



School District #45 (West Vancouver)

# DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN

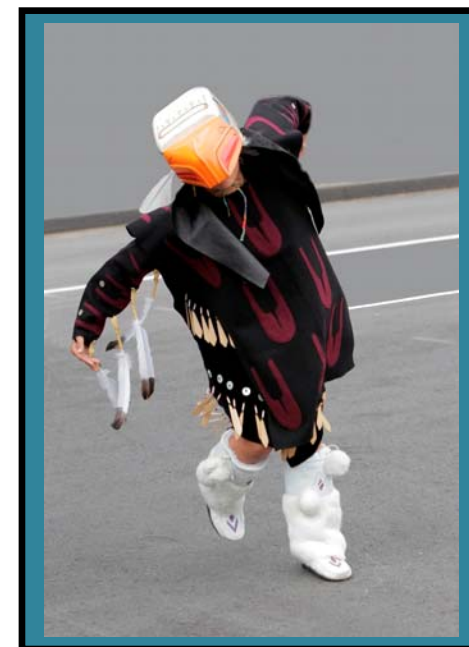


June 2012



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## SECTION 1: Introduction

The purpose of the *District Literacy Plan* is to provide a framework to support the literacy development of people of all ages within our community. This commitment by the West Vancouver Board of Education ensures that the school district continues to work with community partners, in a community-wide process to create a literacy plan that outlines progress and opportunities. The *West Vancouver District Literacy Plan* is essentially a community literacy plan created to support learners across all age groups, cultures and socio-economic groups in both West Vancouver and the North Shore. Building positive relationships and continuing dialogue with our community partners has allowed us to determine specific literacy goals relevant to these learners. This document is intended to be a living document which will guide the district and community-based work that leads literacy development in our community.

## SECTION 2: District/Community Context and Demographics

The West Vancouver School district includes the District of West Vancouver, the Capilano 5 Reserve, the village of Lions Bay and Bowen Island – an area of 18.5 kilometres stretching east of the Capilano River to Howe Sound. West Vancouver is located on the traditional lands of the Squamish Nation. The district has three secondary schools, three primary schools, and eleven elementary schools, including two, single-track French Immersion elementary schools.

An important part of the *West Vancouver District Literacy Plan* includes our adult learners in the community. There are over 42,000 people living in West Vancouver and in 2006, 15,455 of those residents were immigrants to Canada. The identified Aboriginal population of the area west of the Capilano 5 Reserve is less than 200. Within the West Vancouver Local Health Area (*WVLA*) 85% of the population lives in West Vancouver, 5% on the Capilano 5 Reserve, 7% on Bowen Island and the remaining 3% in Lions Bay Village.

The West Vancouver demographics remain relatively stable, with an aging population, declining birth rates and slower population growth than most Coast Metro districts. However, with increased numbers of immigrant families moving to West Vancouver and a much improved understanding and focus on our First Nations community members in the district, we have a commitment to improving the adult literacy programs throughout the district over the next few years.

## SECTION 3: Process for Consultation

Consultation for the plan involved our district playing a leadership role on the *North Shore Literacy Task Group*. The literacy coordinators also represent our interests at the ELL subcommittee and First Nations subcommittee. Consultation also involved information sharing with community partners and district personnel involved in literacy programming/assessment; and presenting the *District Literacy Plan* to the West Vancouver School District Board of Education in June 2012 for approval.

## SECTION 4: Alignment with the West Vancouver School District Achievement Contract

The *West Vancouver School District Achievement Contract* for 2012/2013 continues to identify literacy as a main focus for all schools, both secondary and elementary. This aligns closely to the Ministry of Education goal for all learners in the province. Our *Annual School Plans* each include literacy as part of the school goals. We have connected our *District Literacy Plan* to the *2012/2013 District Achievement Contract* to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of all learners.

### Reading Comprehension

The *District Achievement Contract* recognizes the importance of reading comprehension of all students. Performance Indicators include the K/1 Screener, FSA results, Satisfaction Surveys and English 10 Government Program exams. Early learning programs such as *StrongStart centres*, *Ready, Set, Learn*, *Welcome to Kindergarten* and the Montessori preschool and primary programs ensure that our youngest students are well prepared for school.

### English Language Learners

The *District Achievement Contract* also focuses on developing the literacy skills of our English Language Learners. Our demographics are changing. From September 2010 to September 2011, our ELL numbers have increased 8% in both elementary and secondary. Two elementary schools have ELL populations in excess of 44% of FTE. In February 2012, we recorded 735 ELL students in the district, up from 583 in February 2011. ELL students comprise approximately 10% of the district population and there are approximately 1,300 students who are either ELL or International learners. There has been an overall improvement in pass rates in a range of core areas for ELL students, including English 10, Social Studies 11, Communications 12 and English 12, but their achievements are still generally lower than the non-ELL population. Previous ELL targets which focused on success rates in secondary school core academic courses have been met, and now more challenging targets have been set. The focus of the *District Literacy Plan* is on ELL of all ages within the community.

### Digital Literacy

The *District Achievement Contract* includes a goal to improve the digital literacy of all students. We have made great progress this year with our implementation of models of literacy learning with the Student Dashboards for Grades 4 – 7 students. This model will be expanded for our secondary students next year with the support of the digital literacy support teachers in each school. The district digital literacy committee is also in the process of completing a *K-7 Digital Literacy Framework* for student outcomes at each key stage of development.

## SECTION 5: West Vancouver School District 45 – Literacy Highlights in our Public Schools

### District-wide literacy events:

- Booktopia
- Student Dashboards – Grades 4-7
- First Nations Literacy – Squamish Nation Oral Storytelling
- West Vancouver Legion Writing Awards
- MP Awards – Canadian Content
- District Blog-a-Thon 2012 - Intermediate Grades

### School events:

#### Secondary Schools

##### **ROCKRIDGE, SENTINEL, WEST VANCOUVER SECONDARY**

Digital Literacy, Secondary Futures, ELL Literacy Outreach, Squamish Nation History and Oral Language, Capilano University Welcoming Communities Forum, Middle Years Matters – Social Media Workshop

#### Elementary Schools

**BICS** – Author’s Visit – Ron Woodall – Sophie’s Stories Program; BICS Youth Curators Program; Letters for the World; Parents as Partners; Afterschool Programs – Reading/Writing support

**CAULFEILD** – Six Traits Program- Literacy connections; Digital Literacy K-7; Writing Inquiry Model; Buddy Reading – Primary/Intermediate

**CEDARDALE** – Afternoon of the Notables; Parents as Partners - Primary Home Reading Program; Grade 6/7 Blogging

**CHARTWELL** – Grades 4-7 Blogging and Vlogging; Literary focus on Rights Respecting Schools

**CYPRESS PARK** - Author Visit - Carolyn Adderson -How We Express Ourselves Unit of Inquiry; Writing Power – Primary workshop; Digital Literacy; development of common assessment/learning language for literacy across the grades

**EAGLE HARBOUR** – Writing Power Workshop and implementation, Digital Literacy focus on Keynote, iMovie, PowerPoint and alternative ways to record/represent learning

**GLENEAGLES** – WeBlogs connected to Me to We; FastForWord; Step up to Writing; Squamish Nation Oral and Written Storytelling; Parents as Partners Home Reading Program; Buddy Reading - Primary

**HOLLYBURN** – Music Literacy Project K-7; Digital Literacy- focus on blogging – Grade 6/7; First Nations Storytelling/Talking Stick; ELL – focus on oral language

**IRWIN PARK** – Author Visit – Barry Deutsch – graphic novels; Parents as Partners Home Reading Program K-5; District Blog-a-Thon – Grade 6/7; Step up to Writing K-7

**LIONS BAY** – Daily Five; Grand Buddies Reading Program; Writing Power; Reading Power; Digital Literacy – Screen Chomp – Gr 3; Squamish Nation Oral Storytelling; Peer coaching with Reading; Writing Circles – Laura Numeroff

**PAULINE JOHNSON** – Capilano University Communications Dept – Grade 6/7 Writing Project on Homelessness connected to Harvest Project; Author Visit – Katia Cacioni; Grade 6/7 Blogging; Buddy Reading – Intermediate and Primary

**RIDGEVIEW** -Author visits: Melanie Jackson and Linda Bailey; First Nations Storyteller through the Talking Stick Festival; Emma the Reading dog (outreach dog through St John's ambulance for reluctant readers); Story Theatre Company cultural presentation; Readers Theatre; Grade 2, 4, 7; Parents as Partners in reading; budding reading across the grades; Shakespeare plays in Grade 3; Greek Mythology Plays in Grade 7; Storybird for all primary students;

**WEST BAY** - Author Visits – Lori Sherritt and Anastasia Hendry; Creation of Fable Books; Poet Artist in Residence Dina Del Bucchia – Spoken Word - Inquiry Based Community Project on global citizenship – research to poetry; Community presentations of final projects – Oral Language

**WESTCOT** – Author Visit – Barry Deutsch; FastForWord; Buddy Reading; Reading Power – Primary; Storytelling through iMovie; Grade 6/7 blogging

### SECTION 6: Alignment with the North Shore Community Literacy Plan

District Literacy planning is intended to build on the Community Literacy planning process. The West Vancouver school district has been a stakeholder member of the *North Shore Community Literacy Task Force* since June 2007, and participates in regular meetings to review, plan, and implement literacy programming on the North Shore (see Appendix A for *Committee Membership*).

The *North Shore Literacy Now Task Force* continues to focus on the strategies outlined in the *Community Literacy Plan* (see Appendix B for the *North Shore Literacy Now Report*). This report incorporates the vision of literacy that is common to both the West Vancouver and North Vancouver school districts' literacy plans including goals for all learners.

Our community partnerships have enabled us to connect to successful literacy initiatives and programs across the North Shore this year including:

- **Immigrant PALS** (Parents as Literacy Supporters) program – scaffolding English Language acquisition for Farsi and Korean parents and caregivers through our SWIS Workers
- **MP Writing Award contest** – Grade 6/7 students focusing on a Canadian-themed topic to present to a public audience
- **Mother Goose Programs** – supporting parents and infants from Woodcroft and the Squamish Nation
- **The Friendship Circle** - supported by the West Vancouver HUB partnership
- **The Rights of the Child Program** – including student awareness programs in schools and a major NS Community event with WV student representatives sharing their work from the *Me to We* campaign
- **The Wonder of Learning** – *The 100 Languages of Children* – Reggio Emilia Workshops for early learning teachers across the North Shore
- **Yew'in'tsnitway – Understanding Each Other** - Squamish Nation Health and Education Conference for all learners 2011/2012
- **Eslha7an Aboriginal program for youth and adults** – Literacy and Health support for First Nations families
- **English Language Learners** - classes for youth, adults and seniors – offered across the North Shore by the *NS Multicultural Society*



**SECTION 7: Reflections on 2011/2012 District Literacy Plan**

The ongoing work in regards to the four community pillars for literacy development by the *North Shore Literacy Task Force* is outlined in Table 1. The four community pillars are:

**4 PILLARS FOR SUCCESS 2011/2012**



Table 1: 2011/2012 Reflections on District Literacy Plan

<b>PILLAR 1</b> <b>Early Success for Young Children</b>	<b>PILLAR 2</b> <b>Reading Success in Schools</b>	<b>PILLAR 3</b> <b>Reading Success for Adults</b>	<b>PILLAR 4</b> <b>Reading Success for Aboriginal People</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hollyburn StrongStart</li> <li>• Eagle Harbour StrongStart</li> <li>• West Vancouver Child and Family Hub partnership</li> <li>• Collaborative working and planning relationships with Bowen Island child care community partners</li> <li>• WECAN-MYM-WVSD community partnership and collaborative community work</li> <li>• WECAN Mother Goose programming at West Vancouver Learning Mall at Park Royal</li> <li>• Ready, Set, Learn 2012 – new community-based format complementing school-based events</li> <li>• Welcome to Kindergarten program in all WVSD schools</li> <li>• Developing programs for digital literacy in the early years</li> <li>• Continuing to build collaborative relationships with school-based preschool providers</li> <li>• Continued implementation of the BC Ed Plan for early learners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuum of literacy assessment practices from K-12</li> <li>• Strong partnerships between West Vancouver Memorial Library and Bowen Island Public Library</li> <li>• Student Dashboards Gr 4-7</li> <li>• Implementation of Digital Literacy Framework for learning</li> <li>• Continuation of Secondary Futures work</li> <li>• MP Writing Award contest</li> <li>• Booktopia</li> <li>• Writers in Residence programs</li> <li>• Family Literacy events</li> <li>• Ongoing school-based parent literacy education opportunities</li> <li>• Ongoing intensive and expanded WVSD - ELL &amp; WVSD - Student Support Services programming both in schools and community</li> <li>• SWIS Workers in collaboration with the NS Multicultural Society</li> <li>• Continued implementation of the BC Ed Plan for literacy skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Royal Learning Mall in collaboration with the Municipality of West Vancouver, North Shore Community Services, North Shore Multicultural Society and School District 45 with weekly programming and continued relationship building with Mall businesses and workers</li> <li>• Working with Settlement workers in schools (SWIS) to identify literacy activities needed</li> <li>• Launch of the Immigrant Guide website by the Welcoming Communities Committee to provide comprehensive information for newcomers</li> <li>• Increase awareness of the <a href="#">North Shore Welcoming Communities Initiative</a>, supporting collaboration among community organizations serving newcomers.</li> <li>• Coordination of a literacy celebration at the end of each year to recognize the contributions of the partners and the involvement of learners and tutors</li> <li>• Delivery of technology literacy and health literacy programming at a community kitchen, community garden and Elder’s Centre on Squamish Nation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring Aboriginal students’ academic progress – creation of literacy profiles fall 2011</li> <li>• Yew’in’tsnitway – First Nations Education and Health conference</li> <li>• School-based units of Aboriginal inquiry created and ongoing in select schools</li> <li>• Aboriginal legends, myths, storytelling -- ongoing units of study in all schools</li> <li>• School-based teacher librarians development of Squamish and Coast Salish literary collections in elementary school libraries</li> <li>• Aboriginal Writer in Residence programs in several WVSD elementary schools</li> <li>• Readers theatre focusing on Coast Salish traditions in several elementary schools</li> <li>• Restorative justice – secondary school focus on problem solving (circle of justice)</li> <li>• School-based cultural events – learning First Nations protocols and connecting to local lore/oral story telling</li> <li>• Continued development of a literacy program at Eslha7an Community Kitchen and Community Garden</li> </ul>

## SECTION 8: Thinking Ahead to 2012/2013 District Literacy Plan

Each year brings new opportunities and challenges in a vibrant learning community such as ours, in West Vancouver. The *North Shore Literacy Task Force* and its subcommittees will continue to work effectively to address issues as they emerge and collaboratively problem solve as issues surface.

### Areas of focus for next year include:

- Improve and increase space to run programs where learners are located, i.e. there is a need for family and child programming in the British Properties area but a lack of suitable community space in which to do this, such as churches, community halls etc.
- Implement FastForWord and other literacy support programs where needed for our more vulnerable students
- Improve programs to support workplace literacy in the service sector
- Improve the use of Student Dashboards for secondary students
- Provide increased Parent Education programs in digital literacy
- Provide more access to 'free' programming where needed, ie: ELL adult learning programs.
- Coordinate programming where needed to focus on relationship building and resource development.
- Continue to support digital literacy skills and resources for the seniors at the *Squamish Elder's Centre*
- Improve communication with isolated caregivers in West Vancouver
- Connect with the Squamish Nation Education Department to improve family literacy programs specific to the needs of our First Nations community
- Develop a plan to find more funding opportunities for our partner associations as needed

A summary of the vision for 2012/2013 continued literacy programming in our community is outlined in Table 2. Again, our objectives are summarized in the four pillars approach including:

1. Early Success for Young Children – School Readiness in Young Children
2. Reading Success in Schools
3. Reading Success for Adults
4. Reading Success for Aboriginal People

Table 2: 2012/2013 District Literacy Plan

<b>PILLAR 1</b> <b>Early Success for Young Children</b>	<b>PILLAR 2</b> <b>Reading Success in Schools</b>	<b>PILLAR 3</b> <b>Reading Success for Adults</b>	<b>PILLAR 4</b> <b>Reading Success for Aboriginal People</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hollyburn StrongStart</li> <li>• Eagle Harbour StrongStart</li> <li>• West Vancouver Child and Family Hub partnership</li> <li>• Collaborative working and planning relationships with Bowen Island childcare community partners</li> <li>• WECAN-MYM-WVSD community partnership and collaborative community work</li> <li>• Ready, Set, Learn 2013 – community-based format</li> <li>• Welcome to Kindergarten program in all WVSD schools</li> <li>• Formalizing collaborative working partnerships with school-based preschool providers</li> <li>• Joint StrongStart, Kindergarten &amp; Grade 1 teachers' participation in district PD sessions</li> <li>• Digital Literacy workshops to support the District Modernization Plan for early learners</li> <li>• Participation in the MoE <i>Changing Results for Young Readers</i> 2012/2013 pilot program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased use of Student Dashboards Grades 4-10</li> <li>• Development of the Grand Buddies program through the WV Seniors' Centre</li> <li>• Development of "Spoken Word" project through the Kay Meek Theatre</li> <li>• Increased use of FastForWord in elementary and secondary schools</li> <li>• Continued implementation of WVSD <i>Long Term Athletic Development</i> Program (LTAD) focusing on 'physical literacy'</li> <li>• Develop continuum of literacy assessment practices from K-12</li> <li>• Strong partnerships between West Vancouver Memorial Library and Bowen Island Public Library</li> <li>• Implementation of Digital Literacy Framework for learning</li> <li>• Continuation of Secondary Futures work</li> <li>• MP Writing Award contest</li> <li>• Booktopia</li> <li>• Writers in Residence programs</li> <li>• Family Literacy events</li> <li>• Ongoing school-based parent literacy education opportunities</li> <li>• Expanded ELL and Student Support Services programming both in schools and community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain literacy programs developed to date</li> <li>• Continue to align WVSD adult education activities with those of the North Shore Literacy Task Group</li> <li>• Update North Shore Literacy Plan</li> <li>• Continue to develop programs in partnership with the NS Multicultural Society</li> <li>• Expand health literacy, family literacy and technology literacy programs in collaboration with First Nation organizations</li> <li>• Continue to support ELL program information sharing and partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection of 2012/2013 literacy development in our school-based Aboriginal student population – including time tabling, writing samples, logs of parent contact/consultation</li> <li>• Continued tracking of Aboriginal student learning including a three-point checklist of student achievement</li> <li>• Focus on <i>Parents as Participants</i></li> <li>• Creation of elder and peer support programs</li> <li>• PD – continued collaborative work with Nanaimo school district</li> <li>• Schools will be encouraged to join Provincial Network of Aboriginal Education (AEN)</li> <li>• Continued units of inquiry/study focusing on Aboriginal traditions and literature in our schools</li> <li>• Delivery of family literacy programming in collaboration with Squamish and Tseil'Waututh Nation</li> <li>• Continued expansion of health literacy programming with Squamish Nation</li> <li>• Continued expansion of community garden and community kitchen literacy program in partnership with Eslha7an Society</li> </ul>

**Appendix A: Committee Membership**

**Literacy Now North Shore Task Group:**

Pat Hodgson	Capilano University (Task Group Chair)
Beth Beeching	Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Kathy Coyne	Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Joanne Robertson	North Vancouver School District #44
Marcia Garries	North Vancouver School District #44
Lynne Tomlinson	West Vancouver School District #45
Elizabeth Jones	North Shore Multicultural Society
Tricia Andrew	North Shore Neighbourhood House and John Braithwaite Community Centre
Shannon Ozirney	West Vancouver Memorial Library
Allison Taylor McBryde	North Vancouver District Library
Breann Specht	Vancouver Coastal Health
Arleta Beckett	District of West Vancouver
Fran Jones	WECAN Committee Coordinator
Terry Byrnes	Executive Director, Harvest Project
Riva Nelson	Mgr, Education and Employment, Tsleil'Waututh Nation
Jane Watkins,	North Vancouver City Library
Yvonne McSkimming	Bowen Island Literacy Committee
Toni Stewart	Administrative Assistant, Capilano University

**West Vancouver School District 45 District Literacy Plan Contributors:**

Lynne Tomlinson	Director of Instruction, Learning Services
Warren Hicks	Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Aboriginal Education
Beth Beeching	Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Kathy Coyne	Literacy Outreach Coordinator
Fran Jones	Community Early and Middle Years Coordinator
All Elementary and Secondary Administrators	West Vancouver School District
Shannon Ozirney	West Vancouver Memorial Library
Sahplek, Bob Baker	Squamish Nation Cultural Advisor

Appendix B: North Shore Literacy Now Report 2012-2015

## North Shore Learns: Literacy for All

### *Planning for Universal Access*

### *2012-2015 North Shore Literacy Now Strategic Plan*

#### **Success**

*Maria is a beautiful, articulate and driven artist, teacher, and wife who could not read to her three-year-old. Since childhood, Maria had struggled with learning to read and write. She had developed creative ways of coping, but when her young daughter began asking to have books read aloud; Maria knew it was time to find help. She wanted to be a role model for her daughter and share the joy of reading together.*

*Through one-on-one tutoring with the Lower Lonsdale Literacy Outreach program, Maria is fulfilling her dream of reading out loud. She started out reading at a grade-three level and now, after six months of hard work, Maria is reading at a grade-six level, and thinking of continuing her education -- something she had not thought possible.*

This story is one of many successes that we see in our work on the North Shore. Challenges with literacy touches all ages, genders, income levels and cultures. In our outreach work we are trying to reach and teach anyone who has a need. Our goal is to make the North Shore a fully literate community that is inclusive of all, and to offer programming that is accessible to all.

North Shore Literacy Task Group includes representatives from:

Bowen Island Community School, Capilano University, the City of West Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver Parks, North Shore Community Resources North Shore Multicultural Society, North Shore Neighbourhood House, North Vancouver City Library, North Vancouver District Public Library, North Vancouver School District, Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Wuatuth Nation, Vancouver Coastal Health, West Vancouver School District, West Vancouver Memorial Library

## Background of the Plan

The *North Shore Community Literacy Plan* was written in 2008 with data and information from an initial needs assessment. This was completed with the help of all of our community partners. Since this time, the *North Shore Literacy Task Group* has developed new strengths and accomplished many of our goals. We now have coordinated connections across the North Shore with the presence of a literacy outreach coordinator. The literacy coordinator works in the community to keep the lens of literacy on community work, and partnerships with community service providers are growing each year.

## Accomplishments

In our literacy work on the North Shore we have developed new ways of reaching out to isolated seniors by connecting with groups that work directly with seniors. The *Linking Seniors Through Technology* program in partnership with *John Braithwaite Community Centre* and the *Elders Gathering Place* on Squamish lands are highly successful.

We are successfully addressing the needs of family literacy, early literacy and middle years. We have just begun a *Family Literacy* program in partnership with *Queen Mary Community School*, *Capilano University*, and *St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church*. Most of the volunteers for this program are from the church. This is a strong example of successful community partnership and engagement. These three groups are committed to working together to reduce isolation of parents and help families to develop strategies to becoming more literate and connected to the school and broader community.

We have delivered *Volunteer Literacy Tutor Training* workshops and now have a group of Literacy tutors working one-on-one with learners in the Lower Lonsdale area. These workshops are highly successful in engaging community members and inspiring them to become involved in the vision of making the North Shore a fully literate community.

### Challenges

Through our work, we have become more aware of challenges. It is extremely time consuming to maintain partnerships because community stakeholders are stretched for time. Also, the search for sustainable program funding is difficult for all partners.

The distinct districts of North and West Vancouver each present unique challenges with some areas requiring extra support. There are issues of isolation with some groups in parts of West Vancouver but the Lower Lonsdale area continues to be an area of great need.

There are challenges associated with connecting First Nations to the service sector and it is perceived that there is less need for literacy support on the North Shore.

We continue to struggle to find ways to locate individual learners and need more community awareness and support.

It is also a challenge to develop and maintain a literacy continuum of sustainable programming due to funding constraints and lack of resources.

### Emerging Needs

In working with community members on the North Shore gaps in service have been identified and we are always looking for new ways to reach out to people. These are some needs to be addressed:

- The number of people with ESL challenges continue to grow
- Parents in some North Shore schools have low literacy levels
- Isolated seniors are unable to access health information because of literacy issues
- Health information is complex and challenging for the average person to understand
- Practitioners are unable to deliver health information in plain language
- Many low income families have difficulty navigating the system
- First Nations literacy needs are only minimally met

### A Community Literacy Vision

Residents of the North Shore are literate and work with community-based organizations to support their family members, friends and neighbours to achieve their literacy potential and feel included in all aspects of community life.



### **Our Vision Will Be Achieved When...**

All North shore residents are able to use and understand printed information in daily activities, at home, at work and in the community. First Nations have comparable literacy levels as the general population and newcomers are able to use English in everyday life. Reading is part of every child's life supported by their families and community, and anyone who wants to learn is able to and feels welcomed and supported.

### **Outcomes for the Next Three Years**

- First Nations know about and are a part of the literacy conversation
- Isolated seniors are able to access literacy supports
- Residents are able to organize and have increased capacity to support each other in addressing literacy issues; and
- Vulnerable individuals, children, youth and families are actively engaged in literacy in increasing numbers
- Youth who are not in school are inspired and feel welcomed to engage in learning
- Parents are literacy leaders for their children
- Residents of the North Shore are able to access and understand health information

### **Values that Guide the Plan**

- Commitment to literacy for all (anyone who wants to learn is able to and feels welcomed and supported)
- Respect for all people at all levels of literacy
- Openness to the voices of those who have been silenced by illiteracy, reaching out to include them at times and places that works for them
- Pride in everyone's accomplishments
- Awareness and sensitivity to the impacts of low literacy levels on individual and self-esteem, and the hope that together we can create a community where no one is excluded because of literacy levels
- Recognition and appreciation of First Nation cultures and the challenges many First Nations communities have experienced in achieving literacy
- Inclusion and appreciation of all cultures in all that we do
- Family-oriented and intergenerational approaches that support the role of families in fostering literacy for all ages
- Openness and transparency such that everyone understands each other's roles and how to support learners to navigate the system
- Recognition that literacy affects all aspects of life and should be addressed at multiple levels; and
- Strategies that promote creating practical solutions to strengthen literacy for all

## 2012-2015 Lit Now Strategic Plan: Strategies

### Strategy 1

Build active partnerships between community organizations, First Nations, educational institutions, libraries, hospitals, government agencies and the business community to increase the number and type of literacy opportunities in the community.

#### Action:

- Maintain and enhance community literacy table to implement and monitor the development of the plan
- Coordinate community-specific literacy subcommittees as appropriate
- Continue partnerships for efficient use of existing space
- Continue relationship with Capilano University, School District 44 and School District 45 to foster community-based implementation of literacy programming
- Develop partnership with *Vancouver Coastal Health* for new health literacy initiatives
- Develop relationship with *First Nations Health Hub*

## Strategy 2

Promote community awareness of literacy issues with community members as active participants in supporting literacy initiatives and programs.

### Action

- Train community members to play an active volunteer role in supporting literacy
- Focus on all North Shore malls for special events and workshops
- Promote parent information evenings that focus on the importance of being a literate community
- Develop relationship with existing organizations to link food with literacy
- Continue computer literacy program for low-income residents, particularly families and seniors ,in collaboration with community groups

## Strategy 3

Develop a continuum of community-based ESL programs and supports for all ages and groups

### Action

- Support referrals to and connections with existing ESL programs
- Develop and implement community-based ESL classes in collaboration with community organizations

#### **Strategy 4**

Develop and implement a continuum of family literacy programs and support

#### **Action**

- Research needs for family literacy programs in collaboration with First Nations and multicultural organizations
- Work with schools and community programs to promote 'good food' program for kids in need
- Develop programs that target parents/caregivers and the children in collaboration with community organizations and school districts
- Outreach to low-income, First Nation, and immigrant communities to support their involvement in family literacy

#### **Strategy 5**

Support First Nation education organizations to achieve their educational goals

#### **Action**

- Explore opportunities for First Nation family literacy based on cultural traditions
- Work with First Nation education organizations to promote opportunities for adult learners to participate in both on-reserve and off-reserve programs

## Strategy 6

Monitor outcome achievement and sustainability, and adapt plan as required

### Action

- Develop monitoring plan in collaboration with committee
- Develop appropriate monitoring tools
- Write plans and reports, update as needed
- Collaborate with North and West Vancouver school districts in writing district literacy plans
- Report outcome achievement annually
- Advocate for a diverse set of funding for sustainability



## CHALLENGES AND EMERGING NEEDS

Despite the gains made, there continue to be challenges and new emerging needs. For a review of these issues please see page 9, Section 8: *Thinking Ahead to 2012/2013 District Literacy Plan*. In order to address the challenges and meet these needs in a way that builds on collaborative relationships forged to date, we need to maintain a consistent and coherent coordination model.

### APPENDIX C: History of Development of District Literacy Plans

In 2007, the Ministry of Education introduced a requirement that school districts be responsible for submitting an annual *District Literacy Plan* that focused on *four pillars* of literacy:

1. Early literacy success for young children
2. Reading success in schools
3. Reading success for adults
4. Reading success for Aboriginal people

The district literacy planning process was intended to build upon the community literacy planning process.



### Building on the Community Literacy Plan

In June 2008 the *North Shore Community Literacy Task Group* submitted its [Community Literacy Plan](#) for the North Shore which contained the following three-year goals:

- Community organizations work together in a collaborative way on literacy issues
- A continuum of literacy supports is available to all residents
- The literacy needs of marginalized groups are understood and acted upon
- Residents support each other in addressing literacy issues
- Individuals, children, youth and families are actively engaged in literacy in increasing numbers

Bowen Island submitted the [Bowen Island Community Literacy Plan](#) in January of 2009, which contains the following objectives:

- Create awareness of the existing resources and facilities on the island
- Ensure access to programs through improved transportation, subsidies for low-income residents, and adequate communication about availability of and access to programs
- Ensure sustainability for existing programs through adequate and long-term funding
- Support inter-generational learning and community building
- Strengthen links between organizations so opportunities for collaboration can arise

## Literacy Outreach Coordinators

The *North Shore Literacy Task Group* has two literacy outreach coordinators, in a shared position, who focus on different aspects of community literacy development.

*Bowen Island Literacy Task Group* has hired a literacy outreach coordinator as of April 2010, to guide the facilitation process of its community plan.



