cbal
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

ANNUAL REPORT 2019–2020

Helping to create a better tomorrow through literacy and lifelong learning!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Thank you for taking the time to look over this document and learn more about CBAL's profound impact throughout the Kootenay and Boundary regions. From the one-to-one tutoring program, to family literacy, to newcomer settlement services, CBAL is helping to transform lives and build communities. CBAL's visionary leaders, bright staff, passionate volunteers, committed directors, generous funders, and connected partners - you are sincerely appreciated. And to all learners, thank you for your courage and your trust. It is an honour to walk beside you along your literacy journey.

Allison Alder
Board Chair, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

Allison Alder
Board Chair, CBAL

Our Mission

CBAL encourages people of all ages to engage in literacy and lifelong learning. We help by providing opportunities through innovative programs and community support.

Our Vision

Basin and Boundary community members value lifelong learning and have the literacy skills needed to be successful in their homes, communities and lives.

Our Work

CBAL provides free literacy programs, workshops, resources, events and support for people of all ages. Our services are designed for:

- FAMILIES
- CHILDREN & YOUTH
- ADULTS & SENIORS
- IMMIGRANTS

Desneiges Profili- Executive Director

CBAL Staff at Decoda Literacy Solutions' Provincial Conference 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Different year, same us!

The 2019-2020 program year certainly challenged communities and shifted us into a new normal. After a promising start to our program year, COVID-19 impacted us in ways that we never could have imagined. While there were challenges and obstacles to overcome, there were just as many surprises and opportunities. When the pandemic hit, we saw firsthand the deep need for continued support and literacy programming for families, children & youth, adults, seniors and immigrants. In a moment, the way in which we connected, communicated and engaged with one another changed.

Staff and community partners demonstrated great resilience, perseverance, and ingenuity. More than ever, our community programs needed to provide a place for connection, learning, and growth. The pandemic pushed CBAL to look beyond traditional forms of service delivery to create new opportunities for participant engagement. Virtual programming and self-directed learning programs were designed and launched. CBAL's newly created YouTube channel became an avenue to share our work and important messages about literacy and learning. Using a virtual format, the organization was able to leverage the skills of staff from across the region so that participants in Sparwood could attend a language class alongside participants from Grand Forks. The possibilities for learning became endless. CBAL became a stronger, more adaptable, and more creative organization in how we support our communities, our staff, and our volunteers.

OUR SERVICES FROM 2019-2020

FAMILIES

Our programs provide engaging and fun learning opportunities for children and their parents & caregivers.

Examples of programs:

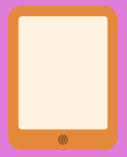
- Alphabet Soup
- Block Builders
- Love 2 Learn
- Family Night Out
- Play & Learn
- Parents as Literacy Supporters
- Rhyme Time

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Programs strengthen and enhance literacy skills and help participants gain important skills for school & life.

Examples of programs:

- Afterschool Clubs
- Knitting Clubs
- Jr. Journalists
- Poetry Groups
- Writing Groups
- Craft Kits 2 Go
- STEAM Activities



ADULTS & SENIORS

These programs help adults and seniors gain the essential skills needed to be successful at home, and in the community and workplace.

Examples of programs:

- 1-1 Literacy Support
- Cooking on a Budget
- iPad Classes
- Telling Our Life Stories
- Workplace Skills
- Writing Out Loud
- Tech Workshops

IMMIGRANTS

Our Settlement and Language services aim to help immigrants successfully settle and build connections in our region.

Services include:

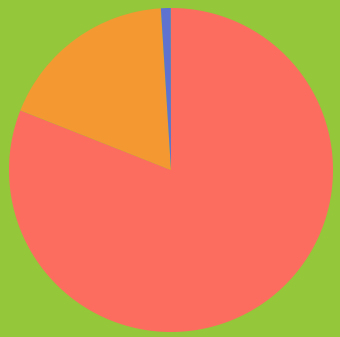
- Information and Orientation Sessions
- Community Connections
- Language Training & Assessments
- Workshops

OUR WORK
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019-2020

WE WORKED WITH 5,003 ADULTS

in our literacy programs and workshops.

The Stats



- Women- 81%
- Men- 18%
- Gender Not Declared- 1%

Of the 5,003 adults, participants identified as:

10% Immigrants

7% Age 60 +

2% Indigenous

WE REACHED 4,034 KIDS & 355 YOUTH

through our programs and workshops.

THE FACTS:

- **34,268** Individual Contact Hours
- **4,001** Sessions
- **317** Staff Trainings
- **10,969** Books & Materials Distributed
- **$80,974** In-kind Support to Community Partners

OUR WORK
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019-2020

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

- **1,300+** Participants
- **727** Zoom Sessions
- **3,530** Individual Contact Hours
- **39** Facebook Live Events

171 STAFF & 319 VOLUNTEERS

working together to bring quality programs and services to you - right here in the Basin and Boundary.

$242,759 of in-kind support to CBAL

from community partners and volunteers that helped to make our programs possible!

164 COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS & 255 COMMUNITY LITERACY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

working towards a stronger and more resilient Basin and Boundary!

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019–2020

$1,904,484 GRANT REVENUE

from government and local community grants.

$64,837 OTHER REVENUE

from interest, donations, membership fees, and facility rent and recoveries.

$63,369 FUNDRAISED

from generous community donors and supporters.

$106,548 FEES FOR SERVICE

from programs and services offered across the region.

TOTAL REVENUE: $2,139,238

EXPENDITURE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019-2020

$1,374,559
LITERACY PROGRAMS

Funds spent on wages, food, supplies, promotion, and everything else that helps to make our programs happen!

$323,025
CAPACITY BUILDING

Funds spent on regional support, communications, professional development, and staff meetings.

$206,850
ADMINSTRATION

Funds spent on wages and administrative support for the organization.

$183,650
COORDINATION

Funds spent on wages and expenses to support partnerships and program planning.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:
$2,088,084

Meet Bethany Thate, Grand Forks

Bethany is a mother of four young children, wife, business owner, and a fan of anything crafty. She never stops learning and thrives by collaborating with other business owners and community members.

IMPACT OF LITERACY

Bethany's literacy journey

Bethany attended *Together to Learn,* a family literacy program designed to help parents to upskill for future training programs and reach their personal goals. While parents are learning, children are cared for by childminders. There is also a family literacy component woven into the program to assist parents in developing the tools needed to support their children's literacy journeys. The program is a unique collaboration between CBAL, Selkirk College and Boundary Family Services.

CBAL program was instrumental

Together to Learn helped Bethany to gain the math and bookkeeping skills for her business and skills to help her to pursue her love of woodworking. This program provided her with the time, space, and support to put her learning first!

Bethany's future is bright

Bethany has a dream of becoming an art teacher and to learn more woodworking and business skills through Selkirk College. She is driven to take what she knows and apply it in all areas of her life!

Supporters in 2019-2020

Our work is not possible without the support of our community partners and funders. CBAL is the organization it is today because of the many collaborations across the region. To the countless funders who invest in our region, we are thankful for your confidence and commitment to furthering literacy.

Black Press
Blue Sky Clothing Co
College of New Caledonia
College of the Rockies
Columbia Basin Trust
Credit Unions
- Columbia Valley Credit Union
- East Kootenay Community Credit Union
- Grand Forks Credit Union
- Kootenay Savings Credit Union
- Nelson & District Credit Union
- Revelstoke Credit Union

Decoda Literacy Solutions
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
Ministry of Advanced Education
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Okanagan College
Selkirk College

Thanks to the countless community granting organizations, school districts, businesses, newspapers, and individual donors for supporting CBAL programming.

Board of Directors: Allison Alder (Chair), Kathleen Gabelmann (Treasurer), Cari-Ann Gotta, David Standing, Jack Moes, Jean Sulzer, Karen Bennet and Linda Dickson.

CONTACT US

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Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

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