

STORYTELLERS' FOUNDATION

Challenging assumptions about poverty, literacy and citizenship by directly engaging people in issues and opportunities that affect their lives.

Community Kitchen

Build healthy relationships. Share skills + knowledge. Cook healthy meals together. *In the Learning Shop* September to March.

Youth Works

Our Youth-led Social Enterprise builds literacy, learning + sustenance skills in local youth. Buy Youth Works food at The Skeena Bakery, Gitanmaax Gas Bar, Mercedes Beans + at Storytellers'.

Local, Healthy, Traditional Food to Schools

We are part of a national health research project that supports community to identify local goals and strategies to increase local, healthy, traditional foods in schools and communities.

Backyard Gardeners

This self-organizing group makes connections and draws out the knowledge we all hold – open to everyone!

Ganoonaxu'um

"Mothers and Grandmothers". We support community gatherings and activities led by Gitxsan Matriarchs.



Who we are

A fiercely place based and community driven organization. We serve as a catalyst for grassroots learning and organizing. Through informal education, participatory research and development, innovative testing and research, and our social enterprises, we help create spaces for people to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to act on their dreams for diversity, justice and equality within a locally controlled economy.

A Quick History

Storytellers' Foundation started after the first set of treaty talks with the Gitxsan, Wet'suwet'en, British Columbia and Canada ended in 1993. All of our original staff had been involved in public





Story Shifters

Building processes for non-Indigenous peoples to check privilege + reflect on personal and national narratives.

Literacy Outreach

"Literacy is the ability to dream a future, see myself in that future, make goals and take steps to get there."

Rural Roots

A blended-value social enterprise, we offer consulting services, customized trainings, a Learning Network and a Mentorship Program.

Wellness In Relationship

An intentional re-naming of this network, the WIR continues to search for fund to sustain its activities.

Coupon Program

We partner with the Hazelton Farmers Market to support local growers, build relationships, and get more local healthy food to those who need it.

education about the treaty. During that time we were told over and over again that people found it hard to work together. Yet what we were witnessing in our work was different. We saw people willing to try to talk with each other and overcome differences of opinion so they could live as neighbours. This inspired us. We left that work feeling energized and excited to belong to our community. We were excited how learning together was leading to action together. The chiefs that had worked on this treaty process told us that they wanted out work of engaging people (especially young people) to continue. They liked how Storytellers' brought Gitksan and non-Gitksan people together to dream about a culturally diverse community that works to increase social and economic assets for all while sustaining healthy ecosystems. And so we rented a building in Hazelton, registered as a non-profit society with a board that directs and supports us and a staff to carry out project activities.



Art Wilson designed our logo for us.

He told us that it depicts a s'imol'ō. This creature teaches us reciprocity – as one arm is grown and extends to receive, another is grown and extends to give.



Yay! We are Expanding...

To meet the growing demand of community needs we are separating the Learning Shop from Storytellers' Foundation. This will enable the Learning Shop to be staffed during the day and evening, with an increase in activities. It will also allow Storytellers' to focus on research and development that is important to our local communities.



STORYTELLERS' FOUNDATION

A CED Research and Development Organization: Researching and testing innovative projects driven from community needs and interests.

THE LEARNING SHOP

A Community Learning Organization: Increasing the skills, knowledge and confidence of local people.

What will change?

The Learning Shop will be open more often. We will offer community learning and literacy activities for all members of the community. A full calendar of programs will be offered once we secure necessary funds. Check out the Learning Shop window for updates as we develop this busy learning HUB.

Storytellers' will continue with a focus on research and development to test innovative social and economic projects that increase community wellbeing. We do this in partnership with a diverse set of community partners. Storytellers' will also continue to manage our two social enterprises Youth Works and Rural Roots.



The two organizations will be legally separate and eventually governed by two separate boards. However, we will continue to be housed in the same building and keep close connections with each other. Give us a call or stop in for more information.

WHO WE ARE

2017 Storytellers' Staff:

Beth DeMaio, Angelique Lalonde, Joanie Smith and Anissa Watson

2017 Youth Works Staff: Mary Mowatt, Ksandra Collier and Fred Danes

2017 Storytellers' Board of Directors:

Anne Docherty (Chair), Diane McRae (Vice Chair), Ursula Heuberger (Treasurer), and directors Kathy Clay, Joe Francis, Art Lew and Linda Locke

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER: Connect with Beth for general volunteer opportunities + Anissa for Literacy volunteer opportunities.

DONATE: We are a grant based organization. Often we limited in finding and unable to deliver all of our programming. Donations are always welcome. Talk to Beth for more information.

RECRUIT: We are looking for energetic, activist-based board members. If you are interested or want to recommend someone, let Beth know!

CONTACT US

Drop by the Learning Shop / Storytellers' Foundation at 1600 Omineca in Old Town

Give us a call 250-842-6500

Email us beth@upperskeena.ca
