

February 21, 2006

To: Library Board Chairs and BCLTA Liaisons

Literacy BC

Public libraries offer a range of services that play a central role in literacy development for people of all ages and in the achievement of province's goal *"to make BC the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent"*.

Along with libraries, there are a number of agencies working on literacy initiatives. Is your board working with any local literacy organizations? If you have an interesting literacy partnership or success story – we'd love to hear it and share it with other boards. Please contact us at admin@bclta.org or give us a call 604-985-3181.

At the Conference in April there will be a workshop session on Friday afternoon (F20) "Libraries and Literacy: Connecting the Dots" that will discuss both traditional and non-traditional examples of library-based literacy programs and explore how libraries can be more proactive in this area.

One organization that has been involved in literacy development for more than fifteen years is Literacy BC. Literacy BC is the provincial literacy organization that promotes and supports literacy and learning in British Columbia. It is a diverse network of individuals and groups involved and interested in literacy in BC. Many public libraries are actively involved with Literacy BC. If your library is not involved, you may wish to consider joining Literacy BC to keep in touch with literacy initiatives across the province.

Further information can be found on their website at: www.literacy.bc.ca

From the Literacy BC website ...

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF LITERACY BC?

More than 40% of adults in British Columbia have low literacy skills. A strong literacy community is key to creating the solutions that will address this complex issue. As a member of Literacy BC you are connected to BC's valuable literacy network.

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE?

Through this provincial literacy network you have the opportunity to:

- Stay informed about the latest literacy research, policy and programs
- Share 'best practices' with others in the field
- Receive advanced notice about relevant professional development conferences, roundtables, workshops and literacy related events
- Access the Literacy BC Resource Centre materials
- Receive and contribute to the Literacy BC newsletter
- Elect representatives for Literacy BC's Board of Directors
- Add your voice to the provincial literacy dialogue

Lawrence Lavender
President - BCLTA

Have you Heard?