



# 2022 2023

# Our Impact



## Mission

CBAL engages with people of all ages in literacy and lifelong learning by providing a broad range of community-based programs and supports.



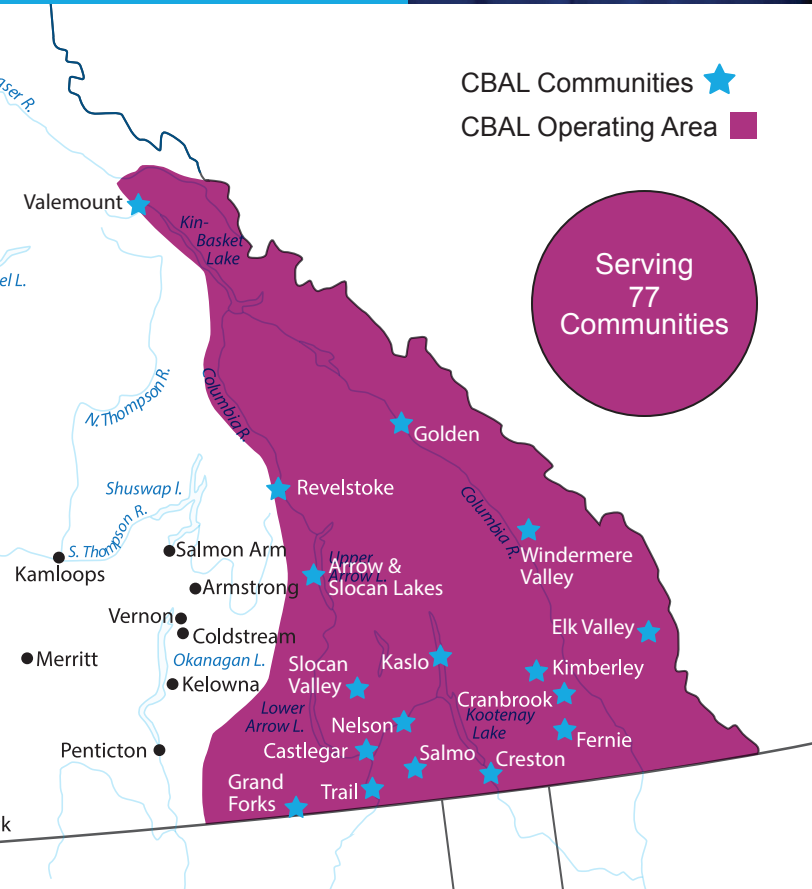
## Vision

We envision a Columbia Basin and Boundary where communities embrace lifelong learning and people have the skills to thrive in learning, life and work.



## Community Impact

CBAL strives to create strong and resilient communities where people can create shared experiences, be better advocates for themselves and others and think critically about matters that mean most to them. We see literacy as the vehicle that can help people not just survive but thrive!



# Our Message



This past year for CBAL has been one of growth and celebration. Everyone at CBAL is a life-long learner. CBAL staff have facilitated quality accessible programs to adults, children, and families throughout our region and they have participated in their own learning through CBAL's Learning for Life conference and other professional development opportunities.

More than ever before, members of the board of directors have joined the staff in professional development activities and in the critical work of shaping the strategic plan that will guide CBAL's work for the next three years.

These engagements have had an air of celebration as we have rejoiced in the opportunities to work and learn together in person.

The board of directors is proud to be a part of the meaningful work CBAL does every day, and we look forward to another year of working and learning together.

**On behalf of the Board of Directors,  
Cari-Ann Roberts Gotta  
Board Chair**



## Our Team

**124**

Staff

**9**

Board Members

**213**

Volunteers

**247**

Community Literacy Planning  
Committee Members

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### Board Members

- Cari-Ann Gotta  
Board Chair
- Lisa Patry  
Board Treasurer
- Allison Alder
- David Standing
- Jack Moes
- Jean Sulzer
- Karen Bennett
- Kay Coburn
- Linda Chell

We know our work is important and that literacy is the foundation of many different types of skill development - it can open doors to endless possibilities. When people have strong literacy skills, they are confident learners, can adapt to a changing world, and are able to advocate for themselves and others.

More people than ever attended our literacy programs and engaged in lifelong learning this past year. There is no doubt that people were yearning for connection and looking for opportunities to learn new skills and be exposed to fresh ideas.

The most rewarding part of this work will always be the people. Our team, comprised of partners, volunteers, and staff, invest the best part of who they are into this work. Our participants step forward to take on the challenges of learning new things.

As we look ahead to the next three years, we will use the new priorities in our updated strategic plan to guide us and take community literacy to new heights.

**Desneiges Profili  
Executive Director**

# Our Programs & Services



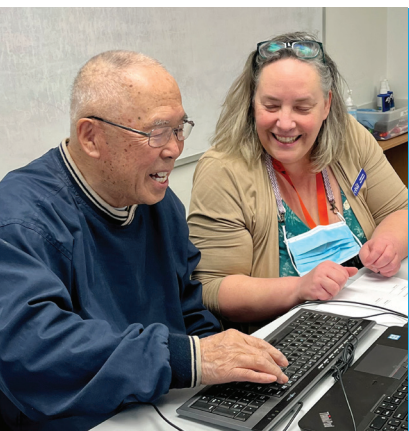
## Family Literacy

Family literacy programs offer intergenerational learning opportunities that support children and adults to learn and grow together. These programs foster a culture of lifelong learning and support all participants in strengthening their literacy and essential skills leading to long-lasting changes and a love for learning.



## Child & Youth Literacy

Programs for children and youth play a vital role in developing the essential skills that are necessary for success in both school and life. Young people have an amazing capacity to learn, grow and adapt. Giving them different lenses to view the world can foster new connections and build a strong foundation for future learning.



## Adult & Senior Literacy

Programs for adults and seniors are designed to build on the valuable skills they have gained throughout their lives. These programs are learner-centred and are geared towards improving social and economic outcomes. They focus on essential skills such as reading, writing, numeracy, and digital literacy, among others. Participants not only gain skills but also make connections and become more confident in their abilities.



## Settlement & Language Services

Settlement and language services use a holistic approach to support newcomers navigating their settlement journeys. Innovative programming, access to community information and referrals, assistance with employment and language support are all available. Newcomers are empowered with the skills, confidence, and knowledge to make meaningful contributions to their community and workplace, leading to stronger social and economic integration.



**747**  
Newcomers Supported

# Our Results



# Our Highlights



## Food Skills for Families



Family programs offer a safe space for participants to learn and participate in activities that aim to improve literacy skills for both children and adults. Over the past year, more than 220 families participated in food skills programs. A well-balanced and nutritious diet is important for overall physical and mental wellness. From preparing snacks to full meals, families were empowered to explore, get messy, and get cooking! These programs provide numerous benefits and important skill development opportunities.

- Free access to healthy foods
- Opportunities to learn about food preparation, nutrition, and budgeting
- Practice reading recipes and using math skills for measuring and budgeting
- Connections with other community members and resources
- Addressing food insecurity

Cooking programs are a recipe for fun and learning!

## Settlement & Language Services



By providing services through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and British Columbia Settlement and Integration Services (BCSIS), CBAL offers seamless program and service delivery for newcomers. The intake and assessment process is a comprehensive and robust procedure that helps identify the needs, assets, and settlement priorities of a client. This information is then utilized to connect the client to the most appropriate resources and referrals. Settlement services foster inclusivity and diversity that benefit newcomers and communities. Here is an example of how settlement services can directly impact the community.

CBAL partnered with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary to launch Water Women, a women's-only swimming program that aimed to remove barriers (religious, cultural, economic, and social) to participating in aquatics. This program was the only one of its kind in the Basin and Boundary and included seven sessions with water safety training and free drop-in swim times on Sunday mornings. CBAL was involved in program design, facilitation, and connecting with community partners. A safe space was created for women to swim, connect with others and with community services.



## Books for Kids Campaign

We are thrilled to announce that last year was our most successful campaign to date. Thanks to the overwhelming support of individuals, businesses, and service groups, we were able to raise over \$70,000. Blue Sky Clothing Company's socks for literacy were once again a big hit, providing a fun and unique way for people to support the cause. We also had great success with our Love 2 Learn T-shirts and hoodies, which were seen all around the region. With the donations received, CBAL was able to distribute over 7,000 books and take-home activity kits to families. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to Books for Kids and helped make a difference for the children and families in our communities.

 7,000 books

# Our Highlights

## Professional Development - Learning for Life

Learning for Life 2023 was a remarkable event that took place in May in the beautiful city of Kimberley. A total of 93 participants, which included CBAL facilitators, board members, volunteers, and presenters, attended the event. The event started with an evening social, followed by a day full of learning and networking opportunities. The workshops offered at the event covered a wide range of topics such as Trauma-Informed Practice, Outdoor Play, Come Do Math with Me, Adult Learning and Emotional Intelligence, Blanket Exercise, Teaching Youth to Read, Moving Beyond Polarization, and Gender Diversity.



## Strategic Planning

Over the past year, we focused on strategic planning which included gathering feedback from staff and community stakeholders through various means such as surveys, one-to-one interviews, and group discussions. We received valuable insights and ideas that can help CBAL increase its visibility and impact in the region and province.

During the engagement process, we also realized the need to raise awareness and promote literacy as a vital tool for addressing societal issues. Therefore, we aim to support other non-profits and businesses in incorporating literacy in their operations and communications. This could involve providing plain language training, helping employees improve their skills, or supporting local literacy initiatives.

**Moving forward, we will focus on the following three priorities:**

1. Be a leader in literacy and learning
2. Ensure responsible and sustainable operations
3. Provide high-quality programs and services across the Columbia Basin and Boundary



## West Kootenay Local Immigration Partnership

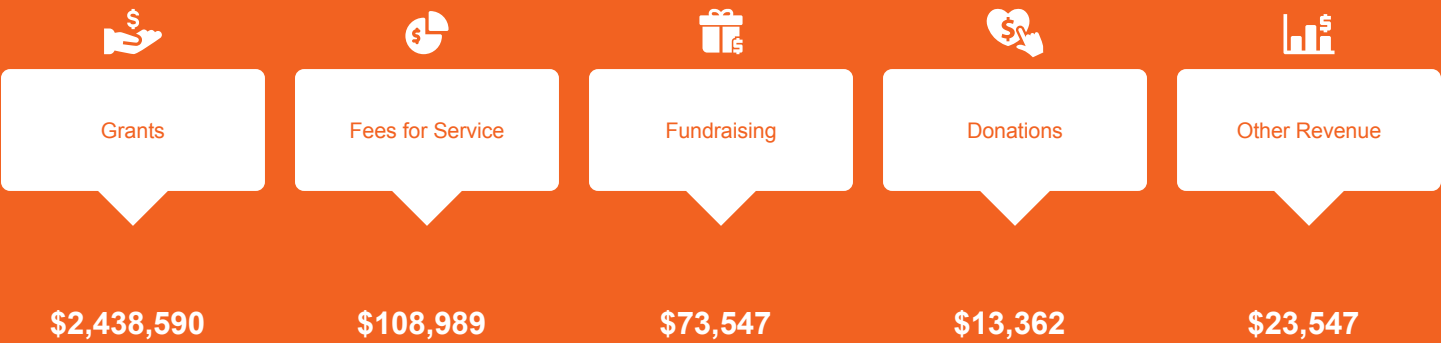
CBAL was granted approval to coordinate the implementation of a local immigration partnership (LIP) in the West Kootenay for the areas surrounding Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson. The decision follows a successful feasibility study conducted in 2022 and is funded through Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada.

The main goal of a LIP is to promote positive outcomes related to settlement and integration by fostering strong and resilient communities through innovative coordination efforts among key stakeholders. These initiatives are community-driven and help to create welcoming and inclusive communities where newcomers can thrive. While settlement services prepare newcomers to settle in the community, LIPs prepare communities to welcome them. CBAL will conduct a research study, establish stakeholder and newcomer advisory committees, and launch a new website specific to the West Kootenay Local Immigration Partnership (WKLIP). CBAL is pleased to be among the 88 LIPs operating across Canada.



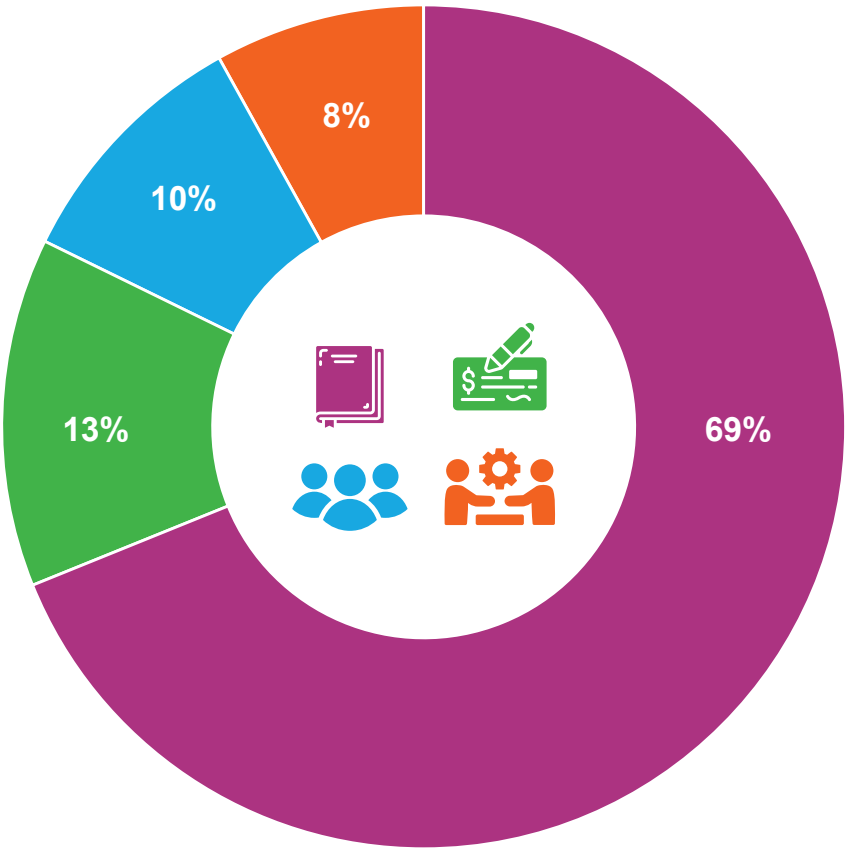
# Our Financials

## Revenue \$2,438,590



## Expenses \$2,608,434

- Programs: ..... \$1,796,598
- Capacity Building..... \$348,807
- Administration..... \$252,759
- Coordination..... \$210,270



# Our Supporters



- Black Press
- Blue Sky Clothing Company
- College of New Caledonia



- College of the Rockies
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Valley Pioneer



- 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 & Citizenship Canada
- Ministry of Citizens' Services
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
- Okanagan College



- School Districts 5, 6, 8, 10, 19, 20 & 51
- Selkirk College

**Together we can make a difference!**