



The Role of the Literacy Field in the BC Health Literacy Strategy

Since 2008 a cross sectoral team¹ has been working on the development and implementation of a health literacy² strategy for British Columbia. As a consequence of this work, the 2010 Legacies Now Society and the Centre for Health and Community Partnerships (Douglas College) have already been approached by different organizations interested in working with literacy practitioners to “translate” their materials into clear language, have literacy practitioners attend workshops, collaborate in the design and facilitation of workshops, etc. We expect this demand to increase as more health practitioners and agencies become aware of the Health Literacy Strategy and the expertise available in the literacy field.

We want to better understand what role the literacy field already plays in helping individuals access, understand, communicate and evaluate health information. We also want to know if there are ways that the literacy field can be supported to play an active role in the health literacy strategy. To that end we are asking you to provide some information and direction. Here are three ways in which you can participate:

1. Fill out the online survey

The questions on this survey will provide us with information about how the literacy field is currently doing health literacy activities and collaborating with non-literacy groups, especially those in the health sector. Questions also ask for input on suggested and needed resources.

**The survey will be available for two weeks,
until 8pm on March 21st, 2010**

The online survey can be accessed through this link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/literacy_field_and_health_literacy

¹ The coordinating team includes representatives from the 2010 Legacies Now Society, Douglas College, Public Health Association of BC, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health Services, Public Health Agency of Canada, BC Patient Safety & Quality Council, Impact BC, Provincial Health Authority, Health Authorities Network, Health Link BC, Literacy BC, and others.

² Health literacy is defined as the ability to access, understand, communicate and evaluate health information as a way to promote, maintain and improve health in a variety of settings across the life-course.

2. Participate in a conference call

We will set up 3 calls to talk about what is working, what could work better and what supports are needed. If you have been working with the health field or if your organization provides services for a fee to non-literacy groups, we would like to hear from you. Please email Leona Gadsby at lgadsby@2010legaciesnow.com with your name, contact information and specific interest and experience related to the topics described above.

3. Provide feedback

We would like to incorporate as much feedback from the field as possible. If you are interested in ongoing conversations about health literacy, please let us know by emailing Leona Gadsby at lgadsby@2010legaciesnow.com. We also welcome any other suggestion, story or comment about the role that the literacy field can play in the BC Health Literacy Strategy.

If you have any questions about this project or the BC Health Literacy Strategy, please email Marina Niks at mniks@thehub.literacy.bc.ca or Leona Gadsby at lgadsby@2010legaciesnow.com

Thank you!

Leona Gadsby

Marina Niks