



Decoda Literacy Solutions is BC's provincial literacy organization. We provide resources, training, funds and support for community-based literacy programs and initiatives in over 400 communities across BC.

MISSION: We work to increase the literacy and learning skills of children and families, youth, adults, and seniors to improve their quality of life at home, at work and in the community.

VISION: A British Columbia where everyone has the literacy skills they need.

Message from the Board Chair and the Executive Director



Dr. Valerie Overgaard,
Chair



Sandra Lee, Executive
Director

This year afforded us the wonderful opportunity to reconnect with many of you. We welcomed back more than 240 members of B.C.'s provincial literacy network at the 2022 Decoda Literacy Conference. Collectively, we exchanged ideas and best practices to strengthen our work in advancing literacy on behalf of all British Columbians.

None of this work would be possible without the support of our government partners: BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs; BC Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada. Thank you!

In January, community groups, libraries and schools celebrated Family Literacy Week under our theme, "Let's Connect! Care * Play * Listen." In Spring, we planned for the return of our live Team Trivia Challenge during September is Literacy Month. Thank you to all our sponsors and donors for staying with us.

Earlier this year, Margaret Sutherland announced her retirement as executive director. The Board conducted an extensive search to find a new leader. We are grateful to Margaret for laying the groundwork for a seamless transition to welcome Sandra Lee as Decoda's new executive director.

In the months to come, the Board and staff will develop a strategic plan to set our priorities for the next three years. We are ready for the future. We can't imagine it without you.

Board and Staff

Manmeet Bhatia joined the Board in November, 2021.

We congratulated Margaret Sutherland on her retirement and thanked her for her remarkable leadership as Decoda's executive director. Avni Kapoor joined the office admin team.



Manmeet Bhatia



Margaret Sutherland



Avni Kapoor

Our Work

Literacy Outreach Coordination: We support a network of 98 Literacy Outreach Coordinators who work in over 400 BC communities. The numbers below show the activity throughout the network in the 2021-2022 program year:

- 1,948 community members worked on community literacy action plans.
- 11,548 adults engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills.
- 18,987 adults engaged in their children's learning.
- 27,607 children engaged in early literacy learning.
- 17,704 school-aged children and youth engaged in improving their reading, writing and financial skills.
- 5,808 seniors engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills.
- 55,351 people participated in literacy related workshops, seminars and events.

Connecting for literacy at Decoda Conference



In May, literacy practitioners from across B.C. and Canada gathered for professional development and connection at the Decoda Literacy Conference in Richmond. The energy, inspiration, connection and learning during the three days are sure to have a ripple effect on community literacy programs across the province.

The conference offered IPALS training, Displaced Workers Project findings, a choice of 31 workshops and keynote speakers Dr. Ralf St. Clair, Craig Alexander and Angela Sterritt.

"It's been an exciting conference," said, Brigid Hayes, a Canadian literacy expert and As I was saying ... blogger. "I'm really impressed with the range of topics discussed, like digital justice and trauma-informed practice. I've learned an awful lot here. And talking to people on breaks and at lunch – that stuff you can't do on Zoom. It's just so refreshing to meet in person again, and I want to thank Decoda for having me."



Working together for literacy

Decoda provides valuable services to the literacy network and the community at large.

- Fostering Literacy supports children (in particular, those in care) who struggle with reading by providing one-to-one sessions with trained tutors in 18 communities.
- Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters (IPALS) is a play-based, bilingual family literacy program that helps immigrant and refugee families prepare their children for school in Canada in 18 communities. This year, Decoda partnered with a research team at UBC to begin a study on the best ways to help integrate immigrant families into Canadian society.
- The Westcoast Reader is a newspaper and online resource for learners of all ages, with a print distribution of over 13,000 copies per month in addition to digital access for subscribers.
- Displaced Workers is a research project with Essential Skills Development Canada designed to identify supports for workers who have been displaced to improve their employability.
- Decoda provides BC's 97 Community Adult Literacy Programs (CALP) with training, resources and support.
- The Decoda Literacy Library has over 6,000 literacy resources free to borrow anywhere in BC.

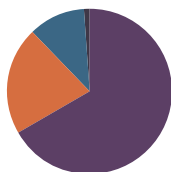


Financials

Revenue

Province of British Columbia	\$2,823,018
Federal Government	\$901,699
Program Services	\$488,180
Donations and Fundraising	\$29,451
Interest and dividend income	\$18,864

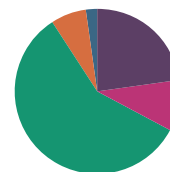
\$4,261,212



Expenses

Adults Program	\$982,654
Children and Families Program	\$438,172
Community Program	\$2,519,104
Fundraising	\$4,699
General Office	\$323,324
Other Non-Operating	\$82,760

\$4,350,713



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Dr. Ralf St. Clair
Diana Twiss

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Literacy Month

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