

Comox Valley Community Literacy Plan May 2014

All Comox Valley citizens can access literacy and learning programs and supports to increase their literacy and essential skills

<p>Goal 1: Build on the existing capacity for ongoing coordination and collaboration in community literacy development</p>	<p>Goal 2: Strengthen and support family literacy network, coordination, and collaboration to enhance family literacy programs and activities¹</p>	<p>Goal 3: Increase literacy and essential skills opportunities for hard-to-reach populations</p>	<p>Goal 4: Strengthen and support Comox Valley Essential Skills Partnership (CVESP) outreach, programs and resources</p>
<p>Strategy 1.1: Sustain coordination for community based literacy</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Link literacy and essential skills (LES) more explicitly to municipal, provincial, and federal government priorities b) Secure business/other partnerships c) Develop fundraising that is substantial and consistent (e.g. Raise-a-Reader) d) Diversify funding sources 	<p>Strategy 2.1: Sustain coordination of family literacy network (linked to Strategy 1.1)</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Link family literacy more explicitly to school district, municipal, provincial, and federal government priorities b) Secure business/other partnerships c) Develop fundraising that is substantial and consistent (e.g. Raise-a-Reader) d) Diversify funding sources 	<p>Strategy 3.1: Understand the barriers to participation</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Consult with program stakeholders including families, adults and frontline workers b) Share information and knowledge regarding barriers with program stakeholders 	<p>Strategy 4.1: Sustain coordination of Comox Valley Essential Skills Partnership (linked to Strategy 1.1)</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Link Essential Skills more explicitly to school district, municipal, provincial, and federal government priorities b) Secure business/other partnerships c) Develop fundraising that is substantial and consistent (e.g. Raise-a-Reader) d) Diversify funding sources

¹ It is a priority to support children and youth in developing their literacy skills. This requires that we also support families including parents and guardians. This follows the belief that a parent is a child's first and most important teacher.

<p>Strategy 1.2: Create a community literacy development roundtable</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Connect literacy to all sectors: health, justice, civic, economic, seniors, policy and housing (AHERO)ⁱ b) Strengthen connection and communication among learners -> frontline workers -> administration c) Bring energy, experience, knowledge, information and resources together d) Create Terms of Reference for network 	<p>Strategy 2.2: Enhance engagement and understanding among community partners in family literacy activities (including program creation, delivery, and evaluation)</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Create Terms of Reference for network (FLOAC)ⁱⁱ b) Collect and share documentation of successful programs (MGM, Little Learners, FLO, 1000x5)ⁱⁱⁱ c) Support test projects and promote best practices d) Have regular meetings e) Provide family literacy training and information for practitioners and stakeholders f) Share resources and information g) Annually review strategic priorities and actions h) Develop funding recommendations 	<p>Strategy 3.2: Create opportunities for involvement of immigrants and naturalized Canadians, youth, and seniors</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify inequities affecting sub-populations that would benefit from concerted action b) Use emerging literacies to engage learners such as digital literacy, environmental literacy, physical literacy 	<p>Strategy 4.2: Enhance and expand engagement and understanding among community partners in Essential Skills activities (including program creation delivery, and evaluation)</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Create Terms of Reference for network (CVESP) f) Document and share successful programs (CVESP program for youth, CVESP program for young parents) g) Support test projects and promote best practices h) Have regular meetings i) Provide essential skills training and information for practitioners and stakeholders j) Share resources and information k) Annually review strategic priorities and actions l) Develop funding recommendations
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<p>Strategy 1.3: Enhance Coordination & Leadership (CVLLA)^{iv}</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CVLLA continues to work as a hub for LES communications, information and contacts b) Connect and network with other North Island Literacy Organizations and Coordinators c) Regularly convene the roundtable d) Support, conduct and disseminate research & best practices e) Ensure accountability to stakeholders, network participants, and to learners (quality record keeping including assessment and evaluation) f) Establish regular communication methods g) Recognize and reward achievement 	<p>Strategy 2.3: Enhance the quality of family literacy programs</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop programs that meet families’ needs and realities b) Develop quality record keeping including assessment and evaluation c) Document and share results 	<p>Strategy 3.3: Create opportunities for intercultural and intergenerational engagement</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mentorship programs, leadership training for youth b) Community service learning c) Programs that involve youth and seniors (computer, storytelling) d) Youth working with youth 	<p>Strategy 4.3: Create and deliver quality ES programs</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop programs that meet participants needs and realities b) Develop quality record keeping including assessment and evaluation c) Document and share results
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<p>Strategy 1.4: Communicate broadly (to business, community, government) about LES</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop clear, concise messaging that all stakeholders communicate b) Enhance website c) Present literacy and Essential Skills to groups, Boards, government and public d) Involve business/government in literacy program assessment, delivery, and evaluation as a key stakeholder e) Include literacy organizations at community events and fairs 	<p>Strategy 2.4: Increase participation in family literacy programs and events</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Raise awareness of program/event b) Strengthen system of referrals among organizations c) Work collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure that learning pathways among programs are clear and supported 		
<p>Strategy 1.5: Increase capacity and expertise of LES practitioners</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Stabilize and increase funding for LES practitioners b) Provide mentoring 			

<p>programs</p> <p>c) Provide professional development</p>			
<p>Strategy 1.6: Build a strategy for iterative planning and evaluation</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <p>a) Set dates for plan review and update at the outset</p> <p>b) Assign responsibility for regular plan updates to an organization (e.g. CVLLA) or create a standing body with this responsibility</p>			

ⁱ AHERO: Ad Hoc Emergency Response Organization

ⁱⁱ FLOAC: Family Literacy Outreach Advisory Committee

ⁱⁱⁱ MGM: Mother Goose and More; FLO: Family Literacy Outreach Program; 1000x5 Book Distribution

^{iv} CVLLA: Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association