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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release, December 4, 2009

### Sunshine Coast Literacy Council to fund literacy projects on the Sunshine Coast

Sechelt, BC – The Sunshine Coast Literacy Council invites organizations, community groups, institutions, local governments and private sector companies on the Sunshine Coast to apply for funds to develop literacy on the Sunshine Coast.

The Literacy Council is a partnership of organizations and institutions working together to promote and support literacy in our community. Partners include Capilano University, School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), Sechelt Public Library, Gibsons Public Library, Sunshine Coast Community Services, Sunshine Coast Employment Centre, and Pender Harbour Community School.

The Literacy Council, with funding from 2010 Legacies Now, has produced a community literacy plan which can be viewed online at <http://www.2010legaciesnow.com/353/> Scroll down to “Sunshine Coast.” The plan is the product of research and consultation during the past two years with a variety of individuals and groups on the Coast. The plan – which includes an inventory of current literacy services and programs – articulates a vision for literacy in our community which states: All residents of the Sunshine Coast have access to a diverse continuum of opportunities to develop literacy across the lifespan, to achieve their social, educational and work aspirations, and to realize their potential.

To help achieve that vision the Council is issuing a call for proposals for literacy projects. Literacy is broadly defined to encompass a range of skills and competencies needed to participate in today's world. In addition to reading, writing and numeracy, literacy can include document use, computer use, oral communication, and problem-solving. These essential skills are the foundation for continuous learning throughout life. Projects may work with any age group and proposals that take an inter-generational approach are of particular interest.

Projects are expected to respond to community needs and, especially, to work with the priority groups identified in the plan: aboriginal people, adults with low literacy skills, immigrants, youth, and residents of the Pender Harbour/Egmont geographic area.

Iris Loewen, Chair of the Literacy Council, says that, "This call for proposals represents an exciting opportunity to increase the capacity of our community to do literacy work. We hope to receive proposals that address the literacy needs of different age groups in a variety of contexts at work, at home, at school, and in the community." Project activities can include, but are not limited to, direct service, professional development, public awareness, needs assessments, research, partnership development and special events.

Applications must be submitted by 5 pm, Monday, January 18. Successful applicants will be announced by January 27, 2010. Projects can begin as soon as possible after the funding announcement and are to be completed by May 31, 2010.

Application forms can be found online at [www.sunshinecoastliteracy.org](http://www.sunshinecoastliteracy.org) or requested from:

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