



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. Ralf St. Clair,
Board Chair



Sandra Lee,
Executive Director

This year, we made significant strides in advancing literacy across the province. The highlight was the Decoda Literacy Conference in April, which brought together over 200 literacy practitioners and experts from BC and across Canada. The conference, themed “Literacy: The Ripple Effect,” focused on the wide-reaching impacts of low literacy, from health to employment. A panel discussion with industry leaders and two Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) helped shape Decoda’s efforts toward developing a provincial literacy strategy to enhance community resilience.

Family Literacy Week in January connected families through fun activities under the theme “Let’s have a family party!” while strengthening community bonds. Literacy Month in September reminded us of the importance of literacy in our daily lives. Your generous support helped fund Fostering Literacy programs, providing one-on-one tutoring to children who struggle with reading across 23 communities.

None of this progress would be possible without the ongoing support of the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Thanks to each one of you, we are building a brighter, more literate future together.

Board and Staff

We expressed our deep gratitude to Dr. Valerie Overgaard, our outgoing Chair, along with Directors Leslie Landell and Diana Twiss for their dedication and contributions. We welcomed Dr. Ralf St. Clair as our new Chair, along with new Directors: Eunice Bantok, Tracy Defoe and Lynn Green.

We bid farewell to Fanny Romeyn and Christie Case, two valued staff members who made significant contributions to Decoda over the years. We welcomed to the team: Alex Jang, Library Technician and Gurleen Kaur, Program Assistant.



Dr. Valerie Overgaard



Leslie Landell



Diana Twiss

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 2023-2024 program year:

- 1,978 community members worked on community literacy action plans
- 17,043 adults engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills
- 30,534 adults engaged in their children’s learning
- 38,565 children engaged in early literacy learning
- 22,017 school-aged children and youth engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills
- 6,445 seniors engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills
- 82,087 people participated in literacy-related workshops, seminars and events

Decoda Literacy Conference

Literacy: The Ripple Effect



Decoda is the hub for literacy support, training and best practices in BC. In April, we hosted the Decoda Literacy Conference.

Here's what attendees had to say:

"There was so much information and connection that I got from attending! I had no idea how valuable it would be for me."

"I had a few big "AHA" moments at the conference and left excited about implementing new ideas and methods into my work."

"I was inspired to take back some new ideas to my community."

"I'm a new Community Adult Literacy Coordinator working in a remote community. It can be quite isolating, so I found it extremely helpful to have an opportunity to chat with other folks who are doing similar work."

"What incredible learning opportunities. The facilitators were amazing and so knowledgeable. Also, so amazing to have such an impressive panel that Decoda arranged."

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 23 sites across B.C.
- Parents as Literacy Supporters in Immigrant Communities (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 14,500 copies per month in addition to digital access for subscribers.
- Decoda provides BC's 102 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.



Congratulations to Team CBC, winners of the 2023 Team Trivia Challenge, held during September is Literacy Month.

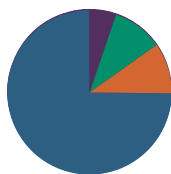


Thank you to the Decoda staff for another successful year.

Financials

Revenue

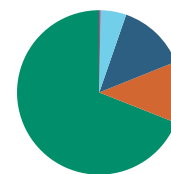
Province of British Columbia	\$3,848,500
Federal Government	\$513,412
Program Services	\$512,660
Donations and Fundraising	\$268,155
Interest and dividend income	\$85,962
Other Non-Operating	\$18,963



\$5,247,652

Expenses

Adults Program	\$694,948
Children and Families Program	\$616,659
Community Program	\$3,523,565
Fundraising	\$12,630
General Office	\$258,479



\$5,106,281

Thank You to Our Supporters

2024 Board of Directors

Eunice Bantok
Manmeet Bhatia
Pat Campbell
Tracy Defoe
Lynn Green
Dr. Ralf St. Clair
Diana Twiss

2024 Decoda Literacy Conference

Supported by the Province of British Columbia
WorkSafeBC

The 400 Club (Monthly Donors)

John Brouwer
Christie Case
Collette Ellis-Toddington
Gail Hanney
Maureen Kehler
Jessica Kwok
Leslie Landell
Dr. Valerie Overgaard
Fanny Romeyn
Dr. Ralf St. Clair
Studiochartreuse
Margaret Sutherland
Jacqueline Taylor
Diana Twiss

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Funders

BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
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2023 Literacy Month

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