



**NUU-CHAH-NULTH
TRIBAL COUNCIL**



COMMUNITY, CONVERSATION AND CONNECTION

TOFINO AND UCLUELET, BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Findings from the Community-Led Collaboration Project in the
West Coast Communities, British Columbia.**

Tofino and Ucluelet are located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island on the unceded traditional territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht and the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ First Nations of the Nuu-cha-nulth Peoples.

West Coast of Vancouver Island, (iStock)



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PROJECT BACKGROUND

In fall 2021, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) announced a new framework for service delivery to Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) in British Columbia. The announcement of the CYSN framework was met with confusion and fear by many across the province. It was also met with calls for greater consultation.

Across the province, individuals and organizations demanded that any framework changes be better informed by the experiences and perspectives of families and children and youth with disabilities or support needs.

The Community-Led Collaboration Project defines children and youth with disabilities or support needs as those who are 0-19 years of age, have a disability, diagnosed or undiagnosed, need support, and/or have a possible developmental delay.

Shortly after the announcement, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), BC Association of Child Development and Intervention (BCACDI), The Federation of Community Social Services and Inclusion BC came together to:

- Identify the potential of the proposed framework;
- Raise concerns that the changes ahead would effectively respond to the needs of children and youth, their families, the organizations that support them and the communities where they live;
- Present a proposal to MCFD to carry out a provincial engagement—from a community development perspective—to better inform the changes coming to B.C.'s system of services and supports.

In response, MCFD gave the organizations (referred to in this report as The Provincial Working Group) a grant to conduct a provincial engagement that would inform the transformation of CYSN services in B.C. The engagement, known as **The Community-Led Collaboration Project**, launched in Fall 2022.

This report details the challenges, hopes and expectations for services and supports that families and community service providers **expressed in Tofino and Ucluelet, British Columbia** – one of five communities that participated in the engagement of various West Coast of Vancouver Island Communities.

THE APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT

The Community-Led Collaboration Project's Provincial Working Group partnered with B.C. communities to design a thoughtful, inclusive, culturally safe, and accessible approach to engagement. To guide their work, the group established four project principles:

- **Collaboration.** Engagement is co-designed with community members to inform how B.C. communities can create better networks of services and support for children and youth with disabilities or support needs, and their families.
- **Community-driven change.** The project builds upon the strengths of B.C.'s current system and names the changes needed to best support children and youth with disabilities or support needs and their families.
- **Reconciliation and Decolonizing.** Reconciliation and decolonization guide the project's approach to community engagement, which is designed to be inclusive, accessible, and culturally safe, with an appropriate approach that makes space for historically excluded voices and perspectives.
- **Transparency and Timeliness.** Timely engagement summaries are circulated to keep participants informed and help ensure the perspectives most important to the community are captured.

Inclusive communities are healthier communities. Building inclusive communities is a **shared responsibility**.

The Community-Led Collaboration Project took place over two phases between September 2022 and December 2024. In the first phase, The Provincial Working Group and their community partners worked together to facilitate in-person and hybrid engagements in:

- Campbell River, Gold River, and surrounding communities
- Castlegar and surrounding communities
- Kamloops and surrounding communities
- Port Alberni and surrounding communities
- West Coast of Vancouver Island communities
- Richmond

ENGAGEMENT WITH WEST COAST COMMUNITIES

Between August and November 2023, in-person engagements took place with families, youth, Elders and community service providers in several communities along the West Coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. The West Coast communities have a total population of 7,626 people.¹ The median age of people living in the West Coast communities is 39 years compared to 48 years in British Columbia as a whole.² Thirty percent of people living in the West Coast communities are Indigenous.³

To ensure a culturally safe process of engagement, the Community-Led Collaboration Project partnered with a local facilitator with strong community relationships. The facilitator engaged nearly 200 people in conversations about their experiences, ideas, and hopes for a future where all children with disabilities or support needs can thrive.

Engagement took place with the following communities/community groupings:

- Ahousaht (50 people engaged)
- Hitacu (Five people engaged)
- Opitsaht (33 people engaged)
- Tofino and Ucluelet (47 people engaged)
- Ty-Histanis and Esowista (49 people engaged)



Image Courtesy of Tofino Trails

1. Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region's Vital Signs® (2023), Clayoquot Biosphere, online: https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/files/file/6541460ea68cf/CBT_Vital_Signs_2023.pdf

2. Ibidem.

3. Ibidem.

ABOUT TOFINO AND UCLUELET



Image courtesy of Victoria Times Colonist

Tofino and Ucluelet are located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island on the unceded traditional territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht and the Yuuʔuʔiʔatʔ First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth Peoples. The two communities are the largest neighbouring communities on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Tofino has a population of 2,516 ⁴, and Ucluelet has a population of 2,066 ⁵. Children up to the age of 14 in Tofino make up 12.7 percent of the population ⁶, and children up to the age of 14 in Ucluelet make up 15.5 per cent of the population. ⁷

Both communities have an elementary school, but only Ucluelet has a high school. High school students from Tofino and other surrounding communities travel by bus to the high school in Ucluelet. Both communities have a grocery store and doctor's clinic. **The two communities split the support of a community health nurse.**

4. Statistics Canada (2021), 2016 Census, Tofino, British Columbia, online: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?lang=E&SearchText=Tofino&DGUIDlist=2021A00055923025&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

5. Statistics Canada (2021), 2016 Census, Ucluelet, British Columbia, online: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?lang=E&SearchText=Ucluelet&DGUIDlist=2021A00055923019&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

6. Statistics Canada (2021), 2016 Census, Tofino, British Columbia, online: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?lang=E&SearchText=tofino&DGUIDlist=2021A00055923025&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=4&HEADERlist=0>

7. Statistics Canada (2021), 2016 Census, Ucluelet, British Columbia, online: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?lang=E&SearchText=Ucluelet&DGUIDlist=2021A00055923019&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

WHAT WE HEARD IN TOFINO AND UCLUELET

For this section of the report, the facilitator combined findings from conversations in Tofino and Ucluelet. In the facilitator's words, "...two separate reports didn't make sense as the context would have been almost identical. ...these two communities share the same school district, the same high school and ...service providers."

There were no in-person events held in either community as community members expressed feeling unsafe providing feedback in an "open forum." Therefore, feedback was gathered between August and November via individual in-person, phone and email conversations with:

- 27 family members
- 17 community service providers
- Three youth

In response to the question "What is working well in Tofino and Ucluelet?" community members and service providers shared:

- A public health nurse based out of the West Coast Community Resources Society splits their time between Tofino and Ucluelet.
- Various programs support families in both communities, including:
 - The Infant Development Program (IDP) has been supportive and will refer a child to other extended services such as a physiotherapist (PT), occupational therapist (OT), speech and language pathologist (SLP), etc.
 - The Healthy Baby program in Tofino and Ucluelet supports mothers in weekly groups. The Bear Essentials program is great support, with accessible paperwork and no long waiting period for reimbursement.
 - Strong Start is also a great supportive program, and it is helpful that the teachers are experienced and knowledgeable to support families with child development milestones and play-based strategies.
 - There are also private services and other helpful services, such as Community Living BC, which has an office on the West Coast to help support youth aging out of the CYSN program and other services.
 - The Special Olympics and other accessible programs are very welcome additions and have provided children and youth with opportunities to learn to surf.
 - Staff at the local schools in both communities were reported as being very supportive, knowledgeable and experienced.
 - In addition, there is strong collaboration among service providers in both communities, and professionals in both communities know each other.

- o The West Coast Community Resources Society (WCCRS) is a great resource for families with support needs, which includes mental health supports with a counselor for children who witness abuse, and youth workers.
- o People expressed feeling a strong sense of support and belonging in both communities. One parent shared, "This is the perfect place to raise my family."
- o The community centre is supportive and welcomes youth to hang out after school and be with peers.

The following table details community members' thoughts on opportunities for improvement and ideas for meaningful change in Tofino and Ucluelet:

Conversation themes	Supporting details
<p>LACK OF SERVICES</p> <p>"Not having access to these services could be very detrimental to these children and youth, and in my opinion, it is a form of neglect from our government! This should be made a priority. We need to take care of everyone in our communities, especially our most vulnerable populations!" - Community Service Provider</p> <p>"I am at my wit's end. My child needs help. I need help and everyone knows it. I have often thought about handing over my child to the ministry because then I know they would get all the services (...) What a messed-up system we have (...) I cry over that fact a lot and I am stressed to the max." -Family member/caregiver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly every person who participated in the conversations about Tofino and Ucluelet shared there are services missing and/or not enough services on the West Coast of Vancouver Island and that they need their own service providers in their communities. • People are missing access to physiotherapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs) and speech and language pathologists (SLPs) for school aged children and youth. • There is a severe lack of affordable, consistent quality daycare for families. • Families mentioned they must travel to Port Alberni (2-hour drive) to receive PT and OT services, which is not feasible for many families. Parents/caregivers also reported a lack of understanding about the challenges of driving from the West Coast to Port Alberni. • Services that do come to the West Coast are often cancelled due to the weather or road conditions. Some parents/caregivers said they are "lucky" if they see a SLP every three months.

ACCESS TO THERAPIES, PROFESSIONALS AND SERVICES

"I do not remember the last time I saw a PT at our school. I have been here many years, and I am sorry to admit that I have never seen a PT here."

-Family member/caregiver

- One young person said, "I do not feel comfortable talking to someone who knows my parents. I want to go see someone else but there is no one else to see. So, I'd rather not go."
- There is a shortage of medical personnel in community and so families need to travel to the Tofino General Hospital for non-critical issues such as an ear infection and then wait for hours in the emergency room to be seen.
- One family shared that the OT comes two times per year.
- There is a lack of access to behavioural consultants and analysts in the two communities.
- While families qualify for the At Home Program (AHP), applications are overwhelming, the program is understaffed, and the qualifying protocols for service are extremely complicated and parents/caregivers have given up.
- Paperwork (and the amount of paperwork) is a barrier for most families. There are no services in the two communities to help parents/caregivers fill in the paperwork needed to access funds and supports for their children.
- For families, there are no options for alternative service providers if they are unsatisfied or unhappy with the service provider they are assigned to. There is no choice, there is no diversity of providers or availability of access.
- One parent shared: "Our provider in Port Alberni is not flexible at all with appointment times and they do not care about the fact that we would have to leave early in the morning to make it to our appointment. There is no accommodation at all for us and no willingness to move around the schedule for West Coast families. I mean, it is way easier for a Port Alberni family to accommodate different time slots compared to us out here."
- Many parents/caregivers reported being unsatisfied and unhappy with the services their child does receive. They also expressed that Zoom is not an acceptable alternative to in-person therapies.

RIGID FUNDING

“Outreach therapy and Island Health cut the services and funding from us when (our child) turned five, so we went a whole year without any services at all.”

-Family member/caregiver

- Parents/caregivers reported that even though they have access to a significant amount of autism funding for their child, they have a hard time spending it on the most needed services such as behavioral services, OT, and SLP services. This is because they must pick a therapist from the Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP) list, and none of these service providers are close to Tofino or Ucluelet.
- Many parents/caregivers mentioned a lack of accountability and transparency for how local school districts are spending the money allocated to them to support children and youth with disabilities or support needs. Parents/caregivers are concerned that without use of these funds, children are not being fully included in the school system and unable to thrive.

NAVIGATING SYSTEM AMBIGUITY

“I have had to call our social worker many times for them to translate paperwork sent to me (...) I simply do not understand what is asked of me (...) it takes so much time. It is almost as if the system does not want me to fill it out and just give up, so it is less work and money for them. I am exhausted.”

-Family member/caregiver

- Families have a difficult time navigating a complicated and time-consuming system.
- There is a gap in case managers/navigators to assist families with the coordination of services and funding opportunities.
- Several families had no idea if they had a social worker and/or case manager from Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) to assist them with navigating the system.
- One parent/caregiver said, “Being an advocate for my child is a full-time job and it is exhausting. I need support. I cannot do this without help and there is no help.”

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES

“All the focus is always on my child and how he is doing. No one ever asks me about me. How am I doing. I am in a constant fight or flight mode, and I have been offered no support. This needs to change.”

-Family member/caregiver

- There are a lack of mental health supports for /caregivers of children and youth with support needs. “No one asks you what you need as a parent.”
- There are no trained mental health counsellors that have experience in assisting the families of children with support needs and it’s impossible to find qualified supports.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL SUPPORTS

"I sure hope my child gets a trained EA. I cannot believe that they are putting the most unqualified people with the most vulnerable children. When I asked about the fact that my child was put with a support person without any training, I was met with the message that there simply are no EAs on the B-list and with the attitude that we were lucky there at least was somebody there (...) This is not ok, and if it happens again, I will not keep quiet."

-Family member/caregiver

- Many parents/caregivers talked about the lack of EAs in the school system to support their children.
- None of the three schools in Tofino and Ucluelet have a full-time Inclusion Support Teacher and families expressed their concern about not enough funding being allocated to this role.
- There are no therapy services in all three schools in Tofino and Ucluelet. Many families rely on these services to happen in school because private therapy is not affordable.
- A teacher in the area shared that there are lots of opportunities for extended learning during Pro-D days but learning about inclusiveness, neurodiversity, and disabilities has not been a priority. It is up to the individual teacher and EA to seek out these opportunities for further learning to take place.
- There is a shortage of support workers and Education Assistants (EAs) in all schools, and there have been reports of EA jobs posted that require no training or qualifications.

CONNECTION AND RELATIONSHIPS

"I would absolutely love if there was some kind of support group or get together once a month for us who have a child with a disability. I know I would feel less isolated as I would have someone to share my parenting journey with. The good and the bad. Other parents understand the challenges but also a place where we can celebrate our amazing children and youth. How amazing would that be?"

-Family member/caregiver

- Families want increased opportunities for connections between families with children and youth with support needs.
- Relationship building is missing between the children and service providers. One parent/caregiver shared, "My child will absolutely not come near the therapist because he is very shy and there is no established relationship between the two (...) it is hard for him and for us to create that trusting relationship when we only see them every 6 weeks (...) you cannot expect a child, or anyone really, to open up and just let some stranger into your zone and make you do all these things he is asked to do (...) we are getting nowhere with this therapy and it is frustrating (...) If we had someone coming every week and willing to build that relationship things would look a lot different."
- Parents/caregivers of children and youth with disabilities or support needs are also looking for more general opportunities for children, youth, and families to gather in playtime groups, family activities, etc. Families want these groups open to everyone and not just children and youth with disabilities.

RESPITE

One parent admitted they thought about leaving their partner so they would only have their child part-time because it was simply too hard to deal with the challenges with no support 24/7. "If we divorce, we can split time between us, which means I have respite. How sad is that that I have to think like this? But it is the reality."

-Family member/caregiver

- People shared that there are no respite services on the West Coast.
- One parent/caregiver shared, "Having a child with a disability can be a lot and sometimes I just need a break. I have to rely on family to take her for a couple of hours here and there, but I am not always comfortable with that as they do not quite understand her needs and they are getting old, and I am concerned for her safety. I think a lot of people do not understand that I cannot just send her on a playdate alone, I always have to be there with her. I cannot just let her play outside with the other kids, I always have to be there. I cannot drop her off at a program because there is no support for her. I have to be there. I can never just drop her off like other parents/caregivers can with their children the same age as her and I will not be able to for many, many years...if ever."

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/COST OF LIVING

Families talked about the gap in financial support to get children to and from appointments. They mentioned the cost of gas, food and lost wages.

- The high cost of living in Tofino and Ucluelet is a barrier for many families to access the support and services they need for their children.
- Families don't have much money leftover at the end for travel to gain access to services for their children and youth.
- A lot of housing rentals in the area are short-term, and families must figure out where to live during the summer months when their place will be rented out to tourists.

TRANSPORTATION

Families who were lucky enough to receive some funding for the Bear Essentials program found that the funds did not cover the total trip cost. "We are extremely grateful for the financial aid we did receive, but after 4-5 trips to Nanaimo, it gets expensive when other costs are not covered."

- Family member/caregiver

- Many families reported that the gap in financial support to travel to appointments for their children is a barrier to services.
- Public transportation between Tofino and Ucluelet is lacking, with no regular bus service to other parts of Vancouver Island. This makes it hard for families without a vehicle to attend out-of-town appointments, forcing them to rely on friends and family for rides.
- There used to be a Wheels for Wellness bus that would take patients to their appointments, but that service ended due to lack of funding.
- It was also shared that the lack of transportation between the two communities and within the communities is a big barrier for youth being able to access support and activities. This can put them in harm's way as they opt for hitchhiking or walking/biking instead.

A VISION FOR SUPPORT IN TOFINO AND UCLUELET

As part of the conversations in Tofino and Ucluelet, parents, caregivers, and community service providers were invited to envision an improved network of services and supports for children and youth with disabilities and support needs.

In response, people shared their visions for the future of the community including:

More daycare spaces with qualified staff to include all children, eliminating the need to wait for Supported Child Development (SCD) program funding for support workers.

More parent and family groups to connect people, so they feel less alone in their parenting journey.

Mental health supports for parents/caregivers and families - many are exhausted and overwhelmed and need their own supports to get through their days.

More local respite supports for families.

No waitlists for supports and/or assessments for children and youth.

Better access to health care in the region. Ucluelet, especially, was identified as a hard place to make a medical appointment as the clinic is only open two days a week.⁸

A navigator who helps families find appropriate supports and advocates for their child while easing the administrative burden of endless assessments and forms on parents and caregivers. Connecting families to formally trained advocates to assist them with various needs.

Support for all children and youth in need, in the school system, including more EAs, PTs, OTs, SLPs and mental health workers. This can be for individuals with or without a disability and/or a diagnosis.

A purpose-built service hub where all providers –PTs, OTs, SLPs, respite workers, CYSN family support, advocacy workers, case managers, and mental health supports—**are under one roof**, along with vision and hearing checks.

8. Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region's Vital Signs® (2023), Clayoquot Biosphere, online: https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/files/file/6541460ea68cf/CBT_Vital_Signs_2023.pdf

Sufficient funds for families to travel to appointments outside of their community.

Service providers using the spaces that already exist in the community to deliver supports.

MCFD would recognize that the West Coast communities make up a substantial population (at over 7,600 people).⁹Many are living in poverty, incredibly vulnerable.

Outreach time for kindergarten teachers and EAs to meet and develop relationships with students that need more support for the upcoming school year.

More funding for schools and school districts to provide the supports and the staff needed for students.

More money dedicated to teaching students, teachers, and EAs about inclusion, neurodiversities and disabilities.

Inclusive recreation programs and group activities where children and youth with support needs can participate in fun activities with their school peers. More extracurricular and adaptive sports programs.

Affordable and accessible housing in both communities for service providers to live and work.

Service providers who live and work full-time in Tofino and Ucluelet receive **competitive wages**. Service providers are permanently based in Tofino and Ucluelet and **travel to families in need**.

Public transportation in the area to connect the two communities but also to transport people to other communities on the Island for more complex medical appointments.

More consistent opportunities to give feedback for what's working and what's missing for members of West Coast communities.

⁹. Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region's Vital Signs® (2023), Clayoquot Biosphere, online: https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/files/file/6541460ea68cf/CBT_Vital_Signs_2023.pdf

FINAL STEPS OF ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2024, the Provincial Working Group shared preliminary results and project updates with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). In January 2025, the summary reports from the 23 community engagements, including those from community engagement grants and the six initial community engagements, will be submitted to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Community contributions have been instrumental in shaping these reports.

In all cases, the outcomes of the Community-Led Collaboration Project belong to the communities. The hope is that participants' ideas and experiences will serve as a tool for B.C. communities as they work to build and advocate for better networks of services and supports and make changes in their community to best support children and youth with disabilities or support needs and their families.

Please share this report widely – it is not just a reflection of your community, but a catalyst for the change needed in your community. We believe it holds the potential to inspire a future where every person can thrive and to contribute to a transformation of the Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) program and other programs and services that better responds to the needs of B.C. communities and, most importantly, of the young people at the centre of this work.

For more ideas and tools to share this report, please visit www.inclusionbc.org/what-we-do/community-partnerships-engagement/community-led-collaboration-project/.

IN SUMMARY

Please find a plain language summary of the Tofino and Ucluelet key discoveries on the following pages.

WHAT WE HEARD IN

Tofino and Ucluelet

Tofino and Ucluelet are located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island on the unceded traditional territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht and the Yuuʔiʔiʔatʔ First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth Peoples.

Tofino and Ucluelet are the largest neighbouring communities on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Tofino has a population of 2,516 and Ucluelet has a population of 2,066. Conversation findings from these two communities have been combined. Feedback was gathered during individual in-person, phone and email conversations with family members, community service providers and youth.

What's working well in Tofino and Ucluelet

- A public health nurse, based out of the West Coast Community Resources Society, splits their time between Tofino and Ucluelet.
- Programs support families in both communities including the Infant Development Program (IDP), The Health Baby program, Strong Start, private services through Community Living BC and Special Olympics.
- Staff at local schools are supportive, knowledgeable and experienced.
- The West Coast Community Resources Society (WCCRS) provides mental health supports and counselling to children.
- There is a strong sense of support and belonging in both communities.

Opportunities for change

Lack of therapies and services

There are not enough services to support people in their own communities.

People want local access to physiotherapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs) and speech and language pathologists (SLPs) for school aged children and youth. There is a lack of affordable, consistent quality dayccare for families and many have to travel to Port Alberni to receive supports.

Families overwhelmed

Families are overwhelmed with paperwork. They are also frustrated with the lack of service choices.

Families struggle with the lack of service options. If they are unhappy with their supports, they say there are no options for something different. Many parents are unhappy that their child receives services over Zoom.

"We need to take care of everyone in our communities, especially our most vulnerable populations! "

— Local Community Service Provider

Rigid funding

Parents are challenged to spend funding on supports that work for their child.

Parents have a hard time spending autism funding on OT and SLP services. They must pick a therapist from the Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP) and none of these support workers are close to Tofino or Ucluelet. Many parents also struggle with a lack of transparency around how local school districts spend the money allocated to support children and youth with disabilities or support needs.

Navigating the system

Families are challenged to navigate a complicated and time-consuming system.

Families need case managers/navigators to assist families with the coordination of services and funding opportunities. One parent/caregiver said, "Being an advocate for my child is a full-time job and it is exhausting. I need support. I cannot do this without help and there is no help."

Access to school supports

There is a lack of EAs in the school system to support children.

Families and caregivers mentioned none of the schools in Tofino or Ucluelet have a full-time Inclusion Support Teacher and families are concerned there is not enough funding allocated to this role. One teacher shared there are limited professional development opportunities to learn about inclusion, neurodiversity and disabilities.

Visions and Solutions

During the conversations in Tofino and Ucluelet, parents/caregivers, community service providers and an Elder were asked what a better network of services and supports for children and youth with disabilities and support needs could look like in their communities. They shared many ideas and solutions.

A local service hub

A service hub for Tofino and Ucluelet.

Families want a central place where services and supports, including an advocacy worker, a case manager, and mental health services, would exist. It would also be a place that children could get vision and hearing checks.

Affordable housing

Families want more affordable housing options in their community.

Families believe that more affordable housing in their communities is critical to ensure community service providers can live and work in or near their communities.

Better access to health care in the region

Families want more consistent access to health care in the region.

Ucluelet, especially, was identified as a hard place to make a medical appointment as the clinic is open only two days a week. Families in Tofino shared they must take their children to the emergency room to receive care. Families in Ucluelet have to drive 30–45 minutes to get to the hospital in Tofino.

WITH THANKS

The Community-Led Collaboration Project would like to thank everyone who shared their time, ideas, experiences, concerns, and hopes with us.

Their words have made all the difference as Tofino and Ucluelet look to best support children and youth with disabilities or support needs so they can thrive now and into the future.



Image courtesy of Brad Ralph