

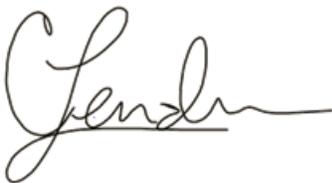
# Golden, Kimberley & Windermere Valley Community Literacy Plans 2016



## A Message from Rocky Mountain School District No. 6

We have a long history of collaborative planning toward a Rocky Mountain School District Literacy Plan that captured the collective efforts of teams across our wide geographic area. When the Ministry of Education no longer required a plan we created one anyway because the work we were doing together was highly valued. This iteration of planning communicates the shared commitment of the partners to enhance literacy throughout each of our communities.

I am pleased to acknowledge the contributions of literacy champions representing agencies, community groups, schools, and other interested people who attend meetings all year to share opportunities and challenges and co-create roadmaps to achieve our goals. The work is led locally by Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) Literacy Coordinators Katie Andruschuk, Monica De, and Carol Fairhurst and regionally by CBAL Regional Program Manager Betty Knight. We are grateful for this leadership and for the opportunity to develop strong relationships and plans at the community literacy tables.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Lenardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cheryl Lenardon

Assistant Superintendent

Rocky Mountain School District No. 6

# Golden Literacy Plan

## June 2016

### INTRODUCTION

Thanks to the Community Literacy members who helped develop Golden's Community Literacy Plan:

- Bev Collins and Judy Brook, WorkBC
- Jane Fearing and Angela Stott, School District #6
- Monica De and Kathleen Hadford, CBAL
- Anne Hooper-Johnston, Interior Health
- Rhonda Smith and Shelly Wadden, Early Childhood Development Coalition
- Laura Cankovic and Karen Cathcart, College of the Rockies

### OUR COMMUNITY

Golden and Area has approximately 6800 residents. 4.2% of the population are aboriginal and 7.8% are immigrants. Golden has historically been a resource-based community. The forest industry is the most important industrial sector, but silica mining and transportation also play key roles and in recent years tourism has been growing and having a strong impact.

In Golden and Area, residents of all ages can access a variety of formal and informal learning opportunities. Golden does well when it comes to collaboration - local schools, the college, library, community organizations, businesses and volunteers work together to support literacy. Committees such as the Early Childhood Development Coalition and the Community Literacy Planning Committee help to determine the learning needs and interests of community members, build partnerships and collaborations, and coordinate programming and services.

Changes that have taken place over the last year that impact literacy work are as follows:

- Starting in January 2016, funding for the Adult Basic Education at the College of the Rockies (COTR) changed - learners now have to pay approximately \$450 per course, but they could be eligible for subsidies. Criteria for learners also changed – learners need to be able to progress to post-secondary levels. Because of these changes, the special needs group that had been studying at the college for decades could no longer study at COTR. The expectation is that there would be fewer learners this year too.
- The COTR offered the Older Worker's program which boosts participants' computer and workplace literacy skills.
- A new day care centre opened at an elementary school, so more children birth to 5 will have access to quality care with developmentally appropriate activities.

## REFLECTION OF 2015-2016

### GOALS AND ACTONS

Top 3 goals in the past year	Actions taken to reach the goals
To increase access to early diagnosis of developmental delays	The Early Childhood Development Coalition offered screening checks every month at the Early Years Centre
To provide students with a greater variety of learning opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CBAL, GSS and APES partnered to utilize high school students as reading tutors in the 1 to 1 Children's Reading program at APES</li> <li>- CBAL and NES partnered to bring Guys Read to NES for the first time</li> <li>- COTR and GSS implemented an Intro to Trades for high school students</li> <li>- The youth centre coordinator started an Advisory Committee and held a meeting to discuss expanding programming</li> </ul>
To continue partnerships amongst adult service providers to access and benefit adult learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- College of the Rockies, CBAL and WorkBC worked together to determine how to address the needs of adult learners with special needs (i.e. Sunshine Group)</li> </ul>

### SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATIONS

When presented with the idea of creating a new celebration to promote the awareness and importance of literacy in September, Golden's Community Literacy Planning Committee members were keen! Representatives from the Golden Women's Centre, WorkBC, Interior Health, School District, Golden Community Resources Society and CBAL helped plan activities and events for Literacy Month. As a result of their cash and in-kind contributions, we were able to offer our community different events and workshops every week in September. For example, we had a very successful Trivia Challenge event, a Community Scramble with prizes for the winners, free workshops, and a high rate of participation for the Stop, Drop and Read event (904 people participated!).

## IMPACT OF LITERACY

The Columbia Basin Trust demonstrates that they understand the importance of the early years because they added an Early Years focus to their Strategic Plan and are in the process of creating a funding stream for this pillar. They are meeting with the Early Childhood Development Coalition to determine what the assets and needs are to see how they can most effectively support this pillar.

Organizations in the community show that they understand the importance of building employability and workplace skills. WorkBC continues to partner with CBAL to help their clients improve essential skills and job skills; CBAL and Golden Secondary (GSS) are partnering to provide the Building Resilient Workers program; College of the Rockies (COTR) has been very successful in running the Older Worker's program; and COTR and GSS are partnering to offer high school students apprenticeship programs.

## Literacy by the Numbers

# of PROGRAMS	# OF PARTICIPANTS
7 adult literacy programs	39 adults
4 family literacy programs	167 adults and 199 children
2 school-aged programs at 4 different schools	97 children
2 literacy events (Family Literacy Day and Literacy Month)	190 adults and 830 children

## ACHIEVEMENTS

This was the second year that Golden Secondary School and CBAL partnered to expand the 1 to 1 Children's Reading program. Last year there were some challenges using high school students to read with the elementary school students. This year we used strategies to help the program go more smoothly all year long.

The partnerships with CBAL, Success by 6, Early Years Centre and Early Childhood Development Coalition allowed us to run the Family Dinner Play and Learn program from October to May. The goal was to make this program more accessible to parents by offering dinner and childminding so parents could improve literacy skills and learn ways to support their children's development. It worked – we had to waitlist families because the program was full.

The Older Worker's program at the College of the Rockies was so successful, they have offered 4 sessions so far and they will offer another 2 sessions in 2016-17.

## CHALLENGES IN REACHING GOALS

One challenge for the Settlement Worker, WorkBC staff and 1 to 1 Adult Tutors is that learners/clients often don't show up for their appointments or workshops. Facilitator and tutors contact the participants, but they still often don't show up.

Recruiting learners for adult literacy programs can often be a challenge. This year, Golden CBAL cancelled 2 adult literacy programs because not enough learners registered.

## VISION FOR 2016-2017

### GOALS AND ACTIONS

<b>Top 3 goals for the coming year</b>	<b>Actions planned to reach the goals</b>
Work towards reducing EDI scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- ECDC will strengthen relationship with kindergarten teachers</li><li>- Continue to offer parenting education workshops</li><li>- ECDC will offer expanded universal screening from birth to 5 years of age</li></ul>
Provide students with a greater variety of learning opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Youth centre in partnership with community organizations and the school would like to bring more programming into the centre</li><li>- COTR is partnering with GSS to provide a dual credit program (e.g. bookkeeping, office admin) for the upcoming school year</li><li>- CBAL will look into partnering with GSS to provide Building Resilient Workers program for high school students</li></ul>
Provide formal and informal learning opportunities for adult learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- COTR in partnership with businesses and through community consultation is working on implementing new adult literacy programs such as an Education Assistant program, Hospitality Industry program, professional Class 1 Truck Driving program</li><li>- CBAL can connect with Age Friendly Committee to determine what kind of Lifelong Learning programs seniors want to reinstate (as mentioned in their meeting minutes in April 2016)</li></ul>

### ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

Meetings with partners will be required to determine the needs of the learners and the goals of the programs. Funding will be needed to run the programs and the locations for the programs need to be secured.

### EVALUATION OF THE PLAN

Success will be measured by participant and facilitator feedback, pre and post assessments, and attendance.

**Kimberley**

# Literacy Plan

## June 2016

### INTRODUCTION

*The Community Literacy Planning Committee for Kimberley currently includes 16 attending members from multiple sectors (community non-profit, early childhood education, literacy, health, immigrant and ESL, schools, seniors, local government) who all bring an interest of healthy literacy objectives to the planning table. The committee meets 3 times per year, to network with each other and share experiences, raise issues of interest, concern (and celebration!), and to plan for the literacy priorities in the community.*

### OUR COMMUNITY

*Kimberley and the greater area have a population of 7600 people. The economy has shifted from a once active blue collar mining town, to a reinvented 4 season tourism destination over the last decade or so. As it is still considered to provide affordable housing while offering healthy active lifestyle in a mountain environment, there are many young families and retired people moving here. However there are not many employment opportunities and the downturn in the Alberta economy may further affect the local economy, as has the closing of the local Canal Flats mill where some residents worked. There are 2 elementary schools, a middle school, high school and an independent school, as well as a local college campus.*

### REFLECTION OF 2015-2016

### GOALS AND ACTONS

What were your top three goals in the past year? What actions were taken to reach those goals?

**Goal 1:** *Continue to expand the adoption of the Ages and Stages questionnaire with Kimberley families*

*Actions: Continued outreach at public functions/locations (library, farmer's market, nurses, programs), purchased a new retractable banner to use with outreach activities and promotion of the program and laminated 2 large ASQ posters. Held weekly 2 hour ASQ clinics at the Early Learning Centre.*

**Goal 2:** Expansion of food security initiatives already in place, which includes multi-stakeholder interests.

*Actions: Began discussions with other service providers regarding forming a sub-committee to address the shared objectives and to build a more holistic approach to the issues. (eg. Little free library with cookbooks and gardening books at community garden, developing a literacy cooking class, broadening food box to include seniors and disabled population).*

**Goal 3:** Reaching hard to reach citizens

*Actions: Attempted to offer a Health and Safety program / workshops for youth at risk and for those seeking to enhance their employment opportunities. Invited Seniors Club to join the committee and provide input into relevant literacy issues that concern their members.*

## SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATIONS

Please share the story of an important collaboration that has taken place to support literacy and the work of the Literacy Task Group.

*The outreach to Seniors and the implementation of a new program called Introduction to iPads was a good example of a successful collaboration. With the partnership of CBAL and the Public Library, the new program was launched in the spring. The library provided free space with wifi, an ipad for the facilitator and also helped connect CBAL with a qualified facilitator. The Kimberley Seniors Club helped spread the word to their membership and the response led to the largest group the library has had attending a program at their space. This has also led to the local Seniors Club joining the Literacy Task Group so they can add their voice and ideas to our community planning around improving literacy for all.*

## IMPACT OF LITERACY

What indications do you have that people's understanding of literacy and of literacy related issues in the community has increased?

*One example of an increased understanding of the breadth of literacy has been our new relationship with the Kimberley Seniors Club. We have had discussions with them at our task force meeting and they appreciated knowing how broad the issue is and that they can be involved in programs that can directly benefit their members. Another example is the local refugee settlement committee, who have gathered volunteers to mentor both newly arriving refugees as well as the children of existing immigrant families through 1-1 tutoring. This was raised by concerned teachers at the schools where the students attend*

## Literacy by the Numbers

# of adult/senior literacy programs	2
# of family literacy programs	6
# of adults/seniors' accessing programs	334
# of organizations collaborating to offer programs	6
# of grants received	11

### ACHIEVEMENTS

What worked well this year?

- *The continuation of existing programs ran smoothly due to the experience of existing staff facilitators and their commitment to programs.*
- *New contacts and potential relationships initiated that may contribute to improved/expanded CBAL programming and also to community development initiatives via the Task Group.*
- *Continued support for the ASQ project by parents, public health nurses, community doctors and partnering agencies.*
- *Re-introduction of the Good Food Box and partnership with the Baptist church for distribution. Support for the Farmer's Market Coupon program.*
- 

### CHALLENGES IN REACHING GOALS

What was a challenge this year?

- *New LOC and other staff changes meant significant time at CBAL was dedicated to learning the job requirements as well as learning about the existing community relationships and needs. This impacted the existing membership of the Task Group.*
- *Efforts to encourage participation of 'hard to reach' families/adults/youth are in their infancy and were not overly successful except for some instances.*
- *Organization for literacy events (exposure, fundraising) was challenging due to time constraints.*

## VISION FOR 2016-2017

### OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Opportunities:

Kimberley is a community that is growing and changing, which provides opportunities to connect with new people and potential volunteers. There are also many other non-profit organizations with a passion to network and share, and we hope to benefit from that with forging partnerships around common goals. There are public venues for outreach (Farmer's Market, Fall Fair) which we can take advantage of to further speak about Literacy.

Challenges:

While not unique to our community, the challenge of connecting with those who could benefit from literacy programs continues. For example, where does one find those individuals who have not learned to read or write? How do we encourage families to participate with their children when they are more worried about putting food on their table?

### GOALS AND ACTIONS

What are your top three goals for the coming year? What actions are planned to reach those goals?

**Goal 1:** *Plan for Family Literacy Day in January as well as introduce the award for the Community Literacy Champion*

*Actions: Increase our public profile and outreach in an effort to further bring literacy into the community consciousness. Possibly solicit a sponsor for a Literacy event, such as a free family swim day. Solicit nominations for the Literacy Champion and present at an event to be determined.*

**Goal 2:** *Work more closely and collaboratively around the issue of healthy lifestyle (food, physical activity) and food security in the community while integrating messaging into literacy programs and/or offering literacy programs or workshops that focus on these themes.*

*Action: Form a sub-committee of key people from community organizations already involved in this (Healthy Kimberley, Wildsight (Farmers market and community garden), Food Bank, Fellowship Baptist Church, Early Years Team, CBAL) to discuss and develop cooperative planning and implementation*

**Goal 3:** *Identify the needs of more hard to reach populations and work towards offering relevant learning opportunities for them. This may include youth, seniors, the under / unemployed.*

*Action: While this is not a new objective it remains ongoing. Develop meaningful adult and seniors programs and try to find ways to encourage cross generational participation. Continue to work with the Seniors Club and Work BC to focus on reaching more potential clients. Encourage other key individuals to join the Task Group, particularly those who work with marginalized clients who would benefit from literacy programming and other support.*

## ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

What will be required to meet those goals for the coming year?

*In order to meet the goals above, committed time to focus on these objectives is one of the main criteria. A plan with some timelines will be helpful so it is integrated into the overall scheduling of work for everyone who gets involved. Further development of relationships will require ongoing, effective communication. More exposure in the media will be valuable. Mostly, an energetic and functioning Task Group will be key.*

## EVALUATION OF THE PLAN

How will you measure the success of actions taken to address those goals?

**Goal 1.** *Measurement would be the implementation of the objectives – holding an event and presenting the award. Media exposure to both would indicate interest.*

**Goal 2.** *The formation of a sub-committee, discussion of goals and setting of objectives would be one measurement. On the ground, the expansion of some of the existing programs already happening would indicate growth in the plan (eg: food coupons and boxes expanded to Seniors and disabled citizens). Guest speakers at existing programs, integration of Healthy Kimberley messaging into programs would be another.*

**Goal 3.** *Monitor referrals and participation in existing literacy programs. Also, if any new programs offered show promising registration or attendance. Additional memberships in the Task Group.*



# Windermere Valley Literacy Plan June 2016

## INTRODUCTION

This plan is a product of the Windermere Valley Community Literacy Planning Committee. Members of this committee represent approximately 13 organizations including the College of the Rockies, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, East Kootenay Employment Centre, Family Dynamix social resource agency, Interior Health, Invermere Public Library, the Ktunaxa nation, Rocky Mountain School District, as well as businesses and private citizens.

## OUR COMMUNITY

Kindergarten enrolment peaked in 2014-15, an echo of a “baby boom” when the job market was strong in 2007-09. School enrolment has plateau-ed in the last year, possibly due to these young families facing more economic challenges and moving away. The Canfor mill in Canal Flats has closed permanently, and a declining Alberta economy means fewer opportunities. There are obstacles to hiring Temporary Foreign Workers due to unemployment rates. This raises the cost of business for employers and affects immigrant opportunities. There continues to be a need for accessible education since Adult Basic Education is no longer available locally and is generally prohibitively expensive for those who are interested in it. A new community facility is currently under construction with planned completion in 2017. This will be a great addition to community space and services.

## REFLECTION OF 2015-2016

### GOALS AND ACTONS

2015-16 Goals	Actions
1. Expand adult learning opportunities, specifically work-related/employment skills.	Instead of regularly scheduled CBAL staff hours at the East Kootenay Employment Centre, CBAL began offering regularly scheduled employment skills workshops; more effective as they had regular referrals instead of more random walk-in contact.

	New CBAL program Learning To Learn and Learning To Learn Plus focused on reading, writing, math and study skills for postsecondary entrance or advancement as well as applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, and Portable Document Formats. Invermere Public Library resumed Community Volunteer Income Tax program and expanded volunteer base for that. Rocky Mountain Distributed Learning assisted 3 adults (above average) in achieving Adult Dogwood certificates.
2. Extend and improve outreach in non-hub communities.	Greater number of CBAL Adult and Family programs offered in Edgewater, Windermere, and Canal Flats. Good record of use of the Family Dynamix space in Canal Flats. Invermere Public Library added drop off/pick up location in Canal Flats.
3. Improve connection between early learning partners and schools in support of kindergarten readiness.	Greater interaction between Strong Start programs and K classes. CBAL programming supporting families with preschool and kindergarten aged children. High participation and support from partners and stakeholders in Welcome to K and Ready, Set, Learn events. Many collaborations between Early Years coordinator, CBAL staff, teachers, Invermere Public Library and childcare providers such as Healthy Eating, preschool story time, Books for Babies and Books for Toddlers. Training around early years nutrition in response to 2015 EDI data findings.

## SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATIONS

This year the Invermere Public Library, Family Dynamix and the Village of Canal Flats collaborated to bring library pick up and drop off services to Canal Flats, about a 45 minute drive from Invermere. Residents may reserve or check out library titles online or by phone, and the materials will be brought to the Columbia Discovery Centre (the Village office). There is shelf space there for the chosen books as well as some additional items that may be of interest, and patrons may also return their items there.

The Book Under Every Tree project is a collaboration between the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and the Columbia Valley Christmas Bureau. In addition, the Invermere Rotary service club regularly funds the project with a generous donation. Books are collected for several weeks by CBAL, then sorted and bundled by CBAL volunteers to be placed in Christmas Bureau hampers. The project also brings together businesses who host drop off locations and other social agencies who may receive the extra books.

## IMPACT OF LITERACY

Many participants are very aware of their needs/wants and are eager to learn, particularly those moving from basic to intermediate computer skills. A group of seniors took the initiative to ask for programming that suited their need to learn new technology. Both the library and the college report greater statistics in use and inquiries into their services and community resources. Participant feedback is consistently positive. Many users of the library's Community Volunteer

Income Tax Program became library patrons for the first time or for the first time in years, and they returned seeking materials or assistance they would not have known about prior to accessing the tax service.

<b>Literacy by the Numbers</b>	
<b># of adult/senior literacy programs</b>	9
<b># of family literacy programs</b>	5
<b># of adults/seniors' accessing programs</b>	317
<b># of organizations collaborating to offer programs</b>	17
<b># of grants received</b>	2

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### What worked well this year?

- New staff and organizational dynamic at CBAL.
- CBAL moving to new office & classroom space.
- Creative programming.
- Great interest in language classes due to newcomers.

## CHALLENGES IN REACHING GOALS

### What was challenging this year?

- Commitment of participants, e.g. low pre registration or “dropping out” during programmes.
- Optimizing schedule of programming for the most participants, e.g. daytime or evening, childminding, etc.

- Responding to a gap in accessible education (no ABE).

## VISION FOR 2016-2017

### OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

In our community planning, many opportunities and challenges are identified. Some of these are tabled below.

Description	Change/Impact
Canal Flats mill permanent closure	Some residents of Canal Flats have transferred, moved or changed jobs. In attempting to address this shift with programming, we learned most employees of the mill were not permanent residents of Canal Flats. However loss of this employer will affect the forestry professionals, drivers and other trades who live in the valley.
Alberta economy	Fewer visitors or reduced spending in the valley will affect business owners and their employees. This may translate into learning needs if locals who have been working in Alberta return home needing new skills.
Upcoming provincial election	Often creates uncertainty with regard to funding and service stability.
New Columbia Valley Community Centre	Under construction with planned completion in 2017, this facility will provide meeting space and house the library. Opportunities for community development through partnerships and community events.

### GOALS AND ACTIONS

2016-2017 Goals	Actions
1. Increase programming to support employment and employability skills	Youth Employment Readiness program through Family Dynamix. Offer workplace skills workshops to broader community (i.e. outside employment centre). Prioritize computer training/tutoring to adults. Refine

	and continue Learning To Learn series. Support distributed learning in addressing accessible education gap. COTR Bladerunners programme planned for Fall-Winter 2016-17.
2. Development of community awareness and advocacy around literacy and essential skills	Increase awareness through presence at community events and cross promotion. Use collaborative networks (e.g. Columbia Valley Network, Community Literacy Planning Committee, Columbia Valley Youth Coalition, Columbia Valley Early Years Coalition, Imagine Invermere, etc.) to spread information. Support youth book club with books, information and resources.
3. Continue to extend and improve outreach and services in non-hub communities	“Touring” a tablet programme to every community. Establish a library book service to Edgewater. Maintain or improve current level of programming in Edgewater, Windermere & Canal Flats, implement One To One reading at Martin Morigeau.

**ROADMAP TO SUCCESS**

**What will be required to meet these goals for the coming year?**

- Stable funding.
- New money through fundraising and grants.
- Volunteers.
- Continuing and new collaborations.

**EVALUATION OF THE PLAN**

**How will you measure the success of actions taken to address those goals?**

- Consistent or increased participation in programming.
- Quality of collaborative relationships.
- Participant feedback.
- Increased use of services at the library, college, employment centre.

## CONCLUSION

Many thanks to the members of the Community Literacy Planning Committee who contribute their time to provide and promote learning opportunities, as well as review and report on each event or project. In the Windermere Valley the CLPC meets three times per year, and this plan is a reflection of the great collaborations that take place at that table and in the community. We continue to be proud of this work that contributes to the literacy health of our community.