

## Fast Facts: State of the Child Report, Campbell River 2014

- **22.8% of children under 6 years live in poverty measured by low income.**

**What Can We Do?** As a community, advocate for a living wage for families and decrease the gap in income for families in the same community. As an employer, consider investing in your employees by paying a living wage and providing more job security. Look at strategies for increasing affordable housing.

- **Approximately 500 children under the age of 17 use the food bank monthly (November 2014 stats).**
- **In 2013, the cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four: \$948 (does not include toiletries). (Island Health)**

**What Can We Do?** As a community, support policy changes and initiatives that address poverty and social inequality as long-term strategies for reducing food insecurity.

- **1 in 3 children (32%) under 6 years are vulnerable in one or more areas of the Early Development Instrument (health and wellness, language, communication, emotional, and social).**
- **Waitlists for early intervention (therapies/programs) for young children are long.**

**What Can We Do?** As a community, advocate for better funding for early intervention to reduce waitlists and improve service.

- **Child care services often cost more than university at the very moment many parents are trying to pay down their own student debts. Child care is a costly necessity for many families. An average family of 2 working parents with 2 children under 5 can cost approximately \$1750/month.**

**What Can We Do?** As a community, support initiatives for universal access to child care, like the \$10/day plan. Support benefit programs that increase both the length of parental leave and benefit payments. Get involved in local non-profit agencies that support families.



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**'Our young children are the future of our community. What we do today matters!'**