

Nova Scotia Partners in Literacy 1996-1997 Project Listing

Nova Scotia Partners in Literacy is a listing of projects funded in Nova Scotia in 1996-1997 by the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS), Human Resources Development Canada, and is intended to be a source of information on resources and projects to support the literacy community in the province.

The NLS has as its goal the involvement of all sectors of society in creating a more literate Canada. One way the NLS does this is by providing financial assistance for literacy projects across Canada. In partnership with the NLS, the Adult Education Section of the Department of Education and Culture administers the annual Nova Scotia Literacy Grants application process. This positive partnership, which has existed since 1988, has advanced literacy development in Nova Scotia and has helped to meet the unique needs of adult learners, practitioners and communities throughout the province.

Projects listed in this catalogue are varied and fall into the five main areas of eligibility for NLS funding:

- access and outreach
- coordination and information sharing
- development of learning materials
- public awareness
- research

Projects are divided into three funding streams: Federal/Provincial (adult literacy), TAGS (The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy) and Literacy Corps (out of school youth ages 16-24). Within each stream, each project description is presented as follows:

- title of the project
- name of the sponsoring organization
- name of the contact person
- brief description of the project

For information about the Nova Scotia Literacy Grants application process, please contact:

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Department of Education and Culture
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PROJECT TITLE: **Expansion of "Writing Our Lives - Reading The World"**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Alice Housing
W. Williams Non-Profit Housing Association
P.O. Box 333
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3Y5

CONTACT: Donna Gursky, Executive Director
(902) 466-8459

DESCRIPTION: The project uses the participants' everyday lives and experiences as the curriculum. It will be further developed and expanded to include an economic literacy model based on experiential literacy learning through the establishment of a small business. The business will be established in such a way that it may be able to continue after the project ends.

PROJECT TITLE: **Literacy Awareness - Learners' Perspectives**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Antigonish County Adult Learning Association (ACALA)
General Delivery
Frankville Antigonish, NS BOH 1KO

CONTACT: Judy Cairns, Program/Outreach Coordinator
(902) 234-3430

DESCRIPTION: ACALA will develop a workshop and a manual to train a team of advanced adult learners to provide peer tutoring to others and to organize a learners' support group. The learners will also be trained in public speaking and supported in speaking engagements in high schools and in the media regarding literacy issues and the importance of staying in school. The project will assist learners to become more involved in their community literacy programs and will ensure a positive learners' presence at literacy events and community presentations.

PROJECT TITLE: **Regional Family Literacy**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Black Educators Association
Suite 808, 2000 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K1

CONTACT: Sunday Miller, Executive Director
(902) 424-0793

DESCRIPTION: The Black Educators Association's Black Learners Advisory Committee will develop and pilot community-based, community-owned family literacy programs in two Black communities in Nova Scotia. The project will include conducting a needs assessment and focus group sessions with Black families to determine the type of family learning programs that will be most successful in each of the two communities. Training will be provided for the family literacy coordinators, and volunteer tutors and instructors involved in the pilots. As well, a resource collection of racially and culturally sensitive learning materials will be established for use in the programs. The project will be conducted in partnership with the Black Provincial Literacy Network and other Black community service agencies.

PROJECT TITLE: **Hand in Hand**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Cape Breton Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians
56 Nepean Street
Sydney, NS B1P 6A8

CONTACT: Rosalind Boyle, Regional Manager
(902) 564-0003

DESCRIPTION: The Cape Breton Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians will hire a literacy coordinator to develop two part-time literacy projects for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing in Cape Breton. The project will include identifying learners' needs and barriers to learning, coordinating tutorials to train volunteer tutors, hosting four information workshops in Sydney and Arichat, and working with local media to promote the project activities to the Deaf in Cape Breton. As well, literacy workshops will be held with Deaf learners to produce five learner-written booklets reflecting the lives of the participants and the culture of the Cape Breton Deaf.

PROJECT TITLE: **Rural Family Literacy**

PROJECT SPONSORS: Colchester East Hants District School Board Continuing Education
175 Victoria Street
Truro, NS B2N 1Z5

Colchester Action Association of Persons with Disabilities
Unit 28, Truro Centre
Esplanade
Truro, NS B2N 2K3

CONTACT: Kim Colburn, Coordinator, Continuing Education
Colchester East Hants District School Board Continuing Education
175 Victoria Street
Truro, NS B2N 1ZS
(902) 895-7998

DESCRIPTION: Colchester East Hants District School Board and the Colchester Action Association of Persons with Disabilities will pilot test in-home family literacy classes in three rural areas of Colchester County. The project will assess the literacy needs of families in these rural areas and involve action research to determine if in-home family literacy classes are a viable and effective way to provide the rural population with access to literacy training. The project will include promotional activities to increase public awareness of literacy issues in Colchester County and to involve business, community organizations and volunteers as partners in literacy.

PROJECT TITLE: **Expression théâtrale**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Collège de l'Acadie
 R.R. #7
 Pomquet, NS B2G 2L4

CONTACT: Michael Fennell, Director
 (902) 386-2556

DESCRIPTION: The Collège de l'Acadie will hire a consultant to develop a series of ten theatrical expression teaching units for use in literacy and upgrading programs. The learning activities will include an examination of the different steps involved in theater production. The consultant will also organize and deliver training workshops for instructors on how to integrate the teaching units into their programs.

PROJECT TITLE: **Development of Reading Materials with Cumberland County Focus**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading (CAN-U)
 R.R. #2
 Amherst, NS B4H 3X9

CONTACT: Jean Tanguay, Chairperson
 (902) 661-1374

DESCRIPTION: The CAN-U will involve adult learners/tutors in the development of a reader on the history and folklore of Cumberland County for use in adult literacy programs. The reader will include 15 learners' stories, illustrations, photographs and suggested related activities for adult learners. The development of the material and the final manuscript will be evaluated by a committee of learners/tutors and revised accordingly. Copies of the final project will be distributed to various educational institutions and to other community learning groups.

PROJECT TITLE: Learning for Working

Project Sponsor. Dartmouth Work Activity Society
32 Borden Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1C8

CONTACT: Frank Gibson, Executive Director
(902) 468-1320

DESCRIPTION: The Dartmouth Work Activity Society will complete the design of a Learning for Working Program which will combine employment readiness programming with literacy development to maximize the connection between literacy and work. The program will use a combination of direct and indirect curriculum delivery managed by refined assessment tools. The project will include gathering and categorizing a list of learner-related materials that are work related, curriculum related and computer delivered. Volunteer tutors will assist with the project, especially in identifying learner-related materials.

PROJECT TITLE: The East Coast Reader Newspaper

PROJECT SPONSOR: East Coast Reader Society
P.O. Box 925
R.R. #1
Tantallon, NS BOJ 3J0

CONTACT: Beth MacPherson, Communications/Production Assistant
(902) 823-2280

DESCRIPTION: The East Coast Reader will produce a special edition of its plain language newspaper which will examine the topic of family literacy. The newspaper is used as an educational tool in over 118 literacy programs across the province. The special family literacy edition will provide relevant reading materials for beginner and intermediate readers, information on what family literacy is and ways to develop it through practical strategies and activities, information on existing family resources, and tips on how to promote reading and writing in the home. The publication will profile parents as role models for reading and writing, and will include testimonials as to the effectiveness of family literacy.

PROJECT TITLE: Open Doors - Phase 2

PROJECT SPONSOR: Inverness County Adult Tutoring Association
P.O. Box 132
Port Hood, NS BOE 2W0

CONTACT: Francene Gillis, Coordinator/Project Manager
(902) 787-3344

DESCRIPTION: The Inverness County Adult Tutoring Association will complete the development of a learning kit to complement curriculum already used by the Department of Education and Culture. The kit will contain relevant learning materials for tutors, instructors and learners, as well as information on other learning resources and how to tap into them. The materials in the kit will provide tools and skills for self-directed learning by adult learners. It will include a binder with components such as family literacy, self development and discovering a career path; a workbook; supplementary reading booklets; audio support materials; and a list of other resources.

PROJECT TITLE: Literacy Needs/Resource Assessment

PROJECT SPONSOR: Lunenburg County Adult Learning Network
DesBrisay Museum
130 Jubilee Road
P.O. Box 353
Bridgewater, NS B4V 2W9

CONTACT: David Bryant, Co-Chair
(902) 527-0154

DESCRIPTION: The Lunenburg County Adult Learning Network will conduct a grass roots survey of Lunenburg County households and literacy programs to determine literacy needs and develop a community-based strategic literacy plan for the county. The project will include holding a workshop involving other community groups to develop the framework for the strategic plan. A final report will be prepared identifying literacy requirements and impediments to upgrading, and a strategic plan for the improvement of literacy levels.

PROJECT TITLE: **Provincial Conference on Family Literacy**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Nova Scotia Ad Hoc Family Literacy Group
R.R. #1 Newport
Hants County, NS BON 2A0

CONTACT: Mary Costello, Program Coordinator
(902) 633-2110

DESCRIPTION: The Nova Scotia Ad Hoc Family Literacy Group will organize and hold a provincial family literacy conference aimed at increasing public awareness of family literacy and sharing information on the variety of approaches to family literacy activities and resources. An extensive pre-conference research and planning stage will involve the delivery of focus group sessions in four regions of the province. These sessions will be used to generate interest in the issue, identify individuals who wish to be involved at the community level and to determine the content and design of the conference. A final report will include an evaluation of the conference and the effectiveness of the pre-conference community consultation process.

PROJECT TITLE: **Information/Resource Centre**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Shelburne County Learning Network
SCDSE Office
Barrington Passage
Yarmouth, NS BOW 1G0

CONTACT: Diane McGee, Chairperson
P.O. Box 452
Barrington Passage, NS BOW 1G0
(902) 637-2242

DESCRIPTION: The Shelburne County Learning Network will establish an information/resource centre to serve the literacy and counseling needs of TAGS clients in Shelburne County. The centre will be a community and technology-based centre, providing up-to-date information on literacy and other services/resources to support the transition of TAGS clients to alternative employment opportunities. The services of the information/resource centre will be promoted through outreach activities and by networking with service providers throughout Shelburne County.

PROJECT TITLE: **Academic Upgrading Research Project**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Nova Scotia Community College, Halifax Campus
1825 Bell Road
Halifax, NS B3H 2Z4

CONTACT: Meredith Hutchings, Human Services Training Coordinator
(902) 424-0795

DESCRIPTION: The Nova Scotia Community College, in partnership with the Adult Education Section, Department of Education and Culture, will undertake research to lay the groundwork for the revision of the NS Academic Upgrading Program for Adults. The research will identify the following: issues arising from the present use of the curriculum both by the community college and by a wide range of community groups; discrepancies between the learning outcomes of the existing curriculum and those identified by the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation; areas in the curriculum where benchmarks or learning outcomes need to be developed; and recommendations regarding a strategy for both the revision of the upgrading curriculum and the development and integration of new curriculum elements (social studies and employability skills).

PROJECT TITLE: **Labour Market Based Upgrading Modules**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Nova Scotia Community College, Halifax Campus
1825 Bell Road
Halifax, NS B3H 2Z4

CONTACT: Meredith Hutchings, Human Services Training Coordinator
(902) 424-0795

DESCRIPTION: The NSCC will develop two labour market based upgrading curriculum modules which correspond to the learners' vocational plans, such as retail sales, cooking or food preparation. An advisory committee composed of upgrading teachers and representatives from the business sector will advise on the development of the curriculum. Modules on vocations with the most growth potential will be developed in consultation with the provincial Curriculum Department.

PROJECT TITLE: **Literacy Needs and Resources**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Shelburne County Learning Network
c/o Shelburne County District School Board
P.O. Box 452
Barrington Passage
Yarmouth, NS BOW 1G0

CONTACT: Diane McGee, Chairperson
R.R. #2
Sable River, NS BOT 1V0
(902) 637-2242

DESCRIPTION: The Shelburne County Learning Network will conduct an in-depth literacy needs assessment to determine literacy priorities in Shelburne County. The project will identify target groups, barriers to literacy, accessibility of existing programs and availability of literacy resources. A report will be prepared which summarizes the research findings.

PROJECT TITLE: CED Community Awareness Project

PROJECT SPONSOR: Development Isle Madame
General Delivery
Arichat, NS BOE IAO

CONTACT: Karen Malcom, General Manager
(902) 226-1918

DESCRIPTION: This project will work on developing written, oral and visual learning materials to educate TAGS recipients about community economic development emphasizing the importance of literacy and community involvement to the future of TAGS communities. The materials will be aimed at Level 1 and 2 readers and will be produced bilingually to address the needs of the Acadian population in the area.

PROJECT TITLE: Fisheries Co-Management and Learning Project

PROJECT SPONSOR: Digby Neck Community Development Association
c/o Digby Neck Consolidated School
Sandy Cove, NS BOV IAO

CONTACT: Arthur Bull, Treasurer
R.R. #4
Digby, NS BOV IAO
(902) 834-2958

DESCRIPTION: The Digby Neck Community Development Association will research and document a model for a combined approach to community economic development, fisheries co-management and literacy learning. The project will involve learners in all aspects of the project, including connecting a number of coastal communities in Canada and abroad, via the Internet, to share information on the topic. The project will result in four booklets on linking adult literacy activities with community-based fisheries co-management. Also, workshops will be held to present the model to other coastal communities affected by the crisis in the fisheries.

PROJECT TITLE: **Sur la mer - On The Sea**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Comité regional de FANE de Clare
C.P. 167
Saulnierville, NS BOW 2Z0

CONTACT: Mildred Comeau, Coordinator
(902) 769-0955

DESCRIPTION: This project will involve the development of learning materials focusing on the sea and maritime life in the Acadian area of Clare, Nova Scotia. Through a series of workshops and meetings, which will build on learners' previous knowledge, the organization will gather stories from the sea. Taking from the rich experience of sea workers, the project will publish, in collaboration with TAGS clients, a collection of stories seldom shared with the public. The booklet will be used in Acadian areas as a teaching tool.

PROJECT TITLE: **Fishing for a Future**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Guysborough Adult Learning Association
P.O. Box 255
Guysborough, NS BOH 1N0

CONTACT: Derek Hendsbee, Projects Coordinator
(902) 533-2008

DESCRIPTION: The Guysborough County Adult Learning Association will organize and hold a literacy forum involving TAGS learners from all parts of Guysborough County. The forum will bring learners together to discuss a variety of literacy issues affecting this large geographic area. The forum will include the presentation of a play by TAGS learners designed to open the discussion of the literacy issues in the county. A workbook/reader based on the play will be produced for use locally and provincially.

PROJECT TITLE: **Eastern Learning Centre**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Regional Development Agency
32 Glendale Avenue, Unit 1
Sackville, NS B4C 3M1

CONTACT: Mary Jean Perkins/Elizabeth Barnard, Outreach Workers
c/o Duncan MacMillan High School
Sheet Harbour, NS BOJ 3BO
(902) 885-2717

DESCRIPTION: The Regional Development Agency will establish a permanent community-based learning centre for rural communities affected by the down-sizing of the fishery. The centre will offer a variety of services to support the development of educational and career paths of TAGS clients on the Eastern Shore. It will coordinate outreach services, family learning opportunities, learning assessment and referrals, program delivery using distance education methods, literacy tutor training, a literacy resource materials library and work in partnership with other education/service providers in the area.

PROJECT TITLE: **Community Learning Centre**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Shearwater Development Corporation
P.O. Box 299
Shearwater, NS BOJ 3A0

CONTACT: Joe Brown
(902) 465-5900

DESCRIPTION: TAGS learners will produce an oral history book on the local fishing village of Eastern Passage. The project will be designed to help learners develop literacy skills, a sense of self-awareness and the importance of personal presentation while developing a learning/tutoring tool.

PROJECT TITLE: Community Financial Investment

PROJECT SPONSOR: Maritime Fishermen's Union
7 Davis Street
Glace Bay, NS BIA 5G9

CONTACT: David Amadio, Secretary/Treasurer
R.R. #4
Glace Bay, NS BIA 5T9
(902) 737-2345

DESCRIPTION: The Maritime Fishermen's Union, through its TAGS Advisory Committee, will develop materials and resources for Level 1 and 2 learners which explain community financing and investment as the foundation for community economic development. The project will include short skits and the development of a brochure which explains personal banking. The resource can be used as support materials in literacy classroom settings. Workshops will be delivered in 5 communities to reach TAGS recipients who are not comfortable in a classroom setting. The goal of the initiative is to teach an understanding of the subject at a beginners' reading level and to illustrate how TAGS clients can play an active role in rebuilding their communities.

PROJECT TITLE: Upgrading Skills in Yarmouth County

PROJECT SPONSOR: South West Shore Development Authority
368 Main Street, Suite 203
Yarmouth, NS BSA 1E9

CONTACT: Joan Bower, Human Resources Development Consultant
P.O. Box 131
Yarmouth, NS BSA 4B1
(902) 742-1220

DESCRIPTION: The South West Shore Development Authority will conduct an in-depth survey of literacy needs among adults in Yarmouth County. A final report will be prepared containing the research findings and a set of recommendations for improved literacy programming.

PROJECT TITLE: **High Risk Black Youth Development Program**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Lucasville/Upper Hammonds Plains Remote Learning Centre
Box 624
Lower Sackville, NS B4C 3J1

CONTACT: Iona Crawley, Coordinator
(902) 835-0188

DESCRIPTION: The Lucasville/Upper Hammonds Plains Remote Learning Centre will hire a coordinator to oversee a literacy project for high risk Black youth in Lucasville, Upper Hammonds Plains and Sackville. The project will include identifying available resources, developing afrocentric literacy learning materials/activities and providing practitioner/tutor training workshops on effective teaching methodologies for Black youth at risk. Community focus groups will be held to identify learners and to collect information on existing resources, training needs and other information relevant to the development of the program.

PROJECT TITLE: **Alternative Likeable Literacy for Youth (ALLY)**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Youth Alternative Society
P.O. Box 642
Station "M"
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

CONTACT: Yvonne Hanson, Executive Director
(902) 424-5473

DESCRIPTION: This project will work to improve the literacy skills of youth in conflict with the law by connecting them to the arts community. Trained volunteer artists will teach their craft and youth will research such topics as the history and materials used. Journals will be maintained and volunteer tutors will assist youth in developing a compendium of journal entries, research information and pictures which will document project results. Youth will also need to explore community-related resources to further understanding of the crafts explored.

PROJECT TITLE: **Youth Action Network**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Black Educators Association
Suite 808, 2000 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K1

CONTACT: Sunday Miller, Executive Director
(902) 424-0793

DESCRIPTION: The Black Educators Association will develop a volunteer network of Black youth leaders in the Churchill/Kennedy Drive and Caledonia Road areas of Dartmouth. A total of ten student leaders will undergo training in literacy tutoring, peer counseling, leadership and community development. The network will focus primarily on assisting at-risk youth and out of school youth to improve their literacy and academic skills, to become active participants in the community and to return to school. The youth leaders will act as peer literacy tutors on a one-to-one basis or in small groups and will assist other youth with their literacy and academic skills. The project will be overseen by an advisory committee of representatives from the Association, the school board, parents' groups and the African Canadian Services Division of the Department of Education and Culture.

PROJECT TITLE: **Phoenix Literacy Research**

PROJECT SPONSOR: Long Term Services for Youth (Phoenix House)
6035 Coburg Road
Halifax, NS B3H 1X8

CONTACT: Ainslie MacNeil-Campbell, House Director
2385 Hunter Street
Halifax, NS B3K 4V7
(902) 422-5583

DESCRIPTION: Phoenix House will devise and implement research into the learning needs of homeless youth; compile an educational program directory; develop complementary resource materials based on learner assessment results; develop the framework and process to establish the Phoenix Learning Centre; and expand bridges to current/alternative programs.

PROJECT TITLE: **Stop and Think Literacy Program**

PROJECT SPONSOR: YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth
2269 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS B3K 3B7

CONTACT: Oonagh Holmes
(902) 422-9622

DESCRIPTION: The YMCA of Greater Halifax in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Youth Centre and the Shelburne Centre will hire a coordinator to develop and test literacy learning materials and a tutorial program designed to assist at risk youth. The project will result in a program and materials designed to improve the literacy levels of incarcerated youth to help bridge the transition for young offenders returning to their communities and to school. Volunteer tutors from both the YMCA and the volunteers corrections program will participate in the project.