

Decoda Community Report 2016

TRI-028

Contact Information

Name of community:
Tri-Cities

School District (leave blank if you do not know):	
	Response
34 Abbotsford	
70 Alberni	
10 Arrow and Slokan Lk	
51 Boundary	
54 Bulkley Valley	
41 Burnaby	
72 Campbell River	
27 Cariboo-Chilcotin	
49 Bella Coola	
23 Central Okanagan	
33 Chilliwack	
82 Coast Mountains	
71 Comox Valley	
43 Coquitlam/Tricities	X

School District (leave blank if you do not know):	
	Response
79 Cowichan Valley	
37 Delta	
81 Fort Nelson	
78 Fraser Cascade	
74 Gold Trail	
61 Greater Victoria	
64 Gulf Islands	
50 Haida Gwaii /Queen Charlotte	
73 Kamloops-Thompson	
8 Kootenay Lake	
20 Kootenay-Columbia	
35 Langley	
42 Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows	
75 Mission	
68 Nanaimo/Ladysmith	
91 Nechako Lakes	
40 New Westminster	
58 Nicola-Similkameen	
92 Nisga'a	
83 North Okanagan-Shuswap	
44 North Vancouver	

School District (leave blank if you do not know):	
	Response
67, 53 Okanagan Skaha/S. Okanagan Similkameen	
60 Peace River North	
59 Peace River South	
47 Powell River	
57 Prince George	
52 Prince Rupert/49 North Coast	
69 Qualicum/Parksville	
28 Quesnel	
19 Revelstoke	
38 Richmond	
6 Rocky Mountain	
63 Saanich	
48 Howe Sound	
62 Sooke	
5 Southeast Kootenay	
87 Stikine	
46 Sunshine Coast	
36 Surrey	
39 Vancouver	
85 Vancouver Island North	
84 Vancouver Island West	

School District (leave blank if you do not know):	
	Response
22 Vernon	
45 West Vancouver	

Name of person submitting this report:

Ann Johannes

Address:

5707 Spruce Street

Phone number:

6047262745

Email address:

tricitieSliteracy@gmail.com

Submission Date:

Your Literacy Action Plan

1. Please describe your community in one or two short paragraphs (e.g. size, economy, demographics, and trends). Are there any major changes that have taken place over the last year that impact literacy work? (maximum 250 words)

The Tri-Cities: Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, Port Moody and the two villages of Anmore and Belcarra have a population of 218,509. Thirty seven percent of the total Tri-Cities population was foreign born (2011 census). The population in the Tri-Cities continues to increase. For example, according to the 2011 census, there was a population increase of nearly 11% from 2006 to 2011. Community organizations are actively engaged in developing and delivering services to this growing community. In 2011, Korean was the dominant non-official home language in Coquitlam and Port Moody. Cantonese was the predominant non-official language spoken at home in Port Coquitlam. The Aboriginal population in Tri-Cities more than doubled from 2006 to 2011. The population went from 2975 to 7110 with more than half living in Coquitlam. Statistics from the 2011 Census show that education levels are high throughout the Tri-Cities with the lowest proportion of those with post-secondary are living in Port Coquitlam at 65%. No major changes have occurred in the last year although the Tri-Cities has received a large number of new refugees in the community which has added to the workload of many of our partner organizations but it has also provided additional opportunities.

2. What categories related to the priorities from your community's literacy plan that have been addressed this year?

	Response
Aboriginal	
Adult literacy	X
Awareness about community programs	X
Early years	X
English language support	X
Family literacy	X
Financial literacy	
Health literacy	
Middle years	X
Prenatal	

2. What categories related to the priorities from your community's literacy plan that have been addressed this year?	
	Response
Plain language	
Seniors	
Teens and young adults	
Workplace literacy	
Other	

3. What are the three most important initiatives or actions that have taken place this year? <i>Please select only three responses</i>	
	Response
Building awareness of the importance of literacy	X
Identifying needs	
Holding a literacy event/s	
Opening an office space or literacy centre	
Creating or expanding programs/initiatives	X
Promoting literacy programs	
Building relationships with partners	X
Providing training/professional development	
Creating and/or maintaining a website	
Holding workshops for community members	
Other	

4. What indications do you have that people's understanding of literacy and of literacy related issues in the community has increased? (maximum 150 words)

The LOC and the work of the Tri-Cities Literacy Committee is recognized and known by members of a wide variety of community committees. Local, provincial and federal government officials are also aware of the work of the committee because of their attendance and accessibility at literacy events and meetings. Readership of the monthly literacy newsletter has averaged at approximately 380 people per month! In addition, the committees and subcommittees have sustained a consistent amount of community partners.

Literacy Task Group

5. How many people participate in the Literacy Task Group and related committees? (Please enter a specific numeric value.)

24.0

6. What sectors are involved in the Literacy Task Group?

	Response
Aboriginal community	
Addiction support services	
BC Ministry of Children and Families	X
Business associations/Chamber of Commerce	
Businesses	
Childcare organizations	
Children and youth service providers	X
City council	
College/University	X
Community members/Residents	X
Community service non-profit organizations	X

6. What sectors are involved in the Literacy Task Group?	
	Response
Community service orgs. (e.g. Rotary)	
Disabilities associations	
Early childhood service providers	X
Employment services	
Faith organizations	
Family literacy program representatives	X
Half-way houses	
Health services/Regional health authority	
Interagency committee representative	
Justice/Correctional services/Police	
Library	X
Literacy non-profit organizations	X
Mental health services	
Parks and recreation	
Retirees	
School district	X
Seniors organization	
Shelters	
Social planning	
Social services	
Women's support services	

6. What sectors are involved in the Literacy Task Group?	
	Response
Others...	X
<i>If 'others', please specify:</i>	
Community Volunteer Connections - non-profit	

7. How many times did your Literacy Task Group and related groups meet? (Please enter a specific numeric value)
17.0

8. What community tables and/or regularly scheduled community meetings (excluding Literacy Task Group meetings) did the Literacy Outreach Coordinator attend in the year? Please identify each meeting group (e.g. Early Childhood or Economic Development) and the number of times attended.												
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 or more
Aboriginal services	X											
Business/Chamber of Commerce	X											
Corrections services	X											
Disability/inclusion	X											
Early years												X
Economic development	X											
English language/Immigration services		X										
Event planning					X							
Family services	X											

8. What community tables and/or regularly scheduled community meetings (excluding Literacy Task Group meetings) did the Literacy Outreach Coordinator attend in the year? Please identify each meeting group (e.g. Early Childhood or Economic Development) and the number of times attended.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 or more
Health	X											
Interagency							X					
Library	X											
Municipal/Regional district				X								
Post secondary institutions		X										
Program facilitators	X											
Program planning					X							
School/Parent advisory	X											
Social planning	X											
Volunteer networks	X											
Youth										X		
Other												X

Initiatives and Collaborations

For questions regarding numbers, please enter only a single value. Enter estimates where necessary (please do not use commas when entering large numbers).

9. How many new literacy initiatives resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator?

1.0

10. How many expanded or continued initiatives resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator?

15.0

11. How many organizations are collaborating to deliver these literacy initiatives in your community?

20.0

12. What organizations are collaborating to deliver these literacy initiatives? (Select all that apply)

	Response
Aboriginal community	
Addiction support services	
BC Ministry of Children and Families	X
Business associations e.g., Chamber of Commerce or unions	
Businesses	X
Childcare organizations	X
Children and youth service providers	X
City, town, community or municipal representatives	X
College/University	X
Community members/Residents	X
Community service non-profit organizations	X
Community service orgs. (e.g. Rotary)	X
Disabilities associations	
Early childhood service providers	X

12. What organizations are collaborating to deliver these literacy initiatives? (Select all that apply)	
	Response
Employment services	
Faith organizations	
Family literacy program representatives	X
Family Services	X
Half-way houses	
Health services/Regional health authority	X
Immigrant services including multicultural groups, ESL supprt, etc.	X
Interagency committee representative	
Justice/Correctional services/Police	
Library	X
Literacy non-profit organizations	X
Mental health services	X
Parks and recreation	X
Retirees	X
Schools, school district, PAC etc.	X
Seniors organization	
Social planning	
Social services	
Women's support services	
Others...	X

12. What organizations are collaborating to deliver these literacy initiatives? (Select all that apply)

Response

If 'others', please specify.

Community Volunteer Connections

13. Please share the story of an important collaboration that has taken place to support literacy and the work of the Literacy Task Group. (maximum 250 words)

With the decrease in funding from the Raise a Reader program, we had to come up with alternative funding sources to ensure the continuation of our Stories Galore & More program. This is a program that we offer in various parks over 6 weeks in the summer. In the summer of 2015, we were able to run it in 7 parks, 3 days a week. We wanted to continue to run it so we've teamed up with The United Way Avenues of Change project in Coquitlam River who are funding the cost of running the program in one of the parks in their community. They are helping promote the program and providing volunteers to help run it at the park on top of a financial contribution to the program. In addition, we also work with the Coquitlam Public Library who stores all our supplies and equipment and manages the hiring and paying of the facilitators we have hired. They have also provided an insurance waiver for all the cities that we operate the program in. The cities have all worked with us to ensure that we are able to run the program in their parks, without any cost to us. Both Community Volunteer Connections and SUCCESS provide volunteers for the program as well. Finally, both the Port Moody and Terry Fox libraries are also participating in this program by running book swaps and attending the program when they can. This is truly a collaborative project and would never be as successful without all of the organizations on board. While we are only running it in 5 parks this year, it's still a huge success and I'm very proud of it.

14. What were your top three goals in the past year? (maximum 50 words each)

Goal 1

Communication via a monthly newsletter, social media and media coverage

Goal 2

Collaboration - by building relationships with other organizations in the community, it is easier to achieve our goals

Goal 3

Public Awareness - by participating in events in the community, we raise awareness of who we are and what we do

15. What actions were taken to reach those goals? (maximum 150 words each)

Goal 1

I send out a monthly digital newsletter to a subscription base of approximately 180 people who then forward on the link. On average, about 380 people read our newsletter. I also maintain an active Facebook page which is frequently updated and often shared by other agencies or organizations. I was also interviewed by Tri-City News on a feature about Family Literacy and Stories Galore and More. There was also media coverage of our Little Free Libraries in both the Tri-City News and the North Shore News. Snap'd Tri-Cities BC also posted a number of photos from our LINC Canada Day picnic.

Goal 2

Almost every program that the Literacy Committee is involved in in the Tri-Cities is a collaboration. See the example of Stories Galore above. In addition, we run a monthly Family Play & Learn at Coquitlam Centre with SD43, the libraries, Coquitlam Parks and Rec and the Early Childhood Development Coordinator. The Annual LINC Canada Day picnic is a collaboration of all of our local LINC providers - SUCCESS, ISS of BC, Douglas College, Share, SD43 Continuing Education and attended by 1 mayor, 2 MLAs and 1 MP this year.

Goal 3

Public Awareness of who we are is critical to the success of our Committee. I attended 7 Ready Set Learn programs throughout the Tri-Cities, participated in all 10 Family Play & Learn nights, participated in the Healthy Kids Fair, presented to 3 different groups about the importance of literacy and reading with your children, ran Story Time at 2 events hosted by an immigrant organization, and have met all 3 mayors, 3 MLAs and an MP and talked about what we do to those new to their position.

16. Please tell us about adult literacy programs in your community that resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator.

How many adult literacy programs were there?

3.0

How many adults participated in these programs?

1000.0

17. Please tell us about family literacy programs in your community that resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator.

How many family literacy programs were there?

3.0

How many adults participated in these family literacy programs?

964.0

How many children participated in these family literacy programs?

1508.0

18. Please tell us about literacy programs for school-age children in your community that resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator.

How many programs specifically for school-age children were there?

0.0

How many school-age children participated in these programs?

0.0

19. Please tell us about literacy programs specifically for youth in your community that resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator.

How many programs specifically for youth were there?

0.0

How many youth participated in these programs?

0.0

20. Please tell us about literacy programs specifically for seniors in your community that resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator.

How many seniors programs were there?

0.0

How many seniors participated in these programs?

0.0

21. Please tell us about children and adults participating in literacy events that resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator.

How many adults participated in these events?

550.0

How many children participated in these events?

120.0

22. Please tell us about workshops or seminars that resulted or benefited from the work of your Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator.

How many workshops or seminars were there?

4.0

How many people participated in these workshops or seminars?

170.0

23. How many books and/or other materials were given out as a result of the work of the Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator?

11700.0

Resources

For questions regarding numbers, please enter only a single value. Enter an estimate if necessary. No \$ symbol or commas are needed.

24. How many successful grant applications resulted from the work of the Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator? Do not include literacy outreach coordination funds received from Decoda Literacy Solutions.

2.0

25. What is the total value of these successful grant applications?

7630.0

26. Please list the full names of these granting organizations:

Raise a Reader from the Vancouver Sun (\$4800) City of Coquitlam Spirit Grant (\$2830)

27. What is the value of in-kind resources contributed by organizations or individuals that participated in programs and events resulting or benefiting from the work of the Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator?

13750.0

28. What is the value of actual funds contributed by organizations that participated in programs and events resulting or benefiting from the work of the Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator?

1250.0

29. How many fundraising events were hosted by or benefited from the work of the Literacy Task Group and/or Literacy Outreach Coordinator?

1.0

30. What is the amount raised by fundraising?

0.0

31. What is the amount raised through donations?

0.0

Evaluation

32. What worked well this year? (maximum 100 words)

As usual, the community collaboration worked well this year. Because of this collaboration, we were able to continue with so many of our literacy initiatives which would otherwise have been impossible to continue. In addition, we were able to do one new initiative. Relationships between people and partners continue to be the foundation of our literacy work. Our Little Free Libraries have continued to grow. The summer Family Literacy program that we presented was highly successful once again.

33. What was challenging this year? (maximum 100 words)

The uncertainty of continued funding for the LOC position results in an inability to do some long term planning. The reduction of the Raise a Reader funding took considerable time to work through but luckily, our wonderful partners stepped up yet again to help. The continuing struggle to find and help adult literacy learners is ongoing. While we have many literacy programs in our community, we have difficulty is saying that we've been able to help those who need it the most.

34. How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy? (maximum 150 words)

All our events are well attended and people are engaged. We bought a few sets of Adult Learner book sets through our Adult Literacy & ESL Working Group and encouraged people to join the summer book clubs. Last summer, yet again, we had a number of people who read, not only their first book in English, but their first book ever. Our monthly newsletters continue to have a high level of readership and our LINC Canada Day picnic continues to be well attended and much appreciated.

35. Please share a story that illustrates the impact literacy initiatives have had. (maximum 250 words)

A few years ago, our Family Literacy Working Group decided to sponsor Little Free Libraries (LFL) in the community and offered \$250 grants to build and stock them. We had given out 9 grants. This past year, we budgeted an additional 6 grants and when the opportunity was advertised, within a couple of weeks, we had received more applicants than grants available. In addition, we had identified a community that had lower EDI scores and talked about a number of ways to support the families in that community. Our final decision to address those concerns was to sponsor another 5 LFL in that community. There was, again, much demand for the grants. As a result of all the media attention generated around them, LFL have been popping up all over the Tri-Cities and have become well known and identified. In addition, the stewards of the libraries have been busy replenishing all the books in the libraries as they are often wiped out of books in a very short period of time. To us, this definitely means that literacy is being promoted in the Tri-Cities.

Next Year

36. What are your top three goals for the coming year? (maximum 50 words each)

Goal 1

Collaboration will continue to be a key focus of our Literacy Committee as we cannot effectively promote literacy without working with a number of partners in the community.

Goal 2

Public Awareness - continuing work in the community and at events promotes who we are and what we do.

Goal 3

Access for All - continue to provide information to all people in the community.

37. What actions are planned to reach those goals? (maximum 150 words each)

Goal 1

With limited time and resources, the best way for the LOC to achieve our goals in the community is through collaboration with our partners. We will continue to focus on building relationships and look for opportunities where we can work with these partners. Almost all of our actions in the Tri-Cities is accomplished through working with our partners and that is crucial in times when resources are tight.

Goal 2

In 2016, the City of Coquitlam is celebrating their 125th anniversary as a city. To celebrate, they have invited the Literacy committee to their Neighbourhood Nights program - a program meant to build community and meet your neighbours and have fun. We will be attending as many of the 12 events as weather permits which expands our public awareness of who we are. In addition, I am also participating in the Port Moody Ribfest and working in the Storybook Castle over the course of the 3 days. Again, the purpose is to expand public awareness of who we are. We will continue all our normal activities that also raises awareness of the Literacy Committee - Family Play & Learn (crafts at the mall), Stories Galore and More, Healthy Kids Fair, Ready Set Learn, Little Free Libraries, etc

Goal 3

Our big focus for our Adult Literacy & ESL Working Group in the upcoming year is to run a series of cultural competence workshops. Our goal is to host workshops where new immigrants can learn about Canadian culture and we have 5 areas that we would like to focus on. While we do much in our community to understand the cultures of the clients we work with, what we have discovered is that they often have questions on what life is like in Canada and how things are done here. We will work with the libraries who will host these workshops and they will be available to all who are interested. The structure and final topics will be flushed out in consultation with the students in our programs. And again, by continuing all our normal activities - Family Play & Learn (crafts at the mall), Stories Galore and More, Healthy Kids Fair, Ready Set Learn, Little Free Libraries, etc - all of which are open to all, we will achieve this goal.

38. What will you need to meet those goals? (maximum 150 words)

Continued support from all our partners, especially the School District and the libraries. A guarantee of long term funding for the LOC position to focus on multi-year projects and programs that benefit the community without the limitations that uncertainty create.

39. How will you measure the success of actions taken to address those goals? (maximum 150 words)

Continued acceptance and awareness of the Literacy Committee by local and municipal officials. Continued tracking of opens of the newsletter as well as Facebook comments and likes. Continuation of running programs and events in collaboration with partners. Continued high attendance at and interest in our events.

How Can We Help?

40. What else can Decoda do to support you? (maximum 150 words)

Decoda has been very open and honest with us in all the communications and questions that we have asked. Decoda responds to questions for help and clarification in a timely and appropriate manner. My first year in this position, while not without challenges, has been easier with the support and encouragement from Decoda, especially Maureen Kehler.

41. What else do you need in general? (maximum 150 words)

Other than a long term commitment to continued funding for this position, and at a minimum of what we currently have (more would be better as I think of all the extra work I can do within the community if only I had more hours!!), I can't think of anything else. I'm very fortunate to work in such an amazing and collaborative community where the needs of the community take precedence over individual organizational's needs.

Please click here when you have finished your report.

	My community report is now complete
Response	X