

Cowichan Literacy Plan

Update

Prepared by
Literacy Now Cowichan
June 2011



COWICHAN VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special thanks to:

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School District No. 79

Board of Directors, Literacy Now Cowichan

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SUMMARY

Since its formation in 2007 Literacy Now Cowichan Society has worked steadily to increase the visibility of literacy issues within the Cowichan Region.

In 2009, School District 79, which has always been supportive and inclusive, partnered with Literacy Now Cowichan to blend the School District Plan and the Community Literacy Plan to become the Cowichan Literacy Plan.

In June 2009, the Cowichan Literacy Now group was incorporated as Literacy Now Cowichan Society, and in April 2011 we applied for Charitable Status.

Through the Literacy Outreach Coordinator, we are continuing the conversations with a broad range of partners within the Cowichan Region. We continue to encourage all contacts to embed literacy into their programs and services.

The adult tutoring program established at Neighbourhood House in Chemainus continues to operate on a drop in basis. The Literacy Outreach Coordinator is co-facilitating weekly workshops with Cowichan Independent Living on adult literacy and financial literacy, and a volunteer tutor program operates out of our new downtown office space. We also have community partners who use our space when it is available.

Our website www.literacynowcowichan.com was launched in January 2010 at a Family Literacy Day event. It continues to be updated, and we have had enquiries re: literacy programming because of it.

Cowichan continues to be a Raise-a-Reader community. All Raise-a-Reader funds raised in the Valley are matched by the provincial government and used in Cowichan for local programs and services. Last year we were able to give funds to the Chemainus Community School Tutoring Program and the Chemainus Secondary School Aboriginal Language program which translates children's books into First Nations Language (Robert Munsch with permission)

The vision and goals that were included in the 2010 literacy plan remain in place.

VISION:

Literacy, as a life-long journey, will be enhanced for everyone in Cowichan.

“Life-long journey” points out that literacy continues throughout one’s life. “For everyone” means across all communities, among all cultural groups, and among all age groups.

Goal 1: To coordinate and integrate literacy programs and services

Goal 2: To support literacy programs for those most in need

Goal 3: To encourage employer-supported literacy programs

MISSION:

Literacy Now Cowichan will support, assist and expand Literacy programs and services with community partners.

While work continues on entrenched and supported initiatives like Early Learning, our priorities for 2011 2012 are:

Adult Literacy • Workplace Literacy • Awareness



Project Leadership

The Community Members listed below are members of the Literacy Now Cowichan Society, which meets monthly. The Directors of the Society meet monthly and on an as-needed basis; the Chair of Literacy Now Cowichan is Barb De Groot.

Name	Occupation/Literary Interest	Literacy Now Cowichan Society members	Directors
Marcel Aubon	Hiiye'yu Lelum Society	X	
Ann Andersen	School District 79 Trustee	X	X
Denise Augustine	School District 79	X	
Judy Baxter	Vancouver Island Regional Library	X	
Cathie Champion	Cowichan Valley Independent Living	X	
David Bellis	School District 79	X	X
Cindy Carleton	Community Member	X	
Judy Dallin	Metis Association	X	
Howie Degraaf	Dyslexia Victoria Online	X	X
Donna Desmet	Global Vocational Services	X	
Wendy Erickson	School District 79	X	
Jackie Martin	Cowichan Valley Intercultural Society	X	
Keith Chiquen	VIU	X	
Linda Gray	Duncan Mall Business Association	X	
June Hughes	Literacy Outreach Coordinator	X	X
Carol Hunt	Cowichan Seniors Community Foundation	X	
Leslie Kitson	Coast Salish Employment and Training	X	
Wendy Lambert	Chemainus Community School Assn	X	
Joanna Lord	Vancouver Island University	X	
Venessa MacDowell	School District 79	X	
Jacqueline Smith	Seniors Resource and Support Society	X	
Linda McMenamain	School District 79	X	
Jan Ovans	Metis Association/Community Options	X	
Amrik Prihar	Community Member	X	X
Melanie Reaveley	Vancouver Island Regional Library	X	X
Christine Dunne	Global Vocational Services	X	
Candace Spilsbury	Social Planning Cowichan/Past Chair	X	X
Rhoda Taylor	Vancouver Island Health Authority	X	
Christine Thompson	Vancouver Island Health Authority	X	
Mark Turner	Hiiye'yu Lelum Society	X	X
Tanya Trafford	Community Member	X	
Jennifer Soulsby	Community Member	X	
Wendy Robison	Community Member	X	

Several community members have requested on-going communication as supporters unable to attend the meetings, listed below:

Name	Occupation/Literary Interest
Jackie Barker	Garden House Foundation
Jeanne Berryman	School District 79
Maureen Gallinger	Cowichan Family Life
Rhonda MacDowell	School District 79
Gerry Masuda	Community Member
Diane Murphy	Community Member
Michelle Nowzek	Social Planning Cowichan
Linda Porte	School District 79
Bonnie Potter	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Ingrid Rennblad	Chemainus Chamber of Commerce
Val Townsend	School District 79
Karen Hope	Dyslexia Victoria Online
Hazura Sangha	Community Member
Jan Bruce	Community Member



COWICHAN LITERACY PLAN

1. The Vision

Literacy, as a life-long journey, will be enhanced in Cowichan.

“Life-long journey” reflects literacy continues through one’s life. “For everyone” means across all communities, among all cultural groups and among all age groups.

2. Goals

Goal 1: To coordinate and integrate literacy programs and services

Goal 2: To support literacy programs and services for those in need

Goal 3: To encourage employer-supported literacy programs

Abbreviations used in the following tables:

LOC: Literacy Outreach Coordinator

LNC: Literacy Now Cowichan

ELF: Early Learning Framework

SLP: Speech and Language Pathologist

PIDACS: Parent Interviews and Direct Assessments of Children Survey

EDI: Early Development Instrument

ESL: English as a Second Language

ESD: English as a Second Dialect

CALC: Cowichan Adult Learning Centre

CVOLC: Cowichan Valley Open Learning Centre

CIS: Cowichan Intercultural Society

OLES: Office of Literacy & Essential Skills

ESLSAP: English as a Second Language Settlement Assistance program

VIRL: Vancouver Island Regional Library

PALS: Parents as Literacy Supporters

CALP: Community Adult Literacy Program

GOAL 1: To coordinate and integrate literacy programs and services.			Updated June 2011
Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
A. Foster collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a strong communication system among agencies and organizations. • Support coordination of literacy programs and services • Support integration of literacy with other programs, services and initiatives in the community • Continue to identify literacy initiatives needed in the community and set priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan Society • SD #79 • Service Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOC position in third Year • Literacy Now Cowichan has society status, has applied for charitable status, and has opened an office in Downtown Duncan • We are partnering with many local agencies, and continuing our strong collaboration with SD 79.

GOAL 1: To coordinate and integrate literacy programs and services.			Updated June 2011
Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
B. Develop Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote community awareness and ownership of literacy • Continue working with community groups to develop clear messages about literacy • Select most effective communication tools • Research and develop a clear communication plan • Using the website, and media, Communicate and promote available literacy programs and services widely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan Society • Raise-a-Reader event • Literacy Now Cowichan Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOC continues to connect within the community to heighten the profile of Literacy Now Cowichan • Priorities established for 2011-2012 • LOC attended community events and fairs to promote Literacy Now Cowichan Society ie: Community Resource Fair, Canada Day events • Literacy Now Cowichan Society is continuing with the Raise-a-Reader event • Development of communication plan ongoing
C. Establish central place for literacy information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue promotion of Literacy Now Cowichan website. • Update information on a regular basis • Share inventory of programs and services, activities, and events • Continue to ensure comprehensive and current information • Maintain a permanent location for an office and tutor program • Promote Literacy Now Cowichan as the “go to” place for literacy information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan Society • Funding for web site preparation and updates. • Community agencies, SD79, VIU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNC has established a new downtown office, where literacy information and a Volunteer Adult tutoring program are offered • Website is now completed and running. • Website is linked to other Cowichan websites. • Website is linked to Literacy BC Directory • Literacy Now Cowichan Society has a volunteer in place designated to

GOAL 1: To coordinate and integrate literacy programs and services.			Updated June 2011
Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
			manage the website
D. Sustain Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a sub-committee to identify funding sources Consider grant-writing assistance Promote community commitment and involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible funding for contract grant-writing expertise Community organizations, agencies, businesses, clubs, churches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise-a-Reader event took place in September, 2011 LOC is now a member of the Cowichan Fundraisers group
E. Monitor Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan directors monitor the implementation of the Plan Set aside time at every Literacy Now Cowichan meeting to review progress & update plan as necessary Share results and celebrate successes with the community Seek ongoing community feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Funding for community meetings/celebrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub committee is updating the plan for June 2011 Draft will be circulated to LNC for feedback. Official launch of Literacy Now Cowichan in our new space on June 29th, 2011
Responsibilities: Literacy Now Cowichan Society; Service providers; community organizations, agencies, businesses.			
Indicators of success: Increased partnerships; greater community involvement, participation and commitment to literacy; literacy information centralized; funding secured.			



**GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need.
FAMILIES (Also see Adults and Seniors)**

Update June 2011

Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
<p>A. Support and encourage inter-generational literacy programs and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to identify current needs-based programs and initiatives (ex. shelter, food, social events, family events) and integrate literacy • Continue to identify “best practices” from other communities and within Cowichan • Continue to support the delivery of family literacy programs, services, activities throughout Cowichan • Work towards implementing new programs and services for families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan website • Service providers • Success by 6 • Children First • Aboriginal Success by 6 • SD 79 Staff and materials • Community Health Network • “Connecting and caring in the Cowichan Valley: Ways to make a difference” action Plan • Legacy 2010 Website • Parent Child Mother Goose • Aboriginal PALS • Multicultural PALS • Research and publish Stress-free reading booklet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOC is attending SD79 Literacy meetings, and continues to make connections within the community to identify current needs and develop coordinated responses • Literacy Now Cowichan published the Stress-free reading booklet and is again distributing it • Booth and survey at May Fun Family Literacy Night • Participation at Family Literacy day events January 25 at 5 district sites.
<p>B. Increase the number of families engaged in community programs and services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community meetings to analyze scheduling and the availability of programs and services for families • Continue to collect data on numbers participants • Develop an action plan to increase family engagement • Continue to provide and hold programs during non-traditional times • Survey families to get their view of what would meet their needs • Continue to provide family programs honouring our multi-cultural community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan • Success by 6 • Children First • Aboriginal Success by 6 • Learning Links (SD 79) • Community Organizations • Community Health Network • Aboriginal Pals • Aboriginal Department School District 79 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UEY continues to monitor and respond to results of EDI and community mapping • Attendance continues to increase at Fun Family Literacy nights, which are offered in the evenings in the community. Participants surveyed, data being analyzed. • More programs

GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need. Update June 2011
FAMILIES (Also see Adults and Seniors)

Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting of information about Family and Community Literacy Program on Literacy Now and School District 79 website • Find funding for staff time for research and planning 		<p>are being offered to accommodate growing interests from families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Community meetings have been held, and data will be analyzed, so that we can respond to meet community needs • Increasing Attendance of Family Literacy, Fun Family Literacy Night, Whales Tales, and Strong Start programs • Parents evaluations of PALS, Ready Set Learn, Play and Learn, and Mother Goose

Responsibilities: Literacy Now Cowichan Society; service providers.

Indicators of Success: “Best Practices” information collected; data and action plan on engagement completed; number of families engaged in family literacy increased.

GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need.		Update June 2011	
THE EARLY YEARS (see also Families)			
Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
A. Continue to increase the accessibility of literacy opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to strengthen communication and build relationships with families Continue to identify and remove barriers to continue to encourage attendance Continue to strengthen involvement of and input from Aboriginal groups and community Provide multi-cultural opportunities for families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Learning Links SD 79 School District, Child-care centres/Strong Start centres Community Resource Bus Community organizations, agencies, businesses, clubs, churches 0-6 Coalition Success by 6 and Aboriginal Success by 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased collaboration among a wide range of community partners. Community resource Bus Increase of Mother Goose Programs at school and community sites Penelakut Literacy Project Chemainus Neighbourhood House Project Increase of Fun Family Literacy Nights Strong Start and Community Meeting
B. Promote the use of the Early Learning Framework (ELF) in community and SD programs and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make connections with existing programs in the community Continue to provide ongoing opportunities for in-service and collaboration around the Early Learning Framework Increase opportunities for collaboration between ECE and Kindergarten teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education Website Legacies 2010 Website 0-6 Coalition Early Childhood Educators of BC Success by 6 SD 79 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased use of ELF among community childcare providers Six (6) local in-services with ECE and Primary teachers and ECE students in attendance Island in-services for primary teachers and ECE teachers
C. Promote pre-literacy skills (speech and language)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue integrating speech and language into other community-based services Continue to strengthen coordination of early learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early intervention services District speech language pathologists and ESD teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of Mother Goose programs across the valley

GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need.		Update June 2011	
THE EARLY YEARS (see also Families)			
Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
	<p>programs and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide Mother Goose and other oral language training for community and SD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Literacy Teachers Community Early Developmental Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-service using “Happy Friends” Aboriginal language CD Increased attendance in Early Learning Programs In-service of Aboriginal Pals for ECE and District K teachers
D. Increase School readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to analyze Early Development Instrument (EDI) and Understanding the Early Years (UEY) data to identify needs Develop a long-term community plan to support the needs of vulnerable children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School District 79 ECE Community Understanding the Early Years 0-6 Coalition Early Intervention Services HELP Foundation Service Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDI results being used by the community to develop programs and services Smallest proportion of children vulnerable was on the Language and Cognitive Development scale (7.4 % for the past 2 years) Largest proportion of children vulnerable was 15% for emotional maturity and 14.8% for physical health and well being
Responsibilities: Literacy Now Cowichan Society; School District 79.			
Indicators of Success: Increased numbers of children ready for school, increased EDI and Early Success results.			

GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need			Update June 2011
Kindergarten – Grade 12			
Objective	Strategies		Evidence
A. Improve student literacy skills with a focus on reading achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support teacher instructional practices and differentiation of instruction. Use all 6 assessment for learning strategies to support classroom instruction Continue to develop oral language skills as integral part of student success ie: structured AB partner TALK, Table TALK and Storytelling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School District 79, District Literacy Committee, District Curriculum Specialist Teachers, ESL/ESD Teachers, Families of Schools Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD 79 provides a variety of teacher development opportunities ie: District Wide Implementation Day, Focus on Assessment for Learning, Instructional Learning Rounds. Also see SD79 Achievement Contract Literacy and Full Day K in-service
B. Increase the success of all students, with a focus on vulnerable learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to understand the needs of vulnerable learners and what makes children vulnerable Continue to implement School District Alternate Education Task Force recommendations Differentiation of instruction Continue to expand teachers understanding of aboriginal language and culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School District 79: Student Achievement, Learning Assistance, Aboriginal Education, Teachers and Librarians Parent Educators Alternate Schools -Open Learning Centres Partnerships with HM Education Council, DPAC, community groups, etc. District Curriculum Specialist Teachers Families of Schools Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD 79: Families of Schools meet regularly, creating action plans Professional Learning Community time School Growth Plans and District Achievement Contract Achievement contract goals focus on this area using the learning rounds model Increasing number of students graduating with a Dogwood from Alternate Programs
C. Improve transition rates from middle school to secondary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to analyze transition and graduation data to identify who is at risk Monitor and review strategies to keep students in school and improve attendance Continue to develop strategies to reconnect with students who 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three off site Alternate Programs for vulnerable students Open Learning Centres at all secondary school sites to help students struggling with transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families of Schools meetings Continued effort to reconnect with those students who have not graduated and offer alternate pathway to

GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need Kindergarten – Grade 12			Update June 2011
Objective	Strategies		Evidence
	have left school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop strategies with a focus on differentiation of instruction and assessment for learning strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Curriculum Specialist Teachers Interagency Reclaiming At-Risk Youth grant 	Graduation
D. Improve grade to grade success rates within the Graduation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify barriers to successful grade-to-grade transition Monitor and review strategies and interventions Determine support needed for all students to graduate. Increase student engagement through differentiation and programming Work with the community to develop an action plan to develop support strategies Continue working with Community Interagency for Youth Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families of Schools Plans Transition Class Cowichan Secondary New department structure to better support Aboriginal Students, particularly those at risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families of Schools meetings See SD79 Achievement Contract
Responsibilities: School District 79			
Indicators of success: Increased transition and graduation rates; increased achievement scores, numbers of students who transition from Level One to Level Two in ESL/ESD spring assessments.			



GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need

Update June 2011

COMMUNITY YOUTH (NOT IN SCHOOL)

Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
<p>A. Provide flexible access to literacy programs and services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to identify youth in the community who are not in school • Determine kinds of programs and services to meet literacy needs • Include the needs of youth in outlying communities • Work towards implementing new programs and services for youth. • Use Facebook to remain in contact with students in Alternate Education Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Service providers • Criminal Justice System • Alternate Schools – Inclusive Literacy Program offered to CVOLC, MAP, CVAS students • Funding for staff time for planning and implementation • Interagency Reclaiming At-Risk Youth grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New structure of Alternate Schools is in place • LOC attending Interagency Youth meetings to assist in determination of need • Identify and address needs • Principal of Alternate Education liaises closely with community counselors to share names of at-risk youth attending and not attending school, and discuss strategies to better support these youth
<p>B. Increase the number of youth who are engaged in community programs and services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to communicate and promote available literacy programs and services for youth • Focus on reading, writing and numeracy initially • Determine an action plan to increase engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan Society • Service providers • Funding for staff time for planning and implementation • CVOLC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOC is working with the Interagency on youth. • Literacy Now Cowichan Society and VIRC held a Family Literacy Day Slam Poetry event for youth.
<p>C. Improve communications amongst community agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with monthly Interagency Group Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD 79 • Alternate Education Staff is aware of community services and programs are available to youth and connect current, prospective and past students to these program/services • Various community counseling agencies share activities with SD 79 Alternate Ed to pass on to students 	

Responsibilities: Literacy Now Cowichan Society; Service providers; SD 79.

Indicators of success: Programs and services available to meet needs; more youth engaged in literacy enhancement; more emphasis on embedding literacy in service provider programs and services.

GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need

Update June 2011

ADULTS (see also FAMILIES)

Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
<p>A. Continue to increase outreach to adults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to determine locations in Cowichan for outreach programs and services • Establish a visible downtown location for priority adult tutoring program • Continue to identify service providers as partners to develop programs and services • Continue to identify adult literacy needs in outlying communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan Society - LOC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIS has established an ESL outreach program in Chemainus • LNC has a volunteer adult tutor program operating in our office in Duncan • Volunteers are joining Literacy Now Cowichan • Adult students are connecting with Literacy Now Cowichan
<p>B. Continue to increase programs and services for Adults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to research “best practices” for adults in other communities and in Cowichan • Assist in providing programs and services where required • Work with service providers on consideration of a free Community Adult Literacy Program • Continue to identify programs and services needed in Cowichan for adults • Work with School District 79 as they expand their mandate of early learning to adults/seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan Society • Service Providers • Funding for staff time for research and planning • School District 79 • Vancouver Island Regional Library • Community organizations, agencies, businesses, clubs, churches • Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOC is pursuing funding opportunities • CALC enrolment increased from 787 students in May 2009 to 888 students in May 2010 • CALC is offering three levels of computer classes for adults.

Responsibilities: Literacy Now Cowichan Society, Service Providers, SD 79.

Indicators of success: Increased number of adults in programs; Programs and services available to meet needs; strong partnerships developed. Strong volunteer base.

GOAL 2: To support literacy programs and services for those most in need. SENIORS (See also Families)			Update June 2011
Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
A. Continue to increase the independence of seniors through client-driven programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify “best practices” in providing programs and services for seniors Continue to work with Seniors’ group’s to determine programs and services needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Service Providers Funding for Staff time for Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOC meeting with Seniors centres to discuss engagement and literacy needs
B. Continue to develop ways to increase outreach to seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify locations of needed programs and services. Develop an action plan to address outreach literacy services for seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Service Providers Funding for staff time for research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOC is connecting with ESL Seniors in the region to see what programs are needed
C. Research ways for seniors to mentor others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research models of volunteer mentoring programs for seniors Develop a volunteer mentoring program that includes outlying regions Search for opportunities to share knowledge and skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Seniors Organizations Service Providers Funding for staff time for research and planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOC working with Interagency for Youth group to have volunteer intergenerational learning opportunities
D. Continue to support integration of literacy into other services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify community based seniors programs and initiatives and incorporate literacy Continue to identify “best practices” in providing programs and services for seniors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Service Providers Seniors Organizations Funding for staff time for research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOC and Cowichan Volunteer Centre are having meetings about a program for electoral literacy Revenue Canada has inquired about Tax Form Literacy Cowichan Family Life has offered co-facilitation of Financial Literacy Programs

<p>E. Computer Literacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to identify locations for training opportunities • Research models of “best practices” • Continue working towards creating new programs for seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Now Cowichan Society • Seniors Organizations • Service Providers • Funding for staff time for research and planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALC computer program is still being offered at Adult Education Centre • Seniors Resource Centre offering Computer Literacy Program • LNC is offering computer Literacy Program
<p>Responsibilities: Literacy Now Cowichan Society, Service Providers, Seniors Organizations; Faith Community</p>			
<p>Indicators of Success: Outreach Services Plan developed; Research on “Best Practices” completed; volunteer mentoring program in place; action plan for seniors literacy developed.</p>			

GOAL 3. Encourage employer-supported literacy programs			
Objective	Strategies	Resources	Evidence
A. Continue to build relationships with employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society will contact and initiate meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Chamber of Commerce Unions Vancouver Island University Office of Literacy and Essential Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work on list of Employers to approach. LOC has met with Global Vocational Services
B. Continue to determine areas of need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society to consult with employers and employees to identify workplace literacy needs and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Global Vocational Services Independent Living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOC is adapting "Opening Doors" material from Literacy Alberta, to use with employers in BC
C. Research information to produce and design a responsive program available for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research curriculum that may be needed and discuss with interested employers , employees and partners Funding for staff to write curriculum and implement program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Now Cowichan Society Global Vocational Services VIU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to locate or develop curriculum to address workplace needs
D. Implement Workplace Literacy Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine monitoring and assessment tool Integrate monitoring and assessment into workplace program Find funding for Staff to implement a program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside Agencies, Grants, Employers, In Kind donations 	
Responsibilities: Literacy Now Cowichan Society ; Business Community;			
Indicators of Success: List of good prospects prepared; Ongoing Literacy Now Cowichan-employer contact occurring; Greater employer participation in Literacy Now Cowichan; Commitments by businesses to allow literacy programs in the workplace or otherwise support programs.			

3. Adjustments

What adjustments have been made? The following adjustments have been made to the 2011 Plan:

- The School District 79 Literacy Plan and the Community Literacy Plan were amalgamated to form the new Cowichan Literacy Plan 2009. This structure continues with the 2011 Plan. As the plan is fluid, this will be a constantly changing document, and there will be on-going dialogue to adjust the plan as necessary.
- The Literacy Outreach Coordinator position was filled on February 1, 2009, and continues in to the third year
- Incorporation of Literacy Now Cowichan as a Society has taken place and Charitable Status has been applied for.
- There has been stronger networking and collaboration on literacy programs and services in the community, and more partners attend Literacy Now Cowichan meetings and events.
- A volunteer Adult Literacy Tutoring Program has been established in Duncan.
- Many partnerships have been formed, and community agencies work well together.
- Literacy Now Cowichan Society is more visible within the community.

4. Challenges

What have been the challenges? There were many challenges in the implementation of the Plan:

- Setting priorities and developing an implementation strategy is an on-going challenge. Although we have set priorities for 2011/2012, we have learned that it is difficult to decide on priorities when addressing competing needs.
- Planning for short and long term funding consumes much time and energy. Proposal timelines often do not allow for proper development and planning, and the costs involved in finding a grant writer are too high.
- It is a challenge to meet the general Literacy needs of our Aboriginal communities.
- The assessment of Youth at Risk, or Youth not in school still presents challenges. Many agencies are working well with youth, but there is still a large number that never come forward. We need to find a way to connect with this group in a different way.
- It was disappointing not to have the opportunity to apply for funding for a Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) again this year. How can new programs start if there is no basic funding?’
- The number of students at CALC has increased. However, there are adults who don't qualify for the program and whose needs are not yet being met. They are referred to The Reading and Writing Centre at VIU, but the Centre is usually full, and there is nowhere else for them.

5. Role of the Outreach Coordinator

June Hughes was hired again on February 1, 2011. Her contract is for 25 hours per week. LNC has accomplished much since she was hired. Our growing progress and the community's increasing awareness of Literacy Now Cowichan is because of the role of the LOC.

Summary of duties and responsibilities of LOC with examples attached.

Oversee the implementation of the Cowichan Community Literacy Plan

The LOC continues to work with the directors on the annual plan, providing information and advice. She attends all membership and directors' meetings. She presents a report that describes her outreach in the community, based on the Literacy Plan, both membership-directed and on her own initiative.

Provide Leadership in Cowichan regarding the enhancement of Literacy, including collaboration with organizations, agencies, businesses, clubs and other community individuals and groups.

The Community Literacy Plan demonstrates many examples of the work the LOC has undertaken to enhance Literacy in the community.

Work collaboratively with School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) to develop the District Literacy Plan.

The Community Literacy Plan demonstrates that the LOC works collaboratively with personnel in the school district, including the director of elementary education, the principals of alternate education and adult education, the early learning coordinator, literacy coordinator and board of education.

Support the direction initiatives and functions Literacy Now Cowichan.

The Community Literacy Plan demonstrates many examples of the work the LOC has undertaken to support the direction initiatives and functions of Literacy Now Cowichan. The LOC provides a monthly report to Literacy Now Cowichan membership that gives details of how these are supported.

Facilitate working groups, forums, workshops, events and presentations as required by the Community Literacy Plan and Literacy Now Cowichan.

The Community Literacy Plan demonstrates many examples of the work the LOC has undertaken in these responsibilities.

Provide written quarterly progress reports based on the Cowichan Community Literacy Plan

The LOC provides a monthly plan that details her progress on the initiatives of the Literacy Plan. We are always amazed at the work that has been accomplished in any given month.

Conclusion: We could not operate Literacy Now Cowichan without a person in this role and appreciate the funding and support provided by 2010 Legacies Now.

6. Resources: The Projected Budget Update

Year Three

Web support	\$1,000
Coordination	\$40,000
Communications	\$15,000
Office Space/Admin	<u>\$25,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$81,000

Year Four

Web support	\$1,000
Coordination	\$40,000
Communications	\$5,000
Office Space/Admin	<u>\$30,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$76,000

The Steward for the Cowichan Community Literacy Plan is Literacy Now Cowichan Society.



CONCLUSION:

The Cowichan Literacy Plan continues to move forward. Literacy Now Cowichan has identified its goals for the next year while it continues to work closely with the School District to be in line with their achievement goals.

As a whole, the community is more informed about literacy, and the SD and other agencies continue to work with Literacy Now Cowichan Society to keep literacy in the public eye.

Since the launch of the website and the LOC attendance at many and diversified community events, Literacy Now Cowichan has been invited to attend more meetings and is often consulted and asked to partner with other agencies in the region to do literacy work.

We now have space for an office to enable us to offer a Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutoring Program, and our feedback is that this is strongly supported in the community. We have already supported the opening of a drop in Volunteer Adult Tutor program in the Neighbourhood House in Chemainus. We have trained volunteer tutors, and have donated resources and assessment tools to the program. The LOC continues assist with the program when required, and a designated part time staff person is in place.

Since the launch of the website, www.literacynowcowichan.com, we have received 177,150 visits, and this should continue to grow as we build our Communication Plan and make Literacy Now Cowichan, the “go to” website for literacy information in the Cowichan Valley. We continue to update our directory of services, and to keep it current for our website and the Literacy BC Directory. We now have a designated volunteer to do this work for us.

We continue to face challenges; however, we believe the work already undertaken by Literacy Now Cowichan Society demonstrates that we are moving in a forward direction. We look forward to continuing this task and enhancing literacy for everyone in the Cowichan region.

APPENDIX: Inventory of Literacy Programs and Services

Abbreviations used in this table:

VIRL: Vancouver Island Regional Library

MCFD: Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIHA: Vancouver Island Health Authority

SD79: School District 79

NOTE: The literacy assets and gaps are always changing. The information contained in this report represents a snapshot of the literacy information gathered for the update in 2010. It is monitored on an ongoing basis.

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
'Iiyus Siiye 'yu (Happy Friends Program)	Once a week hour program for parents & tots, at Duncan Mall, aimed at preserving Hul'q'umi'num language & bridging cultures	Music, movement & stories used to introduce Hul'q'umi'num; average 5-6 parents & 8 children. CD being prepared	Birth to pre-school	For information on programs contact Jan Bruce at happyfriendsmusic@gmail.com
Adult & Continuing Education - Duncan & Chemainus	Offer English & Math upgrading, and helpful computer programs, literacy training for adults who have not completed K-12 education	Provides second chance for success to students at all literacy levels to enhance their skills & is based on provincially prescribed curriculum learning outcomes	age 19 +	School District 79
After school homework (Hulhetun Health Society)	After school homework program for students to get help or catch up on homework			

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Alternate Schools (SD#79)	Provide alternative to the regular school programs by offering an opportunity to experience success in a safe, nurturing, environment that emphasizes social and academic development	Literacy upgrades through specialized curriculum	Open	
Baby Sign Language, Little Learners classes & Preschool. (Shawnigan Lake Community Centre)	Community Centre offers about 20 courses aimed at children and their parents	These courses emphasize communication through variety of fun activities.	Ages for each class vary, but are mostly preschool	Shawnigan Lake region, but open to all
Baby Times/Toddler Time (VIRL)		Introduces children to the joys of reading via singing, moving, and interacting with puppets.	Newborn to 14 months	Cowichan & South Cowichan branches

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Bonnie Wilde Literacy (Independent consultant)	Certified Reading Therapist-RN offers free assessments & rehabilitation for dyslexia. Offers the assessments free--an \$80. value, & helps students who are dyslexic find help. She has people she's trained to do this. They will take some students free of charge and operate on a sliding scale.	Program reduces biological barriers to literacy: "Dramatically raise word attack, fluency, comprehension, creating writing, grammar, vocabulary, or ESL in 30-50 lessons"	All ages	No geographic boundaries; based in Shawnigan Lake
Books for Babes (VIHA, SD #79, VIRL)	Literacy package presented to moms of each newborn; distribution points are health units & libraries	Literacy package provided	Parents of newborns	
Community For Succession (CFS) Program	Assessment process in the spring and fall and each year for AIP			

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Childcare Centres: Growing Together, Arcadian, Parkside Academy; Queen of Angels; Kaatza in Lake Cowichan; Boys & Girls Club; We're All Sharing Together	Group licensed centres focus on early learning:		0-12 years Childcare Programs: -49 licensed Family Childcare Programs - 20 pre-schools - 21 30-month to school age - Eight 36 month and under - Eight multi-age in home programs - Eight license not required Family Childcare programs	CVRD
Community Resource Bus	Early learning resources and programs into communities	Strong Start facilitator on board; books	0-6 year olds and families	Outlying areas
Cowichan Family Life Association	Provides support & counselling services to individuals & families in Cowichan	Early literacy included in Special Services to Children Program	Adults & families w/ children 0-12	CVRD
Cowichan Valley Child Care Resource & Referral Program	Offer free or low cost workshops open to public & resource materials to registered care providers	Content includes activities that encourage literacy	1-5	CVRD
Cowichan Tribes BC Hydro Leadership Project	Mentorship and learning support for Aboriginal students		Middle/secondary students	Duncan

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Dictionary Project (Cowichan Tribes)	Promotion of Hul'qumi'num language via language classes, introducing language in schools, & placement of teaching assistants in schools with high First Nation enrolment	Advancing literacy in a second language		
English As A Second Dialect Program		Focus on oral language, concepts and literacy development and assessments for ESL/ESD		
Fun Family Literacy Nights (Chemainus Community School Association, SD#79 & Duncan Mall)	Program for parents & kids done 7-8 times/year on Friday evening in Duncan Mall. Help parents see literacy is not just reading & there are activities they can do to help foster literacy. Try to use secondary school students as aides	Variety of exercises parents & kids do together around a theme which promote literacy. Kids get to take home a book	Children 18 months - 8 years	SD 79 boundaries
Healthy Beginnings (MCFD & VIHA)	Drop-in parent group	Starts with aspects of Mother Goose	0-3	SD#79 boundaries

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
House of Friendship's Healthy Children, Healthy Futures	Development of family well being & positive parenting practices		Children prenatal to 6 & their parents & care givers	Friendship Centre Boundaries
kidZcomputers (Chemainus Community School Association)	Once/week session where computer expert helps students in computer lab	Literacy issues addressed as kids work on computers	Children grades 3-7	Students at Chemainus Elementary Community School
kidZhomework& hobbies (Chemainus Elementary Community School)	Adult tutor & secondary school student aides provide 1-1 tutoring, followed by snack & gym time, 2 days/week	Literacy is a key part of the tutoring	Children grades 4-7	Students at Chemainus Elementary Community School
Lelum'uy'lh Child Development Centre (Cowichan Tribes)	Program with wide variety of activities and services to the children 0 to 4:an Infant/Toddler Care, Day Care, Pre-School, and Special Needs service all rolled into one; and incorporates Cowichan teachings into music, art, storytelling, taught in both Hul'qumi'num and English.	Communications is central thrust.	Children 0-4, Tribe members	

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Literacy Kits (VIRL)	Provides parents & caregivers with kit containing 10-15 items including books, puppets, CDs, DVDs, as well as an early literacy resource handbook full of fun activities. There are a variety of themes.		Preschoolers	Chemainus branch has kits available
Little Eagles Stay and Play (Chemainus Community School Association)	Parents dropping kids off at preschool or kindergarten invited to stay, have coffee, & learn literacy activities via play w/ their kids, once a week	Focus is on imparting literacy-development skills to parents	Children 0-3 years	Parents of Chemainus Community School preschool & kindergarten
Nobody's Perfect (House of Friendship)	Parenting program	Positive practices for parents conveyed	Parents of children 2-10	
Parents As Literacy Supporters (PALS) (SD#79)	Program of activities to help parents see how they can support classroom learning.		Children 0-6	At eight schools with more at-risk students
Play & Learn (SD#79 Chemainus Community School Association and Parkside Academy)	8-week program of learn-play activities to show parents how to support kids when they enter kindergarten	Various aspects of literacy included (language, math, reading, etc.). Kids get to take home a book	Children 3-4 years	At six schools

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Preschools: Eagle Wings at Chemainus Elem.; Parkside Academy at Tansor, Bench, Khowhemun Elem.; We're All Sharing Together at Drinkwater Elem.; Maple Bay; Queen Maragret's; Shawnigan Lake & Cobble Hill Montessori	Preschools provide foundation for developing school readiness-- socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically	Focus on literacy and school readiness in 2½-hour program	Children 3-5 years generally	
Quw'utsun Smuneem (Cowichan children) Elementary School (Cowichan Tribes)	K-2 elementary school, eventually to go to Grade 6. Cowichan teachings and the Hul'qumi'num language are integral part of the curriculum. Each class gets a half-day per week in Hul'qumi'num instruction, plus the language is incorporated into the rest of the curriculum.	Particular focus is being placed on literacy, with the goal that 100% of the students will read with complete comprehension by Grade three.		
Ready, Set, Learn (SD#79)	One-stop resource "fair": booths from various health, education, etc. agencies	Literacy is one component	Children 0-6 years	SD79 boundaries

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Red Cedar Book Awards (VIRL)		Readers can join in book discussions and vote for their favourite BC author each year.	Grades 4-7	Participating branches vary from year to year
Roots of Empathy	Foster development of positive social & emotional behaviours in critical early years	Includes development of positive attitude toward literacy through Literacy Coaches who read to & discuss books w/ kids; also promotes emotional literacy	Children 3-5	SD#79 boundaries
SD 79 StrongStart Early Learning Centres	Free, drop-in program to support success as child transitions to school		Children <5 & parents or caregiver	Available at Alexander, Chemainus, Khowhemun & Koksilah Elementary Schools; available in Sept. 2009 at Bench Elementary and Community Resource Bus
Story Times (VIRL)		Provides half hour of stories, songs, rhymes, puppets and occasionally crafts designed to encourage a child's interest in literacy	Ages 3-5	All 4 Cowichan branches
Stu"ate Lelum Secondary School (Chemainus First Nation)	Offers full set of courses for Grades 8-12 to satisfy Dogwood Diploma requirements. Specializes in integrating students into workplace	Curriculum features targeted instruction.		Duncan to Nanaimo

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Success by Six (MCFD, United Way, Credit Unions)	Build capacity of children & families so kids fare better once in school	Includes early learning & literacy	Children < 6 & their families	
Summer Teen Reading Club & Read to Me (VIRL)	Summer programs to keep kids reading while school is out every summer.	Provides reading lists, reading records, prizes and incentives for reading. Most branches offer special in-library programs for the readers all summer long. Online summer book club for teens features forums, book discussions, reviews, prizes	Kindergarten - Grade 7 (Pre-schoolers can join the Read to Me club with parents)	All branches participate
Treasure Box (House of Friendship)	Free, fun way to get children and parent/caregiver ready for school		Children 0-5	
Tutoring (Halalt First Nation)	Provides after-school tutoring		Open	Halalt First Nation students
Vancouver Island Regional Library website	VIRL maintains website with various kinds of information	Contains information on how to help child develop literacy skills	Early childhood	Anyone with internet access

PROGRAM TITLE & AGENCY	BASIC, OVERALL DESCRIPTION	LITERACY ASPECT	AGE GROUP TARGETED	GEOG. AREA SERVED
Vancouver Island University Reading & Writing Centre	Centre, in downtown Duncan storefront, works to build self-confidence in students & awareness of learning patterns & successful strategies for full participation in the community	Teaches reading, writing, and math in a group setting. Courses are at fundamental literacy level & can prepare students for Grade 11 & 12 upgrading courses at Aboriginal or elsewhere or job training courses	Age 17 + or out of school a year. Half + tend to be First Nation	No limitations
Wee Lakers (SD#79 & Cowichan Village Market)	Once/week, same as Whales' Tales	Stories, craft, songs, story telling	Children 0-6	Open to the public
Whales' Tales (MCFD, VIHA, SD#79 & Duncan Mall)	Two mornings/week drop-in program in Duncan Mall.	Stories, craft, songs, story telling	Children 0-6	Open to the public
Yuthuythut Adult Training Centre (Cowichan Tribes)	10-month program for adults in variety of subject matters; can take up to years to complete. Includes work experience	Recent emphasis has been on improving literacy	Adults over 18	All Cowichan tribes' members & extended families

OTHER RELEVANT PROGRAMS, SERVICES, INITIATIVES NOT OFFERING LITERACY TRAINING PER SE				
Coast Salish Employment & Training Society	In process of assessing needs for literacy as part of 14-member First Nation effort. No active program at this time.			
Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society	Offer ESL and refers those needing literacy to other agencies	Do not offer literacy training of their own		
Understanding the Early Years	Local component of national initiative to get better info to communities to use of creating programs for children	Not set up to offer literacy programs itself		