



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



Tracy Defoe,
Board Chair



Sandra Lee,
Executive Director

This year reminded us how powerful community can be in the face of change. When the federal government ended funding for Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters (IPALS), communities and supporters stepped forward to help.

Though smaller in scale, the program continues thanks to our community partners and those who supported Help Save IPALS! Our focus remains on finding ongoing funding so that newcomer parents can support their children's success in the Canadian school system.

We were proud to launch the BC Literacy Network, an online hub where literacy practitioners can share ideas, resources and best practices to strengthen our work across the province. It reflects our commitment to professional development and ongoing learning in the literacy field.

Our September is Literacy Month campaign reached thousands through social media, digital, television and radio, sharing the importance of literacy with communities throughout the province. Family Literacy Week brought families together to learn and care for the planet with the theme "Learn to Be Green, Together!"

Our progress is possible thanks to the BC Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, the literacy network, our community partners and supporters like you.

Thank you for helping build a brighter, more literate future for everyone in British Columbia.

Board and Staff

We expressed our deep gratitude to Dr. Ralf St. Clair, outgoing Board Chair, and Director Dr. Pat Campbell, for their dedication and contributions. We welcomed Tracy Defoe as our newly elected Chair, along with new Directors Nathan Hume and Suzanne Smythe.

We congratulated Maureen Kehler, Decoda Program Manager, who received the 2024 Council of the Federation Literacy Award (COFLA) for British Columbia.



Nathan Hume



Suzanne Smythe



Maureen Kehler

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 2024-2025 program year:

- 2,084 community members worked on community literacy action plans
- 19,703 adults engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills
- 33,891 adults engaged in their children's learning
- 68,345 youth and children engaged in community-based literacy programs
- 41,554 children engaged in early literacy learning
- 26,791 school-aged children and youth engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills
- 8,531 seniors engaged in improving their reading, writing, technology and financial skills
- 90,231 people participated in literacy-related workshops, seminars and events

Our impact: Fostering Literacy in South Vancouver

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH) is helping children improve their reading skills through the Fostering Literacy program, which pairs them with volunteer youth tutors.



Fifteen-year-old tutor Katie Luk has seen big improvements. “At first, my student would forget the pronunciation of corrected words, but by the end, she remembered and said them right. She’s now willing to read a wider variety of books. Knowing I played a part in their growth makes me really happy. Just seeing the smiles on their faces as they leave was the biggest reward I could get.”

Parents are also noticing positive changes. “This program gives our children a happy and fulfilling learning environment,” said parent Fengzhen Huang. “My son and daughter both gained confidence, friendships and new skills.”

“With the help of many wonderful youth volunteers, we’ve built strong connections with these children,” said Anthony Lai, Youth and Preteen Programmer at SVNH. “Seeing them want to read more after being so reluctant in the past inspires me to continue the program.”

Working together for literacy

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

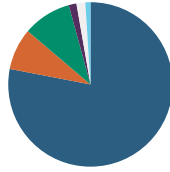
- Fostering Literacy supports more than 580 children (in particular, those in care) who struggle with reading by providing one-to-one sessions with trained tutors in 23 sites across BC.
- Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters (IPALS) is a play-based, bilingual family literacy program that helps immigrant and refugee families prepare their children for school in Canada.
- 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 provided training, resources and support to 97 providers delivering 102 Community Adult Literacy Programs (CALP) across British Columbia.
- The Decoda Literacy Library has nearly 7,000 literacy resources, about 6,000 in print and 800 digital, all free to borrow anywhere in British Columbia.



Financials

Revenue

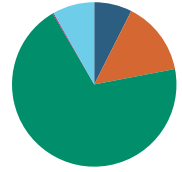
Province of British Columbia	\$3,510,301
Federal Government	\$368,291
Program Services	\$428,291
Donations and Fundraising	\$68,503
Interest and dividend income	\$78,184
Other Non-Operating	\$45,112



\$ 4,498,682

Expenses

Adults Program	\$346,308
Children and Families Program	\$678,776
Community Program	\$3,242,357
Fundraising	\$9,459
General Office	\$383,700



\$4,660,600

Thank You to Our Supporters

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2023 Literacy Month

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