



School District 71 Comox Valley District Literacy Plan September 2011-June 2012

Contributors:

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Background:

The Literacy Now Communities program was created by 2010 Legacies Now in 2004, with support from the Ministry of Education. Comox Valley developed a plan and began activity formally in 2008. In June of last year 2010 Legacies Now transferred ownership of Literacy Now Communities to [Decoda Literacy Solutions](#) where it continues to benefit communities as a legacy of the 2010 Winter Games.

September 2011 to June 2012 is the fourth year of implementation of the Comox Valley Community Literacy Plan (July 2008, updated June 2012). Hornby Island has just completed their first year of implementation and will begin their second and final year of implementation in September 2012. The Ministry of Education and Decoda Literacy Solutions have committed funds to community-based literacy coordination, which has supported the Literacy Outreach Coordinator (LOC) positions, for the past four years (September 2008 to June 2012).

Task Group:

Implementation of the Comox Valley Community Literacy Plan is guided by the Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association (formerly known as Comox Valley Literacy Now) which includes representation from School District 71, North Island College, Adult Learning Centre, Wachiay Friendship Centre, Creative Employment Access Society, Vancouver Island Regional Library and literacy resource professionals. The Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association (CVLLA) Board of Directors meets monthly. Two subcommittees, the Family Literacy Outreach Advisory Committee (FLOAC) and the Comox Valley Essential Skills Partnership Committee (CVESP) also meet monthly. (See Appendix 1:

Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association Board of Directors; CVESP Committee; and FLOAC). FLOAC's work is coordinated by Lynn Joseph, Family Literacy Outreach Coordinator. CVESP's work is coordinated by Betty Yee, CVESP Project Coordinator. Danielle Hoogland is the Comox Valley LOC.

Hornby Island's literacy plan is guided by Hornby Island Education Society. Mia Wood is the Hornby Island Literacy Outreach Coordinator. (see Appendix 2: Hornby Island Literacy Plan Report)

Community Context:

Demographics School District 71

The population of Comox Valley continues to grow. Statistics Canada 2011 census agglomeration of Courtenay (including Comox, Cumberland, Comox1, Comox Valley B, Comox Valley A, and Comox Valley C) indicates a population of 64,538 people.¹ This is a 7.5% increase since 2006. The Comox Valley continues to attract retirees: the percentage of the population aged 65 and over in Courtenay is 22.3%, compared with a national percentage of 14.8%. The median age in Courtenay is 48.3 years. In comparison, the median age of British Columbia is 41.9 years. Youth aged 15-29 represent only 15% of the population the Comox Valley. A large number of young adults leave the Comox Valley for education, employment or travel opportunities.

The number of students enrolled in School District 71 continues to decline. In 2006/07 there were 9104 school-aged students enrolled in SD71. In 2011/12 there were 7776 school-aged students. The district anticipates 7608 in September of 2012. Enrolment trends, however, indicate the enrolment decline diminishes and enrolment will begin to flatten and then increase in 2015 (see Appendix 5: Enrolment Trends).

Hornby Island

The 2006 census recorded 1,074 year round residents: 16% of the population was less than 20 years old, 34% of the population was over 60 years of age, and 67% of Hornby's population is over 45 years in age (compared to 43% across BC). The population increases to approximately 4,000 every summer (45% of dwellings are only seasonally occupied). The median household income on Hornby Island is \$32,000 (this is 60% of the provincial median which is \$52,709). Median annual income from employment is \$10,044. The provincial median is \$25,722. One third of all Hornby households earn less than \$20,000 per year.

The number of kids enrolled in the Hornby Island Preschool for 2011/12 is 17 (ages 1-5). Hornby Island Community School has 38 Kindergarten to Grade 7 students. Thirty-five students are currently registered for September 2012. Students in Grade 8 to 12 attend Vanier Secondary School in Courtenay.

Community Changes: Comox Valley

- The teacher job action impacted the extent in which some School District personnel were able to participate in community-based literacy programs and activities.

¹ <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/fogs-spg/Facts-cma-eng.cfm?Lang=Eng&TAB=1&GK=PR&GC=943>

- A new Welcome Centre in Courtenay has increased involvement and collaboration with family literacy/language resources and programs. CVLLA, SD71, NIC, Multicultural Society, and CALLS sit on the Advisory Committee for the Comox Valley Immigrant Settlement office
- The School District began a new StrongStart Outreach Program in September 2011 for local families living on Hornby and Denman Islands, as well as in areas around Miracle Beach, Royston and Aspen Elementary schools. In 2012-13 the Outreach StrongStart will operate in Puntledge Park, Miracle Beach, Royston and Aspen Elementary Schools.
- A new *Waiting for the Bus* program at Glacier View Learning Centre began in early 2012, supported and facilitated by the School District 71 StrongStart program. CVLLA has supported the program with books and family literacy outreach coordinator attendance to support the Strong Start outreach ECE. This program serves families whose local neighbourhood school – Glacier View Elementary - had closed in 2010. Five families attended this program: 10 children/ 8 adults.
- The Funemployment Office which provided employment services for students and youth, funded by the United Way, closed in June 2011 after applications for further funding were denied. The website: www.funemploymentoffice.com continues to be updated with job postings intended for young people.
- The Service Canada Centre for Youth office closed in 2012. Youth employment service is now exclusively delivered online. Students/youth without access to internet service or computers lose employment supports.
- The federal government cut the Community Access Program (CAP) funding which provided free internet access to the public. Valleylinks, the organization which coordinated and administered the North Island CAP, is now unable to offer free public access to their (and other CAP sites) computer lab and computer training. This compounds the issue of moving youth employment services online without providing the funding to support free online access.
- The BC Employment Program changes began April 1, 2012. All employment centres in the province were renamed Work BC Employment Services Centre and all centres offer identical services. To be eligible for service, clients must be: 16 years and older, unemployed, possess a valid SIN number, must be seeking full time work, and cannot be a student returning to school.
- The Linc Youth Centre (Courtenay Recreation Association) became a Work BC satellite office, where youth who fit the above criteria can access employment services. Students and at risk youth who do not fit the criteria are not eligible for service.
- There is a gap in employment and literacy service for young people, especially those who are no longer connected with the School District. Students cannot access the new employment program, the Funemployment Office and the Service Canada Centre are closed, and youth under 18 years of age cannot access the Adult Learning Centre. CVESP attempted to address this gap through the Community Supported Essential Skills Pilot Program (see below)
- According to BC Stats Labour Force Statistics April 2012, BC's Jobless rate falls to 6.2%, while Vancouver Island's unemployment rate is 6.0%. Jobless rate for BC youth falls from 16% in August 2011 to the current 10.5% -- the lowest since December 2008. Although this appears to be a marked improvement in light of the recent recessionary period, it should be noted that youth unemployment is still nearly twice that of the adult unemployment rate and remains well above the pre-recessionary low of 6.0% recorded in November 2005.
- Betty Yee, the CVESP Project Coordinator, is now an Essential Skills resource to the community. As well as being able to invigilate CAMERA and TOWES assessments, she is knowledgeable in Essential Skills resources and curriculum available to support organizations and learners.

- CALLS Adult Learning Centre lost the Immigrant Settlement contract and also had reduced CALP funding and gaming grants in 2011/12 resulting in the loss of their Program Manager. The CALLS Board took over as administrator and sought community support. Volunteers, CVLLA, staff and community partners worked together to continue supporting learners. 1148.5 hours of tutoring were provided in the areas of personal literacy, ABE upgrading and specialized learning supports such as computer skills. The ESLSAP program supported 39 learners (1752 hours of tutoring).
- CALLS is now funded through the New Horizons for Seniors Project to offer a program called “The Magical World of Radio” which will begin in September 2012.

Community development and literacy collaboration:

The creation of two CVLLA subcommittees (FLOAC and CVESP) has resulted in new literacy programming, events, research, professional development, and an increase in awareness of literacy programs and services. Committee members connect, share information and resources, and develop collaborative programs. The collaborations work because coordinators (CV LOC, CVESP project coordinator, and FLO project coordinator) implement the committee’s action ideas, facilitate communication among committee members, and in some cases, deliver programming. Collaborations also work because coordinators take the time to establish relationships and build partnerships. The involvement of the Aboriginal community particularly takes time as there are few representatives to attend meetings. Finally, establishing a vision, values and goals as a committee gives boundaries and direction for a strong future.

Betty Yee: “I’ve learned that the community is ready and willing to get involved; that we are fortunate to live in such a supportive and inclusive place that is ready for change. Youth do need support increasing their Essential Skills, but it’s difficult to engage those youth or to encourage their participation in “school-like” activities, or to engage the school system to undergo any systemic changes to evolve with the labour market. The community development process is not straightforward and literacy is such a huge topic, it’s easy to become trapped in identifying all the issues and becoming overwhelmed by the amount that must be done. Taking small steps that affect a handful of people is a good start. Government does not see the forest for the trees in their decision making process and that their myopic budgetary decisions have a bigger impact on people than they realize. We have to move forward despite the challenges because if not us, who will?”

Goals and Actions of 2011/12:

The following information details the goals of the Comox Valley Community Literacy Plan 2011 and the actions taken for 2011/12. The revised Comox Valley Community Literacy Plan 2012 can be found in Appendix 3.

Goal #1: Build a collaborative learning community

Actions:

- CVLLA, CVESP, and FLOAC each met monthly to share resources and information, direct the implementation of literacy plan, guide and support the literacy coordinators, and create, support, and/or enhance new literacy programming.

- CVLLA created a new website: a virtual hub for literacy practitioners, families, learners, and learning organizations. See: www.cvlifelonglearning.ca
- CVLLA created a Facebook page for Books for Treats, Family Literacy Week, and CVLLA.
- CVESP created and maintains a blog. See: www.cvesp.org.
- CVLLA co-organized and hosted a NI Literacy Gathering (November 2011).
- CVLLA maintains communication with Decoda Literacy Solutions

Goal #2: Support 2009/2010 Strategic Priorities

This goal addresses the actions carried out through the Essential Skills Partnership and Family Literacy Outreach committees. The work of each committee is described below.

Young Adults and Employment: Comox Valley Essential Skills Partnership

Betty Yee, CVESP Project Coordinator, created and facilitated the Community Supported Essential Skills Pilot Program. This program was created for work-ready youth aged 16-24, out of school, not currently working, with no EI attachment, who want to increase their workplace and employability skills. Two sessions were offered on Thursday afternoons from 12-4pm: starting March 1st to April 5th and April 12-May 16. The program was located at The Job Shop: 103-555 4th Street, Courtenay.

The goal of the project was to prepare participants for the realities of work and to support participants in becoming employable and maintaining employment. With access to actual documents and situations



from real employers, participants practiced workplace skills in a real life context. Participants were also connected to community resources and help them learn more about their education and employment options.

Participant outcomes and incentives:

- Lunch provided at each session
- Increased job search and workplace skills
- Opportunity to speak candidly with a different employer each week, learn about their path, do some informal Q&A
- Opportunity to have an interview experience with one or more employers which may lead to future employment
- A certificate of completion and honorarium for attending every session

CVESP Pilot Program participation

Session 1	Session 2	Totals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 6 participants enrolled ✓ 1 participant did not follow through ✓ 1 participant had a family emergency and missed a number of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 new participants enrolled, 1 is rolling over from session 1 ✓ 1 Participant did not follow through ✓ Of the remaining 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 10 enrolled ✓ 8 completed ✓ 5 employed

sessions – will participate in session 2 ✓ Of remaining 4 participants, 3 are employed – 1 was hired by an employer sponsor – Canadian Tire	participants, 2 are employed	
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Employer participants

Sponsors	Guest Speakers	Donations
✓ 97.3 The Eagle x 2 ✓ Canadian Tire ✓ Mount Washington ✓ Pateman and Company Chartered Accounting ✓ North Island College x2 ✓ Quality Foods Comox ✓ Wedler Engineering ✓ RCMP	✓ Coastal Community Credit Union x 2 ✓ WorkSafe BC x 2 ✓ BC Federation of Labour – Young Workers Awareness Program	✓ Subway ✓ Plates Eatery and Catering

Other actions:

- Betty Yee also visited the Nala’atsi program regularly to connect with young people and to support their work-related goals. Nala’atsi has approximately 25 students enrolled, with about 15 present at any given time.
- Betty made presentations/visits to the following organizations:
 - Decoda Literacy Solutions North Island Gathering (1 Presentation)
 - Vancouver Island Career Educators Association Annual General Meeting (1 Presentation)
 - Annual Kiwanis Club Girls Mentoring Day (1 presentation to 45 girls)
 - Nala’atsi Program at Aboriginal Education Centre (2 hours x 35 visits)
 - Family Literacy Day (1 day)
- Betty facilitates the Essential Skills workshop for Bladerunners
- Betty created Essential Skills tutor training curriculum for Adult Learning Centre tutors

Family Literacy Outreach



The Family Literacy Outreach Advisory Committee (FLOAC) was formed in September 2010, meets monthly, and includes representation from CVLLA, Success by Six, School District 71 (including two StrongStart facilitators), Comox Valley Family Services, Pacific Care, VIRL, North Island College, 4Rs Education Society, Comox Valley Social Planning Society, Comox Valley Child Development Agency, Aboriginal Head Start, and ECE-BC. Lynn Joseph, the Family Literacy Outreach Coordinator, coordinates FLOAC. FLOAC recently worked on their vision and goals for 2012/2013 (see Appendix 4).

Lynn Joseph organized the following family literacy events/activities during 2011/12:

- Books for Treats: 65 supervised children visited the Courtenay library on October 31 from 4 to 6pm. Books were handed out as treats by CVLLA, 4Rs Education Society, and VIRL Courtenay library.
- Family Literacy Week/Day: Family Literacy Day held at Courtenay library with:
 - oral storytellers/authors, local celebrities and a passport for the child's learning journey with interactive tables throughout the library facilitated by 7 learning agencies. Also North Island College and Job Shop set up information centres.
 - the Comox Valley Art Gallery - an artist facilitating artful writing with families and an Open House in the gallery
 - the passport was offering discounts in community with the involvement of Laughing Oyster Books, Zocalo Café and Whale's Tales Books.
 - 300 book bags for events at the Courtenay library, Royston, Aspen Park, Miracle Beach, Black Creek pre-school and Parents and Peanuts, Denman, Hornby) including 300 books, 250 activity books/games, 250 playdough/erasers/letter bracelets
- Big House experience for immigrant families from Immigrant Welcome Centre (cultural literacy)
- First Books Canada February: *First Books Canada* – 1,000 books given out to every Early Child Development program, Boys and Girls Club, Women's Transition Centre, Alano Club and Immigrant Welcome Centre; 500 books to the Vancouver Island Regional Libraries (Comox, Cumberland, Courtenay, Denman) for their summer reading program

In addition, FLOAC continues to support the following family literacy initiatives:

- Mother Goose and Friends: For families with young children, this initiative continues in School District 71. This year 96 families participated in five programs, eight weeks in length. There were two infant programs (0 – 12 months) and two toddler programs (1 – 3 years of age) and another multi age preschool group. These were held at Courtenay Recreation, Comox Recreation and Cumberland StrongStart.
- Mother Goose and More: For immigrant and ESL families. Piloted in 2009, this program continues to be popular among immigrant and ESL families. Partners include: School District 71, Immigrant Settlement Office, and Adult Learning Centre. In 2011/12 11 families participated in this program. Three Mother Goose and More ESL programs were attended by 11 families at Courtenay Elementary. Each program runs for eight weeks.
- Little Learners: A partnership between VIRL and CV Family Services, this program began in July 2009, to make the public library and its programs more accessible to vulnerable families.

Goal #3: Build the capacity of new and existing literacy services and initiatives

Actions:

- CVLLA initiated a literacy fundraising committee which intends to raise funds to support Comox Valley literacy programs and activities
- CVLLA strengthened relations with local newspapers and marketing agencies (Our Big Earth) to support marketing of literacy events and activities (including Family Literacy Week and Books for Treats)

- CVLLA LOC sits on CV Immigrant Welcome Centre Advisory Committee which meets every other month; the FLOC anticipates creating a program supported by both CV Immigrant Welcome Centre and CVLLA.
- CVLLA worked closely with Adult Learning Centre to support tutor training and CALP applications.
- CVLLA organized art literacy event at CV Art Gallery during FLW; CVLLA supported Story Slam at Zocalo Café during FLW

Goal #4: Continue the Comox Valley Literacy Now initiative beyond 2011

Actions:

- CVLN has non-profit society status and changed its name to Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association
- LOC position has been maintained for another year (2012/13)
- CVESP Project Coordinator position will continue until May 24th, 2013 at 10 hours/week for 32 weeks.
- FLOC position will continue until June 30th, 2013 at 10 hours/week
- CVLLA Board of Directors continue to effectively guide the community literacy planning process
- CVLLA maintains strong relations with Decoda Literacy Solutions
- School District 71 forwards any remaining Literacy Now funds to Comox Valley LifeLong Learning Association

Indications of success 2011/12:

Community-based literacy planning in the Comox Valley continues to build both the human capital of Comox Valley citizens and the social capital of the community. Below are some of the successes this year:

- The two community tables to address community based literacy realities continue: ES Partnership and FLOAC. Both groups meet regularly.
- Literacy coordinators meet and communicate regularly, sharing resources, information. All literacy coordinators are administrators of the website.
- Strong relationships between SD71 and community learning organizations. For example, SD71 representatives are members of both the ES Partnership Initiative and FLOAC.
- CVLLA is recognized and used as a hub for literacy contacts, resources, and information through the website and list-serve
- The community has a better understanding that literacy does not refer only to reading and writing anymore but includes essential skills, family literacy, cultural literacy etc.
- Business community/employers who worked with young people in the ES pilot program have a greater understanding that strong essential skills make a strong, resilient employee.
- Strong community support for Family Literacy Week from businesses (donations, prizes), service clubs (Rotary), municipal and provincial leaders (participation in Family Literacy Week activities), and learning organizations who held information tables and activities at the Courtenay library on Family Literacy Day
- Literacy promotion (particularly through Family Literacy Week activities and events) continues to increase awareness of literacy issues and barriers; increase referrals to literacy services;

increase collaboration among organizations; and increase awareness of literacy services to the public.

- The participation doubled on Family Literacy Day at the Courtenay library and four new community events were planned that week and all were well attended
- Facebook hits for Family Literacy Week's new page, Books for Treats page, and CVLLA page
- Volunteer student teacher for Family Literacy Day
- The Comox Valley Record sponsored the Family Literacy Week
- The Echo newspaper has approached us for involvement in fundraising for literacy – possibly Raise-a-Reader
- North Island College and SD71 continue to embed essential skills training in selected programs (e.g. ES for Trades at NIC; BEST program offered through SD71)
- North Island College has supported the connection among North Island communities through community-based literacy outreach coordination. A North Island literacy gathering is planned for the fall of 2012
- School District 71 continues to move forward on their broad mandate of district-wide and community-wide literacy planning and implementation
- School District 71 has enhanced learning and literacy programs and resources for younger children and their families (Mother Goose and Friends, Mother Goose and More, Little Learners and StrongStart programs)
- The work on developing transition processes between Early Learning and school communities has been very successful and assisted in a clear process that values the work of early childhood educators and is creating a more seamless transition for families
- School District 71 has been able to reach out to vulnerable and isolated families (e.g. Mother Goose and More, StrongStart outreach) and youth (e.g. BEST program, ES pilot program) who might not otherwise access learning/literacy resources/programs

Stories from young people involved in the Essential Skills project:

Student 1: youth pilot participant is attending Glacier View and admitted to not being very motivated to continue her schooling. After attending but not participating in the majority of the ES sessions, LW met our last employer sponsor, Wedler Engineering. This student met with a drafter, an architect, and a civil engineer. Each talked about their schooling and career paths and shared their schooling experiences. One talked about hating high school and doing poorly, but flourishing in college and university once he was learning for a purpose. Another employer shared about how she excelled in high school but was bored by it and decided post-secondary wasn't for her. It wasn't until she had some work experience that she realized her skills would not get the compensation she was seeking without a post-secondary credential. This realization triggered her to complete her degree. One employer discussed his involvement with the military, which paid for all his training. Student 1, newly inspired by these stories stated that she now sees school in a different light and understands the value of having her diploma. With a new goal of drafting/architecture, LW said she will give more effort to her schooling.

Student 2, youth pilot participant is a full time grade 12 student taking her electives this semester. She wanted to learn more about employment and to meet employers so she attended the first session during March Break with a promise to get her school administrator's blessing to attend the next 5 sessions. The first session MR and the rest of the participants completed mock interviews with Quality Foods and afterwards, we debriefed and did follow up discussion about

interviewing. That night, MR submitted a resume to Crown Isle – she interviewed on the spot and was hired as a housekeeper!

Ongoing Challenges:

Community-based literacy planning is not without its challenges. Some of the more significant hurdles that CVLLA encounters include:

- Sustained funding for the implementation of the community literacy plan
- Diminished capacity of some learning organizations to meet the needs of their learners due to reduced funding
- Lack of professional development opportunities for literacy practitioners
- CVLLA does not have charitable status yet and cannot issue tax receipts.
- For CVESP: Surprisingly, the challenge was finding youth to participate in the pilot who met the criteria (no EI, not in school, work ready, with SIN #). Despite having a large referral network, many youth who inquired/were referred were either very high functioning and really didn't need the support, or youth who needed so much support (from mental health, youth worker, etc) that they really weren't work ready. Given this, our intention was to have 6 youth in each session, but we were unable to meet that goal. Fortunately, finding employers or food donations was extremely easy – the business community is definitely on board and supportive.
- Essential Skills can be interesting if participants see the direct relevance and are at the same skill level, but it's difficult to provide materials that are relevant to every participant at each skill level.
- Greater provincial awareness and advocacy for community-based literacy (i.e. supporting Raise-a-Reader efforts province-wide)
- Increased dialogue with and support from Ministry of Education and local School District

Goals and Actions for 2012/2013:

The Community Literacy Plan (Appendix 5) has been updated to reflect CVLLA's current status, goals and strategies. The plan, which has been approved by the Board of Directors of CVLLA, will guide further action for 2012/13. CVLLA will continue to act as a hub for literacy contacts, information, and resources.

As a hub, CVLLA hopes to continue its work in:

- servicing as a convenor, connector and networker
- building capacity among community stakeholders
- coordinating, linking, and leveraging resources for literacy and essential skills activities (including professional development of literacy practitioners)
- cultivating relationships, partnerships, leadership and innovation
- raising awareness and creating a common vision among community stakeholders
- providing services and resources that fill gaps in the community literacy/ES sector
- fund raising and distribution to community stakeholders

CVLLA is investigating applying for charitable status. CVLLA also hopes to expand its partner base through its membership to build its capacity to support community-based literacy and essential skills initiatives.

Appendix 1: Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association

Board of Directors

Martin Petter	President and former VP Education NIC
Tony Bellavia	Vice-President and NIC Dean – Developmental and Access
Colleen Nelson	Secretary-Treasurer and VIRT – Customer Services Librarian II, Comox Branch
Janice Cashin	CALLS – Adult Learning Centre Board Chair
Roger Kishi	Wachiay Friendship Centre
Sheila Shanahan	SD71 - Assistant Superintendent
Stephen R. Warren	VIRT – Courtenay Branch Manager
MaryAnn McCrae	Former SD71 Director of Student Services
Bruce Brautigam	Creative Employment Access Society
Danielle Hoogland	Literacy Outreach Coordinator

Comox Valley Essential Skills Partnership members

Betty Yee	Project Coordinator
Martin Petter	President and former VP Education NIC
Tony Bellavia	Vice-President and NIC Dean – Developmental and Access
Dianne Hawkins	Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce
Janice Cashin	CALLS – Adult Learning Centre Board Chair
Roger Kishi	Wachiay Friendship Centre
Randy Grey	SD71 Lead Teacher - Careers
Bruce Brautigam	Creative Employment Access Society
Danielle Hoogland	Literacy Outreach Coordinator

Family Literacy Outreach Advisory Committee

Lynn Joseph	Family Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Martin Petter	President and former VP Education NIC
Colleen Nelson	Secretary-Treasurer and VIRT – Customer Services Librarian II, Comox Branch
Sheila Shanahan	SD71 - Assistant Superintendent
MaryAnn McCrae	Former SD71 District Principal
Danielle Hoogland	Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Jane Hughes	CV Family Services – Healthy Families Program
Elizabeth Shannon	LUSH Valley, Social Planning
Carlene Steeves	SD71 StrongStart facilitator
Colleen Friendship	SD71 StrongStart facilitator
Sue Warren	Pacific Care
Terry Loudon	Aboriginal Head Start
Pam Moore	Aboriginal Head Start
Thea Senior	4Rs Education Society
Danielle Hoogland	CV LOC

Appendix 2: Hornby Island Literacy Plan Report

1) Who is in your task group and how is the work of the task group organized?

The Hornby Island Literacy task force is comprised of members of the community representing different stakeholder groups whose focus ranges from early childhood education to advanced care planning for elders. This includes members of the Hornby Island Preschool, Hornby Island Community School, Hornby /Denman Community Health Care Society.

We do not meet regularly as a specific task force because I do outreach in the community, have regular office hours, and meet on a regular basis with several members of the task force in various other related capacities such as: the Health Network, the Hornby Island Educational Society, the Elder Housing Committee, the Economic Enhancement Committee.

2) Community context: what has happened in the community over the past year that impacts people in the community and the ability to support literacy development?

- Jobs are scarce, in this community of just over 1000, and year-round housing is an issue of concern on Hornby Island. Although there are very few secure jobs (in any sector) on Hornby Island; the cost of living is steadily increasing without any indication of new job opportunities (or that wages will increase) to match the demands. Ferry fares continue to increase (+60% over the past 6 years) providing increased financial barriers to accessing both educational and social services available only in larger centres. Rental housing has become scarce, as more homeowners have come to rely on income from summer visitors to cover taxes and upkeep costs. This, in turn, has profound consequences for individuals and young families who are unable to secure year round affordable housing.
- Two local families (totaling 5 school-aged children) are forced to relocate from Hornby before the next school year due to lack of affordable year-round housing.
- Two off-island families (totaling 5 school-aged children) have enrolled in the Hornby Community School for September 2012, but have (so far) been unable to secure housing.
- The vast majority of families are either single-parent, or two working parents which increases barriers to participation in the Community projects with the School, or PAC, and limits the amount of volunteer time that parents can spend engaging in literacy initiatives.
- In the past year we have lost several key members of the community; in a community of this size, multiple deaths –as well as having a profound effect on a personal level– also leave gaps in all aspects of the community including losses to boards, nonprofits, and the volunteer sector.
- As the community is heavily weighted toward an aging demographic, there are tangible effects on the workforce as well. Approximately 25 people are employed as home care workers.

3) What are the important collaborations that have taken place? What are the essential ongoing collaborations? What makes collaborations work?

- Important ongoing collaborations include ongoing interface with Comox Valley Lifelong Learning (CVLLA), Comox Valley Family Literacy Outreach Advisory Committee (FLOAC), Decoda Literacy

Solutions, Hornby Island Economic Enhancement Committee (HICEEC), Hornby Island Elder Housing Committee, Hornby/Denman Health Network, Community Action Support Together (CAST), Wachiay Friendship Society (Rhonda Billie- Homeless Outreach Coordinator/ Vivienne Goring- Advocacy), Ad-hoc Emergency Response Organization (AHERO), and Victim Services.

These collaborations rely upon frequent exchange of information, shared resources, and an active model of listening and engaging with one another to broaden and strengthen our capacity to serve our communities.

4) What priorities, goals and objectives have you addressed this year?

- Expanding outreach in the community by initiating collaboration between Associations & Societies in the form of shared calendars and information with the intention of supporting volunteer base efforts by eliminating unnecessary duplication.
- A newly defined goal to dovetail fundraising efforts within the community by adopting a collaborative overview and fundraising model among societies and nonprofits.
- Addressing Housing as a community health issue directly related to the ability of families and individuals to thrive in all other aspects of their lives.
- Implementation and launch of a community based resource blog to compile local resources and frequently requested information in one simple location
- Promoting better use of existing online resources and providing and promoting links to these.
- We support CVLLA & FLOAC's position that a unified vision of education and literacy be adopted by the entire SD71, and that funding and implementation of this vision should, at the outset, focus on the early learning years, in order to build capacity, with the intent that –as a unified model develops– we will be in a better position to build on the programs already in place, to further develop capacity multilaterally through the lifelong learning age groups.

5) What adjustments were made to the plan?

- In 2012 (our second implementation year) more emphasis has been placed on individual literacy support, family financial literacy support, and on working closely with other groups to strengthen support systems throughout the community.
- Because the Hornby Denman Community Health Care Society has been working with community members on an in depth Age Friendly Community Survey, we have looked to them to better assess the needs of our elders in the community

What are the new opportunities?

- There are presently many young families on the island with children under 5 who have demonstrated a desire to “put down roots” and become long-term residents. If we can address this group's needs (such as housing, jobs, life skills literacy, parenting support) we will be able to help a new generation of islanders thrive and become healthy contributing members of the community.
- Working together with CVLLA & FLOAC to help bring focus to early years literacy and family literacy.

6) What were you unable to address this year? Why?

- Due to limited hours and local resource infrastructure, we have been unable to address homelessness in any meaningful way. In my capacity as literacy outreach support person I am in contact with many individuals who are new to the island, and/or are of no fixed address. The closest shelter is in Courtenay, and is not accessed by public transit. The incidence of homelessness (both seasonal and year-round) continues to plague this island. Many families with school-aged children live in substandard housing situations, or are forced to move regularly to accommodate homeowners or higher paying tenants during the summer months. There is a dire shortage of affordable rental housing.

7) How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy?

- The word of mouth referrals, which continue to bring in clients who represent a wide array of life skills literacy needs.
- An increased awareness of our services and a closer relationship between service providers.
- Youth, adults and seniors regularly accessing education information, participating in workshops, and online training.
- 500+ visits (hits) to the newly-launched Resource blog – <http://hornbyresource.blogspot.ca/>
- Interest exhibited by other associations to work together to become more transparent and remove barriers to service.

8) What impact have the literacy initiatives had?

- Increase in public dialogue/awareness of Late Life-Planning options and resources.
- Seniors are reaching out to learn new technologies (ipad, windows, email, skype) in order to access information, connect with family, and do banking.
- Seniors have successfully applied for SAFER grants, or addressed financial planning hurdles to enable them to live independently and “age in place”
- Adults and youth have gained confidence through support in writing resumés and letters of application to continuing studies institutions.
- Increase in community awareness of the value of shared information/calendars among societies and service providers as a measure toward maximizing both volunteer and paid hours by cutting down on redundant tasks.

9) What are the things that support literacy work?

- Building ongoing communication support networks between service providers in order to create a comprehensive network of literacy resources.
- Working together with the School district, FLOAC, CVLLA, Decoda Literacy Solutions to create a cohesive literacy “vision” which is implemented & supported at all levels.

10) What are the difficulties?

- Difficulties in implementing literacy outreach on Hornby Island are primarily related to:
 - **Economic constraints** (low incomes, few jobs, seasonal economy)
 - **Low capacity for parent involvement** (single parents, two working parents)
 - **Remote location** no public transportation.

- **Low rate of computer literacy**
- **Lack of secure year-round housing** for families and adults.
- **No Public transportation** linking Hornby to Denman or Comox Valley Services.
- **Prohibitive transportation costs:** to leave the island to access education or services. BC Ferry Rates have increased more than 60% over the past 6 years.

Current BC Ferry Rates:

Regular Ferry Fare: **\$60.80 –car and driver single trip** to Buckley bay, Vancouver Island

*Reduced** Ferry Fare: \$36.20 –car and driver single trip to Buckley bay, Vancouver Island

**Available only IF you have (and can afford) a loaded Experience Card* which requires a minimum of \$95.00 to load (\$24.60 savings per trip) http://www.bcferrys.com/travel_planning/fares/

- **Lack of access** to most training opportunities and workshops offered in the Comox Valley due to aforementioned barriers. Last ferry* is 6pm *(except Fridays).

11) What would help?

- To collect & share information/stories regarding barriers to literacy outreach from similar “satellite” service centres in the Comox Valley Regional District and SD71 (such as Black Creek, Oyster bay, Denman Island, Fanny bay etc.)
- Purpose: to promote understanding of the special challenges faced by remote or satellite communities in order to better implement lifelong learning opportunities and to support the work being done throughout the Comox Valley (by SD71, FLOAC, CVLLA, LUSH, AHERO, CEAS, Wachiy Friendship Centre, Victim Services, and many others) as a cohesive whole.
- Securing ongoing funding for LOC positions province-wide.
- Creating a liaison with NIC (North Island College/Elder College), and continuing education institutions to support mobile learning outreach (i.e. explore the cost of bringing one instructor to Hornby to teach a course vs. taking a number of (min enrollment) students to NIC)

Appendix 3: Comox Valley Community Literacy Plan – Spring 2012

Vision: Literacy for Life

- Goal 1: Build a collaborative learning community
- Goal 2: Support 2009/2010 strategic priorities
- Goal 3: Build the capacity of new and existing literacy services and initiatives
- Goal 4: Build the organizational capacity of CVLLA

Abbreviations used in the following table:

CVLLA: Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association

CVLLA Board: Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association Board of Directors

- ALC (Janice Cashin) NIC (Tony Bellavia), Wachiay (Roger Kishi), SD71 (Sheila Shanahan), VIRL (Colleen Nelson and Stephen R. Warren), CEAS (Bruce Brautigam) and 2 community representatives (Martin Petter – former VP of Education at NIC, and MaryAnn McCrea – former SD71 Director of Student Services)

ES: Essential Skills

- ES Partnership Coordinator – Betty Yee

FLO: Family Literacy Outreach

- FLO Project Coordinator – Lynn Joseph

FLOAC: Family Literacy Outreach Advisory Committee

ALC: Comox Valley Adult Learning Centre (CALLS)

SD71: School District 71

NIC: North Island College

CEAS: Creative Employment Access Society

EYIAC: Early Years Interagency Committee

LOC: Literacy Outreach Coordinator – Comox Valley: Danielle Hoogland; Hornby Island: Mia Wood

MLU: Mobile Literacy Unit

CAVE: Comox Valley Aboriginal Visioning Empowerment

VIRL: Vancouver Island Regional Library

WCDES: World Community Development Education Society

Decoda: Decoda Literacy Solutions

PALS: Parents as Literacy Supporters

GOAL #1: Build a collaborative learning community

Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
Maintain and expand CVLLA board and members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and host AGM in October of each year • Solicit CVLLA membership • CVLLA remains connected to other interagencies through member participation (Frontline, Social Planning, EYIAC, CAVE, Lake Trail Community initiative) • CVLLA Board participates on additional subcommittees: ES Partnership and FLOAC • Continue to engage non-traditional partners (local government, business community) through presentations & community meetings • Continue to engage under-represented and multi-barriered people (and/or their representatives) from our community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVLLA Board of Directors • CVLLA Members • CV LOC • ES Partnership Project Coordinator • FLO Project Coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVLLA Board meetings occur; minutes distributed to directors • Relationships among partner organizations are strengthened • Partnerships are created among organizations to address literacy realities • Relationships created with local govt., and business community • Literacy/ES presentations made to service organizations, interagencies, Directors, school board, etc. • Under-represented and multi-barriered groups (and/or their representatives) participate in CVLLA meetings, forums, and workshops.
Use website and social media to effectively communicate literacy information, news, programs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep website and facebook content current and relevant • Generate awareness about website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVLLA LOC • Website: www.cvlifelonglearning.ca • Decoda Literacy Solutions • Valleylinks • ES Coordinator • FLO Coordinator • Social media tools: Facebook, Twitter, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVLLA members, community stakeholders, and learners are able to easily access literacy information and resources • CVLLA members are able to effectively communicate literacy and learning related news and activities • CVLLA is a hub for literacy contacts and

			information
CVLLA continues to connect with North Island learning organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite NI partners to Comox Valley for selected literacy and learning events, meetings, workshops, etc. • CV literacy practitioners attend NI meetings, conferences, etc. • Continue to foster a North Island learning network • Support NI literacy practitioner event – Fall 2012 (NIC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV LOC • Hornby LOC • ES Project Coordinator • FLO Project Coordinator • ALC Volunteer Coordinator • NIC • SD71 • Decoda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV literacy practitioners are well represented at NI literacy events • Strengthen relationships with NI literacy partner organizations • North Island communities continue to network and connect, share resources and information, and support one another

GOAL #2: Support 2009/2010 Strategic Priorities²

Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
Support the Essential Skills Partnership Initiative (#1,2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVLLA supports ES Partnership initiative through participation on ES Advisory Committee • CVLLA works with community partners to seek means to maintain and evolve the ES Partnership initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV LOC • DIRECTORSCVLLA • ES Advisory Committee • CV Chamber of Commerce • OLES • Unions • NIC • SD71 • CEAS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential skills partnership initiative is supported and sustained beyond 2012
Support workplace literacy initiatives (#1,2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for workplace essential skills programs in the Comox Valley • CVLLA and ES Partnership is aware of current effective workplace literacy resources and programs • CVLLA and ES Partnership work together to create and/or support relevant workplace literacy programs (includes social-cultural and age relevant programs, as well as labour market relevance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Development and Housing • Ministry of Advanced Ed. • ALC • Fundraising committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace essential skills programs are available in the Comox Valley • Businesses implement workplace essential skill programs

² The three strategic priorities include:

1. Young adults in transition into adulthood, postsecondary education and the workplace (aged 15-25)
2. Literacy and learning related to the employability of unemployed/underemployed people
3. Outreach to isolated and vulnerable families and parents

<p>Support the Family Literacy Outreach initiative (#3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA supports the FLO Coordinator through participation on FLOAC CVLLA works with community partners to find means to maintain and evolve Family Literacy Outreach initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CV LOC CVLLA Directors FLOAC FLO Coordinator SD71 SD71 Literacy Outreach Service clubs/organizations Chamber of Commerce EYIAC Success by Six ALC Fundraising committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDI levels improve FLO initiative is supported and sustained
<p>Support literacy and learning initiatives/programs for young adults transitioning to PSE, adulthood and the workplace (#1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build capacity of new and existing literacy programs for young adults through advocacy, promotion, and outreach Engage young adults in community-based planning of literacy programs <p>Existing programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work BC Satellite office (CEAS and Courtenay Rec.) Alternate programs – SD71 NIC ABE and UPgrading Bladerunners <p>New programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Trail Community programs ES Partnership Initiative (spring 2012) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frontline workers CAVE SD71 NIC CVLLA ALC Valleylinks CEAS ES Coordinator CVLOC Courtenay Recreation Lake Trail Community programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning organizations work together to address the literacy needs of young adults through partnership and collaboration New accessible literacy programs for young adults are available in the Comox Valley Number of young adults (aged 15-25) participating in literacy programs increases CVLLA is aware of current realities of young adult community

GOAL #3: Build the capacity of new and existing literacy services and initiatives

Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
Generate awareness and promote learning and literacy in the Comox Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate Family Literacy Day in January of each year Create opportunities for organizations to promote their learning services and programs through advocacy and outreach Marketing campaign in local media to highlight the importance of literacy and promote community literacy events/programs/initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA FLOAC FLO Coordinator CV LOC Family Literacy Day subcommittee VIRL SD71 NIC Service Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and community members participate in family literacy day activities and events Learning organizations create exciting and innovative programs and activities that involve families in literacy and learning Community wide promotion of life-long learning and literacy Funds are allocated toward celebration of FLW
Build capacity of cultural literacy initiatives	<p>Existing cultural literacy initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide opportunities to connect and network with ESL community Continue to support and advocate Mother Goose and More Support Aboriginal youth art and language projects through presentation and dissemination of art <p>New cultural literacy initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Aboriginal groups in building libraries of culturally relevant books and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrant Support Services ALC – ESL program NIC – ELSAP SD71 CVLLA CVLOC Wachiay, AEC, K'omoks First Nation VIRL Community Cafés (or others) Art galleries (CVAG, Muir) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA connects regularly with ESL community and remains aware of the community's current realities Partnerships are sustained among ESL service/learning providers Promote and celebrate Aboriginal youth art projects in the community Culturally relevant materials are available and accessible at Comox Valley public library branches and Wachiay Funds are allocated to supporting cultural literacy initiatives
Build capacity of Family Literacy Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FLOAC supports and enhances a continuum of family literacy outreach programs and services in the Comox Valley (Vision statement, FLOAC, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLOC CVLLA SD71 FLOAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness is developed re: family literacy programs and services Family literacy practitioners have a support network and participate in

	<p>May 2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FLOAC “grows collaborative community connections to develop family literacy understanding and practice” (Goal 2, FLOAC, May 2012) FLOAC maintains “awareness of fluctuating regions of vulnerability and advocates for responsive programming” (Goal 3, FLOAC, May 2012) <p>Existing Family Literacy Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little Learners Mother Goose and More <p>New Family Literacy Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer programs Literacy programs as part of Lake Trail Neighbourhood Learning Centre Family literacy outreach program (funded through CALP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FLO Coordinator ALC Lake Trail Neighbourhood Connections Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club 	<p>professional development opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family resilience is strengthened Mobile literacy models are researched and inventoried. Existing programs are supported and sustained Funds are allocated to supporting family literacy programs
Build capacity of fundamental adult literacy programs	<p>Existing programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CALP (through ALC) ELSAP and ELSA NIC – ABE and Upgrading Reaching out initiative – NIC/CEAS <p>New programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Literacy programs as part of Lake Trail Neighbourhood Learning Centre Adult literacy outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALC NIC SD71 CVLLA CVLLA Directors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing programs are supported and sustained Funds are allocated to supporting fundamental adult literacy programs
Connect literacy and learning to the Arts	<p>Existing programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCDES learning film series NIC Reads, English Dept., StorySlam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLOC Aboriginal Community Multicultural Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film and media programs are available and accessible in the Comox Valley

<p>Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at Zocalo Cafe • Writers groups and circles, youth zines etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALC • Valleylinks • WCDES • Arts community (NIC Emily Carr, CVALG, IHOS, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships are created and maintained with Arts community
<p>Build community capacity to address literacy realities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV literacy practitioners connect and support each other (through meetings, correspondence, etc.) • Invest in and support the professional development of literacy practitioners • Organize and host learning forums/gatherings/workshops for CVLLA and community stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV LOC • Hornby LOC • ES Project Coord. • ALC Tutor Coord.and tutors • FLO Project Coord. • Wachiy • NIC Upgrading & ABE • SD71 • CVLLA DIRECTORS • CVLLA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy practitioners share information and resources • Literacy practitioners participate in professional development activities • CVLLA members and community stakeholders participate in learning forum and increase their knowledge of literacy practices • Funds are allocated toward professional development

GOAL 4: Build the organizational capacity of CVLLA

Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
Maintain LOC position beyond 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to the Ministry of Ed. and the Decoda Literacy Solutions for continued funding and support of LOC positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA CVLLA Directors CV and Hornby LOC SD71 NIC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOC position is continued beyond 2012
CVLLA becomes a registered charity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate charitable status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA Directors CVLLA LOC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA becomes a charitable organization
CVLLA Directors continues to guide CVLLA initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review of terms of reference Monthly meetings Review of literacy plan and district literacy plan Review of budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA Directors CVLLA LOC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA Board of Directors is able to effectively guide CVLLA into the future
Sustain community-based planning process to address local literacy realities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to the Ministry of Ed., Ministry of Advanced Ed., Ministry of Social Dev. And Housing for continued support Advocate to municipal, provincial, regional, and federal government representatives for continued support Maintain strong relations with the Decoda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVLLA CVLLA LOC CVLLA Directors Literacy stakeholders and supporters Decoda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue District Literacy Plan CVLLA and literacy stakeholders continue to connect, share knowledge and information, partner and plan together Literacy initiatives are sustained in our community

Appendix 4: FLOAC Vision, Values and Goals – Spring 2012

Comox Valley Family Literacy Outreach Advisory Committee

Vision statement

To support and enhance a continuum of family literacy outreach programs and services in the Comox Valley

Values

To support family literacy outreach programs and services that are: equitable, intergenerational, culturally sensitive, accessible, and that focus on family literacy and language skills

Goal 1

To focus on the early years, supporting programs and services in our community

- Develop awareness in community (Comox Valley) of programs and services
- Advocate for sustainable funding to maintain these programs/services,
- Allocate funding of coordinator time to create networks and
- Plan and facilitate monthly meetings to develop collaborative, inclusive relationships

Goal 2

To grow collaborative community connections to develop family literacy understanding and practice

- Allocate funding to support coordinator time to network and develop interagency relationships
- Support collaboration for literacy events
- Disseminate information on family literacy
- Promote representation from all family literacy programs/services at monthly meetings
- Maintain a current and accessible website
- Support/develop initiatives for public dissemination of information
- Advocate for and support professional development opportunities
 - a) supporting local facilitators in offering early years family literacy training
 - b) co-hosting visiting experts for relevant workshops.

Goal 3

To maintain awareness of fluctuating regions of vulnerability and advocate for responsive programming

- Strengthen resilience within families of all cultures
- Research strengths and needs in every distinct, local community (rural and urban)
- Compile an inventory of mobile literacy models
- Research existing models in other communities that could be tailored to address our community needs.

Appendix 5: Enrolment Trends in School District 71



Enrolment Trends – SD71 (Comox Valley) - Total

