



Fort St. John Literacy Society

Early Childhood Educator

To prepare and deliver the preschool component of our family literacy and ESL programs. Tuesday to Thursday mornings; 10.5 hours per week. September-April. ECE certificate preferred but not required. \$15/hour. Criminal Record Check required. **Benefit:** You may bring your own child for free.

Childminder

To assist caring for infants during our family literacy program. Tuesday and Thursday, 6 hours a week, September to April. \$12/hour. Criminal Record required.

Send your resume to literacy@pris.ca or P.O. Box 6196, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4H7 by September 10, 2007. For more information: (250) 785-2110.



Hardy Friedrich/AHN

PEACE VOICES

Fort St. John writer Greg Lainsbury reads one of his poems at the Sweetwater 905 festival Saturday, which was held in Rolla at the Mattson family farm. The event, which drew about 200 people, gathered Peace country artists, including poets, musicians, painters and sculptors, for a three-day celebration of the region's diverse art scene.

Area's literacy needs being assessed

FORT ST JOHN - There is a standing joke that in the Northeast that if you're upright and breathing you can get a job. With a shortage of workers across the province this may be true.

But do people have the literacy and numeracy skills to get the jobs they want and to keep them?

It is estimated that in the North Peace Region almost 11,000 people are below proficiency levels for literacy and almost 14,000 are below proficiency levels for numeracy - based on the statistics for BC from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS).

The IALSS defines literacy as, "One's capacity to use printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one's goals and to develop one's knowledge and potential."

"A Literacy Task Force has been established with funding from

LiteracyNOW a 2010 LegaciesNOW initiative," says Tammy Danshin, chair of the North Peace Spirit of BC Community Committee.

"A literacy needs assessment and gap analysis is being conducted that will lead to the development of a North Peace Regional Literacy Plan."

The task force has representatives from education, industry, government and non-profits.

"Community participation from service providers, employers, parents and interested individuals is also required for focus group sessions to identify literacy needs and to establish priorities," reports Dionne Olsen, the consultant working on the project on behalf of the Fort St John Literacy Society.

Identifying literacy needs, resources and priorities is integral for both economic and social development in the

region.

"For every \$1 spent on literacy, there is a \$7 return to the economy," explains Andy Ackerman, chair of the Fort St John Library Board.

"This project will help many people and help us prepare for future growth in the region. The library is currently in a process of looking at options for growth, this will contribute towards developing partnerships and opportunities as part of our ongoing commitment to literacy."

For more information or to participate in a focus group session contact Dionne Olsen at (250) 401-1551.

Taylor library opening in June

CHRISTOPHER SUN
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

After almost four years, Taylor's new \$265,000 library will finally open its doors to the public on June 23, with a grand opening scheduled for September.

"We want to get it open so students can take advantage of the library before school ends," said library board chair Bev Leighton. "We're going to have a grand opening for dignitaries in September."

Those dignitaries would include the Education Minister, the local MLA and politicians.

The library is located on the corner of 100 Street and 104 Avenue in one of two residential homes (the second one will house a medical centre). The library board has been meeting since January, and a librarian started training on May 7. All that's needed now are the books and furniture.

"We're going to be meeting with a book supplier," Leighton said. "We (also) have boxes and boxes of books donated by the community."

The library's 2007 operations budget is \$42,500, which includes the librarian's wage and books budget, and the capital budget is \$24,000. The operations budget will likely be

increased for book purchases.

Other than books, the library will have three computers with Internet access, a computer strictly for word processing, and wireless Internet for a fee. Taylor residents filled out surveys about what they would like to see in their library and those results are being implemented.

"It gave us really good insight into what the community is looking for," said community services director Keir Gervais. "(Services they want include) the Mother Goose reading program, computer services and training for seniors. It's all coming together."

With the new library comes the need for a library logo. A logo contest is open to Taylor residents with a \$250 grand

prize for a distinctive visual identity that will be used on all library material.

The deadline for that contest is June 1 and details are available at the District office. As well, the library is looking for volunteers for various activities such as reading to children.

Originally, the library and medical centre buildings were part of a 15-home subdivision on McMahan Crescent. Duke Energy (now Spectra) purchased the properties and sold the homes off. The District took possession of the two houses in 2001.



AHN file photo

Taylor library board chair Bev Leighton.