



# Literacy Plan Report

June 2014

**Prepared by:** Lynda Brummitt, Delta Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator

## Contact Information:

Nancy Gordon,  
Director of Learning Services,  
Educational Programs  
Phone: 604-952-5052  
Email: [ngordon@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:ngordon@deltasd.bc.ca)

Roxanna Clark  
Manager, Early Years, BCBGC  
Phone: 604-591-9262  
Email: [rclark@bgcbc.ca](mailto:rclark@bgcbc.ca)



Read. Learn. Play. | [www.fvrl.ca](http://www.fvrl.ca)



Boys and Girls Club  
Community Services  
of Delta/Richmond

## **DELTA COMMUNITY LITERACY COMMITTEE**

### **Literacy Plan Report June 2014**

Prepared for the Delta Board of Education

By Lynda Brummitt, Literacy Outreach Coordinator

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE CURRENT YEAR:**

### **1) Task (Implementation) group:**

#### **a. Who takes part in the task group?**

Members:

Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC (BGC) – Roxanne Clark,  
Delta School District: Nancy Gordon, Catherine Watson, Jason Hodgins  
Alyson Caouette, Hemi Dhanoa

Delta Board of Education – Laura Dixon

DiverseCity – Jane Godfrey, Crystal McFeeters

Fraser Health Authority – Sepia Sharma

Fraser Valley Regional Library-Delta – Frances Thomson, Gillian McLeod

Parent/Adults with Disabilities – Shirley-Ann Reid

Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) – Devinder Chattha, Eva Touzard

REACH Child and Youth

Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) – Peggy Plumstead McLeod

#### **b. How is the work of this group organized?**

The task (implementation group) represents the agencies and organizations that are involved in literacy projects or have an interest in community literacy. This year the task group met four times. Two sessions were planning meetings to establish the active projects for the year and monitor progress. Two sessions took the form of community capacity building – one was a workshop for using the spiral of inquiry approach for literacy project development and the other was a community workshop entitled “Mixed Signals – Connection to Technology is Disconnecting Child Development.”

The steering committee for Delta community Literacy has representatives of the partners: Boys and Girls Club of South Coast BC (host agency), Delta School District, and Fraser Valley Regional Library – Delta that meets three to four times per year to oversee financial decisions and project development support and report preparation.

The Literacy Outreach Coordinator (LOC) works with the groups that have literacy projects and helps groups that are interested in starting a literacy project. The LOC also seeks out new literacy opportunities in the community and links the work of the literacy committee to other community planning tables and currently attend the Child and Youth Committee, Deltakids (formerly Early Childhood Development table and Middle Years Table) and the newly formed Local Immigration Partnership Council.

### **2) Community context:**

- a. What has happened in the community over the past year that impacts people in the community and the ability of organizations to support literacy development?**

In terms of demographic trends, Delta remains stable and the population growth is low compared to other lower mainland communities. Income levels, high school completion rates and post secondary education participation remain above provincial averages. But within sub groups of the Delta population there are distinct differences,

According to the FHA Health Profile for 2012, adults aged 65+ make up 20% of the population (20,877) while youth/children under 16 make up 17.5% (17,666). Compared to other communities in FHA, Delta has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest proportion of seniors and the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest proportion of children and youth. Delta now has more seniors than youth. Another FHA report on projected prevalence rates of dementia (2009 vs. 2034) showed that Delta will be second only to South Surrey/White Rock for prevalence of dementia within FHA.

In a report “Delta by the Numbers” prepared by Welcoming Communities Delta, it was noted that the immigrant population of North Delta, in particular, has grown substantially over the last 20 years. This report however, also noted that immigrant groups tend to have the similar education (post secondary) and occupational background as the general Delta population, but the median income of immigrants in Delta is lower. The report also compared income distribution by postal code which suggested a connection to lower income neighbourhoods and immigrant settlement trends in North Delta.

The neighbourhoods of North Delta East and North Delta West (north of 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between 112<sup>th</sup> Street and 120<sup>th</sup>) are identified through the Early Development Indicator research to have higher proportion of vulnerable children upon entering school. This area also has been prioritized in the proposed North Delta Area Plan as the “social heart of Delta” and will see community improvements, including the North Delta Recreation Centre Expansion project that will see new program space for community service agency programs.

### **3) Community development and literacy collaboration:**

The Delta Community Literacy Committee has benefitted from community collaborations that have existed in Delta for many years, most notably the Child and Youth Committee. The benefit is not only from the experience of working collaboratively but also from the background information and local research conducted that increases the understanding of the community.

The Delta Community Literacy Committee is linked to the CYC through Deltakids (members of Deltakids are also represented on the literacy committee). Working closely together, duplication is avoided and efforts towards common objects are maximized. Through the engagement and communications subcommittee, several events have been organized this year that focus on connecting with parents of infant and toddlers. Examples of collaboration this year are the events targeted to parents of infants and toddlers and development of a website.

### **4) Goals and actions for the current year:**

- a. What priorities, goals or objectives have you addressed this year?**
- b. What actions were taken to reach these? What organizations and groups participated in these actions? See table next page**

Goal	Objective	Action/agencies involved
Recognize Delta as literate community with culture of literacy support	Increase awareness of community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• family literacy and connecting families with young children to supports</li> </ul> Other general awareness events	In partnership with Deltakids (collaboration of Delta child and youth serving agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baby Information Corners at 2 Children’s Swap meets hosted by Delta Municipality, Parks, Recreation and Culture, and 2 outreach events at food banks</li> <li>• National Family Literacy Day Celebrations – 7 StrongStart Programs and 2 Family Resource Centres and 2 Delta Food Banks</li> </ul> Participated in Baby Play Date hosted by George Mackie Library – engaging parents with infants and toddlers in hands on play and early literacy. Feature article in S. Delta Leaders Newspaper on Delta Community Literacy Projects- August 2013 – Hellings Adult Literacy, A/PALS and Next Chapter Book Club Presentation to North Delta/Surrey University Women’s Club
Continue to strengthen collaborative school, public library and community partnerships	Increase opportunities for sharing the learning that occurs as a result of the literacy projects supported by Delta Community literacy	Training session for task group – Inquiry as a Framework for Community Literacy by Nancy Gordon, Delta School District  Involvement with DeltaKids and Communication/Engagement subcommittee. This work has progressed on the development of a website that will serve as an information hub for parents with children up to 12 years of age. Accompanying the website will be a number of strategies to reach to parents.
Locate and support the literacy needs of hard-to-reach individuals and families	Continues support of literacy projects that outreach to priority groups at risk of lower literacy – low income, immigrant/New Canadians and those impacted by historical Aboriginal experience	see list of agencies providing literacy programs in following chart
Secure funding to sustain, and if possible expand, effective literacy programs and practices	increase community capacity through training to understand importance of literacy and respond to literacy needs of people facing barriers	Workshop: Technology Balance – Mixed Signals: Connection to Technology is Disconnection Child Development by Cris Rowan, Zone’in Programs Inc. Attendance 63 – participants included representatives of community service agencies, Delta Libraries, Delta School District. This workshop provides background for future development of a community wide literacy campaign regarding technology, learning and connections

#### 4. Goals of Current Year – continued

**c. What adjustments were made to the plan? That is, as the year progressed were there new opportunities or were there changes that did not allow for some actions to be taken?**

##### Literacy Projects

a) Family Literacy projects added through the year to meet local needs

Of the 3 Delta communities, North Delta is a higher need area and has the highest population resulting in waiting lists existing for important programs that support families. Literacy projects were added to meet the need

##### Parent Child Mother Goose

Introduces parents/caregivers to the pleasure and power of using songs, rhymes and stories with their babies and young children

Three sessions (10 weeks each) of Parent Child Mother Goose were added to North Delta to meet the existing wait list

##### Baby Sign Language

A specialized sign language used to communicate with preverbal infants and toddlers. It is intended to help very young children to express their needs and wishes earlier than they could otherwise

b) Adult Focused Family Literacy:

Jarvis Adult Literacy Group – the participants in this group requested to have a summer session. The facilitator was available and the school was willing to make the StrongStart room available so the group met for 6 weekly sessions during July/August.

#### **5) Indications of success:**

a. How do you know that actions taken are working to support literacy? What impact have the literacy initiatives had?

- see table next page

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
<b>Family Literacy</b>		
<p><b>Parents as Literacy Supporters in Aboriginal Communities – A/PALS (May 2013 to May 2014)</b> Format for monthly sessions with dinner. Program follows the A/PALS program manual</p>	<p>The goals of this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance of foster and adoptive families of aboriginal children,</li> <li>• Children and families learn about aboriginal culture together,</li> <li>• Families receive materials that they can take home to support the opportunity for connection and learning of Aboriginal Culture.</li> </ul> <p>A decision was reached among the partners to wind up A/PALS after this session – Both TFN and Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre now host family gatherings that can carry on the goals of the A/PALS program.</p> <p>In August 30 2013, A/PALS was included in a feature article on literacy by S. Delta Leader. An A/PALS participant said she brings her children to A/PALS because she wants them to develop into life long readers and establish a strong connection to their Aboriginal heritage.”</p>	<p>New partnership formed Spring 2013 – REACH Child and Youth Development Centre, Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre (formerly Kla How Eya) Tsawwassen First Nation Smuyuq’wa’ Lelum Early Childhood Education Centre</p> <p>Each session focused on a cultural theme based on the time of the year and season. Teachings done through hands on activities. Where possible the session was facilitated by Elders and other members of the community. Dinner was provided and members of the community prepared the meal to bring a broader sense of community to the program. The A/PALS Manual was used to help guide the program and activities</p> <p>Culturally rich environment of the location and the cultural art activities</p>
<p><b>Community Book and Literacy Kit Distribution (on-going)</b> <b>Books:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly visits to the North and South Delta Food banks.</li> <li>• One distribution to Mom and Me group at N. Delta Evangelical Free Church.</li> </ul> <p><b>Literacy Kits:</b> distributed at</p>	<p>The goal is to support literacy development of children at home:</p> <p>1160 books distributed annually and 159 literacy kits 1350 books and 142 magazines donated</p> <p>In addition to books, information about community resources that are low cost/no cost are distributed – special events, Family Resource Centres, School District preschool events, employment services, child care resources and adult continuing education.</p>	<p>Books, gently used, donated by Discover Books (formerly Reading Tree), Delta Hospital Thrift Store and FVRL-Delta</p> <p><u>Other partners</u> include FVRL LiLi program, Surrey Food Bank, North Delta Evangelical Free Church, South Delta Food Bank and Ladner Christian Fellowship</p> <p>Literacy kits – assembled based on the summer fun,</p>

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
<p>food banks semi-annually</p>		<p>Halloween and Christmas.</p> <p>Connections to community – FVRL-Delta staff visit food bank regularly, community information about family literacy programs, library programs and services, adult education opportunities, employment services, legal aid, and other low cost/no cost community activities</p>
<p><b>Parent-Child Mother Goose Groups- Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast (Jan – Dec/2014)</b>  Regular groups offered have long wait list - these additional groups provided to address the need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly one hour classes provide parent/baby interaction with songs and rhymes that can be done at home.</li> <li>• 3 session, 10 weeks each</li> </ul>	<p>Parents increased their knowledge/use of "songs and Rhymes" with their children. They reported an increase in their skills and confidence in providing early learning in language and communication to their child.</p> <p>Parents met other families in the community who have common interests that increased their support network and friendships.</p> <p><b>Feedback from participants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Great new songs! lots of Fun I am sad , going back to work as my baby is going to miss opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>Social connections</i></li> <li>• <i>She smiles at her favourite songs, we love singing to her</i></li> <li>• <i>Social time for me and baby which is important to us , we get to go out or the house and we have taken home so many songs to sing at home and have incorporated into different activities and aka; bath time, snack time, bedtime</i></li> </ul>	<p>Program is held at the North Delta Family Resource Centre, a literacy rich environment for infants/toddlers and preschoolers. Introduces parents to the other programs held at this location.</p>
<p><b>Sign Language for Babies – North Delta, Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast</b></p>	<p>The ability to sign basic words proved helpful in boosting communication and providing a “bridge to the spoken word.” The infants who learned baby sign language had improved confidence and</p>	<p>Parents are taught sign language in combination with songs and rhymes within the literacy rich environment of the North Delta Family Resource</p>

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
<p><b>(Jan – Dec 2014)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• weekly one hour classes to teach parents and their infants/toddlers basic signs</li> <li>• offering 3 sessions of 10 weeks each</li> </ul>	<p>self-esteem, feelings of anger due to an inability to communicate did not occur as often. Also helped when a child was too distraught to speak clearly</p> <p>Feedback from participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The songs are helpful in remembering signs</i></li> <li>• <i>The understanding of the babies needs and temperaments is appreciated</i></li> <li>• <i>Really glad I got the opportunity to take this class</i></li> <li>• <i>We really enjoy the baby signing class because it's practical and helpful in the child development in expressing him/herself, as well as removing anxiety of parents trying to communicate to their baby in early age.</i></li> <li>• <i>I would recommend this class to other moms</i></li> <li>• <i>Excellent class , THANKS for teaching us such valuable skills</i></li> <li>• <i>The words learned are extremely useful in day to day living</i></li> </ul>	<p>Centre.</p>
<b>Adult Literacy</b>		
<p><b>TFN/FVRL Adult Book Club Renewed for July 2013 to Dec 2013</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly meetings, participants selected books and maintained journals for recording their thoughts and impressions</li> </ul>	<p>The primary purpose of the book club is to provide positive relationships between members residing in TFN community, with reading and the library. Focus is to provide casual setting where adults come together to read, discuss and journal. Twelve participants attend regularly. This year marks the second full year of sessions. The on-going co-programming with Tsawwassen library has continued and the book group participated in the Delta Libraries anniversary celebrations and shared samples of crafts, teen programs and other TFN education opportunities.</p>	<p>Partnership between TFN and FVRL-Delta staff - group is co-facilitated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TFN provided meeting space</li> <li>- Library staff prepared the activities to support the discussion of each book by engaging the readers in elements of the setting of the book</li> <li>- Books and journals provided</li> </ul>
<p><b>English Conversation–Sep 2013 – May 2014</b> 2 hours per session once times per week, drop-in ;</p>	<p>The library location was easily accessible by all participants. Core group of 12-15 participants</p> <p>Participants engaged in lively discussions about different topics.</p>	<p>Partnership of PICS and FVRL- Delta - Provision of English language instruction and support from PICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy rich environment provided by the library.</li> </ul>



Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
<p>–help adult learners become capable of functioning effectively in real-life situations by helping them acquire functional competence in skills such as listening, speaking, reading, writing, numeracy and computers</p>	<p>They felt integrated in the community by attending regularly and sharing activities in a relaxed and friendly setting. For some, the sessions were the only distractions from home and family life and provided a much needed diversion and confidence booster. The sessions were participant centre. A tour of the library familiarized them with basic computer skills</p> <p><i>“In the class, I did not feel painful, but I learn a lot and corrected many drawbacks of my English. First of all, Eva corrected my pronunciation. English pronunciation still bothers me because of my accent. Through reading and conversation, Eva patiently showed her mouth’s shape to teach me how to make a correct pronunciation..... Most interesting, Eva gave us impromptu speech with English in class. Although this made me nervous, it is worth learning because it teaches me how to speak something in my mind to my audience.” Participant</i></p> <p><i>“Before, I am scared to speak English, but Eva made me talk a lot and I can’t stop now. I am a little bit upset because the class is too short. The three months is only a warm-up”. Participant.</i></p>	<p>Access to library membership cards, books and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy training in essential skills : Conversation circles topics included goal setting for a future career in Canada, cultural differences between China, Korea and Canada, Canada’s history, why people use drugs; partnership relations and its public display, planning, getting a job, re-entering the job market, dental hygiene.</li> <li>• Use of Toastmasters type model to practise short speeches on a wide range of topics – holiday celebrations, cultural practices, role of fathers, racism, stereotyping, etc.</li> <li>• Reading articles from local papers</li> <li>• Internet searches for information – bus and ferry schedules, use of idioms, planning trips to Victoria, Grouse Mountain</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Chapter Book Club (formerly Page Turner Book Club ) – Sep/13 – Dec/13</b> based on a model that encourages adults with developmental disabilities to both use libraries and public space to demonstrate their abilities to read. Program modified Sep 2013 to 8</p>	<p>Using 3 factors for success: numbers attending, variety of participants and enjoyment and suitability of library location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 participants – 5 men, 6 women, all over 19 years of age</li> <li>• The participants have a range of abilities, some attend on their own, others have a support worker in attendance</li> <li>• Family support workers and participants value the book</li> </ul>	<p>Next Chapter Book Club training – provided by Down Syndrome Research Foundation and group facilitated by Ladner Pioneer Library staff</p> <p>Self directed discussion – concentrated on the anniversaries and celebrations of the Delta Libraries. Participated in the Graffiti Wall in Ladner</p> <p>Field Trips – visited STIR coffee shop in October</p>

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
weekly sessions base don feedback	<p>club and feel it is successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library staff is trained to continue to work with the members of the book club and others to provide literacy and language opportunities for learning in a fun, creative and save environment.</li> <li>• Want to expand this group to North Delta.</li> </ul>	<p>and Ricky’s for dinner in December, also use the park beside the library.</p> <p>Games – successfully used a range of activities including board games, group vocabulary and silly games to support literacy development.</p> <p>Library resources – laptop hooked up to big screen TV allows Google searches to learn about story terms</p>
<b>Adult focused Family Literacy</b>		
<b>Hellings Adult Literacy Club Sep /13– Jun/14</b> – parents and grandparents of Hellings StrongStart have introductory and informal English Language support weekly	<p>Building literacy skills shown through increased confidence of participants and increased participation in program activities.</p> <p>All members can write their names, addresses, phone numbers and names of emergency contacts if needed. Many members are reading and writing in English, some of which never did before, and the others who did not feel confident to do so in the past.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 participants enrolled and 15 – 22 attend each session</li> <li>• Weekly session include singing, dancing, vocabulary and writing practise. Oral English practised through board games and “Tea Time” – participants bring food contributions to share.</li> <li>• This year the field trip was to the Vancouver Aquarium 75% of class had never been before and were fascinated by the variety of fish and the opportunity to see them up close.</li> </ul>	<p>Partnership with Hellings StrongStart</p> <p>Offered in the classroom which provides a literacy rich environment,</p> <p>Familiarizes the parents/grandparents with the games/books used in StrongStart</p> <p>Helps with connecting parents/grandparents with the school teachers and other staff.</p>
<b>Jarvis Adult Literacy – July- Aug/2013, resumed March 2014 – June 2014</b>	Enable our participants to increase their knowledge, understanding, and use of basic English vocabulary. By increasing their basic communication skills, participants can	Partnership of Jarvis StrongStart

Program	Indications of Success	What things support literacy work
<p>Modeled on the program offered at Hellings, to provide an informal setting for basic English and socialization on a weekly basis</p>	<p>naturally become more integrated into the Canadian culture and their community. Through this inclusive program, participants can maintain the sense of community, as they will feel less isolated by getting connected and building friendships.</p> <p>4 men, 9 women attend</p> <p>As they feel more confident, we noticed that all participants are keen in learning to speak clearly (pronunciation) and with confidence in order to be understood easily when out in the community. They are showing significant signs of improvement in their pronunciation, confidence, and leadership skills as they willingly assist their peers in both English and their mother tongue. The participants suggest activities for the group.</p>	<p>Literacy rich environment of the StrongStart room</p> <p>Take home resources include journal, recipes and worksheets</p> <p>At the request of participants this program was offered over the summer and special arrangements were made to have access to the StrongStart room.</p>

## 6) Challenges:

### a) What are the difficulties? And b) what would help?

The Delta Community Literacy Committee faces two main challenges. One relates to the task (implementation group) and the other to community awareness. Collaboration and working in partnership is helpful for addressing gaps in service in a community and avoiding duplication but it also takes time. This, combined with the fact that the few agencies in Delta are called to serve at several tables, spreads resources thin in things like program space, staffing and expertise. As a result Delta Community Literacy task group has a small core group with others coming and going from the table which leads to lack of continuity. This situation is compounded by on-going "project funding basis of literacy projects and in 2013, the uncertainty of funding for committee coordination. We have had success in the last few years in linking the work of literacy with mutual goals of other community tables to address this challenge.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report there is low community awareness to the impact of low literacy to the life of individuals who face resulting barriers due to strong performance outcomes in the general population when it comes to literacy development. This challenge leads to difficulty connecting with those who would benefit from community literacy projects designed and tailored to their specific needs. It also is difficult for groups and organizations to understand how literacy support could assist with improving quality of life and well-being of the people they serve. We plan to address this concern through our family literacy campaign for January 2015

## FOR THE COMING YEAR:

### a) Are there new opportunities, challenges or issues in your community? How will you respond to those?

Community reports including demographics and EDI/MDI indicate that our priorities and focus for literacy projects is on the right track. Collaboration with Deltakids will strengthen outreach to new parents with young children and support family literacy efforts. However with a growing aging population a shift towards exploring literacy for seniors is warranted.

### b) What goals, priorities or objectives will you work on in the coming year? What actions are planned against those goals?

Goal/Objective	Activity	Measure
Recognize Delta as literate community with culture of literacy support	Increase Community Awareness  a) National Family Literacy Day: a partnership with FVRL-Delta, Delta School District and Boys and Girls Club.  b) Awareness activities that target new parents of young children	# of participants, level of media awareness  # of events, feedback of participants

	c) Explore and develop an community wide awareness campaign supporting literacy activities in relation to technology, learning and connections	Create a plan with strategies to reach a broad spectrum of the community regarding literacy
Continue to strengthen collaborative school, public library and community partnerships	Increase opportunities for sharing the learning that occurs as a result of the literacy projects supported by Delta Community literacy  Continued involvement with Deltakids and communications and engagement subcommittee	Continue working with the Spiral of Inquiry as a tool for shared learning.  # of collaborative projects
Identify and support the literacy needs of hard-to-reach individuals and families	continued support of existing and new literacy projects and explore needs for seniors	# of projects, # of participants, feedback of participants
Secure funding to sustain, and if possible expand, effective literacy programs and practices	a) Increase community capacity through training for responding to literacy needs of people facing barriers, i.e. understanding essential skills and use of clear language  b) Explore possibilities of an intergenerational fundraising project for literacy in Delta.	# of workshop(s) participants, feedback of participants  Proposal for project

**c) What will be required to meet the goals and effectively employ actions for the coming year?**

On-going funding will be critical if the Committee is going to continue to support literacy initiatives. We will need to continue our focus on working together and identifying new partners to expand literacy opportunities.

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

See table above