



Supporting lifelong learning



December 2025 Literacy News

Literacy news, programs, upcoming events, and valuable resources for all ages in Mount Waddington communities on North Vancouver Island.

NEWS

Financial literacy workshop pays off

New skills helped adult learners gain confidence – and one person avoid a potential scam – after attending a financial literacy workshop in November.



Partnering with Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre, Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society coordinated a free Money Matters workshop series. The workshops are led by former banking professional Rikki Clarke, current Child and Family Development Worker at Sacred Wolf. In the first workshop on November 19, six learners explored two key topics: Spending Plans and Banking Basics.

Participant feedback:

- “Some of the most important things I’m taking away are how to spot phishing scams and how to get my money in order.”
- “Because of this workshop, I feel more confident about managing my money.”
- “Great presentation! Easy to listen to explanations.”
- “I learned how to save for my granddaughter’s schooling and future.”
- “My favourite thing about this workshop was the depth of conversations and sharing.”

[Read more ...](#)

There's still time to join the next workshop on December 3 (rescheduled from Nov. 26)!

Ways to Save and Smart Shopping

December 3, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre, 8950 Granville St., Suite 145A

Register today! Contact Jeanne at: adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

New name and new coordinator for Food Hub

Congratulations to Megan Fee as the new coordinator of newly named A'ck'akilax_a_n's Gukwalut Nourish North Network! A'ck'akilax_a_n's Gukwalut means “helping our neighbours.”

The food hub is funded by United Way BC and Island Health and stewarded by Kwakiutl Health Centre to benefit local organizations and communities.

Being a part of the food hub helps Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society provide food-related learning programs and projects like the mobile kitchen.

Read more in the article in November 14 North Island Eagle below!

Food hub gifted a Kwak'wala name

The Mount Waddington Food Hub is excited to announce a new name for their food hub and a new coordinator. The United Way and Island Health funded food hub - a network of multiple organizations across the Mount Waddington Region that support food security - was gifted a new Kwak'wala name in 2025 by Elders Willie Walkus, Maggie Sedgemore, and Agnes Morash. The name, A'ek'aqilax_a_n's Gukwalut, means "helping our neighbours," and will be paired with another new name chosen by the hub members - Nourish North Network. The A'ek'aqilax_a_n's Gukwalut: Nourish North Network is made up of Hardy Bay Seniors Society, North Island Building Blocks, North Island Farmers and Artisans Market, Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre, Hase' Language Revitalization Society, St. Columba's Sanctuary, Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society, Sointula Resource Centre, and Kwakiutl Health.

Megan Fee was awarded the job as the A'ek'aqilax_a_n's Gukwalut: Nourish North Network coordinator and began her work in this role over the summer.

Megan has lived in Port Hardy for three years and has worked in school and outreach positions in the area before beginning work as part of the Kwakiutl Food Connections team, working in the gardens and connecting community to food through harvesting and cooking at the Kwakiutl Health Centre, in spring of 2025.

While pursuing her Natural Resource Management degree at Vancouver Island



Photo — Submitted

Megan Fee was awarded the job as the A'ek'aqilax_a_n's Gukwalut: Nourish North Network coordinator, formerly known as the Mount Waddington Food Hub.

Megan worked with Qqs Projects Society in Heiltsuk Territory on alternative assessments for proposed logging areas, highlighting such values as community harvesting areas, spaces with high potential for education and recreation, and unique wildlife habitat.

Through this work, Megan also supported land-based

of land-based cultural experiences for youth and adults alike."

Megan has begun the groundwork of connecting with the spokes of the Food Hub in the first months of her work as Coordinator.

The regional Food Hub has made a significant impact in the region, providing over 53,000 meals and hampers in

University (VIU), Megan realized her desire to work in community-led and Indigenous-led management methods.

After her schooling at VIU,

youth camps in the Kvai River watershed.

These experiences, Megan shares, showed her “the depth of traditional ecological knowledge and the power

the last two years.

The Hub’s partnerships have fostered stronger community ties and improved food security across the region.

EVENTS

December 2: Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday

This Giving Tuesday, we are grateful to our funders, sponsors and personal donors who support the Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society.

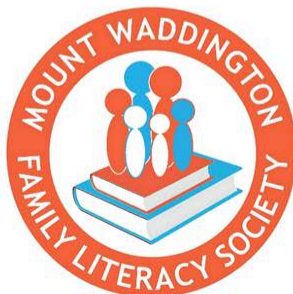
Your donation can help provide books, literacy programming and other supports that directly benefit our North Vancouver Island communities.

You can even choose where to direct your gift:

- General
- Adult Literacy Program
- Books for Children
- Fostering Literacy
- Mother Goose Program
- United Way School’s Out

Give at our secure donation site:

canadahelps.org/en/charities/mwliteracynow



Supporting lifelong learning

**GIVING
TUESDAY**



Holiday Giving for the Literacy Supporter

You can give the gift of literacy in someone's honour and send an eCard through our [CanadaHelps donation page](#) and direct the funds to a program of your choice!



Donate | Mount Waddington Family Literacy

Support us in our journey to helping others with Mt Waddington Family Literacy.

December 3: Ways to Save and Smart Shopping Money Matters Workshop

New date:

Dec. 3 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre,
8950 Granville St., Suite 145A,
Port Hardy

Free!

- Explore different ways to save, learn about interest, ways to save for your child's education and how to save using a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA).
- Learn about why we shop, shopping habits, comparison shopping to save money and make smart buying decisions.



Register by emailing Jeanne at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

January 25 – February 1: BC Family Literacy Week

Make mealtime family learning time.



Family Literacy Week

January 25 – February 1, 2026



Find activities and resources at Decoda.ca

Province-wide activities

Get ready for Family Literacy Week! Find activities, resources and a contest with the "Make mealtime family learning time" theme from Decoda Literacy Solutions.



Family Literacy Week

Each January, families, schools, libraries and communities across BC celebrate Family Literacy Week. Decoda provides themed resources every year to help you plan your events and activities.

Local activities

Watch for the **Kitchen Connections Pie Party** on January 31st! We're helping to support this family hands-on cooking class where you and your child or teen will work together to prepare warm, flaky chicken pot pies & dessert completely from scratch.

Register through Port Hardy Recreation when the Winter Recreation Guide comes out!

Also check your local library for Family Literacy Week activities!

January 27: Family Literacy Day

Across Canada, we celebrate [Family Literacy Day](#) on January 27th.

ABC Life Literacy Canada has activities, a tip sheet, a bookmark and more at familyliteracyday.ca



Family Literacy Day 2026: Make mealtime family learning time

Family Literacy Day raises awareness about the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Download free resources to get involved.

PROGRAMS

Mother Goose On-the-Go family program



Mother Goose On-the-Go fosters early literacy and is an experience for the whole family! A trained 'Mother Goose' leads a group of parents and children in fun and engaging rhymes, songs, stories, and crafts. Free!

Children have fun and parents learn how to sing, rhyme, and read with their child, and weave those skills into their day-to-day routines. These basic activities with children provide the building blocks for early attachment and literacy.

Free!

Port Hardy

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Vancouver Island Regional Library, 7110 Market St.

Port McNeill

Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Vancouver Island Regional Library, 1584 Broughton Blvd

Sointula

Saturdays, 11:00 a.m., Preschool room

Watch our [Facebook page](#) for current schedule.

Storytime 5 days a week at Vancouver Island Regional Library



Visit Port Hardy VIRL for family Storytime!

Tuesday – Saturday 11–11:30 a.m.,
7110 Market St., Port Hardy

Free! No need to register.

Conversation Circle: Practice Your English

New in January! Free "Practice Your English" conversation circle at the library for adults.
Free, drop-in!

Port Hardy

Tuesday, January 27 (Time TBA)
Vancouver Island Regional Library, 7110 Market St.

Port McNeill

Wednesday, January 28 (Time TBA)
Vancouver Island Regional Library, 1584 Broughton Blvd

This program is in partnership with Vancouver Island Regional Library and Immigrant Welcome Centre.

Adult one-on-one tutoring

Free one-on-one tutoring for adults is available. Get assistance with reading, numeracy and more!

Contact Jeanne at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

Money Matters for self-employment

If you're interested in learning about money management when you're self-employed, contact Jeanne at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org



Money Matters launches new self-employment resources ahead of Financial Literacy Month

As Canada's gig economy continues to grow, more people are turning to self-employment and contract work to earn a living. But managing money without a steady paycheck can be challenging - from unpredictable income streams to navigating taxes, budgeting, and business planning.

Volunteer as an Adult Literacy Tutor

When nearly 1 in 2 adults find basic reading or math tasks challenging, it affects not just individuals, but whole families and communities.

By becoming a literacy tutor, you can help someone confidently manage everyday things—banking, shopping, health decisions—and strengthen our entire region's future.

Training provided!

You can help learners with reading and numeracy, or test preparation, computer basics, financial literacy, with how to use cell phone or fill out forms.

For more information, contact Jeanne James-Hory at adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org

Did you know?

Volunteer!

In BC, **45%** of adults aged 16-65 may have difficulty understanding newspapers, instruction manuals or health information — tasks many of us take for granted.

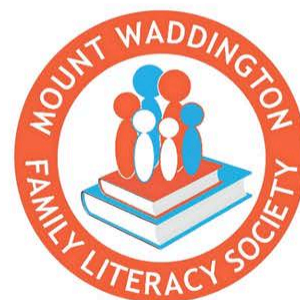
52% of adults may struggle with numeracy-based tasks like calculating interest, using graph info, or figuring out medicine dosage.

Tutors for adults needed!

By volunteering as a literacy tutor, you can help someone confidently manage everyday things—banking, shopping, health decisions—and strengthen our entire region's future.



Contact Jeanne James-hory
Adult Literacy Coordinator
adult.literacy@mwfamilyliteracy.org



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mwfamilyliteracy.org

Facebook: [@mwfamilyliteracy](https://www.facebook.com/mwfamilyliteracy)

RESOURCES

Plain Language Resources for your organization's communications

“Plain language is more than good writing. It’s a matter of accessibility and inclusion. It helps people make informed decisions, access services, and participate fully in their communities. This new standard gives organizations the tools to remove barriers and ensure their information truly serves everyone. With its publication, Canada is showing leadership at home and on the global stage.”

– Dino Zuppa, Chief Executive Officer, Accessibility Standards Canada

A communication is in plain language if its wording, structure, and design are so clear that the intended audience can easily do each of the following:

1. find what they need;
2. understand what they find; and
3. use that information.

The CAN-ASC-3.1:2025 Plain Language standard provides organizations with practical requirements and principles to remove communication barriers.

It:

- explains when plain language should be used,
- describes barriers people may face,
- sets out clear steps and strategies for removing and preventing those barriers.

Learn more at the link below.

Accessibility Standards Canada publishes Canada's first Plain Language Standard

Accessibility Standards Canada is pleased to announce the publication of the CAN-ASC-3.1:2025 Plain Language standard. This equity-based standard is the first National Standard of Canada on plain language.

ABOUT US

We're here to help.

The Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society works with communities, schools and organizations to support literacy and learning for all ages on North Vancouver Island. We offer free programs, events and resources.

We can also help with your literacy projects and program ideas through fund finding, letters of support and by connecting you with our many resources.

Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society is a non-profit support system servicing the literacy needs of the School District 85/Mount Waddington region of Vancouver Island, BC, traditional territory of the Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples.

Contact us

Please note our new email addresses and *add mwfamilyliteracy.org to your contacts* so you don't miss anything from us. Emails to our former addresses will be automatically forwarded.

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Contact us for information about our programs, resources or to share your needs and ideas.

Follow Us



Thank you to our supporters

SUPPORT LOCAL LITERACY



Your support makes a difference in our communities!

Your donation will help provide books, literacy programming and other supports that directly benefit our North Vancouver Island communities.

Ways to give:

Donate on our [secure Canadahelps.org webpage](https://secure.canadahelps.org)

Or contact Executive Director Charity Gillett at ed@mwfamilyliteracy.org

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