

## Literacy Now South Okanagan Similkameen Task Group Membership

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### **Overview**

The Literacy Now South Okanagan Similkameen (SO-S) Task Group consists of a group of dedicated individuals representing various sectors, organizations, businesses, and institutions, all working together towards the enhancement of literacy in South Okanagan-Similkameen. It is a creative driving force for literacy; listening to its community, leading community development processes, and setting priorities. The task group provides an essential link between various organizations, learners, and practitioners.

The Literacy Now SO-S initiative defines literacy as an essential cultural, social and academic practice that involves reading, writing and numeracy, but also a variety of abilities including viewing and representing, aural literacy including language, musical and listening skills, digital and financial literacy, cultural literacy including media and social literacy and critical literacy including civic skills.

### **Goals**

We are a community that values and supports inclusive and outreaching life-long learning. We value and support all people by building on strengths

Aims:

1. Community members must be aware of literacy issues and literacy programs and resources.
2. Community members must be able to access literacy programs and resources.
3. A range of literacy programs and resources must be available to community members.

### **Objectives**

In order to achieve the above goals, the Literacy Now SO-S Task Group will:

- Provide opportunities for all community members to be included in literacy programs, from families to business people, surrounding communities, and Aboriginal and ethnic groups.
- Be proactively responsive to local needs across the South Okanagan-Similkameen communities, ensuring the voices of the people using community services are heard.
- Network and cooperate with interested individuals, groups, programs, organizations, and businesses.
- Foster and build partnerships that support literacy.
- Maintain a participatory and democratic organizational structure.
- Increase the profile of literacy and life long learning throughout the South Okanagan-Similkameen communities.
- Incorporate an inclusive "cradle to grave" understanding of literacy
- View literacy as part of community capacity building, and build on community strengths and programs

## **Application Process**

- Online application forms can be reviewed on the Literacy Now SO-S website, [www.literacynowso-s.ca](http://www.literacynowso-s.ca)
- Hard copies are available by request via 250-770-0029
- Application deadline is Wednesday, April 01, 2015, 4:30 p.m. Applications received after such time will not be considered for membership

## **Meetings**

- Approximately 5 meetings per year, or as required
- Meetings will take place at the Penticton Wine & Counter Chamber of Commerce boardroom located at 553 Veas Drive, Penticton BC.
- Travel expenses are the responsibility of the Literacy Now SO-S Task Group member

## **Responsibilities and General Duties**

- Provides knowledge and skills in areas related to Literacy
- Approves policy and other recommendations received from the Task Group, and its standing and ad hoc committees
- Attendance at bi-monthly Task Group meetings
- Attendance at meeting of assigned committees
- Attendance at the annual District Literacy Plan Review Meeting
- Supports and participates in special events when possible
- Monitors and adheres to Task Group Terms of Reference
- Participates in the development of the association's organization and annual reviews
- Communicates with the LOC when unable to attend meetings, as regular attendance is desirable for continuity and consistent input. For extended absences or if stepping down, recommending a replacement representative from their organization whenever possible.
- Preparing for all meetings by reading materials distributed ahead of time, and actively participating in Task Group meeting discussions.