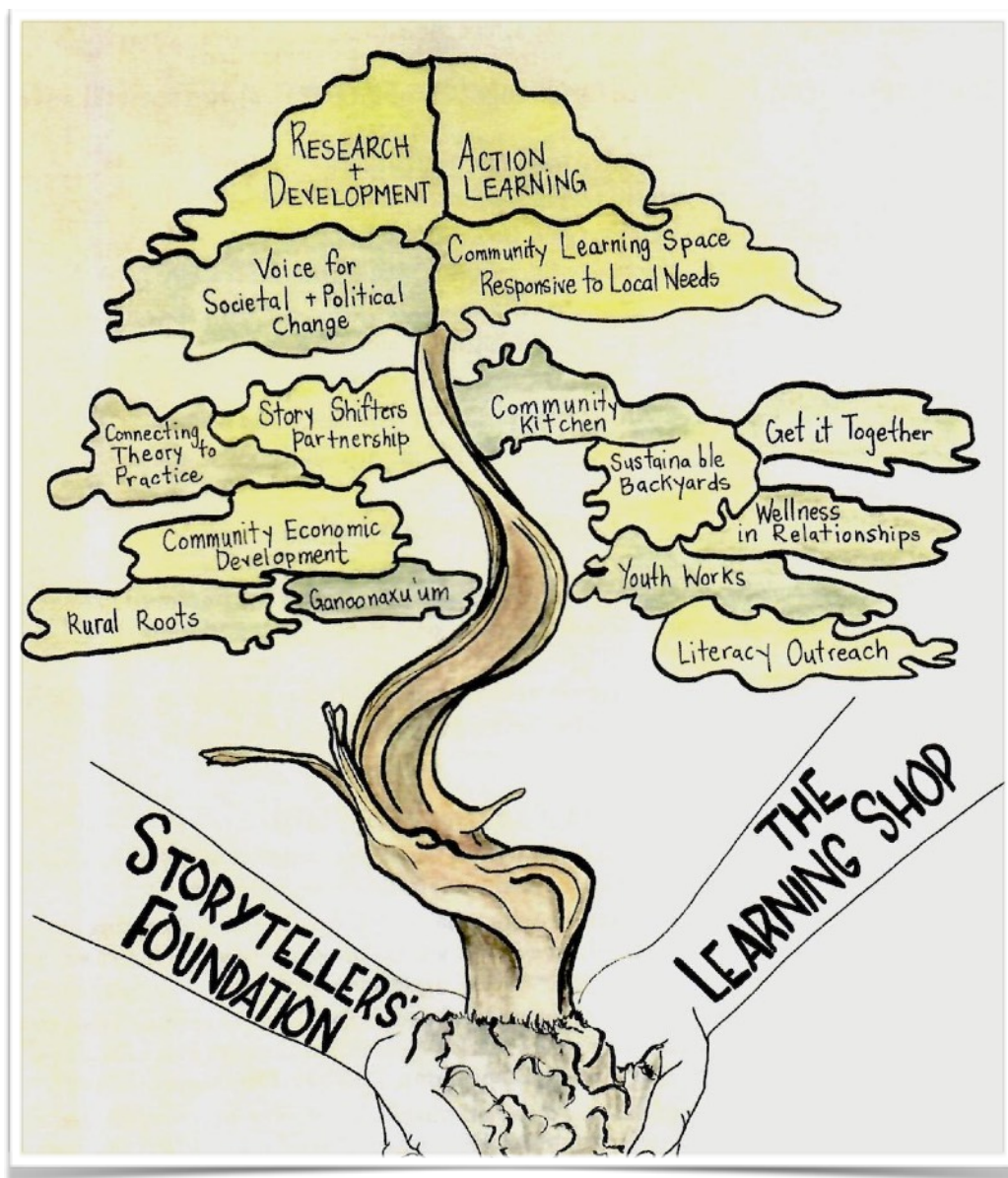




STORYTELLERS' FOUNDATION

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



LEARNING SHOP ACTIVITIES

Community Kitchen

Build healthy relationships. Share skills + knowledge. Cook healthy meals together.

Getting it Together

This drop-in creates a safe, informal space for people to check out learning opportunities for themselves and others.

Youth Works

Our Youth-led Social Enterprise builds literacy, learning + sustenance skills in local youth.

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 youth wellness.

Wellness In Relationship

The WIR continues to search for funds to sustain its activities of supporting wellness in relationships.

Coupon Program

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

Literacy Outreach

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

Who we are

We are fiercely place-based and community driven organizations that work together and learn from one another but function distinctly. Together we serve as catalysts for grassroots learning and organizing. We are citizen organizations; together we create spaces for people to gain skills, knowledge and confidence to act on their dreams for justice and equality within a locally controlled sustenance economy.

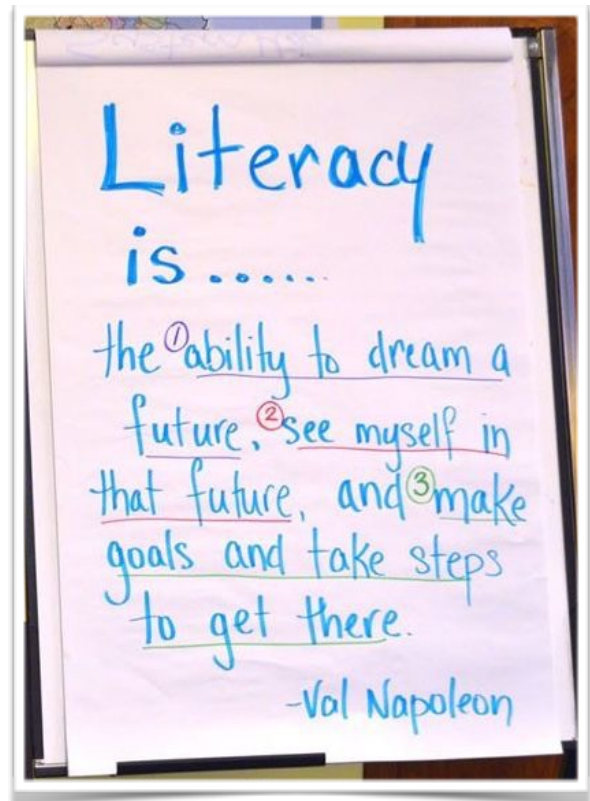
At Storytellers' Foundation we focus on research and development and community partnerships. We build community infrastructure through community economic development, undertake strategic interventions to engage a diversity of people to create change for a common good, and advocate for validating a sustenance economy.

At the Learning Shop we create safe spaces for people to come together to develop literacy, citizenship and community organizing skills so they can manage their personal lives and households; contribute to community and ensure that institutions that influence conditions in community reflect the values, beliefs and world views of local people. We undertake practical interventions and build community infrastructure to build the capacity, hope and happiness of individuals and engage a diversity of people to create change for a common good.



A Quick History

Storytellers' Foundation started after the first set of treaty talks with the Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en, British Columbia, and Canada ended in 1993. All our original staff had been involved in public education about the treaty. During that time we were told often that people found it hard to work together. Yet we saw people willing to try to talk with each other and overcome differences 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 our 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. 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.



Storytellers' Activities



THE LEARNING SHOP

Storytellers' is a Community-based Economic Development (CED) organization. Part of our research and development led to the creation of The Learning Shop as a community learning storefront – a place for the busy work of programming and activities to take place. For many years Storytellers' has been running programs with local people out of the Learning Shop while also doing CED research, development, and advocacy work. We found that the programming and activity in the Learning Shop was taking up more staff time, and the research, development, and advocacy was being dropped. We wanted Storytellers' to return to the more political work of changing existing power structures and systems to better reflect the sustenance economy of the Upper Skeena, but did not want to lose the critical programming taking place in the Learning Shop. In 2018 we decided to mature the Learning Shop into its own non-profit entity: the Upper Skeena Community Learning Society. Programming and activity with local people at the Learning Shop will continue to inform Storytellers' research and development, and Learning Shop programming will continue to be informed by Storytellers' conceptual frames.

STORY SHIFTERS

STORY SHIFTERS' goal is to create space and tools for non-Indigenous people to begin the work of decolonization by interrupting their narratives. It is a partnership between Storytellers' Foundation, Diana Cullen, and Anne Donaldson.

Story Shifters is a space for non-Indigenous people to analyze and question difficult, emotionally-charged, real-life issues in front of others and unpack their role in current colonial practices such as land exploitation, and social and economic injustice.



2019 was a year of growth for the Story Shifters partnership. The team updated the Story Shifters' Primer, developed new workshops, and engaged community groups, health care professionals, and funding organizations in decolonizing processes. Storytellers' also hosted Shelley Worthington as a Story Shifters intern.

Participation in the UPPER SKEENA CED GROUP

The Upper Skeena Community Economic Development Group includes a core group of five regional organizations that reflect the diversity of the region; who acknowledge Gwelx ye'enst - the Gitksan responsibility to hold, protect and pass on the land in a sustainable manner from generation to generation; and whose values align with community economic development (CED).

This core group includes Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs, Gitksan Government Commission, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition, Storytellers' Foundation, and Upper Skeena Development Centre, all of whom recognize that the Upper Skeena is part of Gitksan Territory.

The Upper Skeena CED core group collaborated to share a youth summer internship position in 2019. Karista Olson spent two weeks at each of the five organizations, learning about each one and lending her unique skillset to various projects. The group is currently working on developing a CED Framework for the Upper Skeena to support one another on CED projects in the region.

WHO WE ARE

2019 Storytellers' Staff:

Beth DeMaio (Executive Director), **Caitlyn Dodd** (Youth Works Informal Educator),
Lorraine Hnidan-Kendall (Coupon Program + Community Kitchen Coordinator),
Angelique Lalonde (Community Organizer),
Anissa Watson (Learning Shop Coordinator)

**2019 Youth Works Staff: Aleah Blabey, Courtney Gunanoot,
Jonathan Fowler**

2019 Storytellers' Board of Directors:

Anne Docherty (Chair), **Ursula Heuberger** (Treasurer), and **Kathy Clay** (Director)



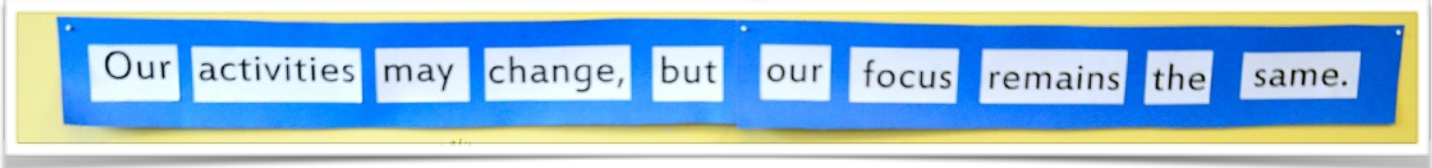
CONTACT US

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

Give us a call: 250-842-6500

Email us: cynthia@upperskeena.ca

Check out our new website: storytellersfoundation.org



GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER: Connect with Cynthia for general volunteer opportunities + Anissa for Literacy and Food Security volunteer opportunities.

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

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

