

# SCHOOL DISTRICT #81 FORT NELSON

## District Literacy Plan June 2012



# District Literacy Plan

## June 2012

### Introduction

The Fort Nelson Board of Education recognizes the importance of improving access to literacy programs for all. *“As a community of learners we embrace opportunities to build successful futures.”* (S.D. #81 Mission Statement) The District Literacy Plan is a statement of our commitment to work collaboratively with key community stakeholders to improve literacy within the Fort Nelson community.

Action planning has continued to focus on enhancing and integrating our work on the four pillars of Literacy: Early Literacy Success for Young Children, Reading Success in Schools, Reading Success for Adults and Reading Success for Aboriginal People.

### Reflecting on the 2011/12 Plan:

This year our priority has continued to be to increase outreach, engagement and awareness in our community. The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society has had programs at their in-town location, in partnership with Northern Lights College, through the Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society, Family Development Society and at Dorothy’s Place, the Fort Nelson low income housing complex. Special events have taken place at the Fort Nelson Public Library, Chalo Independent School at Fort Nelson First Nation, Phoenix Theatre and S.D. # 81 Fort Nelson schools.



One of our biggest challenges continues to be increasing and maintaining participation in literacy programs and events. We have continued to be attentive in seeking input before scheduling times and locations of events/programs. This information is obtained by having participants complete an evaluation form after any major literacy event. We have also continued to promote awareness of literacy services being offered in our community by having a presence at many community events and by jointly coordinating events with other agencies and service providers.

The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society continues to grow and expand on its many programs, engagement and awareness activities. As a result of our coordinated efforts in recruitment and retention the Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society has experienced a significant increase in learners and is now servicing the highest number of learners in the Society’s history. We feel the continued efforts in outreach and awareness by the action

committee along with the dedicated staff and volunteers at the Society are contributing factors to this growth.

We continue to use participation rates as part of our evaluation along with Community & Adult Learning Program Benchmarks (CALP) as well as intake and exit assessments. Our schools continue to use a combination of provincial, district and school data that includes: Benchmarks, DRA, Yopp-Singer, FSA and Provincial exam results, Smart Writing and Great Leaps data.

The Literacy Outreach Coordinator position, as part of the Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society, has allowed for increased collaboration with community partners in helping our focus on the four pillars of success.

Participation in regular Community Round Table meetings, Northern Rockies Children and Family Action Committee meetings and the Northern Rockies Social Planning Council meetings continues to build collaborative and positive working relationships, develops a better understanding of community perspectives and literacy needs and increases awareness of literacy programs provided by organizations throughout the Fort Nelson community.



We are very proud of the many literacy events, on-going programs and awareness events undertaken this year. The following are 2011/12 highlights.

- The week of October 3rd, we celebrated National Family Week. In partnership with the Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society, The Fort Nelson Library, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality and many other community service providers and local businesses Family Friendly activities were held daily at little to minimal costs for families.
- On January 27, 2012, we celebrated Family Literacy Day with a “passport to learning theme”. The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society staff led community members, staff and students from the School District elementary schools and Chalo School in learning about instruments from around the world. Volunteer musicians presented different instruments and spoke about their origin to elementary aged learners. A community wide “passport to learning” contest was held, any family who completed five activities from the sheet as a family was entered to win a prize.
- Northern Lights College’s Career and College Prep continues to offer continuous intake literacy courses for adults, which includes computer literacy.



- In-town tutoring for adults, ESL and skill upgrading continued to be available through the Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society. An ESL Conversation Group is on-going with up to 8 participants interacting at one time.
- Family Adult Literacy Programs were held. These programs are designed to enhance the lives of families by embedding literacy into activities that take into consideration the diversity of our community. We also create awareness and promote additional adult education opportunities available through community partners.
- The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society held the 4th Annual International Adult Learner’s Week celebration at the Phoenix Theatre. An awards ceremony was held to recognize learner success in many categories. Learner created artwork was displayed in the lower gallery of the Phoenix Theatre and a slideshow was presented outlining the programming and accomplishments in literacy in Fort Nelson over the past year.
- S.D. #81 Fort Nelson continues to have a focus on literacy in its schools. The Great Leaps Reading Program has continued to be used with students from grade 1 to 12. Students practice reading fluency with an Educational Assistant on this weekly program. Many students have continued to make “Great Leaps” in their reading and gone up many reading levels. The school district continues to research and implement interventions to support student achievement.
- Sponsored in part by HEAL and Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society in partnership with Fresh Choice kitchens Community Kitchen and Canning workshops were held at Northern Lights College to train local service providers in how to facilitate these workshops to our local community. Fifteen members of the Fort Nelson Community took advantage of this training.
- The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society Family Tutoring program continues to grow and has had a very successful year, seeing increased participation and experiencing much success with the learners involved. Due to demand, the program will continue through the summer months.
- Science World came to Fort Nelson sponsored by Imperial Oil. Science stations and shows were set up at Northern Lights College and enjoyed by students and community members. School District #81 and Fort Nelson Community Literacy



Society were part of the action committee in charge of planning and promoting this event.

- The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society promoted awareness through assisting in the organization, planning, advertising and support of many community events and committees including: Health: It's up to you (Health Fair), the Fort Nelson Social Planning Council and the Preschool Health Round Up.
- Ready Set Learn continues to be held for preschoolers in all of our elementary schools to engage parents in play and literacy activities they can use at home.
- Fort Nelson's EDI (Early Development Inventory) scores show less vulnerability for kindergarten students. The director of the Fort Nelson Children and Families Action Committee, The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Executive Director and representatives from Northern Lights College, School District #81 and the Fort Nelson Family Development Society attended a video conference to discuss EDI results and community issues and plans with participants from UBC.



### **Thinking about the 2012/13 Year:**

The Fort Nelson Literacy Society's Strategic Plan is aligned with our Community Plan that was developed in 2005.

Long Term Goals:

- Have appreciation for and build upon the strengths of existing learning programs and resources that allow all community members to become literate and develop enthusiasm for lifelong learning.
- Create learning programs and resources to support youth and adults who are not well served by the mainstream learning programs.
- Embed learning and literacy activities in all community settings, for example: workplace, senior's complex, recreation pursuits, youth programs, health programs, churches.



**For 2012/2013:**

We are looking forward to continued partnering and collaboration with the Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society, Northern Lights College, and the many community partners working to enhance literacy in Fort Nelson.

With increased activity in the oil and gas industry, the Northern Rockies community is expecting an increase in newcomers settling in our community. The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society and School District #81 have been working together to service school aged ESL learners in our district and will continue to do so in the upcoming year.



The Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society is expanding their programming to provide on site Seniors literacy programming in partnership with the Northern Lamplighters. This, along with maintaining and improving on our current programming will be our focus for the upcoming year.