

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:** To enhance the literacy and learning skills of children, youth, adults and families to improve their quality of life at home, at work and in the community.

**VISION:** A British Columbia where everyone has the literacy skills to thrive in their communities.

# Message from the Board Chair and the Executive Director



**Dr. Valerie Overgaard,**  
Board Chair



**Sandra Lee,**  
Executive Director

This year, we developed a three-year strategic plan with our vision for the future. The plan centres on literacy advocacy, leadership, sustainability and includes our updated vision, values and strategic goals. It is thanks to your continued support that we've been able to take these crucial steps forward.

Throughout the province, Family Literacy Week brought families together to learn through play with the theme "Make it count! Play \* Sort \* Measure." The campaign not only enhanced literacy and numeracy skills but also strengthened bonds within communities. September was Literacy Month and a reminder of the importance literacy plays in our lives and the role we play in promoting it. Your contributions during the month were invaluable and we deeply appreciate your generosity.

To support the literacy network, we developed a database for adult literacy. Information from the database is used to guide practice and generate reports for funders. Decoda staff assist users through online seminars, a guidebook and individual support.

None of this work would be possible without assistance from our government partners: BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs; BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Employment and Social Development Canada.

We look forward to another year of growth, impact and shared successes. Thank you for being part of our journey.

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## Board and Staff

We bid farewell and expressed our sincere gratitude to Grace Kuo, who served as a Board member from 2016 to 2022.

Thank you to all our volunteer Board of Directors and Decoda staff for another great year!



**Grace Kuo**



**Decoda staff put on their purple for September is Literacy Month.**

## 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 2022-2023 program year:

- 1,793 community members worked on community literacy action plans
- 13,577 adults engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills
- 23,458 adults engaged in their children's learning
- 36,445 children engaged in early literacy learning
- 20,316 school-aged children and youth engaged in improving their reading, writing and financial skills
- 7,129 seniors engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills
- 73,114 people participated in literacy related workshops, seminars and events

# Fostering Literacy empowers young readers



Grade 5 student Jestina struggled with reading, but is now reading out loud with more confidence, thanks to the Fostering Literacy Program at Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy Society (CCPL).

Fostering Literacy is a free program that helps improve the literacy skills of school-aged children (with a focus on children in foster care) who struggle with reading. Improving education outcomes is directly related to providing children the opportunity to practice and grow their reading skills with a trained tutor in a one-to-one setting. Fostering Literacy is offered in 20 communities across the province.

This year, 50 high school students received tutor training and gained paid work experience.

“A big part of the program is the bond that is created, the friendship,” says Suzanne Cochrane, Fostering Literacy Coordinator at CCPL. “The kids look up to their tutors as role models.”

The program also provides parents with effective ways to support their children’s learning at home, helping to bridge the home and school environments.

Jestina’s mom Stephanie says, “It makes me really glad that they are in this program and to see they are improving. Now they are able to read articles, things on TV, street signs and are able to spell. It really helps with self-esteem and reading makes things way easier in life.”

**“I have decided to go into the field of teaching from my experience as a tutor.”**

– Teen Tutor, Williams Lake

## 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 20 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.
- The Westcoast Reader is a newspaper and online resource for learners of all ages, with a print distribution of over 14,000 copies per month in addition to digital access for subscribers.
- Displaced Workers is a research project with Employment and Social 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.



Decoda.ca Make it Count! Play • Sort • Measure

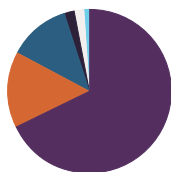


**Congratulations to Team RBC for winning the 2022 Team Trivia Challenge held during September is Literacy Month.**

# Financials

## Revenue

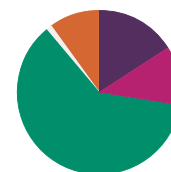
● Province of British Columbia	\$2,832,750
● Federal Government	\$627,516
● Program Services	\$495,633
● Donations and Fundraising	\$71,041
○ Interest and dividend income	\$87,310
○ Other Non-Operating	\$32,555



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\$4,416,805

## Expenses

● Adults Program	\$632,952
● Children and Families Program	\$491,100
● Community Program	\$2,539,037
○ Fundraising	\$24,725
● General Office	\$393,079



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\$4,080,893

# Thank You to Our Supporters

## Board of Directors

Manmeet Bhatia  
Pat Campbell  
Dr. Ralf St. Clair  
Grace Kuo  
Leslie Landell  
Dr. Valerie Overgaard  
Diana Twiss

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## Funders

BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs  
BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills  
Camosun College  
Employment and Social Development Canada  
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

## Literacy Month

Blue Sky Clothing Company  
Bond Reproductions Inc.  
CBC Vancouver  
Chris Chung, BMO, Nesbitt Burns  
CIBC Mellon  
First West Credit Union and its four locally known and trusted divisions: Envision Financial, Valley First, Island Savings and Enderby & District Financial.  
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Marsh Canada Limited  
Vancouver Rotary Club Foundation