



**State of the Child Report
Campbell River 2018**

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

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"The solution of adult problems tomorrow depends upon the way we raise our children today. There is no greater insight into the future than recognizing when we save our children, we save ourselves."

~Margaret Mead

Introduction

The Campbell River Family Network is a coalition that is working together to strengthen the capacity within the Campbell River region to support the best possible outcomes for children from conception to school age.

The health of a community is reflected in the lives of the families that live there. To that end, the 2018 State of the Child Report aims to bring greater understanding of the world our children are living in with the goal of engaging and mobilizing the community in taking all action necessary to help children thrive.

The Coalition's Vision

Our community embraces a culture that works collaboratively to coordinate and optimize resources, imagination, and commitment toward the healthy development of all our children.



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Family and Economic Well-Being

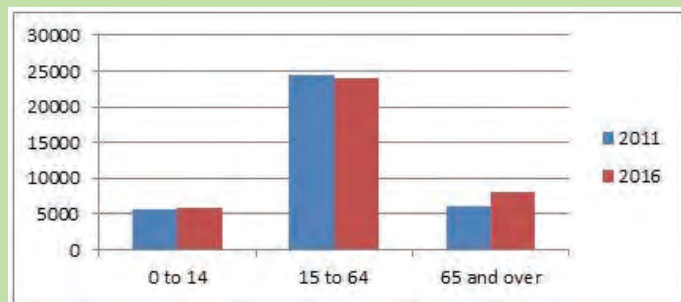
Demographics

The overall population of Campbell River was reported as 37,861 in the 2016 census, an increase of 4.9% from 2011 (population was 36,096).

Age Group	Population 2016	Population 2011
0 - 4	1770	1810
5 - 9	2085	1870
10 -14	1965	2040

Campbell River - Age Distribution

The Aboriginal population makes up 12.84% (2016) of the overall population in Campbell River. Aboriginal children aged 14 and under represent 24.2% of the total Aboriginal population (census 2016).



"In Campbell River, 46.0% of Aboriginal children aged 14 and under lived in a family with both their parents (biological or adoptive) and 34.7% lived in a lone-parent family. Other Aboriginal children in that age group were stepchildren, grandchildren living in a skip-generation family, foster children or children living with other relatives." ~ Stats Canada

Families and Households

In 2016, the number of census families in Campbell River was reported as 11,270 an increase from 2011, 10,925.

In Campbell River, 15.9% of families are lone-parent families (Census Canada) and Sayward has a rate of 19% (Strathcona Housing Needs Assessment).

**Number of Lone-parent families in Campbell River (Stats Canada):*

- 2015 - 1795
- 2010 - 1560

Census Canada

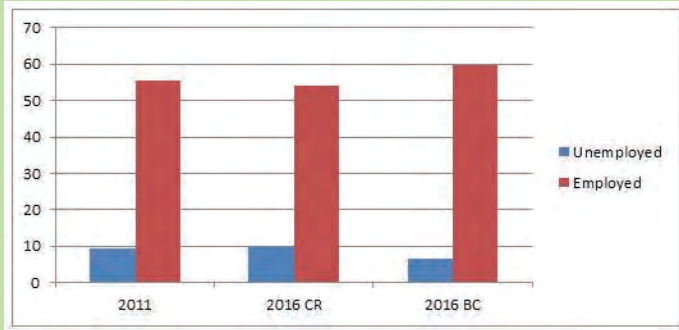
Lone Parents	2011	2016	BC 2016
Female	1180	1380	155,670
Male	375	415	42,265

www.crfamilynetwork.ca

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Family Economics

Employment rate Campbell River:
55.6% (Stats Canada 2016)



Median after-tax income for families in
Campbell River, British Columbia:

Family Structure	CR 2015	CR 2010	BC 2015
All Families	\$70,954	\$62,325	
Lone Parent Families*	\$41,984	\$30,515	\$46,668

*Males typically make more than females, making it more difficult for single mothers.

In Campbell River, males \$37,743 and females \$24,648 (Stats Canada).

Child Poverty

Strathcona Regional District

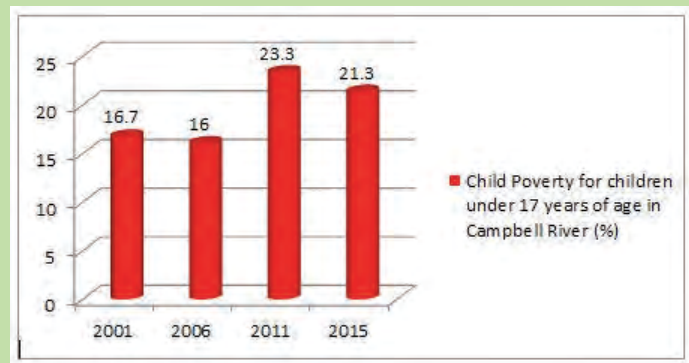
1980 children live in poverty, 24% of all children live in poverty, 12% poverty rate for children living in couple families, 54% poverty rate for children living in lone-parent families.

- 2017 BC Child Poverty Report Card



Poverty is measured by low income (BC Poverty Reduction Coalition) and according to Stats Canada in Campbell River and area 23.2% of children less than 6 years of age live in poverty. According to the 2017 BC Child Poverty Report Card, poverty rates for children 0 to 5 years in BC are 18.5%, and less than 17 years of age is 18.3%.

"While one in five children (19.5%) in British Columbia were in lone-parent families in 2015, over half (50.7% of all children living in poverty in BC were in lone-parent families, up from 49.4% in 2014." - BC Child Poverty Report Card 2017



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Food Security

March 2017 - February 2018, the Campbell River Food Bank served 4420 individuals ages 0 - 17 years. The monthly average was 368.

In March 2016, 103,464 people in BC were assisted by food banks, and 32.2% (Canada 35.6%) were children (Food Bank Hungers Canada, Hunger Count 2016). There was an increase of 3.4% between 2015 and 2016. In 2008, 78,101 people were assisted.

A monthly food bill for families in the Island Health area for a nutritious food basket for a family of four:

	2013	2015
North Vancouver Island	\$948	\$985
BC	\$849	\$974

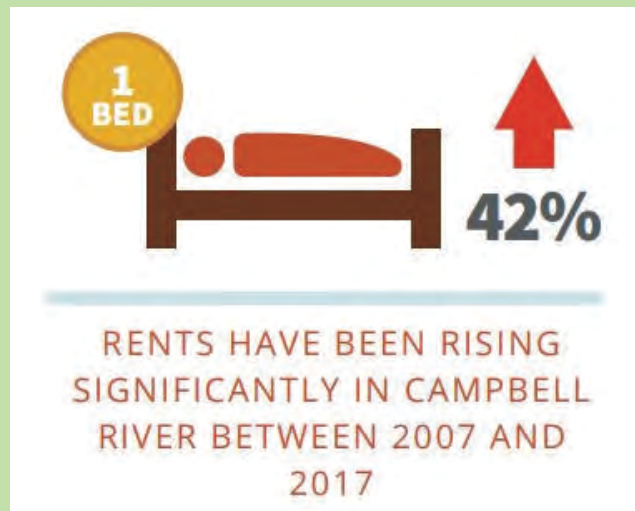
Housing

The Strathcona Community Health Network completed a Housing Needs Assessment for the Strathcona Region in Spring 2018.

- 150 households on Cortes (30%), 250 on Quadra (22%), 3,190 (23%) in Campbell River, 85 in Gold River (15%), 15 in Sayward (15%) spend more than 30% of their income on housing
- 35% of households rent on Cortes ; 29% in Campbell River

• *"VERY LOW VACANCY RATES PUT THE MOST PRESSURE ON THE LOWEST INCOME HOUSEHOLDS, AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCRIMINATION"*

- *Strathcona Community Health Network Housing Needs Assessment*



"Over half of Canadians are \$200 away from not being able to pay bills" - Global News, Oct 12, 2017

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Living Wage

A living wage is the rate of hourly pay required by a family to cover the basic needs of the household, such as food, clothing, shelter, child care and transportation in their area. It does not reflect other costs such as cable, internet, entertainment, savings for children's education or home ownership, or vacations. Living wage calculations are based on a two-parent family with two children - the most common family unit in BC - and each parent working full-time. There is no data on a living wage for Campbell River; other Island cities have done their homework. Living wage for Families calculates other island communities:

- Comox Valley \$15.96/hr
- Cortes Island \$16.29/hr
- Nanaimo \$17.55/hr
- Parksville/Qualicum \$16.44/hr
- Port Alberni \$17.22/hr
- Victoria \$20.01/hr

Every member of a community is affected by low wage poverty.

A living wage makes sense as it reflects what a family's income should be in order to keep out of extreme poverty. In Campbell River, many parents work several part-time minimum wage jobs to support their families.



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Early Care and Learning

The first six years are critical in shaping a child's brain. Early experiences provide the base for development and functioning throughout life.

90% of the brain develops by age 5



Kindergarten

In Campbell River there are 9 elementary schools and 4 in the outlying areas of Quadra Island, Cortes Island, Sayward and Read Island. Enrollment numbers for kindergarten students across School District 72 during the fall of 2017 were 371 students, and fall 2018, 416 students.

Child Care and Preschool

In the Campbell River area, there are approximately 1137 spaces in 2017, up from 1041 spaces in 2014, in licensed child care. Of this, 796 are in group facilities, preschool programs and before/after school care programs.

There are approximately 154 space in licensed family child care facilities, and 48 additional spots in multi-age child care facilities (this is family child care operated by someone who has ECE license qualifications).

There are 139 spaces provided by Aboriginal Head Start and other child care/early learning programs. These are run both off and on reserve, and provide a range of early learning opportunities, including language and cultural teachings.

Number of licensed group child care facilities:

	Infant	Toddler	3 - 5 year old	Preschool	Out of School
2017	2	6	16	13	8
2014	2	6	12	9	9

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Many families are having difficulty finding quality child care, and waitlists are long. The greatest needs are for infant and toddler spaces, as well as facilities that will accommodate flexible work schedules. There is also a need for more qualified Early Child Educators to support existing and future child care spaces.

The average cost for an infant/toddler space in a licensed facility is \$51 per day, and \$40-\$47 for older children, depending on the facility, whether they provide food/snacks, etc. This means a family with two children in care can pay upwards of \$1850 per month. The Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) went into effect in BC on September 1 2018, and replaced the Child Care Subsidy program. Under ACCB, more families will qualify for child care benefits.

Child care services often cost more than university at the very moment many parents are trying to pay down their own student debts.

- Paul Kershaw

Early Year Programming

Early Learning programs support parenting education, relationship building and promote healthy development in children. There are currently 40+ free/low cost drop-in early learning opportunities for young children and their families in Campbell River and area per week.

- StrongStart Centres within Campbell River and area saw 9036 children from Sept 1 - June 30 2018.
- There are twelve regular Family Place programs, 3 affiliate programs and 3 special events. Family Place programs logged 13,718 visits 2016/2017 (April 1 - March 31), up from 12,010 visits from 2013/2014 (April 1 - March 31)
- The Campbell River Library children's programs: in 2017 there were 129 programs (5300 children attending), compared to 98 programs in 2014 (1386 children attending).
- Four Family Gym times offered through Campbell River Parks and Recreation. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays are free for families, and Sundays have a rate of \$3.00/child or \$5.00/family.

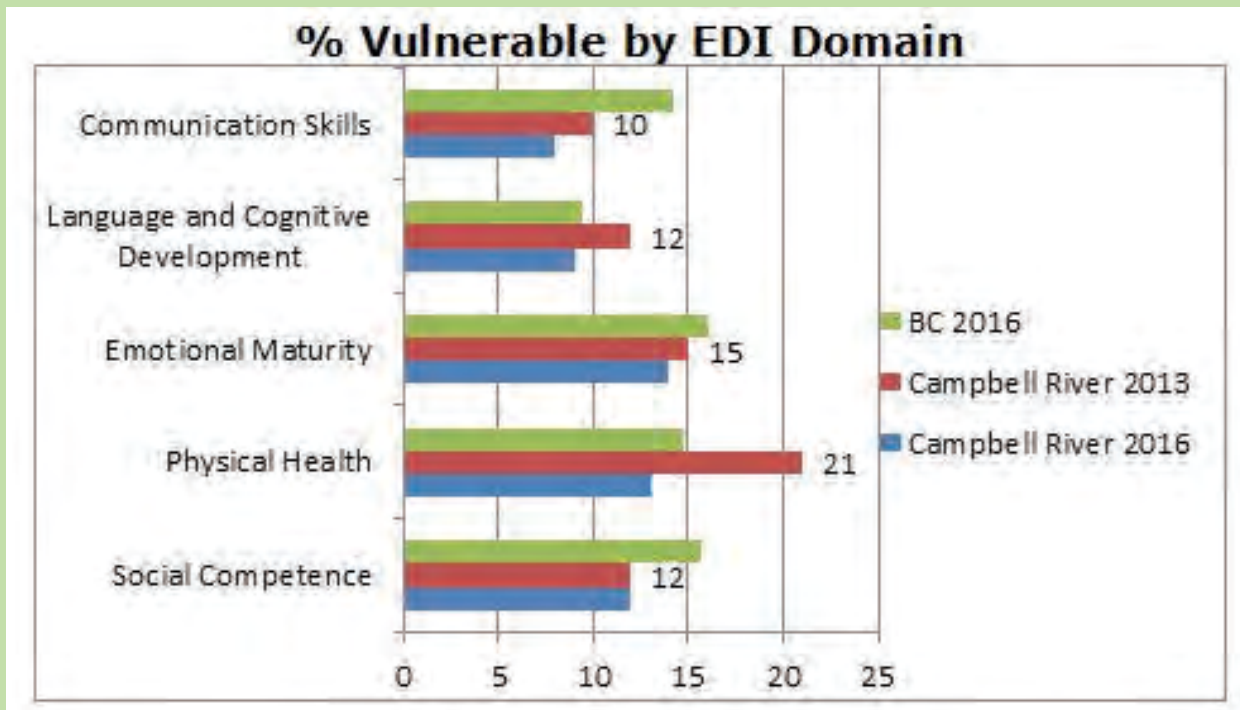


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Early Development Instrument

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) measures children's development up to kindergarten across five domain areas: language and cognitive development, emotional maturity, communication skills, social competence, and physical health and well-being.

The current provincial vulnerability rate (Wave 6) for children vulnerable on one or more scales of the EDI is 32.2%. Wave 6 data show that in Campbell River School District, 28% children experience vulnerabilities on at least one area of development.



The current trend in Campbell River is that vulnerability is going down.



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Health and Wellness

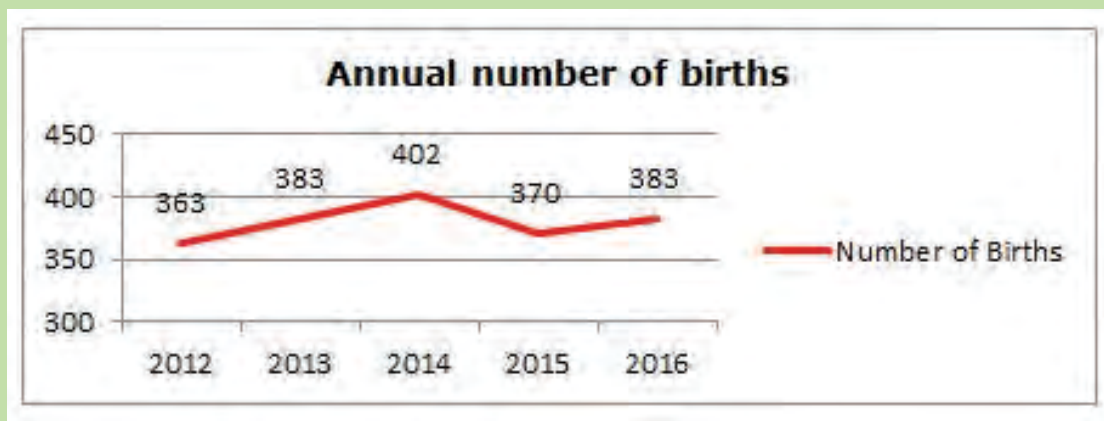
Prenatal Health

The trend over time in Mothers below the age of 20 having babies is decreasing:

- 2009 - 2013 102 babies
- 2010 - 2014 98 babies
- 2011 - 2015 93 babies

Year	LHA SD 72	Island Health	BC
2009 - 2013	2.12	3.79	3.62
2010 - 2014	5.32	3.90	3.77
2011 - 2015	4.72	3.74	3.69

Infant Death Rate 5 yr (per 1000 live births)



Immunization Rates

Island Health stats according to BC Vital Statistics Agency, 2018:

'Up to date for age' immunization rates for 2017:

- ▶ 2 year olds: $322/424 = 75.9\%$ (an increase from 2013)
- ▶ 7 year olds: $295/450 = 65.6\%$ (a decrease from 2013)

(Up to date means that children receiving their shots are current with all shots by age 2 and age 7).

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Dental Health

Statistics for children's dental health are provided by the local community hygienist at Public Health through Island Health. Data is for all children in Kindergarten.

Number of Children	2009-2010	2012-2013	2015-2016
Number of children enrolled in SD72 Kindergarten classes			405
Screened	346	373	365
With no visible broken enamel	213	250	261
With restored teeth	72	72	69
With broken enamel	59	51	34
Who needed urgent dental treatment	4	13	1

- Majority of Kindergarten children who were screened had no broken enamel.
- Majority of Kindergarten children noted with restored teeth may have had extensive dental treatment such as stainless steel crowns and/or missing teeth, which would have been completed via dental surgery in hospital or under general anesthetics.
- Majority of Kindergarten children who needed treatment was generally only needed in one area of the mouth. Minority of the Kindergarten children may be referred for oral surgery.
- There was a decrease of urgent dental treatment amount the Kindergarten children during this year. Only one child was in need of urgent dental care, either the child said they were in repair or there was infection visibly present.

Early Intervention and Child and Family Support Programs

Dogwood Place Child and Youth Development Centre:

- ▶ Speech and Language Program - Average caseload size for 2017 was 177 children. Average waitlist was 91 children.
- ▶ Occupational Therapy Program - Average of 106 children on caseload. Average of 63 children waiting for service.
- ▶ Physiotherapy Program - Average of 69 clients served. This program served both Aboriginal and non-aboriginal families.
- ▶ Infant Development Program - Average active caseload of 70 children. Waitlist averaged 11 children.
- ▶ Supported Child Development Program - Provided service to 159 children in 2017 with an average waitlist of 17 children.

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Community Concern: currently, children who have been referred for autism assesment by a pediatrician (0 - 6 years) are waiting over a year from the date of referral, and families are being asked to travel to Nanaimo or Victoria for assessment. We know that travel costs are an issue for families and it is fortunate that programs such as the Bear Essentials exist in order to help with these costs.

Stats for October 2017 for Laichwiltach Family Life early intervention programs:

- ▶ Aboriginal Infant Development Program - Active caseload 34 children.
- ▶ Aboriginal Supported Child Development Program - Active caseload 27 children, 2 children on the waitlist.
- ▶ Aboriginal Occupational Therapy Program - Active caseload 27 children, 5 children on the waitlist.
- ▶ Aboriginal Speech and Language Therapy Program - Active caseload 38 children, 5 children on the waitlist.

Children's Voices Matter

Every child has the right to...

- ESTEEM NEEDS**
 - learn new things
 - freedom to play
 - feel encouraged
 - healthy natural environments
 - feel heard
- BASIC NEEDS**
 - clean air
 - enough healthy food
 - a comfortable home
 - clean water
 - suitable clothing
- SOCIAL NEEDS**
 - feel loved
 - belong
 - respect for pride of culture and beliefs
 - school and early learning
- SAFETY NEEDS**
 - feel safe
 - feel respected
 - feel physically safe
 - feel welcome
 - medical care

Campbell River Children's Charter

Our community has the responsibility to....

- Provide experiences for children to learn and grow.
- Allow abundant opportunities to play.
- Provide ample access to nature.
- Honour each child as being unique.
- Support diversity to allow children to grow into who they are.
- Allow children to be heard, to question, and to make mistakes.
- Meet the essential needs of children and their families for a healthy life.
- Support families to create loving homes.
- Protect children and their families from harm.

Across Campbell River, 315 children from the ages of 3 to 12 years old shared, through words and drawings, their opinions on children's rights in Campbell River.

This poster is Children Approved.

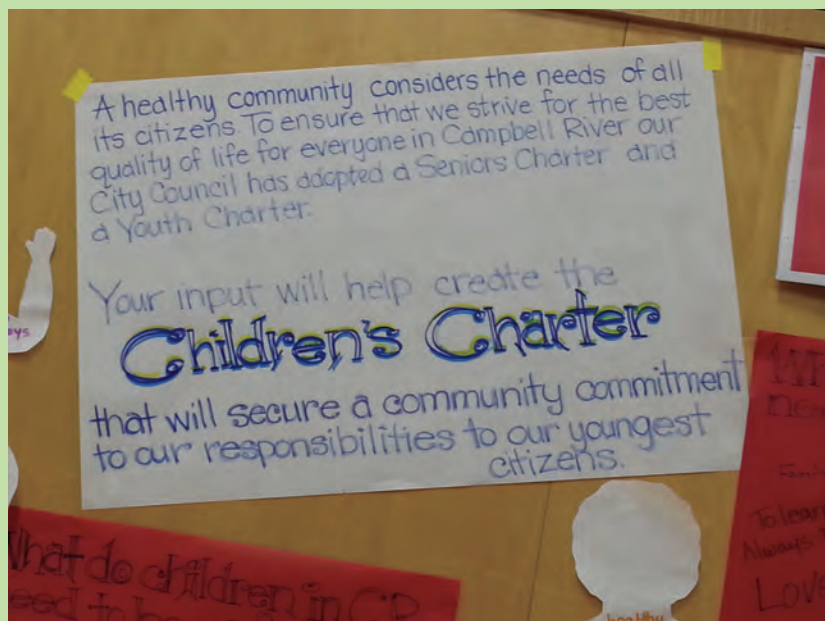
Created through a partnership with City of Campbell River, School District 72, Campbell River Family Network and Success By 6

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Sources

1. BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
<http://bcpovertyreduction.ca/learn-more/poverty-reduction-in-canada/>
2. Campbell River Food Bank (personal communication with Coordinator, March 2018)
3. City of Campbell River (personal communication with Recreation and Culture, Child, Youth and Family Program Coordinator)
4. Dogwood Place Child and Youth Development Centre (personal communication with Program Manager, Supported Child Development, March 2018)
5. Food Banks Canada <http://www.foodbanksCanada.ca/>
6. Human Early Learning Partnership, University of British Columbia, Early Development Instrument Wave 6 (2013 - 2016), School District 72
7. Island Health, North (direct communication with Medical Chief Officer and Community Hygienist, February 2018)
8. Laichwiltach Family Life Society (personal communication with the Executive Director, Spring 2018)
9. Living Wage for Families, <http://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/>
10. North Island Employment Foundation Society, June 2018
11. School District 72 (personal communication with Assistant Superintendent, September 2018)
12. Statistics Canada, Census 2016
13. Strathcona Community Health Network, Housing Needs Assessment
14. Vancouver Island Regional Library (personal communication with acting Branch Manager, June 2018)

Thank you for the assistance from our community partners of the Campbell River Family Network, Success By 6 Council of Partners and Campbell River Early Learning Table.



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Fast Facts: State of the Child Report, Campbell River 2018

- ▶ **23.2% of children under 6 years live in poverty measured by low income, a slight increase from the 2014 State of the Child report.**
- ▶ **54% poverty rate for children living in lone-parent families in the Strathcona Region.**
- ▶ **23% of households in Campbell River spend more than 30% of their income on housing**

What can we do? Stable, affordable family housing remains at the core of financial vulnerability for many families and is a general destabilizing factor for family well-being. Continued community attention to housing is critical.

- ▶ **Currently 1 in 3 (28%) children under the age 6 are vulnerable in one or more areas of the Early Development Instrument (health and wellness, language, communication, emotional, and social). This is an improvement over Wave 5 where vulnerability was 32%. We believe this is the result of the focus on community programming for young children.**
- ▶ **Waitlists for early intervention (therapies/programs) for young children are long.**

What can we do? As a community we can continue to work collaboratively to seek understanding of community needs and develop strategies to meet them.

- ▶ **Changes to child care funding for parents has been a significant positive step in affordability, however, it has created greater pressure on child care spaces that remain fragile because of staff recruitment and retention challenges.**
- ▶ **Child care is a costly necessity for many families. For an average family of 2 working parents with 2 children under 5 it can cost approximately \$1750/month.**

What can we do? As a community we can continue to advocate for more, high quality Early Childhood Education spaces at local colleges/universities to make it easier for students to become licensed in the field of child care and continue to advocate for better wages for those working in this sector. Also, encourage the City and other community partners and agencies to recognize the need for safe, affordable quality child care, and prioritize the creation of more spaces in community planning and programming.