



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

MISSION

YEAR OF REPORT 2024

Community Impact Report 2024



In 2021, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) announced a province-wide transformation plan to provide wrap-around support for children and youth with support needs. Recognizing the unique needs of each community, MCFD funded initiatives to foster collaboration and gather input from families and community partners. The Fraser Valley Child Development Centre (FV CDC) led the community collaboration project in Mission.

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We engaged through workshops and facilitated discussions, ensuring safe and inclusive spaces for all participants. Feedback was gathered in multiple stages to refine our understanding of community needs.

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Mission is a rapidly growing community with a diverse population. Economic challenges and healthcare access gaps impact children and youth, emphasizing the importance of local developmental support.

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Information Collection Process

Insights were recorded through various methods, including surveys, interviews, and interactive tools, ensuring comprehensive and accurate data collection.

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Community strengths, service gaps, and future needs were identified. Key themes emerged, highlighting areas of success and opportunities for system improvement.

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Identified Solutions

Proposed solutions focus on enhancing service accessibility, building stronger networks, and fostering community-based support for children and youth.



About Mission

Building a Stronger Network of Support for a Growing Community

Overview

Mission is a growing community balancing rapid development with the need for enhanced services. Economic and social challenges have increased demand for accessible support for children and youth with diverse abilities. Despite these pressures, Mission's strong sense of community and collaborative spirit position it well to build a more inclusive and effective network of care.



Fraser Valley Key demographic trends and community dynamics:

Population Growth: The Fraser Valley has experienced a population increase of 7.7% to 11.2% over the past five years, reflecting rapid growth and increased demand for community services.

Community Connection: 72.7% of residents report a somewhat strong or strong sense of community, showcasing a foundation of local collaboration and support.

Vulnerability Indicators: The Early Development Instrument (EDI) indicates that 32.7% to 41% of children in the Fraser Valley are vulnerable on multiple developmental scales, emphasizing the need for targeted early intervention services.

N NOTE TAKING

Detailed notes were recorded during interviews, workshops, and in-community engagement.

S SURVEYS

Paper and electronic surveys were distributed to community partners and participants for additional structured feedback.

E EMAIL

Follow-up emails and meetings were held throughout engagement, to clarify responses and gather further insights.



Information Collection

To ensure all voices were heard, The Fraser Valley Child Development Centre (FVDC) and The Discovery Group employed a variety of methods to gather comprehensive insights from the community. Through a combination of detailed note-taking, surveys, and follow-up email correspondence, we collected both structured and qualitative feedback. These diverse approaches ensured that community perspectives were accurately reflected and helped us identify clear, actionable themes for improving services and supports.

What We Heard



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I think there are actually a lot of services out there, but clarity on who is offering what, how to access, where to go and who to talk isn't always clear for our newcomer families, especially when it comes to early intervention.

Strengths

Collaborative Spirit: The FVDC is recognized as a supportive partner, valued for its advocacy and strong community presence. Indigenous and non-Indigenous community partners have strong, collaborative relationships and in some cases co-locate.

Valued Programs: Families express high appreciation for local services, especially early intervention programs, kindergarten transition support, and resources for parents and caregivers.

Challenges and Gaps

Service Navigation: Families face challenges identifying and accessing services from various community partners, especially at key development stages and newcomers to Canada or relocated families.

Respite Waitlists: Long delays for respite services contribute to family burnout.

Support in Schools: Parents feel that providers like the FVDC should be funded to deliver more services in schools, where children and youth spend time and transportation and other barriers are reduced for parents/caregivers.

Resource Scarcity: Limited availability of behavioral consultants and speech therapists leaves needs unmet.

Community Needs

- The number of children with complex profiles and specialized support needs is increasing.
- Rates of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, are on the rise.
- Mission has a growing population of elementary-aged students, highlighting the need for current support and forward planning for their eventual transition to high school.
- Structured opportunities for family learning and peer connections are increasingly needed to support both children and their families.
- Parents report concerns regarding inconsistencies in service quality and accessibility across organizations.
- There is reduced access to pediatric specialists, impacting timely support for children's health needs.

WHO WAS INCLUDED

- CYC Executive
- Mission public library
- Mission Public Schools
- Ministry of education and childcare
- Fraser Health
- Sto:lo Nation Health Services
- Abilities Rehab
- Mission Association of Community Living
- Families accessing services
- Families not accessing services



“Parents are sometimes in the dark about changes to services and funding and they are feeling uncertain about the future”

“School district has increased by 700 students, 371 of those 700 have a designation/IEP”

“Services and funding have end dates or end hours. This complicates things for people who really need it. We need to ensure that funding is closely linked to programming that is informed by our families and is meeting the need.”



Solutions

The Mission Community Engagement Report highlights the dedication, commitment, and momentum to work together in order to make sure that all children and families are connected and thriving. Through enhanced collaboration, clear communication, and targeted advocacy, FVCDC and its partners are well-positioned to create a stronger, more inclusive network of care that meets the unique needs of Mission’s families. By building on these insights, FVCDC aims to foster a community where all youth and families can reach their self-determined potential.

Solution #01

Enhance Service Navigation:

- Help all families access support easily by providing a comprehensive service directory across community locations like schools and daycares.
- Increase FVCDC’s visibility by maintaining a regular presence at local programs and distributing information at preschools and daycares.

Solution #02

Supportive School Environments for Autism and ADHD:

- Advocate for tailored in-school support, reducing reliance on medication and easing transitions for children and youth neurocognitive conditions.

Solution #03

Reduce Family Burnout with Flexible Respite Support:

- Partner with organizations like MACL and Communitas to expand respite care options and simplify caregiver requirements.

Solution #04

Strengthen Service Provider Collaboration:

- Host quarterly “Bridging the Gap” sessions for service alignment and collaboration.
- Offer all Offer all Speech Language Pathology services through FVCDC for faster connections.

Solution #05

Welcome Newcomers and Relocated Families:

- Develop outreach programs for newcomers and relocated families, ensuring they are aware of available support services.

Solution #06

Culturally Sensitive Support for Indigenous Families:

- Share successful practices from the Aboriginal Headstart program with other providers to improve inclusivity.



“ Everyone is trying to do the best they can with the resources they have.