

Promoting literacy for BC

Who we are and what we do

Literacy BC has been promoting and supporting literacy and lifelong learning in British Columbia since 1990 by:

- supporting adult learners and their families
- promoting innovation in practice
- raising public awareness
- building capacity
- partnering in policy development

See overleaf for details of the wide range of services and resources we provide to learners, the literacy field and our partners across the province.

Why we do what we do

Literacy matters enormously for inclusion and prosperity in BC. Better literacy skills improve employment prospects and income, reduce dependence on social assistance, promote health, and reduce criminal offending. They help integrate immigrants into the workforce, and society at large. They raise productivity, and are crucial for capturing and sustaining the knowledge advantage as the labour market evolves.

But around **40% of adults in BC** do not have the literacy skills they need to achieve their goals, to function and thrive in the modern economy, and to develop their knowledge and potential (International Adult Literacy & Skills Survey, 2003). That means over one million people are underequipped to cope with society's increasing informational demands. The literacy shortfall has a profound impact on BC's socio-economic fabric.

Visit www.literacybc.ca or see our companion factsheet **Literacy Matters for BC** for more.



Promoting and supporting literacy and learning since 1990

non-partisan, membership-based, not-for-profit

1-888-732-3234

toll-free in BC

www.literacybc.ca

Support us

Donations

Donations to Literacy BC make a world of difference to adult learners and their families across the province. Visit our website to find out more or to make a secure gift online. Our charitable organization number is: 12846-0334-RR0001.

Events

We organise a variety of high-profile events to raise awareness, such as the PGI Golf Tournament. Call us or visit our website to find out how to get involved.

Membership

Members are kept informed about the latest in literacy research, policy, programs and practices. They get advance notice of conferences and other events, and add their voice to the provincial literacy dialogue. Call us to add yours.

Literacy BC

Services and resources

Program information and referrals

We operate a toll-free number to help learners find and access the programs that meet their needs, as well as a searchable website at www.literacybc.ca/directory. If you are involved in literacy provision, make sure your details are included and up to date!

Research and analysis

We have extensive experience in designing and conducting custom research projects. We can also fill you in on the evidence that has been developed to inform literacy policy and programming, including vital research that Literacy BC has sponsored, and help you interpret its implications for your community.

Training

We organize annual training for literacy practitioners through our renowned Summer Literacy Institute and many other training events. We can advise on suitable training opportunities and resources year-round.

Website

Literacybc.ca has extensive information to help British Columbians understand why literacy matters, letting you know what's going on and how you can get involved to make a difference.

Regional co-ordination

An expert team of Regional Literacy Co-ordinators provides leadership across BC. They support community literacy with consultation, training, event management, local representation and much more. Literacy BC is proud to support their work.

Publicity materials

We produce a range of products to raise awareness of literacy issues and opportunities – available free.

Speakers

Our staff are available to deliver evidence-based, practice-oriented presentations on community literacy development. We can also help you identify suitable speakers from other organizations.

Networking & Events

We maintain an online professional networking hub where practitioners share experiences, news and views. Members of this vibrant community make valuable contacts and stay informed. We also host regular events that facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experience and ideas.

Policy development and implementation

Literacy BC is the go-to place for all levels and branches of government involved in literacy issues. We connect policy to the field, provide a voice for the learner perspective, and design and mobilise policy-relevant research. We provide the conduit for advocating and consulting on effective learning policy.

Orientation

We provide information and resources to help agencies understand literacy issues from a community, provincial and national perspective, introducing newcomers to the unique challenges of adult and family learning.

Consultation

Whether your challenge is starting a program, organizing events, engaging stakeholders, applying for funding, managing volunteers, or another of the many responsibilities that arise in the field, our staff have the experience and contacts, and are ready to share them.

Resource Centre

Keep up with the latest online and print publications, borrow books and audio-visuals, ask us to create a travelling trunk for your events, or ask our literacy librarian to research your questions and send resources. Visit the Resource Centre on our website.

Financial support

We provide financial resources to community-based adult learning centres through the Paul Gallagher Community Access Fund, and direct to learners through the PACE fund.

Contact Literacy BC

to discuss how we can support your efforts to strengthen literacy skills in your organisation, community, district or region.

1-888-READ-234

toll-free in BC

www.literacybc.ca

The go-to place for literacy in British Columbia