

Rotary District 5040 and Decoda Literacy Solutions Three Year Partnership Agreement

Introduction

Summary

Literacy is one of the key focus areas for Rotary International, and is a special focus of Rotary District 5040. Decoda Literacy Solutions is BC's provincial literacy organization. Decoda Literacy Solutions supports the full spectrum of literacy needs in BC, and promotes literacy as a strategy to solve fundamental social issues.

The Issue

Literacy is an urgent issue that touches virtually every aspect of our lives. At work, at home, at play, in the car, in the doctor's office, we are surrounded by information that we need to understand in order to make sense of the world around us.

Literacy is much more than reading and writing. It is the toolkit of skills and strategies that we use to decode and create meaning. When we increase literacy, we increase our health and well-being, our parenting skills, our productivity. Crime decreases as opportunity increases. As individuals, as communities, and as a society, we become stronger and more resilient as our literacy increases.

Knowledge is the key to the future, and the more we learn, the more we unlock our potential. Literacy is a key strategy to help solve fundamental societal issues and economic challenges in BC.

The Partnership

Rotary District 5040 and Decoda Literacy Solutions have formed a partnership to increase the awareness of literacy as a strategy to improve individual well-being and community resilience and prosperity.

Together, we will:

- Mobilize knowledge to increase awareness of the spectrum of literacy
- Optimize community resources to support literacy
- Share best practices on how to best support and increase literacy in the Rotary 5040 area of British Columbia
- Support literacy skill development for people of all ages

The Approach

Rotarians have deep connections within their communities, and represent a huge body of expertise. Literacy Outreach Coordinators, who work to promote literacy in over 400 communities across BC, have a vast knowledge of community needs and resources. Rotary District 5040 and Decoda Literacy Solutions will facilitate the relationship between the two groups to advance the goals of improving literacy skills levels in the overall population.

The strength of this partnership represents our joint commitment to working within local communities to improve literacy for the people of British Columbia.

Background

About Rotary International

Rotary International provides service to others, promotes integrity, and advances world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.

About Rotary District 5040

Rotary District 5040 is one of 532 Rotary districts around the world. In this District, there are 51 clubs operating in communities in the province of British Columbia providing humanitarian and educational service. Literacy is one specific area of service provided by Rotarians in their local and international communities. The District has two Literacy Champions acting to promote literacy by supporting the Rotary clubs in District 5040 to engage with community literacy initiatives.

About Decoda Literacy Solutions

Decoda Literacy Solutions is British Columbia's provincial literacy organization. Decoda aims to address and support the full continuum of literacy and learning priorities identified by communities across BC so that people can better participate in society and the communities themselves become even more resilient.

The overall goal of Decoda Literacy Solutions is to take literacy to the next level in BC. That means expanding the partner base for literacy, finding truly sustainable funding and broadening the ways that literacy is used as a strategy to link into and help solve fundamental societal issues.

Partnership Goals and Objectives

Our initial partnership is outlined in a three-year plan to gather knowledge, implement partnership projects, and measure results. Communication with stakeholders is a key element in all three stages of this plan.



Roles And Responsibilities

For the three-year term of this agreement, Rotary 5040 will

- Ensure that a dedicated District Literacy Committee/Champion(s) is maintained
- Make District communication avenues available to Literacy Committee/Champions
- Provide dedicated funding to the District 5040 Literacy Committee for supplies, travel and other needs to be determined

For the three-year term of this agreement, Decoda Literacy Solutions will

- Dedicate staff resources
- Provide literacy information and resources to the District 5040 Literacy Committee
- Provide meeting space for partnership meetings

District 5040 and Decoda Literacy Solutions are committed to the success of this partnership. We both commit to

- Share information as needed to support the partnership
- Attend a minimum of four meetings per year
- Implement the action plan

Partnership Action Plan

One Year Action Plan

Our first year is broken down into quarterly goals. These quarterly goals feed into the overarching Year One goals of: gathering knowledge, identifying partnership projects and communicating our partnership.

Q1

3-Month Goals:
Gather knowledge and
create communications
plan

- Identify existing connections between Rotary Clubs and community literacy groups through surveys of Literacy Outreach Coordinators
- Have Decoda and District 5040 become fully aware of each other's activities in relation to this partnership
- Compile list of communications avenues and resources of both parties
- Establish the communications plan for the partnership
- Tell Districts 5020, 5050, 5060, 5080, 5370 about this partnership

Q2

6-Month Goals:
Analyse information
and raise awareness

- Connect Rotary groups with Literacy Outreach Coordinators, if they aren't connected already
- Analyze successful joint projects between Rotary Clubs and Literacy Outreach Coordinators (based on survey)
- Establish criteria for Partnership Projects
- Create list of possible Partnership Projects based on information gathered

Q3

9-Month Goals:
Identify partnership
projects

- Decide on Partnership Projects
- Create Partnership Project plans
- Establish communications plan for Partnership Projects
 - to market projects
 - to answer stakeholder questions

Q4

12-Month Goals:
Begin projects and
create action plans for
Year 2

- Begin Partnership Projects
- Create the action plan for year two

Year Two & Year Three Plans

Detailed Year Two and Year Three plans will be completed within Q4 of the preceding year. These detailed quarterly plans will align with the overarching annual goals as they are set forth in this document.

Conclusion

This partnership provides an opportunity for both organizations to further their individual missions and achieve common goals and objectives through our collaboration and sharing of information and resources. Working together enables us to do more to build literacy skills and awareness in our communities.

Partnership Agreement

Rotary District 5040 and Decoda Literacy Solutions hereby agree to enter into a partnership to increase the awareness of literacy as a strategy to improve individual well-being and community resilience and prosperity in British Columbia. We will fulfill our obligations as laid out within this document. Our partnership will begin on July 1, 2011, and will extend for three years, with a possibility of renewal.

Rotary District 5040

Hans Døge
Signature

Sept 20/11
Date

Hans Døge
Print Name

Decoda Literacy Solutions

Brenda Le Clair
Signature

Sept. 26/11
Date

BRENDA LE CLAIR
Print Name