

education works for all of us

1

Education can meet the needs of all our children.

Our children are special and we're glad that education programs support their uniqueness. Enriched programs and services like English as a Second Language (ESL) and multicultural support staff ensure that every child develops to his or her full potential. These services support the full participation of new students in school life and the community by easing the culture shock that youth experience when first adjusting to their new environment.

2

English language training for adults is good for business in BC.

Immigrants to BC have invested more than \$3 billion in BC's economy over the past ten years. Numerous business groups have stated that continued immigration and language training is vital for supporting the economy and filling labour market gaps. English language training helps newcomers to BC further their language abilities to compliment the job skills they bring to the South Fraser Region. English language training is funded in part through the immigrant-landing fee. While the need for English language training has never been more apparent, the current demand means that there is still a waiting list for classes.

3

Learning an international language is an advantage.

International language (a language other than English or French) courses are available throughout the South Fraser Region. Studies show that children who learn another language have improved academic performance. International languages preserve our cultural identities and enhance cultural awareness for all our citizens.

quick facts

Over 13 000 elementary and secondary students are involved in some level of ESL in the South Fraser Region.

A national comparison of adult English language training shows that BC lags behind many other provinces. Language training is an economic and social benefit for business associations and community service groups in BC. BC only provides basic language training while other provinces such as Manitoba and Ontario provide language training for job readiness.

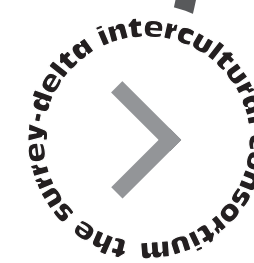
about the surrey delta intercultural consortium

The Surrey Delta Intercultural Consortium (SDIC) is a collaborative effort of government and non-governmental organizations that promote the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees. Through networking and education, SDIC's goal is to identify the gaps in existing immigrant and refugee services and develop strategies to proactively address the social and economic needs of those communities.

contact us!
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BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SURREY DELTA
INTERCULTURAL CONSORTIUM.
FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY,
ABORIGINAL, AND WOMEN'S SERVICES

MARCH, 2002



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how you can benefit...

a

Learn a new language.

International language instruction opens the door to new perspectives on the views, attitudes and benefits of cultures and peoples of the world. It expands your own understanding of the South Fraser Region's multicultural character, and having an additional language is a recognized skill that many employers are seeking. There are over a dozen international language schools in the Region, providing language instruction ranging from Chinese to Arabic.

b

Familiarize yourself with the English language training services in the South Fraser Region.

Friends, co-workers and employees can learn English in many ways. English language training services are now more convenient and accessible than ever before. English courses are offered in classrooms, community centres, religious institutions and many other places, in the daytime and the evening. There are even organizations which offer English language training in the workplace! Contact your local community agencies for more information.

c

Be a part of developing culturally inclusive education.

Many organizations support culturally inclusive education. These organizations have been in the forefront emphasizing the importance of curriculum that reflects student diversity, international language instruction and multicultural support staff. You can make a difference by getting involved with these groups. Contact your local schools, school boards and community groups and discover how to get involved.

resources

This comprehensive website provides information to help ESL students in their studies and serves as an ESL resource for teachers.
www.vcc.bc.ca/eslvoc/RESOURCES/webesl.html

AMSSA is the umbrella organization for over 80 immigrant settlement and multicultural organizations, many of which provide English language services and information.
www.amssa.org

Directory of ESL Courses in Greater Vancouver - This guide provides information on various English language-training providers in the Lower Mainland.
www.amssa.org/pdf/esldirectory.pdf

ELSAnet is the English Language Services for Adults website that provides all that you need to know about ELSA programs, services and support information.
www.elsanet.org

This website has information on South Fraser heritage/international language schools, and is a resource for teachers, parents and students learning a new language.
www.bchla.org

All school districts have webpages outlining the services they offer to your children as well as to adults.
Surrey - www.sd36.surrey.bc.ca
Delta - www.deltasd.bc.ca
Langley - www.sd35.bc.ca