005) has defined literacy as “the ability to understand and employ printed information in daily activities, at home, at work and in the community – to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.”

This perspective brings literacy into our homes, workplace, health settings, and community. This expanded view of literacy has been considered at various literacy gatherings in the Boundary. New technologies allow learners to express themselves and demonstrate understanding outside of the traditional skill sets of reading and writing. Needs in understanding financial and health information also presents other ways to bring capacity to people. As the community becomes ever more aware of the diverse learning needs of people of various ages, learning styles and abilities, the definition of literacy has expanded accordingly. Thus, the local community embraces literacy as being synonymous with “learning” in all settings that make up our community.

A. The Process:

Thirty four people from the Boundary region gathered at the Grand Forks Art Gallery on April 19th 2013 to plan for our community literacy goals, priorities and initiatives for the coming 3 years. Margaret Sutherland of Decoda Literacy Solutions facilitated the session, with assistance from CBAL.

Over the year leading up to the planning day, the Community Literacy Task Force spent each meeting discussing who they would like to see at the session and what structure would work well. This contributed to the diverse representation of people attending and the rich contributions offered by those present. This was a true community planning session- with voices from youth, special needs, families, adults, seniors, service agencies, and education.

Workplace Essential Skills is one area that was under-represented at the main session. An additional consultation was held on May 21st with Selkirk College, Community Futures and members of the business community. The strategy reflecting this work has been embedded in the plan within Goal #4- Building on Collaborative Programing.

B. Opportunities / Challenges / Issues

The planning session identified these **Opportunities for Community Literacy:**

- We have a solid foundation of collaboration to build on with strong partnerships and creative programing. This is supporting the diversified liflong learning we are looking for in community literacy.
- We can build on this platform of collaboration for new ideas and focus areas, as well as expanding existing programs and sharing programing spaces.
- Story telling – is re-emerging as a community way for building connections.
- Specific areas of opportunity were identified:
 - Financial literacy
 - Health literacy- including food security
 - Community coordination of information and learning services
 - Smart use of technology
 - Expanding the Reading Link Challenge across the region
 - Work Place Literacy
 - Addressing the broken communications between and within ages

The planning session identified these **Challenges for Community Literacy:**

- Distances between communities continue to challenge the dispersal of opportunities throughout the region. Transportation links and resources are limited for people to access programs.
- The dynamics of technology- its value and risks. How do we develop technology skills and use in a helpful way while still creating meaningful connections to others? There is also a wide range of access issues with many people in the region still only served by dial-up internet.
- The stigma of low literacy continues to be a barrier.
- Mental health is a factor in literacy. How do we ensure our programs are accessible to all?
- The volunteer base is eroding. There are limited resources to recruit and train volunteers adequately which is limiting communities ability to effectively use them. Also there are many cases where literacy work needs to be covered by volunteers- due to limited resources to pay people.

The Planning session identified these **Issues for Community Literacy:**

- We need to build on the financial literacy capacity of our youth, families and adults.
- Health issues, such as mental health, eating healthy food, lifestyles all impact our capacity to learn and build on our resilience as a community.
- Coordination of community information, creating hubs of learning, linking educational resources within our communities are needed to strengthen our collaborative learning opportunities and broaden the scope of life long learning in our region.

- There are communication problems, a “broken communication” between and within generations that can be addressed with youth working with elders such as collecting stories, sharing cooking successes.

Goals established from the Planning process: See following table for the details to each Goal.

Goal #1: Financial Literacy: The community literacy partners will research content, delivery partners, venues, and approaches that will lead to a series of broad based financial literacy programs that will serve the community up to 2015.

Goal #2: Health Literacy: The community literacy partners will develop new and existing collaborations for programing that will address learning needs in healthy eating, mental health, healthy lifestyles, and food security.

Goal #3: Build on Community Connections: The community literacy partners will research and assist in establishing a region wide community information network. This will be a tool that will assist program planning and use across community service agencies and education centres. This Goal will also begin to explore the issue of “broken communications” between and within the generations.

Goal #4: Build on Collaborative Programing ; The community literacy partners will continue to build on existing collaborative literacy programs that serve families and adults in the region.

Attendees of the Community District Literacy Planning day April 19th, 2013.

Avi Silberstein (Grand Forks Public Library)	Margaret Sutherland (Decoda Literacy Solutions)
Barb Hein (Boundary Lodge/Seniors)	Michele Goodwin (SVCS - Special Needs)
Cathy Riddle (SD#51)	Mary McMurthrie (Womens Institute)
Christine Carlson (BFISS)	Michael Strukoff (SD#51)
Christy Luke (Selkirk College)	Nigel James (Literacy Tutor)
David Milton (Community Citizen)	Norma Tilgner (West Boundary Literacy)
Diana Hart (SVCS - Special Needs)	Pat Kelly (BCTimes/ LiteracyTutor)
Doug Lacey (SD#15)	Peri Best (West Boundary Literacy)
Erna Gobbett (Women’s Institute)	Sandy Elzinga (Community Futures Boundary)
Evon Bowser (Literacy Volunteer)	Sandy Mark (Christina Living Arts Centre)
Heather Shilton (Interior Health, Healthy Schools)	Stephanie Boltz (Midway Public Library)
Jaclyn Salter (Youth, CLAC member)	Vicki Gee (West Boundary Literacy/SD#51)
Janet Thorpe (Womens Institute)	Vivien Browne (West Boundary Literacy)
Jenna Edwards (Boundary Lodge/Seniors)	Yelena Churchill (Parent)
Josephine Balch (Youth)	
Judy Foucher (Greenwood Library)	Sheila Dobie (CBAL)
Kathleen Gabelmann (Literacy tutor)	Michele Dean (CBAL)
Kevin Argue (SD#51)	Deb Baker (CBAL/ CapC- West Boundary)
Leah Barkhuizen (Literacy volunteer)	
Louise Heck (BCCRR)	

Definitions to assist with the reading of the Plan:

CLAC	Community Literacy Advisory Committee- Literacy Task Force
BFISS	Boundary Family and Individual Services Society – Glanville Centre
CBAL	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy – Boundary , WB- West Boundary
GFCU/CIBC	Grand Forks Credit Union and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
SVCS	Sunshine Valley Community Services
BCCRR	Boundary Child Care Resources and Referral
BCRCC	Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce
EOS	Empowering Our Seniors – West Boundary Seniors programming
FAR	Sustainable Food and Resources Society – West Boundary Food Security group
GEV	Girls Eye View – CBAL youth program

School District 51 – Boundary

Community District Literacy Plan – 2013- with a view to 2015/16

Serving the communities of Christina Lake, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Midway, Rock Creek, Bridesville, Beaverdell

Goal #1: Financial Literacy: The community literacy partners will research content, delivery partners, venues, and approaches that will lead to a series of broad based financial literacy programs that will serve the community up to 2015.

Strategies	People/ agencies involved	Resources	Indicators of Success
Research areas of focus and develop connections with financial players in community	CLAC CBAL GFCU/ CIBC	Planning time	Collaborative relationships are established with GFCU and/ or CIBC A delivery plan is made that includes the West Boundary
Research curriculum and train/ partner for facilitators	CBAL, Libraries in the Region Selkirk College	Planning and training time	Training and curriculum-completed/identified Tools such as Fact sheets and Tips will be produced and used by partnering agencies
Identify partners in delivery for venues	Libraries in the Region Selkirk College Glanville Center Rock Creek Medical Center	Planning time	Venues established throughout the region
Deliver one financial literacy program in the region that serves the priorities ages and topics identified in the program planning	CBAL Libraries in the Region Selkirk College	Facilitation and Materials	A community based Financial literacy program will be completed by June 2014 One delivery will take place in West Boundary through the EOS program through their ½ day weekly programing
Evaluation of first year will develop/shift for continued programing	CLAC CBAL		Ongoing financial literacy programs will be mapped in the literacy planning spring 2014

Goal #2: Health Literacy: The community literacy partners will develop new and existing collaborations for programing that will address learning needs in healthy eating, mental health, healthy lifestyles, and food security.

Strategies	People/ agencies involved	Resources	Indicators of Success
<p>Identify Community partners in Health Literacy</p> <p>Plan approach and priorities</p>	<p>Interior Health CBAL CLAC BFISS Libraries in the Region</p>	<p>Planning time</p>	<p>A plan for health literacy programing will be established by 2014 that includes the West Boundary</p> <p>Health Literacy Fair idea will have evolved- and possibly delivered again with connections to the West Boundary</p> <p>Farmers Markets will be tested for Health Literacy information delivery</p>
<p>Health literacy programing will be developed and evaluated for future programing</p> <p>“Cooking on a Budget” was identified as a favorite at the planning session (possible synergies with the financial literacy piece)</p>	<p>CLAC CBAL Libraries in the Region Interior Health BFISS</p>	<p>Facilitation time and materials</p>	<p>One health literacy program will be delivered by June 2014</p> <p>West Boundary - integration of Health literacy planning and activities with initiatives such as the EOS program and FAR (food security group)</p>
<p>Evaluation of first year program and plan will be used to look to the coming years</p>	<p>CLAC CBAL Libraries in the Region Interior Health BFISS</p>	<p>Planning time</p>	<p>Ongoing programing for the next year will be a component of the literacy planning in 2014</p>

Goal #3: Build on Community Connections: The community literacy partners will research and assist in establishing a region wide community information network. This will be a tool that will assist program planning and use across community service agencies and education centres. This Goal will also begin to explore the issue of “broken communications” between and within the generations.

Strategies	People/ agencies involved	Resources	Indicators of Success
Different models and existing information tools will be identified	CLAC Boundary Chamber Regional Libraries CBAL	Planning time	Hubs of communication- will be identified
Existing or amalgamated community information tools will be developed as a regional hub of community information	CLAC Boundary Chamber Regional Libraries CBAL	Coordination	A community wide calendar system will be in use and promoted across the region by June 2014
Build on the connections that stimulate healthy and empowering communication between and within age groups	CLAC SD #51 CBAL Seniors Centres	Coordination Funds for speaker	A community learning event with a speaker will be held – eg: Gordon Neufeld/ Gabor Mate. (possible partnership with Partners in Parenting- March 2014) Establishment of a youth to seniors project within grad requirements - explore possible integration of computer workshops
Research community learning hubs in the West Boundary; Beaverdell, Midway Bridge, Rock Creek Medical Centre	CBAL SD #51 West Boundary Literacy Group	Coordination	The feasibility of the Beaverdell school being available for community access for internet will be determined by Dec. 2013 West Boundary Hubs in the Bridge and Rock Creek Medical Center will also be explored and developed where feasible

Goal #4: Build on Collaborative Programing; The community literacy partners will continue to build on existing collaborative literacy programs that serve families and adults in the region.

Strategies	People/ agencies involved	Resources	Indicators of Success
Family literacy programs developed within the context of Strong Start Centers, Family Nights, etc.	BCCRR BFISS CBAL Libraries in the Region Selkirk College SD#51	Facilitation Planning	Families continue to benefit from a wide range of community programing that serve them in a diversity of locations, times and styles Family Nights/ combined events are organized that cover programing for all ages
Work Place Literacy: Continued development of curriculum focused on Essential skill development Build on the understanding of workplace literacy within the business community / sector	Selkirk College Community Futures CBAL BCRCC	Coordination Facilitation	Work Place literacy programs continue to be available within the community Work Place literacy is discussed at business sector meetings
Programs connected to special needs groups	SVCS CBAL Selkirk College	Facilitation Planning	Special needs programing continues – with new programming emerging at the Habitat for Humanity House
Connect to seniors and youth and determine approach to integrate programing	CLAC- Youth CBAL Libraries in the Region Seniors Centres and facilities	Facilitation and Planning	Seniors programing continues with expanded content, technology tools, and locations Youth /Seniors group is established to build story collections-integration into computer workshops with EOS / GEV
Use of storytelling in community literacy programing and community connections	Rekindled Storytellers Guild CBAL GF Library	Facilitation and planning	Storytelling becomes a regular feature in community literacy programing and includes storytelling/story collecting/ skill development
Reading Link Challenge- to engage literacy in school aged children	SD#51 Libraries in the Region CBAL	Planning	The Reading Link Challenge continues and is expanded into schools across the Region

Appendix

Community Literacy Advisory Committee- Task Force - April 2013			
Name	Organization	email	
Christy Luke	Selkirk College	cluke@selkirk.ca	
Darlainea Redlack	Community/Gazette	darlainea@yahoo.ca	
Deb Baker	CBAL/WB	rockmountain@telus.net	
Ellen Strelaeff	BFISS	ellen.strelaeff@bfiss.org	
Avi Silberstein	GF Library	asilberstein@gfpl.ca	
Heather Shilton	Int. Health/ SD 51	heather.shilton@sd51.bc.ca	
Jaclyn Salter	Community youth	readwall@telus.net	
Karren Donald	Gospel Chapel	bbam.karren@gmail.com	
Ken Harshenin	SD 51	Ken.Harshenin@sd51.bc.ca	
Leda Leander	BFISS	leda.leander@bfiss.org	
Louise Heck	BCCRR	bccrr@telus.net	
Doug Lacey	SD 51	doug.lacey@sd51.bc.ca	
Michele Dean	CBAL	michelecipressi@gmail.com	
Pam Hilliard	Community	pamhilliard@smartt.com	
Sandy Elzinga	Community Futures	sandy@boundarycf.com	
Stephanie Boltz	Midway Library	office@midwaylibrary.bc.ca	
Sheila Dobie	CBAL	sdobie@cbal.org	
Neil Krog	City of Grand Forks	nkrog@grandforks.ca	

Photos of Literacy Planning Day at the Grand Forks Art Gallery – April 19th 2013

