



## **SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)**

### **District Community Literacy Plan**

**2013-2014**

#### *Planning*

There is more than a verbal tie between the words common, community and communication. People live in a community by virtue of the things they have in common, and communication is how they come to possess those things they have in common.

*John Dewey*

# SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 (KOOTENAY LAKE) District Community Literacy Plan

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## 1. Context & Literacy Partners

July, 2013

School District #8 (Kootenay Lake) is a widely dispersed district which serves numerous communities, including those in the Slocan Valley (Slocan City, Winlaw, South Slocan), Nelson, Salmo, the north shore of Kootenay Lake, Kaslo, Creston, Crawford Bay, Yahk and Wynndel. Governance is handled by two regional districts, various municipal councils and the Board of Education.

The overall population of the area is approximately 50,000, while enrolment in the school district is approximately 5000 K-12. There are 23 schools in the district, as well as several early learning agencies.

The district is served by Selkirk College in the western part of the district and College of the Rockies in the eastern region. Access to public libraries is inconsistent across communities; however, outreach programs are working towards increasing access for those in outlying areas of the larger communities.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) along with the School District work toward mutual goals related to literacy. This partnership is further supported by Community Literacy Advisory Committees (CLAC) to create, monitor and assess progress of the community plans over the course of the school year. **Section 6** lists membership on the five Community Literacy Advisory Committees.

## 2. Alignment between Community Literacy Plans and the District Achievement & Enhancement Contracts

The School District uses extensive input to develop its plans and recognizes the potential for deeper implementation by creating awareness and coherence between plans. Through the efforts of CBAL, Community Literacy Plans were developed for all communities and implementation is led by the CBAL Community Literacy Coordinators for each community.

The Board of Education has developed an Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement as well. The following chart identifies the goals in the Achievement Contract, Enhancement Agreement and Community Literacy Plans:

| District Achievement Contract: Goal   | District Enhancement Agreement: Goals   | Community Literacy Plan: Goals   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Goal</b> – To have a 100% completion rate for both aboriginal and non-aboriginal students, reflected in a closed achievement gap.</p> | <p><b>Goal 1</b> - To enhance the aboriginal learners' sense of belonging and self-esteem.</p> <p><b>Goal 2</b> – To improve the academic success of all aboriginal learners.</p> <p><b>Goal 3</b> - To increase the number of aboriginal students that are making positive life choices.</p> | <p><b>Focus-</b> Communication<br/>Rationale: Enhance and coordinate opportunities available for literacy development.</p> <p><b>Focus-</b> Access<br/>Rationale: Enhance access to a range of programs and materials that support literacy development.</p> <p><b>Focus-</b> Collaboration<br/>Rationale: Maintain a process to review/identify needs, design programs and plan for sustainability.</p> |

In addition to the above goals, the district continues to focus on literacy and supports schools through the following district wide objectives:

- a) To decrease the gender gap in literacy results.
- b) To increase the number of students who are satisfactorily meeting and exceeding expectations in reading and writing.

<http://www.sd8.bc.ca/AchievementContract2009to2012.pdf>  
<http://www2.sd8.bc.ca/abed/ea.htm> needs updated link

### **3. Monitoring and Supporting the District Community Literacy Plan**

The District Community Literacy Plan is now in a maintenance cycle. One meeting of the committee was facilitated by SD8 staff. This meeting provided the committee with opportunities to dialogue regarding successes and challenges in each of the District's zones. As a result of this collaboration, solutions to challenges were developed and the network of support continues to grow.

### **4. District Community Literacy Action Plans**

In April 2013, the communities of Creston, Kaslo, Nelson, Slocan Valley and Salmo hosted planning sessions to create community plans for 2013-2014. Each community is unique and each has its own goals and actions for the ensuing year. Planning sessions included representatives from the school district, post-secondary institutions, Interior Health, Aboriginal representatives, community service providers, libraries, municipalities, employment services and interested community members. The input and support from these participants is crucial in the development of the plans. The following five community plans are a direct result of the ideas, thoughts and innovative strategies shared at the sessions.



*Nelson planning session April 2013*

# **SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)**

## **DISTRICT COMMUNITY LITERACY ACTION PLANS**

**Creston/Crawford Bay**

**Kaslo/Balfour**

**Nelson**

**Salmo**

**Slocan Valley**

### ***Guiding words as we move forward...***

*There are some actions from previous community literacy plans that have become imbedded in our work. As we move forward in supporting the development of strong, resilient communities, the following values and beliefs will help to guide our work.*

- *We strive to achieve seamless communication between service providers and the community through a variety of systems.*
- *We ensure programs are as accessible to all through collaborative planning.*
- *We create a culture of learning and 'normalize' literacy and lifelong learning as a thread woven through all we do.*
- *We strive to make literacy 'visible' across our communities.*
- *We work from a place of collaborative partnership and networking.*
- *We work towards sustainability by working together by honouring our philosophy that we are stronger together than apart.*

**SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)**  
**DISTRICT COMMUNITY LITERACY ACTION PLAN 2013-14**  
**CRESTON/CRAWFORD BAY**

**Focus Area: ACCESS**

| <b>Goal</b>   | <b>Partnerships</b>   | <b>Actions</b>   | <b>Timeline/Progress</b>                         |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Enhance access to literacy programs for school-aged children in Creston and on the East Shore. | CBAL<br>Creston and district Public Library<br>SD8<br>Kootenay Community Centre Society<br>Yaqaan Nukiy School<br>Youth coordinator | Ensure that services and programs for school-aged children are a priority in our organizations this year (where applicable).<br>Identify and promote any on-line homework help available to parents and school-aged children.<br>Investigate running an after-school, homework help type of program. | Fall 2013- Spring 2014<br>Jan. 2014<br>Fall 2013 |
| 2. Gain a clear understanding of the barriers that are  | CLAC  | As a committee, we will focus on gathering hard  | Fall 2014  |

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| <p>preventing our target clientele from attending literacy programs.</p> |  | <p>information on what real barriers are preventing people we want to reach from attending our programs. Hold a community event in which we “take to the streets”, going out and talk to people (20 each), and asking them 1) If they attend literacy programs 2) if not, why not?</p> |  |
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**Focus Area: COLLABORATION**

| <b>Goal</b>  | <b>Partnerships</b>   | <b>Actions</b>  | <b>Timeline/Progress</b>          |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <p>1. Children enter kindergarten with the skills needed to ensure their success</p> | <p>ECE educators and facilitators</p> <p>SD# 8 and kindergarten teachers</p> <p>ECD coordinator and committee members</p> <p>CBAL</p> | <p>Hold a meeting of Early childhood educators to share resources and to develop an information handout for parents about widely-held expectations of skills for kindergarten entry</p> <p>Reproduce list and make accessible to all parents of preschool children in</p> | <p>June 2013</p> <p>Fall 2013</p> |

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|  | <p>Other stakeholders from Creston and Crawford Bay.</p>   | <p>Creston and on the East Shore</p> <p>Identify a tool that can be used for screening preschool children in Creston and on the East shore for early identification of any developmental concerns</p> <p>Find a means to implement one-to-one intervention and in-home assessment of children aged 3-6 in our area using the screening tool</p>  | <p>Winter 2014</p> <p>Fall 2014</p> |
| <p>2. The creation of the East Shore Community Learning Hub.</p> | <p>Selkirk College</p> <p>College of the Rockies</p> <p>CBAL</p> <p>Community Connections Society</p> <p>Riondel Reading</p> | <p>Residents, service providers and local-regional organisations will shape a vision for regional learning based on the principals of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community ownership</li> <li>-Leveraging local and regional resources</li> <li>-Cooperation and collaboration</li> <li>-Partnerships for life-long</li> </ul> | <p>Ongoing 2013-2014</p>            |



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|  | East Shore community members | learning<br>Hire a community Education Programmer (P/T) with funds from Selkirk College<br><br>Establish a regional advisory committee<br>Partnership agreements put into place |  |
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**SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)**  
**DISTRICT COMMUNITY LITERACY ACTION PLAN 2013-14**  
**KASLO-BALFOUR**

**Focus Area: COMMUNICATION**

| <b>Goal</b>  | <b>Partnerships</b>  | <b>Actions</b>  | <b>Timeline/Progress</b> |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Create a collection of Kaslo community organizations' inventories of resources (books, DVDs, kits) available for community use. | Community organizations<br><br>Debra Barrett   | Submit inventories to the Kaslo and District Public Library for posting at the library  | Spring 2014              |
| 2. Increase awareness of literacy programs in the Balfour area.  | Recreation Commission 10 – (RC10) Melanie Harper<br><br>Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) – Barb Szuta | Add literacy programs to the RC10 calendar<br><br>Build Facebook following<br><br>Post programs and events on ilovenelson.com | Fall 2013 - Spring 2014  |

**Focus Area: ACCESS**

| Goal  | Partnerships   | Actions   | Timeline/Progress |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| <p>1. Improve library services in the Kaslo and Balfour area.</p> | <p>G.A. Reid Library (GARL) – Raeanne Gow</p>  | <p>Balfour (GARL) – Conduct awareness campaign (hours, services), increase membership and children’s collection. Explore becoming part of the Kootenay Library Federation</p>                             | <p>Fall 2013</p>  |
|   | <p>Kaslo and District Public Library (KDPL) – Eva Kelemen, Annie Reynolds, Catherine McCormick</p> | <p>Balfour (CBAL) - Increase lending library collection at Harrop Hall. Explore membership subsidy to Nelson Public Library (NPL)</p>   | <p>Fall 2013</p>  |
|   | <p>J.V.Humphries School (JVH)– Victoria McAllister<br/>CBAL – Barb Szuta</p>                       | <p>Kaslo (KDPL) – Expand programs for 6 – 12 year olds, storytime and youth programs. Support staff education of technology in order to assist patrons. Expand library space<br/>Kaslo JVH – Increase</p> | <p>Fall 2013</p>  |

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|   |  | clerical hours (to increase hours open) increase funds for new resources, hire teacher-librarian  |                                       |
| 2. Respond to programming and learning needs of the early year's community. | <p>Redfish School (RF) – Jann Schmidt</p> <p>Kootenay Lake Family Network (KLFN) – Board members</p> <p>North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS) – Barb Cyr, Sarah Evans</p> <p>Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition (KECC) – Kathy Allaire</p> <p>Interior Health Authority (IHA)</p> <p>CBAL – Barb Szuta, Julie Poetsch, Barb Cyr</p> | <p>Balfour – Support storytime, Parents as Literacy Supporters</p> <p>Provide programming on weekends, for working families and Dads</p> <p>Kaslo – Introduce toy and story kits making workshops</p> <p>Continue Parents As Literacy Supporters</p> <p>Increase licence-not-required childcare options</p> | <p>Winter 2014</p> <p>Winter 2014</p> |

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| <p>3. Explore new programming opportunities for school aged children and youth.</p> | <p>RF – Jann Schmidt<br/>                 KLFN – Board members<br/>                 Selkirk College (SC) – Debra Hamilton<br/>                 CBAL – Barb Szuta<br/>                 NKLCSS –Shannon Isaac</p> | <p>Balfour – Host 3 youth nights per year for 8 – 14 year olds. Provide programming on weekends for working families and Dads. Provide Parent Circle for youth parents. Promote fine arts programs and events at RF</p> <p>Kaslo – For 6-12 year olds: Expand parent-child programs, provide speaker series for parents and increase children only programs. Promote fine arts programs and events at JVH. Develop summer programs at SC</p> <p>Kaslo - For youth aged 11-19: Make improvements to Kaslo Youth Centre (KYC). Increase youth programs out of the KDPL &amp; KYC</p> | <p>Fall 2013 - Spring 2014</p> <p>Winter 2014</p> <p>Fall 2013</p> |
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| <p>4. Expand Aboriginal programming and events.</p>                                 | <p>RF – Jann Schmidt<br/>                 JVH – Victoria McAllister<br/>                 SC – Debra Hamilton<br/>                 CBAL – Barb Szuta<br/>                 NKLCSS<br/>                 Kaslo community members</p>      | <p>Balfour – Promote cultural awareness programs, drumming workshop and traditional parenting skills workshop at RF school<br/>                 Kaslo – Hire local aboriginal program coordinator, host monthly family gatherings, explore teaching of traditional skills, offer 2-3 traditional parenting skills workshops, provide access to Aboriginal events at and from Selkirk College Castlegar</p> | <p>Fall 2013 - Spring 2014<br/>                 Fall 2013 - Spring 2014</p> |
| <p>5. Support on-going literacy and lifelong learning opportunities for adults.</p> | <p>SC – Debra Hamilton<br/>                 CBAL – Barb Szuta<br/>                 Kaslo Seniors' Association (KSA) – Molly Semenoff<br/>                 Balfour Covenant Church (BCC)<br/>                 Lardeau Valley Links</p> | <p>Balfour, Kaslo &amp; Meadow Creek – Increase delivery and variety of technology workshops. Explore the introduction of financial literacy workshops. Improve access to SC Kaslo courses. Develop summer programming at SC</p>   | <p>Fall 2013 - Spring 2014</p>  |

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|   | Society (LINKS)<br>Lardeau Valley Hall |                                 |           |
| 6. Create a Community Centre in Balfour which is a hub for community programming. | Community members                      | Investigate grants and location | Fall 2014 |

**Focus Area: COLLABORATION**

| <b>Goal</b>   | <b>Partnerships</b> | <b>Actions</b>                             | <b>Progress</b>        |
|---|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| 1. Increase number of Community Literacy Advisory Committee (CLAC) meetings per year. | CLAC members        | Kaslo – 2 meetings<br>Balfour – 2 meetings | Fall 2013, Spring 2014 |

**SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)**

**DISTRICT COMMUNITY LITERACY ACTION PLAN 2013-2014**

**NELSON**

**Focus Area: COMMUNICATION**

| <b>Goal</b>  | <b>Partnerships</b>  | <b>Actions</b>  | <b>Timeline/Progress</b>  |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. Simplify communication about program opportunities for program partners and participants.           | CBAL- Joan Exley<br><br>Community Literacy Advisory Committee (CLAC)<br><br>Other community partners | Presentation by <i>time.ly</i> (Bradley Roulston of the Seed Network) to CLAC and community partners about use of shared calendar   | Fall 2013   |
| 2. Continue to streamline registration and communication with participants of programs with waitlists. | CBAL - Joan Exley<br><br>Nelson Public Library (NPL) - Joanne Harris                                 | Continue to develop online registration tools for programs with waitlists<br><br>Communicate with participants through email about program opportunities<br><br>Continue to create email lists for specific program | Fall 2013<br><br>Pilot for online registration for Mother Goose program was initiated in spring 2013 session<br><br>Email lists are being created |



**Focus Area: ACCESS**

| Goal  | Partnerships   | Actions   | Timeline/Progress   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>1. Expand ways in which the Learning Place supports literacy and learning in the community; work towards sustainability.</p> | <p>CLAC members<br/><br/>Community partners<br/><br/>CBAL - Joan Exley</p>                           | <p>Secure lease agreement with the City of Nelson<br/><br/>Write terms of reference for expanded community use of the Learning Place<br/><br/>Explore additional funding sources to support maintenance and operation</p>   | <p>Lease agreement is in place with the City of Nelson May 2013<br/><br/>Terms of reference are written in draft form; will be completed Fall 2013<br/><br/>Ongoing 2013-2014</p> |
| <p>2. Connect good quality, used computers to people with barriers to accessing hardware.</p>                                   | <p>CBAL - Joan Exley<br/><br/>Nelson Star - Karen Bennett<br/><br/>School District 8- Lorri Fehr</p> | <p>Develop a list of sources for good quality, used computers<br/><br/>Connect good quality, used computers to people needing access to hardware<br/><br/>Explore community partnerships to access refurbishing services for used computers<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth skills program</li> <li>- LVR tech classes</li> <li>- Selkirk College</li> </ul> </p> | <p>Fall 2013</p>  |

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| <p>3. Support literacy needs of youth population and explore ways to support aboriginal youth at Trafalgar Middle School.</p> | <p>CBAL -Joan Exley<br/>School District 8 (SD8) - Danica Lee<br/>NPL - Joanne Harris<br/>Nelson Youth Centre (NYC)- Christine Schmidt</p>  | <p>Continue to participate in the <i>Community Directed Youth Initiatives</i><br/>Meet with key partners to look at needs of aboriginal youth and develop action plan</p>   | <p>NYDC is leading the <i>Community Directed Youth Initiatives</i><br/>Fall 2013</p> |
| <p>4. Explore new ways to support parent/caregiver's skills in supporting their children's learning.</p>                      | <p>CBAL -Joan Exley<br/>SD8 - Lorri Fehr<br/>Ministry of Employment and Labour Market Services - Lisa Flexhaug<br/>Nelson Early Childhood Action Council (NECAC)- Laura Munoz<br/>NPL- Joanne Harris</p> | <p>Explore opportunities for parent workshops focused on supporting reading, early writing and science<br/><br/>Offer a workshop for foster parents and social workers on supporting learning in the home environment<br/><br/>Explore ways to support <i>Read by 3</i> SD8 initiative<br/><br/>Connect with new partners: DPAC, Healthy Schools Coordinator, Kootenay Kids</p> | <p>Fall 2013<br/><br/>Winter/Spring 2014</p>   |
| <p>5. Pilot drop in time for linking adult literacy learners to employment skills community supports in an expanded way.</p>  | <p>CBAL - Joan Exley<br/>Community Partners</p>  | <p>Meet with key partners to explore monthly drop in times at the Learning Place focused on employment skills</p>   | <p>Fall 2013</p>   |

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| <p>6. Create opportunities for intergenerational connections in the community.</p>                         | <p>SD8 - Danica Lee<br/>CBAL- Joan Exley</p>     | <p>Explore ways to connect seniors and aboriginal youth<br/><br/>Look at <i>Grandfriend</i> programs that have been offered in the past</p>   | <p>Fall 2013</p>  |
| <p>7. Explore the feasibility of a Big Brother/Big Sister program in Nelson.</p>                           | <p>NECAC- Laura Munoz<br/>SD8-Danica Lee</p>     | <p>Look at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters feasibility plan completed in the East Kootenays<br/><br/>Explore options for a similar program in Nelson</p>   | <p>Fall 2013</p>  |
| <p>8. Create a community of facilitators of children/family programs that value song, story and rhyme.</p> | <p>CBAL - Joan Exley<br/>NPL - Joanne Harris</p> | <p>Offer twice a year facilitator gatherings to share songs, stories and rhymes<br/><br/>Share wisdom and best practices<br/><br/>Connect with <i>Talking Little Feet</i> aboriginal committee around this initiative</p> | <p>First facilitator gathering offered in May 2013<br/><br/>Fall 2013 and Spring 2014</p> |
| <p>9. Increase opportunities for informal learning around technology skills.</p>                           | <p>NPL - June Stockdale<br/>CBAL- Joan Exley</p> | <p>Meet with key community partners to plan and expand opportunities for informal learning around technology<br/>– NML, CBAL, Learning in Retirement, SD8</p>   | <p>Fall 2013</p>  |

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| <p>10. Continue to strengthen and develop connections between youth service providers and other community services/educational institutions.</p> | <p>NYC- Christine Schmidt<br/>                 CBAL- Joan Exley<br/>                 Selkirk- Wendy Tagami<br/>                 SD8- Lorri Fehr<br/>                 Interior Health</p> | <p>Continue to participate in NDYC lead <i>Community Directed Youth Initiatives</i></p> <p>Discuss other new opportunities at the CLAC table</p> | <p>Ongoing 2013-2014<br/>                 Funding is secured and the <i>Community Directed Youth Initiative</i> is being implemented with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing a system to promote and disseminate information about opportunities for youth, creating a Youth Outreach Worker position and funding youth activities and programs</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|---|

**Focus Area: COLLABORATION**

| Goals   | Partnerships   | Actions  | Timeline/Progress        |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| <p>1. Solidify commitment from partner organizations to maintain wide representation on CLAC.</p> | <p>CLAC members<br/>                 Partner Organizations</p> | <p>Review CLAC membership twice a year to ensure wide representation</p> <p>Invite new members based on gaps in representation</p>                           | <p>Fall 2013</p>         |
| <p>2. Use CLAC sub-committees to focus on specific issues as needed.</p>                          | <p>CBAL- Joan Exley<br/>                 CLAC members</p>      | <p>Meet as sub committees to focus on specific issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learning Place, Adult Literacy, Youth Literacy</li> </ul> | <p>Ongoing 2013-2014</p> |
| <p>3. Offer professional</p>  | <p>NECAC -Laura Munoz</p>                                      | <p>Explore needs of program</p>  | <p>Winter 2014</p>       |

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| <p>development opportunities for program facilitators and parents of special needs children with focus on accessibility of programs.</p>    |  | <p>facilitators and parents of children with special needs</p>  |  |
| <p>4. Increase engagement of youth and parents about community programs and services.</p>   | <p>NDYC - Christine Schmidt<br/>Community Partners<br/>CBAL - Joan Exley</p>   | <p>Continue working with <i>Community Directed Youth Initiatives</i> on developing a website to promote youth opportunities<br/><br/>Explore use of blogs, calendars, Twitter, Facebook</p> | <p>Fall 2013</p>   |
| <p>5. Increase communication with the business and employment sectors around support services for improving workplace essential skills.</p> | <p>Selkirk College<br/>CBAL- Joan Exley<br/>NPL<br/>Kootenay Career Development Society (KCDS)<br/>Ministry of Employment and Labour Market Services - Lisa Flexhaug</p> | <p>Connect with key partners<br/><br/>Meet to discuss plan of action<br/><br/>Connect through Welcoming Communities initiative</p>  | <p>Interagency Meetings led by KCDS bi- monthly<br/><br/>Fall 2013</p> |

**SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)**

**DISTRICT COMMUNITY LITERACY ACTION PLAN 2013-2014**

**SALMO**

**Focus Area: COMMUNICATION**

| Goal   | Partnerships   | Actions   | Timeline/Progress |
|--|--|---|-------------------|
| 1. Simplify connections and communications about programs for partners and participants. | Salmo Community Resource Society (SCRS)<br><br>Salmo Recreation  | Write reports for Salmo Valley Newsletter<br><br>Attend Service provider lunches and health committee meetings  | Ongoing 2013-2014 |
| 2. Create consistently meaningful and timely advertising for programs.                   | SCRS<br><br>Freedom Quest (FQ)<br><br>Interior Health Authority (IHA)<br><br>Salmo Secondary School (SSS)<br><br>Salmo Elementary School (SES) | Have programs preplanned and ready for implementation in time for modes of communication that the community responds to, i.e. Social Media, word of mouth, newsletters and leisure guide. | Ongoing 2013-2014 |

**Focus Area: ACCESS**

| Goal   | Partnerships  | Actions   | Timeline/Progress  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Create opportunities for informal learning opportunities related to technology and Financial literacy.</p> | <p>Senior's group<br/>Salmo Public Library(SPL)<br/>Salmo Secondary School(SSS)</p>                           | <p>Develop a learning exchange program for youth and seniors<br/><br/>Create workshops for taxes, wills, budgeting and other financial literacy topics<br/><br/>Create on line learning tutorials – to learn how to take on line courses.</p> | <p>Fall 2013<br/><br/>Winter 2014.<br/><br/>Spring 2014.</p> |
| <p>2. Expand ways in which the Learning Place supports literacy needs in Salmo and Ymir.</p>                     | <p>Salmo Valley Youth &amp; Community Centre (SVYCC)<br/>Freedom Quest<br/>SPL<br/>CBAL- Laurie Macdonald</p> | <p>Increased hours for Learning Centre<br/><br/>Deliver workshops and programs at the Learning Centre</p>   | <p>Fall 2013<br/><br/>Winter/ Spring 2014</p>                |

**Focus Area: COLLABORATION**

| Goal  | Partnerships                   | Actions  | Timeline/Progress  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Create programming to support gaps in the schools.                 | SSS<br>SES<br>FQ<br>SVYCC      | Provide homework help programs for elementary and high school kids.  | Plan Fall 2013   |
| 2. Collaborate with non-traditional partners to engage the community. | CLAC<br>CBAL- Laurie Macdonald | Determine health literacy needs.<br><br>Create a themed writing group to bring together the whole community spectrum.<br><br>Have the letter writing imbedded in other community events, i.e. breakfast with Santa, Fall Fest. | Fall 2013<br><br>Winter 2014<br><br>Fall 2013, Winter 2014 |



**SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)**

**DISTRICT COMMUNITY LITERACY ACTION PLAN 2013-2014**

**SLOCAN VALLEY**

**Focus Area: COMMUNICATION**

| <b>Goal</b>   | <b>Partnerships</b>   | <b>Actions</b>   | <b>Progress/Timeline</b>  |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Explore a communication hub for the Slocan Valley.                           | Community Literacy Advisory Committee (CLAC)<br><br>WE Graham Community Service Society (WEGCSS)– Holly Jack<br><br>CBAL- Alison Salo | Investigate a single site/phone number that all Slocan valley residents can call to access all local community services and programs | Fall 2013 – Spring 2014<br><br>May 2013: Location for potential phone line established. |
| 2. Expand digital communication of literacy opportunities in the Slocan Valley. | CBAL- Alison Salo   | Create Facebook page   | Fall 2013   |

**Focus Area: ACCESS**

| Goal   | Partnerships   | Actions  | Progress/Timeline       |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Increase literacy opportunities for seniors.                                | CLAC members<br><br>Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society (SVSHS)– Nora Lilligren<br><br>CBAL- Alison Salo<br><br>Passmore Seniors Association – Ruth Hackett<br><br>WEGCSS – Holly Jack<br><br>Other Community Partners | Enhance seniors representation on CLAC<br><br>Connect with Slocan Seniors Group<br><br>Explore “My Voice” as a workshop option.<br><br>Survey seniors groups to explore program needs.<br><br>Research other CBAL communities’ seniors programming | Fall 2013 – Spring 2014 |
| 2. Strengthen and expand library use in the Slocan Valley, including outreach. | CBAL- Alison Salo<br><br>NPL<br><br>Castlegar and District Regional Public Library (CDPL)<br><br>Slocan Community Library<br><br>Sharon Nazaroff (The Pyramid Hall)  | Explore summer reading program (grant)<br><br>Explore homebound program<br><br>Offer library sign up opportunity for students at Mount Sentinel Secondary School   | Ongoing 2013-2014       |

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| 3. Develop community capacity by training new facilitators and volunteers.   | CBAL- Alison Salo   | Recruit and train new volunteers and facilitators   | Fall 2013  |
| 4. Support increased transportation services (increased bus routes).   | Community Service Providers<br><br>Village of Slocan  | Lobby the Regional District for service coordination  | Ongoing activity of community service agencies in the Slocan Valley        |
| 5. Offer literacy programs in various locations from the Village of Slocan to the communities at the Playmour Junction and Krestova. | CBAL- Alison Salo<br><br>WEGSS<br><br>Winlaw Strong Start<br><br>Brent Kennedy Learning Centre<br><br>The Pyramid Hall<br><br>Slocan Valley Recreation Commission | Schedule a variety of programs from the north to the south end of the Valley, to ensure access to programs throughout the year and near where people live | Ongoing collaboration with service providers and community spaces/schools. |
| 6. Support struggling school aged readers.   | CBAL- Alison Salo<br><br>Volunteers<br><br>School District 8 staff  | Provide volunteer opportunities in schools to help children succeed   | Fall 2013  |
| 7. Expand youth initiatives.   | CBAL- Alison Salo<br><br>Mount Sentinel Secondary   | Provide meaningful literacy activities for youth  | Ongoing 2013-2014  |

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|   | <p>School (MSSS) – Tamara Maloff</p> <p>Sequoia Learning Centre – Janis Chernenkoff</p> <p>WE Graham Community School</p> <p>WEGCSS – Holly Jack</p> | <p>Expand youth related partnerships</p> <p>Explore intergenerational workshop/event options</p>   |  |
| <p>8. Support aboriginal families in the Slocan Valley.</p> | <p>CBAL- Alison Salo</p> <p>Brent Kennedy Learning Centre -Susie Myers</p> <p>Talking Little Feet Council</p>  | <p>Aboriginal families connect with literacy program information through “Books for Babies” bags</p> <p>Create an Aboriginal focus for these bags.</p> | <p>Revisit “Aboriginal Books for Babies” Fall 2013</p> |

**Focus Area: COLLABORATION**

| Goal   | Partnerships  | Actions   | Progress/Timeline          |
|--|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Expand partnerships for service delivery.                   | CBAL- Alison Salo<br><br>SVSHS – Nora Lilligren<br><br>WEGCSS – Holly Jack<br><br>Passmore Seniors Association<br><br>Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council (SVECCAC) – Penny Tees<br><br>Other Community Partners | Enhance, strengthen and create partnerships to support community resiliency.<br><br>Expand CLAC membership to include a broad community representation.                       | Ongoing 2013-2014          |
| 2. Deliver a range of financial literacy options for all ages. | CBAL- Alison Salo<br><br>SVECCAC<br><br>Passmore Seniors Association<br><br>Other Community Partners  | Financial literacy event to highlight Financial Literacy month.<br><br>Connect with Nelson & Area Elder Abuse Prevention Resource Centre for possible “My Voice” presentation | Fall 2013<br><br>Fall 2013 |

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| <p>3. Develop a range of digital literacy options for all ages.</p> | <p>CBAL- Alison Salo<br/>Other Community Partners</p> | <p>Offer workshops about parenting in a digital age, safe and healthy use of technology (children and youth).<br/><br/>Offer adult/seniors computer workshops</p> | <p>Fall 2013 – Spring 2014<br/><br/>Winter/Spring 2014</p> |
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## 5. Reflections

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| <b>Reflections on the 2012/13 year:</b>  |
| <b>1) Task group:</b><br><b>a. Who takes part in the task group?</b><br><br>See Section 6 Community Literacy Advisory Committees.<br><br><b>b. How is the work of this group organized?</b><br><br>Task groups are organized by the five Literacy Outreach Coordinators in the district, with support from the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) Regional Program Manager and SD 8. The five groups each meet three times yearly to reflect on the District Community Literacy Plan (DCLP) and to develop local literacy initiatives and actions to support the plan's goals for their respective communities. Various other groups and individuals who are not part of the five task groups are invited to attend these meetings as well to ensure wide representation.   |
| <b>2) Community context:</b><br><br><b>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.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Influx of Community Directed Youth funds from the Columbia Basin Trust</li><li>• Many families continue to have one parent working out of the community which means that these families are essentially operating as single parent families – they rely heavily for support from the programs and services located in the community</li><li>• Declining enrollment in several schools</li><li>• Funding cuts and staff shortages in many community agencies and partners</li><li>• Restructuring of provincial employment services</li><li>• Welcoming Communities project expansion providing settlement services to new immigrants</li></ul> |
| <b>3) Community development and literacy collaboration:</b><br><br><b>a. What are the important collaborations that have taken place to support literacy and the work of the task group?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SD8/CBAL/Early Childhood councils/StrongStarts partnering to deliver workshop for parents in Kaslo/Balfour and Slocan Valley</li><li>• LINKS/CBAL/ Learning Centres/Seniors associations delivering computer workshops</li><li>• Decoda/SD8/CBAL/ Libraries informal/non-formal learning campaign</li></ul>   |

- Strong community partnership and collaboration at the Learning Place literacy centre in Nelson
- SD#8, Library, Public Health, Infant Development, Brent Kennedy Learning Centre, Speech and Language & CBAL partnering to support and/or deliver early learning programs
- CBAL/Creston Refugee committee- we train their volunteer English tutors

**b. What are the essential ongoing collaborations?**

- NKLCSS, KLFN, IHA, SD8, CBAL- early years' programming in Kaslo, Meadow Creek and Balfour
- KDPL, CBAL, SD8 - adult, children's and youth programming in Kaslo and Meadow Creek
- School District 8, CBAL – Love 2 Learn, Mother Goose
- Library, Public Health, Infant Development, Speech and Language, CBAL – Mother Goose
- Selkirk College, Osprey Community Foundation, Nelson Public Library , CBAL – Cyber Seniors
- CBAL, Nelson Municipal Library, Selkirk College, Kootenay Career Development Society- The Learning Place
- SD8, CBAL re: programs in schools -One-to-One, Making Connections, Family Tutoring Consulting, Community Bookshare
- Infant Development , CBAL - new moms group talks several times per year
- Yaqaan Nukiy school ,CBAL -Youth homework club, Internet safety
- Creston Library, CBAL- housing ESL tutor resource books; we train their reading tutors; partner on Books for Babies
- Chamber of Commerce, CBAL- low cost office space
- College of the Rockies, CBAL- gives free space for ESL class
- CBAL, Pyramid Hall Society- Partnership for Love2Learn program, possibility of other programming in Krestova, making use of the hall.
- CBAL , Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Association (Passmore Lodge)- Computer workshops for seniors.
- CBAL, Interior Health (Public Health Nurse)- Distribution of "Books for Babies," first contact with families.
- Ymir Association, Library, Community Services, Youth Centre, Freedom Quest- family and adult literacy programming

**c. What makes collaborations work well?**

- Shared vision, good communication, flexibility, sharing of skills and resources
- Sharing of skills and resources
- Determination to work positively with challenges
- Commitment by many to do a little
- Commitment to a collaborative process: no sense of 'turf'
- Patience



- Enthusiasm for programs and shared goals
- Mutual respect
- Honoring commitments
- Willingness to consider new ideas

**4) Goals and actions for the current year:**

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

Commonalities:

- Increased library services to outlying communities
- Continued development and support for youth programs and initiatives

Creston:

- Expanded partnerships to keep programs running with adequate funding ( Little Chefs: CBAL/CAPC; Books for Babies: Library/ CBAL; Chamber provided free space for ESL program during College support staff strike; ARES school provided free space for Making Connections program; Kootenai Community Centre providing low cost space for program)
- Provided culturally appropriate programs to Lower Kootenay Band youth ( Homework club)
- Continued outreach to isolated communities by offering rural computer classes for adults (Yahk, Kitchener, Wynndel, Crawford Bay), family literacy (Crawford Bay), Internet safety and Youth program (Lower Kootenay Band)
- Continued to educate public on importance of fostering learning and literacy development in the early years of child development (CBAL gives talks to Pregnancy Outreach's New Mom's group, Library once again running story-times and Mother-goose types of programs)
- Held additional public awareness events ( Literacy award, Reach-a-Reader campaign, Kidapoloosa)
- Utilized technology and diverse media/methods to promote literacy and current programs. (Stronger web presence from most organizations ( CBAL blogs, Facebook pages, Family place distributing calendar via Facebook and email, schools sending out program notices to parents.)

Kaslo/Balfour:

- Development and delivery of Advanced Computer Training and Workplace Training Program by SC
- Continued to offer existing programs and expanded according to community need – increase in aboriginal, early years, school aged, youth, adult programs (drumming and traditional parenting workshops, aboriginal cultural awareness activities, aboriginal drop-in programs, storytime, Parents as Literacy Supporters, parent workshops/clinics, computers, 6 youth programs)
- Development of youth committee

Nelson:

- Strengthened adult literacy tutoring program
- Renegotiated space for the Learning Place
- Created more efficient registration system for programs with wait lists; simplify communication with families about family literacy programs

Slocan Valley:

- Maintained all established programs and CLAC
- Strengthened youth initiatives
- Develop relationships with community partners

Salmo:

- Delivered computer workshops for Seniors
- Created more after school programming
- Connected early learning service providers to ensure that children entering school are well supported
- Created more programming for the community with connection to the library
- Developed a transportation strategy to get learners to existing ABE sites

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

Creston- see above

Kaslo/Balfour:

- Raise-A-Reader funds were accessed by many partners
- Collaboration and mentorship between partners
- Partnering organizations: Kaslo & District Public Library, SD8, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Kootenay Lake Family Network, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society, Selkirk College, Balfour Covenant Church, Lardeau Valley Hall, Kaslo Seniors' Association, Interior Health, Lardeau Valley Opportunity Society, community members

Nelson:

- Increased outreach to community partners and referral agencies (CBAL, NPL, Youth Skills Link Program, Nelson Cares, Selkirk College, KCDS)
- Entered into lease agreement with the City of Nelson for use of space (CBAL, City of Nelson)
- Create online registration system for family programming (CBAL)

Slocan Valley:

- All previously established programs ran with successful outcomes
- The CLAC was maintained and strengthened by adding several new

members, who broadened the representation base (youth at risk, youth, community, ESL/senior)

- Several youth initiatives happened over the year:
  - “Write for Rights” letter writing continued at MSSS, in partnership with youth “Interact” group
  - Academic tutoring offered at MSSS
  - “Literacy Week” book draw held at MSSS
  - Facebook workshop co-facilitated by two MSSS students/CBAL]
  - “Books on the Bus” project piloting May/June 2013
  - “Book Under Every Tree” provided books for youth in Christmas hampers
  - “Wild Books” launched at MSSS
  - -Storytelling Workshop presented to youth at risk (Sequoia Learning Centre)
- As a new LOC, my relationships with community partners are still developing, partnerships have evolved over the year

Salmo:

- 3 Senior’s computer workshops were offered in partnership with Community Centre
- Teen Games Night was developed in partnership with the Library
- After School Drop In was developed by SVYCC

**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?**

- The plan was adjusted throughout the year
- Many elements of the plan have become a part of regular internal maintenance

**5) Indications of success:**

**a. How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy? What impact have the literacy initiatives had? It is important to include examples to illustrate the impact.**

- Learners are moving through the benchmarks
- Programs are well attended
- Partnerships continue to strengthen and new ones occur
- Increased ownership in the District Community Literacy Plan by partners, meetings are well attended and the plan is being used as a guide to community literacy work
- Adult learners meeting their goals and transitioning to college, work or other life pursuits

- Parents in family literacy programs telling us about the impact of programs on their skills, sense of connection to the community and others, the joy of learning together with their children

*I have a family that has been in the program multiple times. Every time the program runs, the mom has a hard time attending because of other barriers in her life. This session she has attended most weeks and even brought along a new family to join her. This program is social and about building community. I think she has been motivated to come to the program because of her new friend....and her children benefit from it!*

- Newcomers to our community reporting a sense of acceptance, belonging and connection as they participate in language and tutoring programs
- Seniors developing computer skills talking about the empowerment that comes with skill and knowledge in terms of communication and access to information

*One participant left the program feeling "so hip" now, as he had learned so many new things. He always had a positive attitude in class and would say..."As long as I learn just one thing, I am keeping my mind active"*

- Parents say that they learn together with their children.

*One little boy learned how to spell his name and each week it was so very important for him to write his own name on his name tag and art. His mom had some concerns about his letters being backwards and that he didn't hold his pencil correctly. This sparked a lovely conversation about the stages/development of printing. The mom was so grateful and felt she could relax about it.*

#### **b. What are the things that support literacy work?**

- Strong partnerships
- Stable core funding
- Community awareness of literacy issues and needs
- Trained and skilled practitioners
- Skilled, committed staff and volunteers
- Municipal, regional and provincial support
- Collaboration between community service providers
- Support from schools and daycares
- Mutual respect between organizations
- Stable funding
- Willingness to be open to new ideas, change

### **6) Challenges:**

#### **a. What are the difficulties?**

- Lack of resources (equipment) limit the ability to deliver programs
- Literacy landscape continues to expand and it is difficult to be able to effectively work in all areas with the same amount of funding each year
- Geography of smaller communities makes it difficult to deliver services

(i.e. Slokan Valley no central community centre)

- Sustainable funding

**b. What would help?**

- Stable core funding
- Predictable, sustainable funding
- Continued professional development opportunities at all levels of literacy work
- Continued development of provincially developed materials for community presentations and awareness building
- Continued strong regional support
- Continued collaboration

**For the coming year:**

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

- Challenge to meet each community's literacy needs given the current state of funding
- Continued growth in demand for services
- Review community resources with an eye to strengthening, consolidation and sustainability
- Explore new community funding opportunities
- Columbia Basin Trust community directed youth funding
- Continue to work toward implementing the action plan that was approved this year
- Continue to strengthen and work to widen community partnerships

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

See The Plan 2013-2014

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

See The Plan 2013-2014 for specific goals and actions

- Financial and in-kind support from non-traditional partners
- Continued support from community partners
- Continued regional and locally raised funds
- Strong provincial leadership
- Continued wide and inclusive provincial conversation about literacy issues
- Continued provincially developed presentation materials

- Continued strong regional support
- Community interest, collaboration, exploration and effective planning
- Acquisition of a mobile computer lab for each community
- Continued cooperation of agencies and funders to maintain funding for existing programs, and continued great lobbying from Decoda
- Continued funding for literacy coordination



*Little Chefs Program- Creston*



*Yaqa Nukiy Afterschool Program*

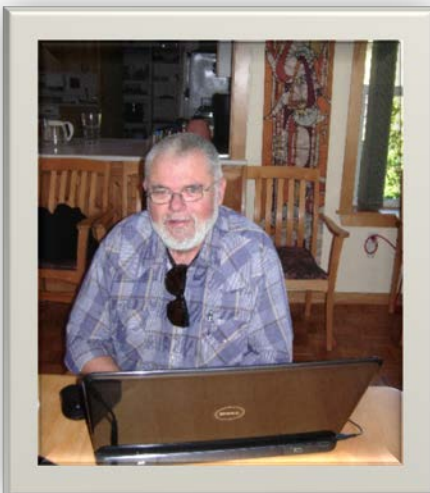


*Parent and Child Time program- Balfour*



*Reach a Reader - Nelson*

*Senior's  
Computer  
Classes-  
Slocan Valley*



## 6. Community Literacy Advisory Committees

| <b>Creston Community Literacy Advisory Committee 2012/2013</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Organization</b>   |
| Eileen Delman  | KES   |
| Margaret Basaraba  | Community Member  |
| Mary Jean Searle   | Creston Public Health Nurse<br>IHA  |
| Nancy DeVuono  | Principal, Erickson Elementary School   |
| Teresa Caruso  | Instructor ABE programs COTR / ESL<br>program CBAL                            |
| Vicky Koenig   | Creston CAPC coordinator  |
| Paula Harper   | ABE Instructor, COTR  |
| Crista Phypers   | CBAL Family Programs/ Yaqan Nukiy pre-<br>school teacher / LKB representative |
| Serena Naeve   | ED of Community Resource Centre   |
| Angela Eckersley   | CommunityMember   |
| Gloria Gadacz  | Principal Yahk School   |
| Aaron Francis  | Chief Librarian- Creston Public Library                                       |
| Denice Louie   | Lower Kootenay Band Education Society   |

| <b>Kaslo/Balfour Community Literacy Advisory Committee 2012/2013</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Organization</b>   |
| Janene Stein   | Redfish School  |
| Melissa Woodward   | Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy                                  |
| Annie Reynolds   | Kaslo and District Public Library                                     |
| Barb Cyr   | North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society                        |
| Catherine McCormick  | Kaslo and District Public Library                                     |
| Julie Poetsch  | Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and Kootenay Lake Family Network |
| Debra Barrett  | Retired teacher   |
| Debra Hamilton   | Selkirk College   |
| Jan Schmidt  | Redfish School  |
| Raeanne Gow  | G.A. Reid Library, Kootenay Lake Family Network                       |
| Victoria McAllister  | JV Humphries School   |
| Yvonne Dodd  | JV Humphries School   |
| Barb Szuta   | Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy                                  |
| Mel Harper   | Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy                                  |
| Janice Murphy  | North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society                        |
| Ramona Faust   | Regional District of Central Kootenay Area E                          |



| <b>Nelson Community Literacy Advisory Committee 2012/2013</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Organization</b>  |
| Joan Exley  | CBAL – Literacy Outreach Coordinator   |
| Joanne Harris   | CBAL - Program Coordinator<br>Library -Youth & Literacy Program Services Coordinator |
| Lisa Flexhaug   | Ministry of Housing and Social Development – Program Officer                         |
| Nicole Purvis   | CBAL – ESL and PCMG Facilitator<br>Parent & Community Member                         |
| Beth Hargreaves   | Kootenay Career Development Society  |
| Grace Devaux  | CBAL – Bigby Place Program Facilitator   |
| June Stockdale  | Nelson Municipal Library – Chief Librarian   |
| Christine Schmidt   | Nelson Youth Centre - Manager  |
| Angelina Eisele   | IHA – Public Health  |
| Wendy Tagami  | Selkirk College – Adult Basic Education  |
| Jenn Sebastian  | Family Place Programs Manager  |
| Lorri Fehr  | District Principal, Innovative Learning Services                                     |
| Laura Munoz   | Nelson Early Childhood Advisory Council Coordinator                                  |
| Jeff Yasinchuk  | Teacher Librarian, LVR High School   |
| Karen Bennett   | Nelson Star Publisher  |
| Donna MacDonald   | City Councilor   |

| <b>Salmo Community Literacy Advisory Committee 2012/2013</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Organization</b>                            |
| Laurie MacDonald   | Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy           |
| Rachel Doan  | Freedom Quest                                  |
| Andrea Buckland  | Interior Health                                |
| Taylor Caron   | Salmo Public Library- Director                 |
| Melanie Mobbs  | Salmo Valley Youth Centre - Executive Director |
| Leslie Anderson  | Senior Representative                          |
| Kim Hartzell   | Ymir Representative                            |
| Maureen Berk   | Community Services- Executive Director         |

| <b>Slocan Valley Community Literacy Advisory Committee 2012-2013</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Organization</b>   |
| Janis Chernenkoff  | Sequoia Learning Centre   |
| Sharon Block   | Nelson Public Library Board Member  |
| Shelley Maloff   | Learning Assistance, Mount Sentinel Secondary School (MSSS)   |
| Tamara Maloff  | Teacher/Librarian, MSSS   |
| Deb Corbett  | Office Manager, WE Graham Community Services Society  |
| Madeleine Perriere   | Mayor, Slocan   |
| Sharon Nazaroff  | Strong Start Facilitator, Doukhobor Community Member  |
| Penny Tees   | Coordinator Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council  |
| Mary Asselin   | Public Health Nurse, Interior Health  |
| Val Mayes  | Community Member  |
| Susie Myers  | Brent Kennedy Early Learning Centre<br>Owner/Director<br>West Kootenay Aboriginal Supported Child Development |
| Lauren Steeg   | Coordinator Slocan Valley Recreation Department   |
| Mike Hurley  | Principal Brent Kennedy Elementary School   |
| Elisabeth VonAh  | ESL Adult Learner and Community Member  |