Greater Victoria Literacy Resources Guide 2017

Your Guide to Literacy Organizations, Programs, and Services
The literacy resources guide has been produced by the Victoria Literacy Task Group and Literacy Outreach Coordinator. The purpose of the guide is to provide you with a printed resource on local programs and services.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines literacy as the "ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society”.

Types of Literacy include: reading, writing, numeracy, computer, workplace essential skills, financial, health, social media, cultural and emotional.
The Task Group has a number of local social service agencies and organizations who:

- Work directly with individuals with low literacy skills.
- Work indirectly with people with various levels of literacy challenges.
- Provide literacy resources to the community.

The task group works with a Literacy Outreach Coordinator to promote literacy awareness and address community literacy needs. New members are welcome.
Task Group Organizations include:

1. Victoria Literacy Connection
2. Greater Victoria Public Library
3. Camosun College
4. Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society
5. Inter-cultural Association
6. Victoria Disability Resource Centre
7. Island Community Mental Health
8. Together Against Poverty Society
9. The Learning Curve
10. Success By Six
11. 1000x5 Book Recycling Project
12. Story Studio Writing Society
13. Greater Victoria School District #61
14. Here! Magazine
Literacy Outreach Coordinator:

- Raises community awareness about literacy
- Networks in community
- Identifies literacy needs and issues in the community
- Promotes literacy programs and services including the website
Literacy Organizations, Programs, and Services
1. Victoria Literacy Connection

Audience: Children, Adults & Families
Address: #306, 620 View St, Victoria BC V8W 1J6
Phone: (250) 385-0014
Email: AdultCo@victorialiteracyconnection.ca
        YouthCo@victorialiteracyconnection.ca
Website: www.victorialiteracyconnection.ca

Programs & Services

- **Adult Tutor Training:**
  Volunteer tutors provide one-to-one tutoring to learners with a wide range of literacy needs - reading, writing, math, and other essential skills. Cost: No fee

- **The Noisy Kids Reading Club (NKRC):**
  An after-school program for children in grades 2-5 who can use extra literacy supports in a creative and fun learning environment. The program uses reading, word study, Reader’s Theatre and educational games. Contact your school principal to see if the NKRP has a program in your school. Cost: no fee
1. Victoria Literacy Connection (Cont.)

- **Remedial Literacy and Numeracy Programs for Children & Youth (K-12):**
  Using recognized assessments our qualified teachers develop individualized learning programs tailored to your child’s unique learning style. Classes use a wide range of educational resources and techniques to inspire children and youth to develop and expand their reading, writing, mathematics and study skills. Cost: $50/hr for 2-3 children in one group session, $60/hr for one child only.

- **Level B Psychometric Assessments for Learners:**
  Assessments for either Language Arts or Mathematics. Cost: $160/assessment

- **Inmate Tutoring with Vancouver Island Correctional Services:**
  A certified teacher and volunteer tutors work with inmates to improve their literacy skills in preparation for employment, education and for personal skills development.
Audience: All Ages
Locations: 11 branches. See website for details.
Admin Office: 735 Broughton St, Victoria, BC V8W 3H2
Phone: (250) 940-GVPL (4875)
Email: email form on website
Website: www.gvpl.ca

Programs & Services

- **Computer Classes:**
  Free computer classes in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Includes: Computer basics, email basics, Internet basics, Microsoft Word basics, and additional resources.

- **One-On-One Sessions:**
  Thirty (30) minutes with library staff member to help you with all your basic computer and e-reader issues. Reservation required.

- **Tech Buddies:**
  The program connects adults with volunteer teens aged 13-18 for informal one-on-one questions and answers on: computers, social networking, the internet, your smart phone and other tech questions. Note: Teens who want to volunteer in the program begin by attending a training session.

- **Story Buddies:**
  Pairs young children with volunteer tweens for creative writing and illustration fun. Your Big Buddy will write down your story and then you will illustrate it together.

- **Story time and Puppet Plays/Family Time:**
  For young children and their families; children under 3 must be accompanied by an adult. Fun-filled stories, songs, rhymes, and puppets. Drop-in, space permitting. Includes a program for Mandarin speaking families.
Services for the Print Disabled:
The program provides diverse collections, resources and services to meet the needs of any individual who cannot read or access regular print material.

Visiting Library Services (VLS):
Borrowers who are confined to their homes can arrange to have library staff select material for them and have the material delivered to their door every month by a volunteer. See the library website for current and upcoming programs and events.

Beginner ESL Conversation:
A Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Society program held at the library. Please call to inquire and register (250) 361-9433.
3. Camosun College

Audience: Adults
Address:
• Lansdowne Campus: Isabel Dawson Building, 103, 3100 Foul Bay Rd, Victoria BC V8P 5J2
• Interurban Campus: Liz Ashton Campus Centre 226, 4461 Interurban Rd, Victoria BC V9E 2C1
Phone: (250) 370-3550
Email: upgrade@camosun.ca
Website: www.camosun.ca

School of Access: Learn about these programs, attend an information session or talk to a Student Navigator to discuss your options.

Student Navigators: Ghofran Zrek, Lansdowne Campus, Room 234, Ewing Building, (250) 370-3466 / (250) 370-3466 and Valerie Neaves, Interurban Campus, Room 132, CBA Building, (250) 370-3847 / (250) 370-3847

Programs & Services
❖ Upgrading Programs:
Build or refresh Math and English skills to meet admission requirements and be successful in other college programs. Courses are offered from Fundamental and Intermediate (up to Grade 10) to College Preparatory (Grade 11 and 12) levels. As well as offering programs on both the Lansdowne and Interurban campuses, the School of Access engages community in six different off-campus sites to enhance your educational experience. Community Learning Partnerships offers Academic Upgrading in all levels of English, Math and computer studies.
3. Camosun College (Cont.)

- **Building Employment Success for Tomorrow (BEST):**
  In the BEST program, you’ll get help in developing a realistic awareness of your interests, abilities and potential. You'll build your self-confidence in a supportive environment while you set personal, career and educational goals.

- **Employment Training and Preparation:**
  Offers applied academic, entry level, hands-on learning and certification. With our help and support, you’ll learn entry-level employment skills, obtain external certifications, get practical workplace experience, and develop the confidence to pursue further learning, volunteering and employment opportunities.

- **Workplace Numeracy and Literacy Certificate:**
  The ability to read, write, and do basic arithmetic are essential skills needed for work, learning and life. In this four month program, you’ll work on these skills to increase your understanding and enhance your job performance.

- **English Language Development:**
  Camosun offers courses in basic English language skills to get you started. More advanced courses prepare you for further studies at college or university, career programs, and professional communication in the workplace. There are two levels:
  - Level 1 - Basic English if you are a beginning or pre-intermediate student.
  - Level 2 - Academic English if you are a more experienced learner.

- **English Language for the Workplace:**
  A series of online courses designed to improve your job-related English language skills. Take courses one at a time or complete five courses within two years to obtain a certificate.
3. Camosun College (Cont.)

- **Indigenous Academic Upgrading:**
  Offers English, Math and basic computer studies which include Indigenous components designed to meet the needs of Indigenous students. An Indigenous Advisor can help you navigate through various funding systems, including Band funding and supports for Métis students, and provide advice about student loans and other government initiatives. Indigenous Education, in partnership with the College Foundation, also offers a number of awards to outstanding students.

- **Literacy Foundations:**
  The aim of the Literacy Foundations (LF) program at Continuing Education is to prepare students to enter regular academic classes and to eventually complete a BC graduation program. Fees: Literacy or numeracy foundation course: $100 (student activity fee $25 + $75 refundable to student upon resources returned). See website for list of all courses offered and fees.
4. Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society

Audience: Children & Adults
Address: 637 Bay St #300, Victoria, BC V8T 5L2
Phone: ESL Coordinator: (250) 361-9433 ext 210
Email: esl@vircs.bc.ca
Website: www.vircs.bc.ca

Programs & Services

- English as a Second Language:
  Courses to suit all levels and schedules. A continuous intake program which you can start any time as long as space is available. Registration: Simply drop in before class times Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
  Beginner class: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9 am-11am
  Intermediate and Advanced class: 11:15 am-1:15 pm
  Cost: 12 class passes are sold for the following fees:
    International students and visitors: $245
    Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents: $85
    Registration and Assessment Fee: $25 (one time charge at time of registration)
4. Victoria Immigrant & Refugee C.S. (Cont.)

- **Conversation Club:**
  Call for current dates and times.

- **SPARKS for Children:**
  SPARKS is for Immigrant or Refugee children 6-11 years of age attending a new elementary school in Canada, who want to improve their English, build stronger social-emotional skills as they adjust to the Canadian School System. The afterschool program is held two hours per week for 10 weeks at a local elementary school and uses games, art, stories, sports and other non-language based activities to help children make new friends, practice their English and learn about Canadian culture.

- **Homework Club:**
  For newcomer children and youth between the ages of 6 to 25 years old and takes place at the VIRCS office every Tuesday from 4 pm to 5:30 pm. This program helps students to succeed in their new school environments by providing one-on-one tutoring and homework help. The Homework Club improves students self-confidence and academic performance.
5. Inter-cultural Association (ICA)

Audience: Adults
Address: 930 Balmoral Road, Victoria BC, V8T 1A8
Phone: (250) 388-4728
LINC Home Study: Canada: 1-800-668-1179 ext.1294
Email: Form on website under Contact Us
Website: www.icavictoria.org

Programs & Services

- **Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC):**
  LINC provides English language training from beginner to advanced levels for adult newcomers to Canada. LINC is government-funded and free for students. To join a LINC class, you must be a newcomer, 17 years old or older, and be a permanent resident or refugee. Classes are friendly, and focus on practical English and information about life in Canada. Childcare is available for preschool children of LINC students. LINC is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

  LINC Home Study Program: Program provides free distance education for eligible newcomers to Canada who cannot attend LINC classes in person. Students choose between online (computer with internet access) or correspondence (books and CDs) learning options and study independently from home.
6. Victoria Disability Resource Centre

Audience: Adults
Address: 817A Fort St, Victoria BC V8W 1H6
Phone: (250) 595-0044
Email: information@drcvictoria.com
Website: www.drcvictoria.com

Programs & Services

❖ **Form Completion:**
The Information & Referral Coordinator and volunteers assist people with various disability applications and forms, including the Persons with Disabilities designation application, BC Housing and the Disability Tax Credit.

❖ **Access to Employment Services:**
  • Computer tutoring
  • Employment readiness assessment
  • Formal diagnostic assessments/Informal self-assessments
  • Skills training (workshops and one-on-one)
7. Island Community Mental Health

Audience: Youth & Adults
Address: 125 Skinner Street, Victoria, BC V9A 6X4
Phone: (250) 389-1211
Email: info@icmha.ca
Education Coaching: ferdinand.hehewerth@icmha.ca
Website: www.islandcommunitymentalhealth.ca

Programs & Services

- **Supported Education Program:**
  Education Coaches work with individuals who want to improve their learning skills and/or are interested in increasing their formal education, whether that means completing a GED, taking a few courses, or completing a university degree. Support is individualized, and moves at the pace chosen by the client. Coaches work with clients on campus, in ICMH offices (on Skinner Street), or even in a coffee shop if there is a private space to talk. Coaching Cost: none
TAPS is the only organization in Victoria providing free, face-to-face legal advocacy for people with income assistance, provincial disability benefits, tenancy and employment standards issues. TAPS staff and volunteers assist people, including those with literacy challenges (reading, writing, comprehension) with:

- Provincial and federal disability benefits applications
- Provincial disability appeals
- Social assistance (welfare)
- Employment standards disputes
- Landlord/tenant disputes
- Income tax for low-income earners
9. The Learning Curve

Audience: Children & Families  
Address: Unit 5-774 Bay Street, Victoria BC V8T 5E4  
Phone: (250) 370-9513  
Email: info@ldasvi.bc.ca  

The Learning Curve supports families, and educates and advocates for children and youth experiencing learning and/or behavioural challenges.

Programs & Services

- **Reading and Writing Programs:**  
The program is designed for any student who is struggling with reading or writing. While the overall program is structured according to the current reading remediation research, each child will focus on their own individualized goals during their session with a tutor.

- **Academic Skills Programs:**  
The Academic Skills program is designed to give students the opportunity to develop their abilities in a wide range of skills, depending on their needs. Program participants work one-on-one with trained tutors to identify and work on their specific areas of challenge and learn how to utilize their areas of strength. Cost: No child is turned away from these programs. Financial assistance is available for those who need it.

Call to inquire about the full range of parent and family support programs and resources.
10. Success By Six

Audience: Children & Families
Phone: (604) 268-1300 ext. 2257
Email: successby6svi@gmail.com, email to find local program coordinators
Website: http://www.successby6bc.ca

Programs & Services

Success By 6 builds community through engaging citizens in building child and family friendly communities and funding programs that include cultural programs and resources, literacy, nutrition, child care, children’s play, parenting and family skills development.
11. 1000x5 Book Recycling Project

Audience: Children
Contact: Visit the website to find a local coordinator
Website: www.1000x5.ca

Programs & Services
The South Island 1000 X 5 Projects are three distinct projects that provide books for young children in different regions in Southern Vancouver Island (Victoria, Peninsula, Westshore & Salt Spring Island).
12. Story Studio Writing Society

Audience: Children K-Grade 8  
Phone: (250) 884-4522  
Email: sean.rodman@storystudio.ca  
Website: www.storystudio.ca

Programs & Services

The Story Studio Writing Society advances children’s relationship with literacy by fostering self-expression through the creation of their own published stories. The Story Studio enables children and youth to experience success as authors and strengthen their ability to write in their own voice.

Workshops are held in school classrooms. Each year the Story Studio works with approximately fifty educators in Greater Victoria to deliver a 3-part creative writing workshop.
13. Greater Victoria School District #61

Audience: Children & Youth
Address: 556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, B.C. V8Z 1E8
Phone: (250) 475-3212
Email: form on website under Contact
Website: www.sd61.bc.ca

Programs & Services

- **StrongStart BC:**
  - Phone: Call schools for information on programs.
  - Email: See form on website.
  - Website: www.sd61.bc.ca/programs/strong-start/
  
A drop-in early learning program for all preschool-aged children. Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver while attending the program. Come to one of six StrongStart programs to discover new ways to support your child’s learning, to make connections with other parents and caregivers who attend, and to gain important information about additional services and resources in our community.

Cost: free
Ready, Set, Learn School Program:
Website: https://www.sd61.bc.ca/programs/learning-initiatives/ready-set-learn/
Ready, Set, Learn events in schools provide families with information about how to support a young child’s early learning and development through activities, local programs and services. These events are aimed at three year-olds and their families, but four year-olds and five year-olds and their families are welcome to attend as well. Check the website for events in schools near you. Cost: free

SJ Willis Education Centre
Audience: Adults
The Learning Centre Address: 923 Topaz Ave, Victoria BC V8T 2M2
Phone: (250) 360-4300
Email: Email: ce@sd61.bc.ca
Website: ce.sd61.bc.ca
The Learning Centre is a self-directed, teacher-assisted learning opportunity. It allows for people with busy schedules to attend school in a self-paced learning environment. Students can take one course at a time. Students from a variety of age groups attend Continuing Education to:
• Graduate
• Improve skills
• Upgrade courses
• Take a prerequisite course in preparation for College or University
• Learn English in one of our Literacy Foundations courses
14. Here! Magazine

Audience: All Ages
Phone: (250) 896-0986
Email: info@heremagazine.ca
Website: www.heremagazine.ca

A print and digital magazine for newcomers to Canada to give them the opportunity to see themselves and their newcomer experiences reflected in the media. Here! provides media mentorship and coaches newcomer writers through the writing process in order to improve their writing skills and encourage literacy development.

Here! Magazine content is English Language Learner accessible and includes multi-level content and English as a Second Language lessons and materials. Available: at all Greater Victoria Public Library locations, Vancouver Island Regional Library in Sidney; Camosun College (ACCESS/ELD/International), UVic, most community and recreation centres, Intercultural Association, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society, Military Family Resource Centre, churches, Francophone Society, various ethnocultural centres, and by request or by subscription.
English Language Learners
In the booklet see Camosun College, Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Society, Inter-Cultural Association and Greater Victoria Public Library. Also, check local community and recreational centres and church groups.

Community Centres, Groups, Churches etc.
Many community centres, recreation facilities, churches and other types of groups offer a range of literacy and learning programs from Mothergoose for children, computer classes for adults and English as a Second Language.
For further information on community literacy resources contact Jan Dupuis, Literacy Outreach Coordinator at jmdupuis@shaw.ca and visit www.learnnowvictoria.com.