CVRD

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2011
9:00 AM / BOARD ROOM
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN, BC

	AGENDA	PAGES
1.	**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**	1-2
2.	**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**	
	M1 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held April 20, 2011	3-5
3.	**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**	
4.	**DELEGATIONS:**	
	D1 Dan Vaillancourt, Facilitator, Youth Caregivers Project Re: Youth Caregivers Project's Work to Support Youth Caregivers in the Cowichan Valley	6
5.	**REPORTS:**	
	R1 Director Lori Iannidinardo, Vice-Chair and Jayne Ingram, Member, Community Safety Advisory Committee Re: Canada Post and the Misuse of Private/Personal Address	Verbal Update
	R2 Director Klaus Kuhn, Chair, Community Safety Advisory Committee Re: RCMP Appreciation Letter	Verbal Update
6.	**CORRESPONDENCE:**	
	C1 CSAC Youth Subcommittee Meeting Notes, May 26, 2011	7-8
	C2 CSAC Youth Subcommittee Meeting Notes, June 8, 2011	9-10
	C3 Memorandum from Youth Safety CSAC Subcommittee Re: Report (Prepared by CWAV/Safer Futures)	11
	C4 The Society of Children and Youth of BC *Municipal Standards and Indicators of Child and Youth Friendly Communities*	12-48
	C5 Local Youth Resources Compiled by the Cowichan Valley Youth Caregivers Project	49-57
	C6 Indicators and Their Function in Understanding Youth Safety	58-60
7.	**ADJOURNMENT:**	

The next Regular meeting of Community Safety Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 9:00 am, in Committee Room No. 2, CVRD, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

DISTRIBUTION:

CVRD – Director Klaus Kuhn (Committee Chair)
CVRD – Director Lori Iannidinardo (Committee Vice-Chair)
Municipality of North Cowichan – Councillor John Koury
City of Duncan – Councillor Tom Duncan
Town of Lake Cowichan – Councillor Jayne Ingram
Town of Ladysmith – Councillor Jill Dashwood and Councillor Lori Evans
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society / Safer Futures Program – Theresa Gerritsen
Community Options Society – Cheryl Stone
Cowichan Valley School District No. 79 – Candace Spilsbury
Cowichan Independent Living – Jim Harnden
RCMP – Kevin Day and Markus Lueder
Social Planning Cowichan – Linden Collette
Community Policing – Carol-Ann Rolls
Community Representative – Michelle Bell
Community Representative – Bruce Ingram

Cowichan Valley Regional District
Joe Barry, Corporate Secretary

(Agenda Cover Only)
Warren Jones, Administrator
CVRD Directors

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held in the Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC, on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 9:03 am.

PRESENT: Director Klaus Kuhn (Chair)
Director Lori Iannidinardo (Vice-Chair) <at 9:15 am>
Theresa Gerritsen, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society
Councillor Tom Duncan, City of Duncan
Councillor Jayne Ingram, Town of Lake Cowichan
Kevin Day, RCMP
Linden Collette, Social Planning Cowichan
Carol-Ann Rolls, Community Policing
Cheryl Stone, Community Options Society
Michelle Bell, Community Representative

ABSENT: Councillor John Koury, District of North Cowichan
Councillor Jill Dashwood, Town of Ladysmith
Councilor Lori Evans, Town of Ladysmith
Candace Spilsbury, Cowichan Valley School District No. 79
Markus Lueder, RCMP
Jim Harnden, Cowichan Independent Living
Bruce Ingram, Community Representative

ALSO PRESENT: Dominique Beesley, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of the following New Business Item:

NB1 – Invitation and Announcement;

and that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2M1

It was moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular meeting of Community Safety Advisory Committee, held February 25, 2011, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

4D1

Corporal Kevin Day, Committee Member, representing the RCMP, provided a presentation on the formation of the Bar Watch Program for the Cowichan Valley Region.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to Board that the

CVRD supports the RCMP's Bar Watch Program.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

5C1

Report from Safer Futures; regarding *Young Carers: Mature Before Their Time*, Grant Charles, Tim Stainton and Sheila Marshall; was received.

It was moved and seconded that the Caregivers Youth Group be invited to attend as a delegate to a meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

5C2

Report from Safer Futures, regarding recommendations for CSAC Priorities 2011, was received.

It was moved and seconded that youth and family safety be the focus for the Committee for the 2011 year.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that recommendations for CSAC priorities 2011 be adopted with changes.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that a sub-committee be struck to work on youth safety.

MOTION CARRIED

5C3

Report from Safer Futures, regarding CSAC response brief regarding the City of Duncan's Age-Friendly Seniors Safety Project Report April 2011, was received.

It was moved and seconded that an Age-Friendly Seniors Safety Project Report Sub-Committee be struck.

MOTION CARRIED

5C4

Report from Safer Futures, regarding recommendations for CSAC Priorities 2011, was received.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1

Invitation and Announcement

Carol-Ann Rolls, Community Policing, invited members of the Committee to an RCMP "Burgers and Beer Night" fundraiser to be held on Friday, May 13th at the Royal Canadian Legion Duncan Branch on Kenneth Street (next to City Hall). Ms. Rolls said that the fundraiser is to benefit Constable Bob Lacroix who has been recently diagnosed with cancer.

Ms. Rolls advised that "Police Appreciation Week" was beginning on May 15th.

It was moved and seconded that the Chair of the Community Safety Advisory Committee sends a letter of appreciation to the local RCMP (attention Officer in Charge) for National Police Appreciation Week.
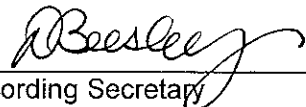
MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT
10:50 am

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Certified Correct:

_____   _____
Chairperson   Recording Secretary

Dated: _____

Request to Appear as a Delegation

D1

Meeting Information

Request to Address:

O   CVRD Board   ⊙   Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:

Community Safety Advisory Comm

CSAC
DEL

Meeting Date: 06/15/2011

Meeting Time: 9:00 am

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: Dan Vaillancourt

Representing: Youth Caregivers Project   (Name of organization if applicable)

As: Youth Caregivers Project Facilitator   (Capacity / Office)

Number Attending: 3

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Mailing Address:

Applicant City:

Applicant Telephone: 250-732-4502

Applicant Fax:

Applicant Email: djv91919@hotmail.com

Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:

I was recently contacted by Thanya Al-Sadoon with a
request to have our organization, Youth Caregivers
Project, attend the June 15th meeting of CSAC to make
a presentation about our project and the work it is
doing in the Cowichan Valley to support youth
caregivers. I would be bringing with me two youth
from the project and our plan would be to show an
excerpt from our recent documentary film, Ending the
Silence, which discusses the joys and challenges of
youth giving significant care to their families,
usually due to parental physical or mental illness,
disability or addiction.

6

CSAC Youth Subcommittee Meeting Notes

<u>Thursday, May 26, 2011</u>

In Attendance:

- Marcus Lueder, RCMP
- Theresa Gerritsen, CWAV/SF
- Cheryl Stone, COS
- Michelle Bell, VIHA
- Linden Collette, SPC

Regrets:

- Thanya Al-Saadoon

#1 Purpose of CSAC's work in regards to youth safety

  - ➤ "Why is it important to raise awareness?"
  - Raise awareness of issues, resources, gaps
    - ○ Inform and make recommendations to CVRD board
    - ○ If CSAC were informed of youth safety issues, could they support initiatives by providing community support towards funding proposals?
      - ▪ Support projects and grants from community organizations
      - ▪ Provincial grants, Mental Health, Substance Abuse
      - ▪ Community Action Initiatives
      - ▪ Research

#2 What are the activities that CSAC should undertake for this youth safety focus?

  - Research
  - Present project to CVRD board
  - Identify gaps
  - Hosting youth and family focused dialog
    - ○ Provide youth with a chance to talk
    - ○ Parents groups
    - ○ Community dialogues
      - ▪ Lake Cowichan, Ladysmith, Hallalt, etc
  - Explore opportunities to pair youth and seniors
  - Youth council/youth leadership
  - Youth rep on CSAC
  - Focus on board members who are interested in youth

#3 Quantify the issues – cost to the community
- Cost of cleaning graffiti
- Vandalism
  - Provide options as alternatives

#4 Social Responses to Issues
- ➤ It is important to remember that CSAC should be focused on how the community responds and provides support to youth.

- Support family context and support of youth directly
- Educational tool that raises awareness overall
  - Identifies communities' response – what do we have for services and supports in the region?
  - Identifies communities efforts towards prevention – what are the gaps?
    - What are the features of the community that are supportive of youth?
    - What components do we have?
    - What do we need?

#5 Talk to marginalized youth and to flourishing youth
- Inform Board about:
  - What is happening?
  - What isn't happening?
  - What do we need to do?

#6 Cast a wide data net – info on graffiti clean-up – (public works?)

#7 What are the indicators of Youth Safety?
- Children in care
- Suicide rates, self harming rates
- Drug use
- Grad rates/drop-out rates (CVOLC)
- Drug use
- Youth homelessness
- Family violence
- Bullying
- Youth crime

#8 Survey existing youth programs

Next meeting June 8th

CSAC Youth Subcommittee Meeting Notes

<u>Wednesday, June 8, 2011</u>

In attendance:
- Michelle Bell, VIHA
- Linden Collette, SPC
- Theresa Gerritsen, CWAV/SF

<u>#1 What is our social response?</u>
- Inform the board on what is happening
- Survey?

<u>#2 What are the indicators? (marginalized and flourishing youth)</u>
- ➤ Linden presented some preliminary information on the indicators used in other studies, ie: 2009 Youth at Risk Targeting Youth 19-24 which is the parameter for some research.
  - Youth in care
  - High school completion
  - Substance use
  - Youth voting
  - Teen pregnancy/single parenting
  - Positive tickets (?)
  - Youth volunteerism
  - Youth in low income – CV in the middle
  - Local demographic
    - o Important to focus on younger youth (14-19?)
- ➤ Identify comparable communities, ie: Nanaimo, Vancouver, Sooke, etc
- ➤ Define youth – what we mean by 'youth'

<u>#3 Methods</u>
1. Creating a presentation:
   - Case scenarios
     - o Social elements that exist in a person's circumstance; follow through
     - o Explore different ways situation may go
       - ▪ Interventions
         - With and/or without – different conclusions to situations
2. A series of presentations
   - Each with a different focus

- Involve youth
- Each presentation/story carries forward the progress of the project
3. Youth Safety focus would span 2+ years?
4. Report
   - Youth Safety In the Cowichan Region
   - Educational Tool

#4 Next meeting – CSAC will be asked to provide input on selecting indicators for basis of project
  ➤ Linden to prepare handout for committee on the use of indicators as a basis for conducting research and delivering presentations
  ➤ Next CSAC meeting: Wednesday, July 6th, 2011

memo

To: CSAC

From: Youth Safety CSAC Subcommittee

Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Re: Youth Safety CSAC Subcommittee Report (prepared by CWAV/Safer Futures)

Summary of Meetings
May 26, 2011
This initial CSAC Youth Safety Subcommittee meeting was held to discuss CSAC's 2011/2012 work in regards to youth safety. The group engaged in dialog on the issue, and posed a variety of questions focused on the CSAC 2011/2012 workplan, including:

Why is it important to raise awareness of youth safety to the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board and to the community at large?
What are the activities that CSAC should undertake for this youth safety focus?
What are the costs to the community in regards to graffiti, vandalism etc?
What are the social responses to youth and their safety?
What are the indicators of youth safety?

Coming out of this discussion was a plan to explore existing Cowichan area youth services as a way to begin to identify delivery gaps. The subcommittee identified that the first step would be to begin some preliminary research and that Linden Collette (SPC) would carry out this initial review and bring her findings back to the next subcommittee meeting.
Next meeting on June 8th, 2011

June 8, 2011
The 2nd meeting of the CSAC Youth Safety Subcommittee took place on June 8th and continued its discussion on youth and youth safety. This discussion included a further exploration of the indicators for safety affecting both marginalized and flourishing youth. Linden presented some preliminary information on the indicators used in other research studies: for example, the 2009 Youth at Risk targeting youth aged 19-24. The group expressed the importance of considering younger youth (14-19?).

Actions identified include:
Defining what the committee means by 'youth'.
Identifying/researching a set of indicators in which we will conduct our activities.
Using these indicators, we will compare the Cowichan region to other comparable communities.
Creating one or more presentations with various methods of communicating materials of communicating materials
Engaging youth in a variety of ways throughout the project
Drafting a 'Youth Safety in the Cowichan Region' report to be used as an educational and awareness building tool.
Making a decision on the length of time that will need to be dedicated to this project.

Linden will prepare and present a handout for the committee on the use of indicators as a basis for conducting research. This will be presented at the July 6, 2011 CSAC meeting.

The Society for
Children and Youth of BC

SCY   A non-profit organization dedicated to improving the well being of children and youth.

Municipal Standards

and Indicators of

CHILD and YOUTH

FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Contributors

Copyright ©

ISBN

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Table of Contents

Some Notes About Data and Where It Comes From

14

Society for Children and Youth of BC

Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY) works toward the well-being of all children and youth in BC by addressing issues that affect young people. In doing so, SCY collaborates with child and youth serving organizations, various coalitions and networks, all levels of government, educational institutions and individuals locally, provincially and inter-provincially, and at national and international levels to:

- Advocate for the implementation of children's rights in public policy and practice, outlined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and within Canada's National Action Plan for Children (2004);
- Support the creation of physical and social environments that are child and youth friendly;
- Provide a forum for interdisciplinary exchange of ideas in relation to issues affecting children and youth;
- Increase public understanding of the needs of young people, and
- Apply efforts and resources to enrich the lives of children and youth in their first decades so that positive long term results will be created for all members of society.

SCY's board of directors is comprised of individuals with cross disciplinary expertise in youth justice, child welfare, early childhood education, child and youth services, Aboriginal child development, children with disabilities, municipal planning, geography, recreation and business.

Key areas of focus including supporting the implementation of children's rights in policy and practice in BC and supporting the development of communities that are child and youth friendly. Current projects include:

- Realizing Rights, Responding to Needs: Youth with Disabilities in Conflict with the Law in British Columbia.
- Children's Rights Monitoring.
- Child Friendly Communities for School Aged Children in the Lower Mainland.
- Creating Child Friendly Communities for Aboriginal Children and their Families.

For more information on the Society or for more printed copies of this booklet, please contact:

Society for Children and Youth of BC
903 - 207 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7
604-433-4180
info@scyofbc.org
www.scyofbc.org

What is a Child and Youth Friendly Community?

In the late 1990s, the Society for Children and Youth of BC started to look at why cities did not 'support' children and childhood as well as they once used to. This was initially a concern for the physical environment, but rapidly led to broader approaches and issues. The result was firstly a report on *Child Friendly Housing*, and later the development of a more comprehensive *Child and Youth Friendly Communities Initiative*.

In the ten years since then, a tool kit for community planning has been produced, a national conference held, a series of training and orientation workshops run, and public promotion of various kinds initiated, including an annual awards program. The goal of all these activities was to promote the concept of Child and Youth Friendly Communities...and turn the program into a 'movement'.

This Society for Children and Youth of BC program has run in parallel to the Society's *Rights Awareness Project*, although both have similar roots. Through the *Rights Awareness Project*, Society for Children and Youth of BC advocates for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This convention is now signed by all but two UN members, and is central to the emerging paradigm of children's service delivery.

The UNCRC was adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, and ratified by countries in the following years (Canada in 1991). In 1996, what it meant for children's physical environments was discussed at Habitat II. This resulted in the establishment of the **UN Secretariat for Child Friendly Cities**. Since that time, the Secretariat has developed a range of tools to support cities that embark on the *Child Friendly Cities* process.

Child Friendly Cities and *Child and Youth Friendly Communities* are based on the same ideals. Different terms are used: 'cities' are where most of the world's children live; in Canada, we think more at the 'community' level. In Europe, the term 'children' applies to those up to the age of 18 years; in Canada, we think of 'children' as being pre-puberty, and 'youth' as being older than that but not yet adults.

The UN defines a Child Friendly City as:

Since Habitat II, thinking about child friendly cities globally has placed increasing importance on the role of local governments. This tool kit is designed to assist both elected officials and government managers to understand the concepts and to put into place policies and practices that will make our communities more child and youth friendly.

> **"a local system of good governance committed to fulfilling children's rights."**

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Child Friendly Cities

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child can be divided into four groups of rights:

Rights associated with **Playing a Part** in their communities and cities, and their governance and management.

A city that allows children and youth to play a part is an **inclusive city.** It includes children and youth in the city's operations.

Inclusion rights include:
- Participate in family, community and social life
- Being included in decision making, and influencing decisions about their city
- Freedom to join with others and to express their opinion on the city they want
- Freedom to receive information from many sources.

> Ensuring that children and youth can play a part in their communities.

Rights associated with **Reaching Potential**, and having the resources that all children and youth need to reach their own potential.

A city that allows and provides the resources for children and youth to reach their potential is an **adaptable city.**

It provides children and youth the adaptability or resilience to overcome obstacles and to reach their potential.

Adaptability rights include:
- Access to formal education
- Access to informal educational settings such as places for play
- Access to culture and identity, both as an individual and as a member of a group
- Participation in cultural and social events.

> Ensuring that children and youth can reach their potential.

Rights associated with **Living Well**, which for many children means the right to basic needs and survival.

A city that provides the basic services for all children and youth and builds on those services to create a rich living environment is an **equity city.**

Equity rights include:
- Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation
- Access to food and shelter
- Receive basic services such as health care
- Have green spaces for plants and animals
- Live in unpolluted environment
- Access to the same standard of living as other members of the community
- Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability.

> Ensuring that all children and youth live well.

Rights associated with **Being Free From Harm**, protected from the many evils that afflict children and young people.

A city that protects children and youth from harm is a **secure city.** It offers children and youth the **security** to live their lives and to reach their potential.

Security rights include:
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- Walk safely in the streets on their own
- Be protected from narcotics and sexual exploitation
- Be excluded from being a soldier
- Be fairly and fully represented in the justice system.

> Keeping children and youth free from harm.

Why is Being a Child and Youth Friendly Community Important to Municipalities?

Children are young citizens, and are guaranteed the right to express their views and to be heard on matters that concern them. This right is enshrined in *Article 12* of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) to which Canada is a signatory.

Children's participation is a process, with empowerment as the outcome. Within municipalities, it can occur in many different settings:

> **"The well-being of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy society and good governance."**
>
> *Habitat II*

- **Project development** – small projects undertaken by municipal staff can have impacts on children and consulting children, especially where they are the prime users, is both courteous and a good business practice. Larger projects, such as the renovation of a recreation facility, often involve input from users; children are users, and they must be included in the consultation.

- **Program management** – involving children and youth in programs that serve them begins as a form of program evaluation, but should also be a part of program development. Such consultation must also extend to those major projects where children and young people are only one group involved; examples would include major transit planning or the development of the municipality's Official Community Plan.

- **Policy advice** – children and young people have a right to be involved in decisions that affect them. This includes the 'big picture' questions that are discussed at the levels of senior management and Council. Councils often establish Youth Councils that can serve as a mechanism by which children and youth views are brought to these senior level forums. The effectiveness of such youth councils must be regularly assessed to ensure that they do not slip toward tokenism.

> **"Cities that offer high-quality lifestyle amenities to some groups are likely to view quality of place in general as being very important"**
>
> *The Rise of the Creative Class - Florida, Richard (2002), page 296.*

Participation must occur at all these levels. They will all contribute to a more positive approach to children and youth by adults, and to a greater sense of self worth among the city's young people. It is important that all departments advocate for children's participation beyond departmental, and City, boundaries. The actions of many other government agencies, and not-for-profit organizations impact youth. Ensuring that children and young people can advocate for their own interests in areas such as transportation, policing, education and health services is also key to ensuring a child and youth friendly city.

Why is Children's Participation Important?

Building child and youth friendly communities and involving children and young people in the processes of civic government is important for several reasons:

- **Services will be improved** – children's involvement in decisions that affect them will ensure better targeted and more effective services.

- **It makes good financial sense** – involving children and young people leads to simpler and more cost effective solutions. This means money well spent.

- **It will lead to the better functioning of democracy** – empowering children and responding to their input will show them that democracy works. Respecting their advice will make them more respectful of others, both now and when they are adults.

- **It will enhance the quality of life for children, youth and their families** – which is a fundamental goal of all government actions.

The municipality will gain information about children as clients: their changing attitudes, needs, likes and interests. This will allow staff to provide quality services and reduce access barriers to those services. Children also bring fresh perspectives and new ideas about services, policies and ways of doing business. Involving children in the evaluation of services that are designed for them will also mean that these services are assessed on the basis of actual as opposed to presumed needs.

- Children will gain better skills, self-confidence and self-esteem, which will help them in all aspects of their lives. They will gain better understanding of government, of civil society and of the private sector, and how to influence them. And they will benefit from new and improved services that are more responsive to their needs.

- The wider community will gain a more vibrant democracy through the involvement of children and young people. Local community cohesion will be enhanced with children more clearly visible as contributing members of society, included in the community, not excluded from it. Empowering children will also raise aspirations for the community: we will all benefit from their energy and desire for a better future.

The goal must be to make the involvement of children and young people in all aspects of city life simply routine and unremarkable. There are few roles that they cannot assume, given information, training and support. There are many ways that they can be involved, although this will sometimes mean adapting the processes to ensure that they work for children as well as adults.

The Capacity of Children and Young People to Participate

We recognize that children of different ages have different skills and levels of knowledge that allow them to participate in different ways. While there is much literature about the processes of childhood learning, some of the key pointers for children's participation include the following:

- As children grow, they gain skills and maturity that allow them to participate: first within their family, then in their local neighbourhood, and only later in the wider city. In order to do this independently, they require high skill levels in such attributes as independence, social and political awareness. If children do not have all these skills, it does not mean that they cannot participate; just that they need greater support from older children and adults. However becoming engaged with the wider city at a younger age is a vital part of civic education.

- There are many different kinds and styles of learning, with some children being good at art, for instance, and others at talking. Participation processes that offer multiple ways of being involved are more likely to be successful.

- Children are good at sorting out who is good at one thing and who at another. Leave decision making to children in groups.

- Efforts to engage young children should be done in conjunction with parents. However, efforts to involve this age group must be undertaken carefully in order to avoid being regarded as tokenism.

- The energy that characterizes 'middle childhood' (ages 6 to 12) can be harnessed for participation, as long as adult roles are focused clearly on support and advice.
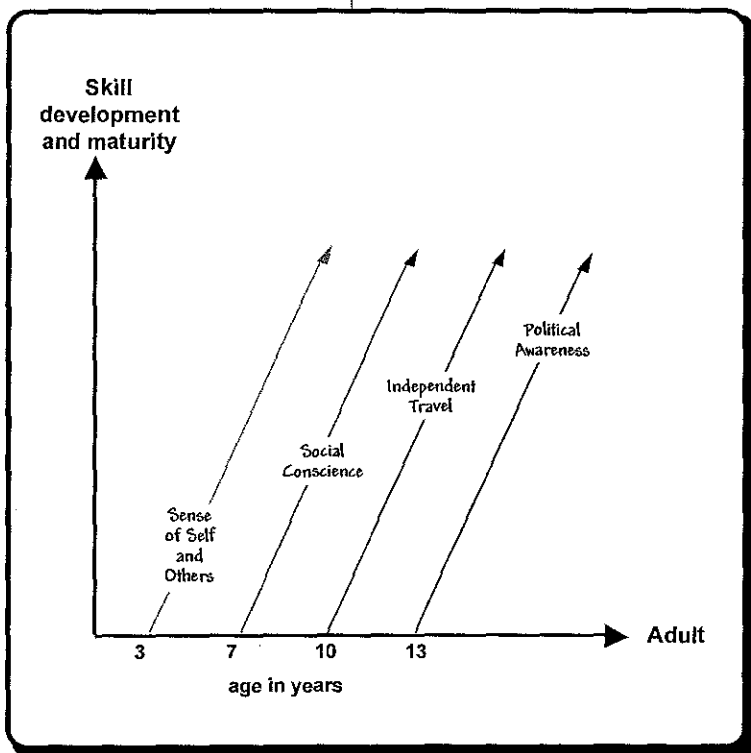
- By their teenage years young people have a social conscience, political awareness and the ability to move around the community. They are ready for the full range of participation opportunities.

- Processes need to be inclusive and offer roles and channels of involvement for all children, recognizing differences of gender and ethnicity. Processes need also to be made open for children with special needs.

Skill development and maturity

Political Awareness

Independent Travel

Social Conscience

Sense of Self and Others

Adult

3   7   10   13

age in years

Who is at the Cutting Edge of Child and Youth Friendly Communities?

Langley, BC – Mayor and Council of this Fraser Valley community of approximately 80,000 people, have established a Child Friendly Impact Assessment and Development Approval Procedures which must be conducted by all applicants for development permits. It is part of a broader initiative to make their community more livable. The report that proposed this approach suggested a set of indicators for increasing resiliency, security, livability and capability of Langley for children and young people.

Promising Initiatives:
- In 2005, the Township of Langley amended its Zoning Bylaw to ensure that all multi-family developments over 4 units include a 'Child Friendly Amenity Area'. This would be a minimum of 70m² in size and be equipped with children's play equipment including swings, slides, spring toys, climbing structures, seating, lighting, a mixture of hard and soft surfaces, and landscaping suitable to withstand the rigours of a children's play area.

Vancouver, BC – The City of Vancouver has developed a series of initiatives focused on increasing the livability of the City for children and youth. One of the earliest (1978) was a report entitled 'Housing Families at High Density'. In the 1990s, a series of initiatives around child care were developed, and in the late 1990s, the Civic Youth Strategy was developed. While none talk about 'Child and Youth Friendly Vancouver', the guiding principles are embedded in their approaches.

Promising Initiatives:
- The City employs young people to form a Youth Outreach Team whose role is to work directly with youth to achieve the City's four key objectives for youth, namely:
  - ✓ ensuring that youth have "a place" in the City
  - ✓ ensuring a strong youth voice in decision-making
  - ✓ promoting youth as a resource to the City
  - ✓ strengthening the support base for youth in the City

West Vancouver, BC – In 2002, the District of West Vancouver developed a Civic Youth Strategy. This promotes five strategic approaches to the implementation of a policy statement, as follows:
- Create a broader vision for youth recreation;
- Give youth a stronger voice in local government;
- Improve the image of youth in the community;
- Use civic resources for youth development;
- Bring a youth perspective to civic policy development and planning.

Promising Initiatives:
- Gleneagles Adventure Park is a massive bowl complex and BMX/Mountain Bike dirt jump/trials park.

Who is at the Cutting Edge of Child and Youth Friendly Communities?
(continued)

Edmonton, Alberta – In 2005, City Council brought together a number of programs into a single approach entitled Child Friendly Edmonton.

> *Promising Initiatives:*
> - Every two years the City will fund the development of a State of Edmonton's Children Report. The first report is due to be published in 2007/08.
> - The City will implement the use of a decision-making filter that assesses the child friendliness of corporate programs, services, facilities, bylaws and policies. This tool may identify areas of change and assist with identifying what can be done to make every decision more positive for children and youth.

Calgary, Alberta – A not-for-profit organization named Child Friendly Calgary was formed in 1992, and it has worked very closely with the City of Calgary with a number of projects. However, it intends to continue operating at arms length from city government.

> *Promising Initiatives:*
> - The Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) program offers young people of junior and senior high school ages an opportunity to engage in volunteer projects, 2005-2006 was a record-breaking year for YVC. There were 849 volunteer projects, 146 community agencies were served, and over 1800 youth volunteers completed 40,000 hours!
> - Youth for the Future is an annual gathering in October that addresses barriers between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal youth.
> - Business Accreditation Program – For twelve years, businesses who want to earn a "seal of approval" have been inspected and reviewed by a team of children, youth and parents through the Child and Youth Friendly Calgary.

Ottawa, Alberta – very shortly after Child Friendly Calgary was formed, a similar group emerged in Ottawa named Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa (CAYFO). It too is a not-for-profit organization with very strong links to both the municipal government and to the private sector.

> *Promising Initiatives:*
> - Spirit Youth Awards – Each year CAYFO presents the Spirit Awards, a for-youth by-youth program for local youth. Awards are presented at an annual Gala Awards Night.
> - National Child's Day – Every year CAYFO celebrates National Child's Day in the Canadian Senate.

- page 11

Who is at the Cutting Edge of Child and Youth Friendly Communities?
(continued)

London, England – The City of London has 1.7m children, and in 2003 initiated a strategy document entitled 'Making London Better for Children and Young People'. It focuses on all children aged 0/18 years.

Promising Initiatives:
- One initiative will make travel on London Transport (buses, The Tube, etc.) free for all children under 18 by 2008.
- London Playday – not only has the City of London developed guidelines for all its constituent authorities on how to prepare a Play Strategy, it also celebrates with an annual Playday. In August 2004, Trafalgar Square was turned into a giant playground. Over 15,000 children and their families attended the fun event that provided children with the opportunity of enjoying a variety of free play activities.
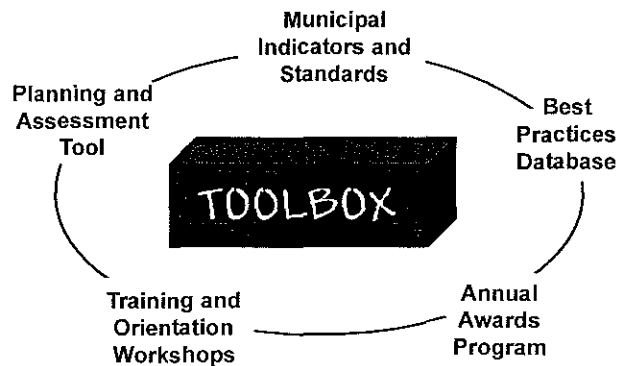
Italian Cities – many Italian cities have a child friendly initiative; there are 79 references noted in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities database. Many cities are looking at how children can use public spaces and can move easily around the city.

State of Ceará, Brazil – in the state of Ceará (Brazil) municipalities were encouraged to compete to obtain a Municipal Seal of Approval, based on their performance in meeting children's needs and rights. The Seal has mobilized 98 per cent of local authorities in Ceará to achieve significant reductions in infant mortality rates and child malnutrition and to improve the quality of basic education. The results have been objectively measured by means of indicators monitored by the municipalities, the state and UNICEF.

For further information on child friendly cities around the world, check UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Secretariat's database at **www.childfriendlycities.org**.

The Child and Youth Friendly Communities 'Tool Box'

Society for Children and Youth of BC advocates for children and youth in BC and supports BC municipalities and other agencies to develop child and youth friendly communities. Its 'tool box' will eventually have five elements, as follows:

Municipal Indicators and Standards

Planning and Assessment Tool

Best Practices Database

TOOLBOX

Training and Orientation Workshops

Annual Awards Program

Recognition of best practices through the annual awards program has caused various of the award recipients to ask "can we now say that our community is child and youth friendly?" The answer is "not really". The award may recognize some aspect of the community, such as a recreation program or community garden, as a 'best practice', but being a 'child friendly community' means that all parts of the community are, to a greater or lesser extent, child friendly.

How can communities assess their progress toward this nirvana of child friendliness? This is where indicators and standards come in.

Indicators are statistics that, when taken together, paint a picture of the community. They provide a 'benchmark' which is simply 'where we are now', and allow communities to assess their progress from one year to the next. This allows them to set targets and develop policies, strategies and actions to achieve these targets.

Standards are statements of intent or achievement. While indicators are 'normative' (simply numbers), standards are more judgmental: they help to put the indicators into a context that is the progression from 'not child friendly' to 'really child friendly'.

Using Indicators

Many communities want to know whether they can call themselves 'child and youth friendly', or how they can measure or assess their degree of child and youth friendliness. This question can also be phrased as 'how can communities measure their implementation of the UNCRC or their commitment to children's rights?'

The purpose of our set of indicators and standards is to help communities know where they stand, about what they can be justly proud, and help them to determine where they need to move forward.

Why are Hard Numbers Important?

Indicators are statistics that, when taken together, paint a picture of a community. They provide a 'benchmark' which is simply 'where we are now', and allow communities to assess their progress from one year to the next. This allows them to set targets and develop policies, strategies and actions to achieve these targets.

What Makes a Good Indicator?

One indicator is of limited value. It is only 'a snapshot' and of only one piece of the jigsaw puzzle! The power of a set of indicators is much greater since, when they are looked at together, they show a better picture of the complete puzzle.

A good indicator must also reflect the workings of part of the civic system, and we have designed the tool kit with eight such systems in mind. Our aim is that the complete set of indicators reflect the state of children and young people within this civic system.

Indicators are limited to the data that is available. In Canada many agencies produce statistics that can be used for indicators: Statistics Canada for the Census, and Local Health Authorities are examples. In selecting indicators to include in this tool kit, we have limited our selection to those data sets that are available at the local level province-wide. We recognize that this is a limitation, and would encourage communities to select and use other local data. In turn, we hope that, by sharing these other indicators, we can stimulate the development of more comparable data across the province.

Society for Children and Youth of BC will keep this indicator data in a database which will be regularly updated. When we send you the tool kit, the indicator data will be as up-to-date as it can possibly be. If you would like to update this data on a regular basis, just request a new printing of the tool kit.

Who else uses indicators?

There are many other social policy initiatives that make use of indicators. They are used extensively to help all levels of governments to assess less tangible concepts. Some examples include:
- The United Nations Human Development Index
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life Index
- United Way of the Lower Mainland's Community Profiles.

Using Standards

Standards help us to see where we stand regarding less tangible factors which cannot be captured through indicators. Standards are a way of painting a picture of what a child and youth friendly community would look like. We use two levels:

- **Getting Started** – there are lots of activities that municipalities can take to make themselves more child and youth friendly. Many municipalities are just starting this process...everybody has to start somewhere.

- **Leading-Edge Communities** – not a place to stop...all municipalities can and must continue to strive for greater child and youth friendliness...but certainly communities that reach this level in all eight areas are to be congratulated (which is why we have the Child and Youth Friendly Communities Annual Awards!).

It's About Action!

Our standards and indicators are designed with action in mind. To move from one level toward the next will take planning and action...small steps start the long journey. Many communities are already working on initiatives and projects that will move them toward greater child friendliness. The tool kit will help communities to identify where existing projects may be enough, and in which areas action is really needed.
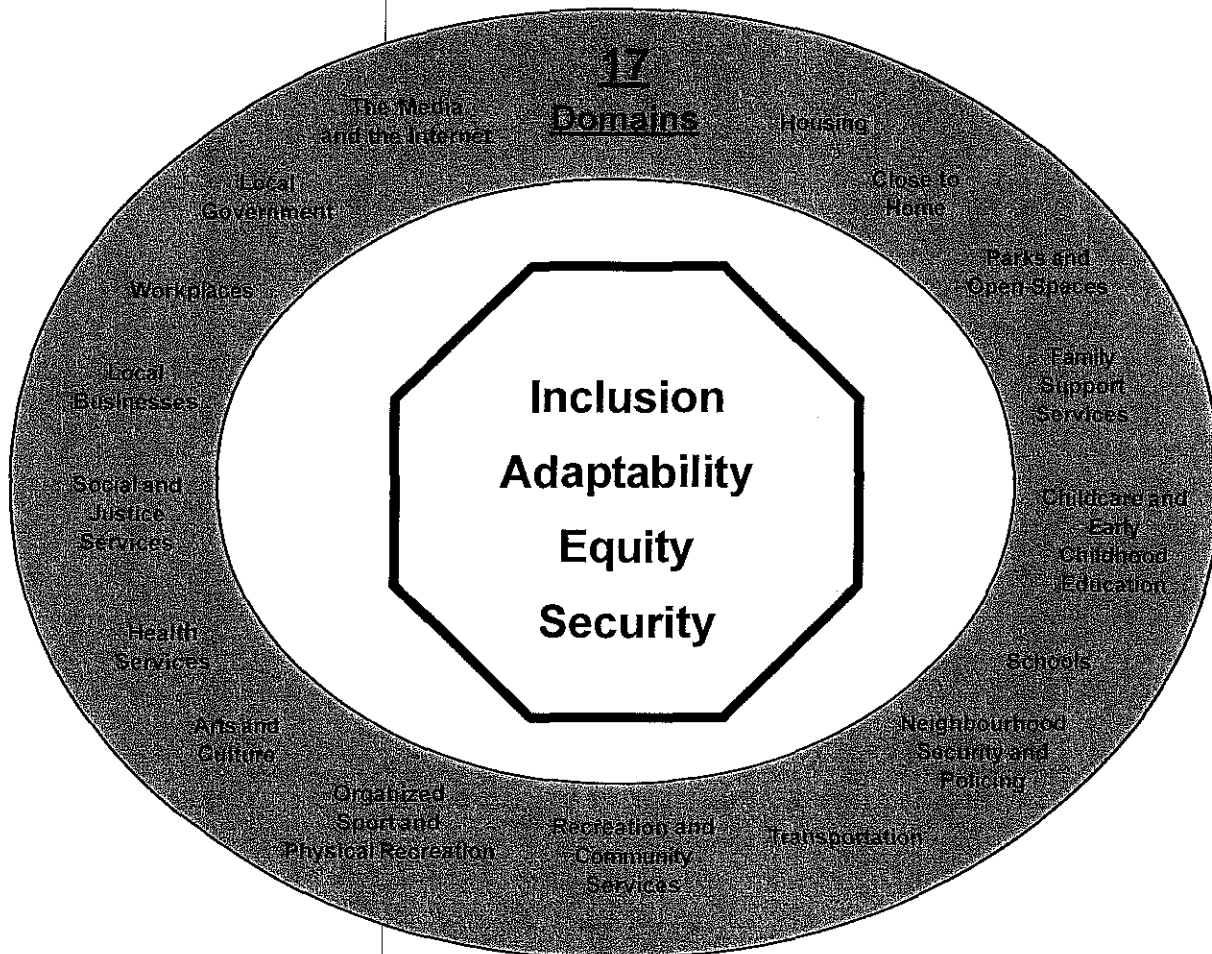
The Self-Assessment Process

This booklet will allow municipalities to develop a planning process based on the unique situation of their communities, described both quantitatively through the indicators, through an assessment of the more intangible factors reflected in the standards. With this knowledge, action can be planned. The self-assessment process will allow assessment of a number of key questions:

- How much do we collectively know about our community's child and youth friendliness, and the role of the municipality in tackling the associated problems?
- What are our local strengths and challenges, and in what areas do we simply not have enough information to distinguish one from the other?
- What action is already happening, and how much of it is successful?
- Where do we have a capability to do more, and where are more resources required?
- What actions, both short term and long term, should be initiated?

A Child and Youth Friendly Community Is ......

Society for Children and Youth of BC is also mindful of the many real life issues facing children and youth and their families in the city. They want to ensure that, based on planning for Child and Youth Friendly Communities, action occurs in many different 'domains' if communities are to serve all the interests of children and youth, and be truly child and youth friendly.

Previous work has identified 17 'domains' where action can occur. These are aligned to the normal government jurisdictions or 'silos'. The focus was on 'means' with the 'ends' of equity, adaptability, security and inclusion as the core of the model, and the link to the UNCRC.

17 Domains

The Media and the Internet

Housing

Local Government

Close to Home

Workplaces

Parks and Open Spaces

Local Businesses

Family Support Services

Social and Justice Services

Childcare and Early Childhood Education

Health Services

Schools

Arts and Culture

Neighbourhood Security and Policing

Organized Sport and Physical Recreation

Recreation and Community Services

Transportation

Inclusion

Adaptability

Equity

Security

The task is to integrate these different conceptual frameworks into one around which indicators can be developed.

About the Social Sustainability Model

The GVRD has developed a model for developing social sustainability strategies. While these obviously apply to all age groups, a child and youth friendly communities strategy is also a social sustainability strategy. The GVRD model links the same four guiding principals (equity, adaptability, security and inclusion) to seven themes and we have added an eighth theme, namely "Caring".

Our adapted model looks as follows:
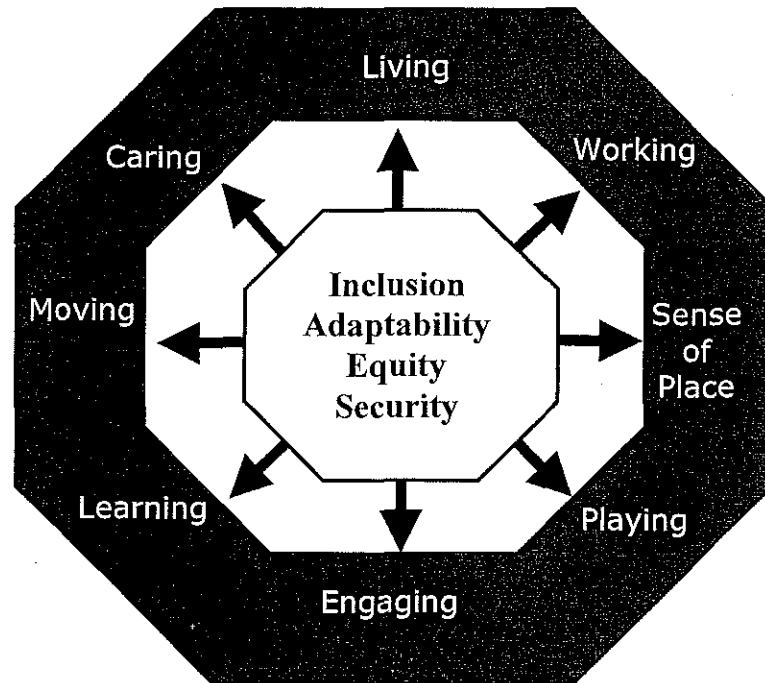
Using This Tool Kit

While we know that different communities will use this tool kit in different ways, there are some general guidelines that we would suggest that you follow:

- Make sure that the group of people who come together to review and use the tool kit are representative of the total community – include a variety of ages (including children and youth, of course), genders, and experience in the community. Include elected officials and government managers.
- Give participants time to read and digest the information, and to think about child and youth friendliness in the community.
- Define the geographic area of interest. This is not necessarily the city as a whole, but could be a community, neighbourhood, or even a broader region. Do not worry that the scale of some of the indicators does not match exactly the geographic area you choose.
- Start off by looking at the Community indicators on the next page. Use that exercise to talk broadly about the community. Also, use that discussion to focus in on one or two of the 8 domains to use as your starting point.
- Then move on to those domains.
- Think first about the indicators:
  - ✓ Brainstorm what do they tell us about that particular domain in the community?
  - ✓ What other data does your municipality or community have that will paint a better, broader picture of that domain?
  - ✓ What goals can you set, and what actions will help you meet them?
- Then move on to the related 'Standards' page:
  - ✓ After reading the two descriptions of a community that is 'getting started' and one that is 'leading edge', where would you place your community now ... and where do you want to aim for in the future?
  - ✓ With this goal in mind, what actions will take you toward this goal in this aspect of child and youth friendliness?
- Do not think that you have to address each of the eight domains at one sitting! But taking a holistic approach to the community implies that you will look at them over a period of time.
- Once you have finished your assessments, you will need to consolidate the actions into a report of some kind. Your municipality will no doubt have its own requirements for reporting this information back to Council.

Some Notes About Data and Where It Comes From

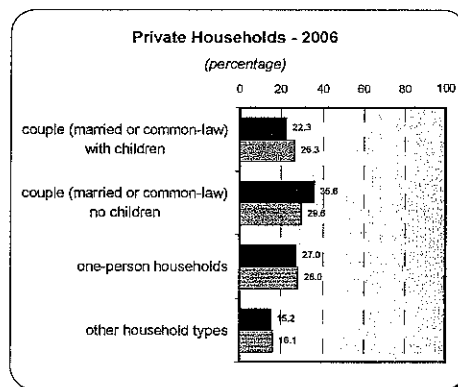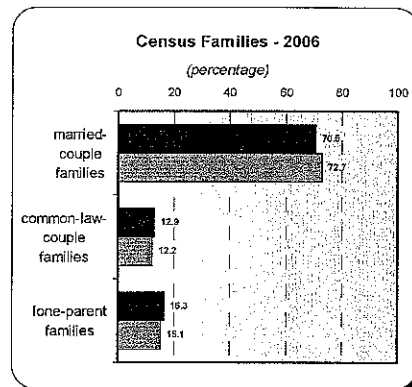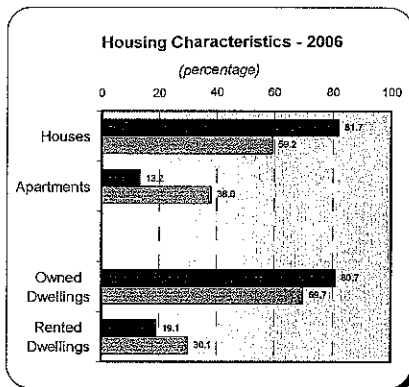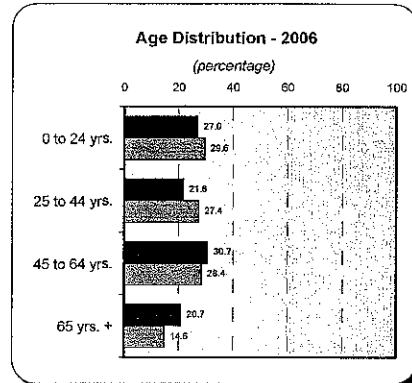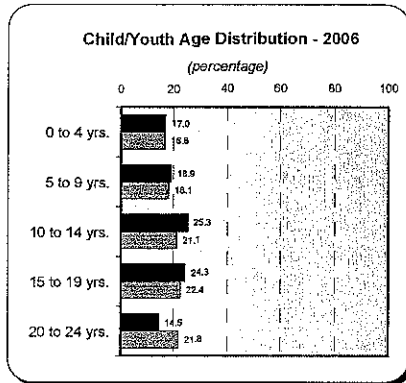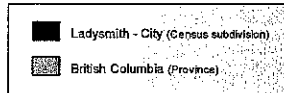The data presented in this tool kit comes from a variety of sources:

- **2001 Census** – this is the last census for which complete data is available. In addition, this data has been available for long enough that other agencies have been able to re-work and re-organize it to show other characteristics.
- **2006 Census** – this is the most recent census and data will be released gradually through until the end of 2008. We will use this data as it becomes available, although it will firstly be available for municipal areas.
- **Provincial government agencies such as the Ministry of Health and MCFD** also releases statistics pertinent to their areas of interest. The Ministry of Health also re-works all the census and other data to provide a comprehensive coverage of the province with data by local health areas. It is these LHA profiles that are the primary source of data for the tool kit. However, these areas are often very different from municipal boundaries, especially in more rural areas of the province (see map below).
- **The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC** has produced extensive reports on aspects of early childhood, and that data is also used where appropriate.

In other data areas, we have had to go looking for data. For instance, data on 'emerging' is scarce: we use data from Elections BC. We must all work together to identify other data sources that can fill out these profiles and paint a better, broader picture of the lives of children and youth.
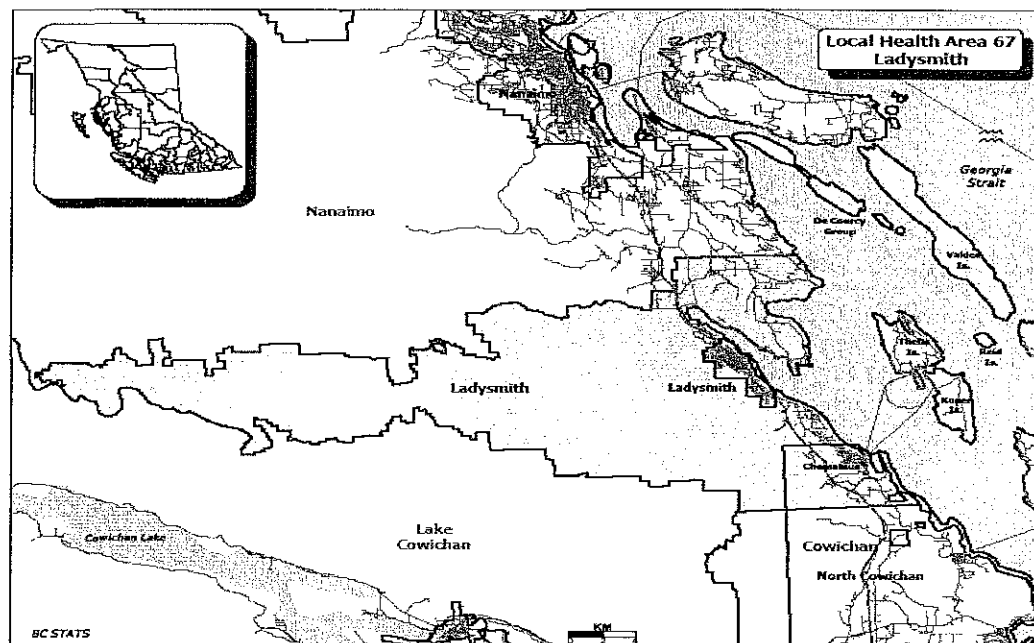
Your Community Indicators

Before we start thinking about particular aspects of the community, we must think broadly about children, families and the community. Here are five charts from the 2006 Census to start this thinking:

Legend:
- Ladysmith - City (Census subdivision)
- British Columbia (Province)

Child/Youth Age Distribution - 2006
(percentage)

Age group	Ladysmith	British Columbia
0 to 4 yrs.	17.0	16.8
5 to 9 yrs.	18.9	18.1
10 to 14 yrs.	25.3	21.1
15 to 19 yrs.	24.3	22.4
20 to 24 yrs.	14.5	21.8

Age Distribution - 2006
(percentage)

Age group	Ladysmith	British Columbia
0 to 24 yrs.	27.0	29.6
25 to 44 yrs.	21.8	27.4
45 to 64 yrs.	30.7	28.4
65 yrs. +	20.7	14.5

Housing Characteristics - 2006
(percentage)

	Ladysmith	British Columbia
Houses	81.7	59.2
Apartments	13.2	38.0
Owned Dwellings	80.7	69.7
Rented Dwellings	19.1	30.1

Census Families - 2006
(percentage)

	Ladysmith	British Columbia
married-couple families	70.8	72.7
common-law-couple families	12.9	12.2
lone-parent families	16.3	15.1

Private Households - 2006
(percentage)

	Ladysmith	British Columbia
couple (married or common-law) with children	22.3	26.3
couple (married or common-law) no children	35.6	29.6
one-person households	27.0	28.0
other household types	15.2	16.1

31

Your Community Indicators

What can we say about the lives of children
from the charts on page 20?

Where should we start in our planning for a more child
and youth friendly community?
Which aspect should we look at first?

- Living

- Working

- Sense of Place
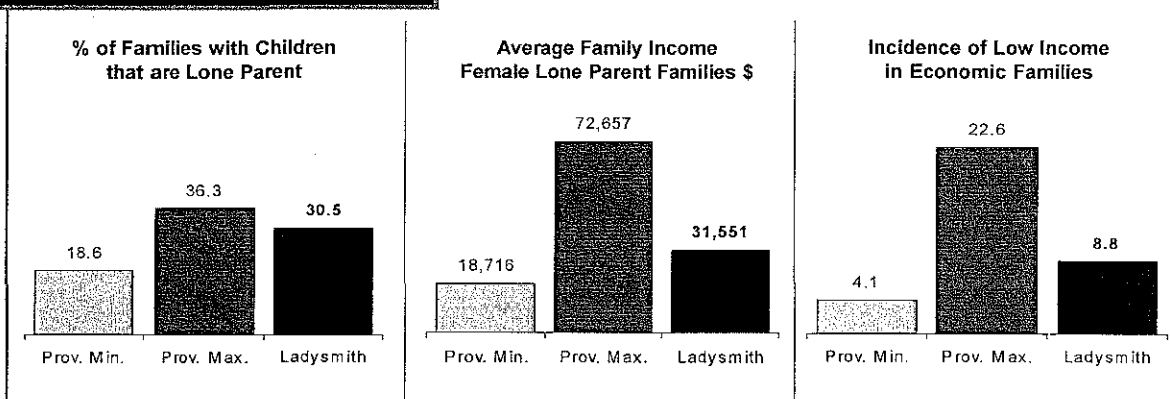
- Playing

- Engaging

- Learning

- Moving

- Caring

- page 21

32

Children's most fundamental needs are covered under this heading: housing, food and family income. A child and youth friendly community must support families in their efforts to find affordable housing, to provide nutritious food, and overcome all the stringencies that come from living on a low income. For these essentials of living, most of the policy decisions are at the provincial and federal levels, leaving communities only a support role. However community interventions can go a long way to bringing the quality of life of disadvantaged families up to community norms; examples might include: providing breakfast and lunch programs in schools, ensuring a range of affordable recreation programs and collaborations that supply essential supplies to children. We know that lone parent households are more likely to experience these problems; additional supports for these families will also increase the overall child and youth friendliness of the community.

Indicators:

% of Families with Children that are Lone Parent

- Prov. Min. — 18.6
- Prov. Max. — 36.3
- Ladysmith — 30.5

Average Family Income Female Lone Parent Families $

- Prov. Min. — 18,716
- Prov. Max. — 72,657
- Ladysmith — 31,551

Incidence of Low Income in Economic Families

- Prov. Min. — 4.1
- Prov. Max. — 22.6
- Ladysmith — 8.8

Other Indicators:

Goals and Actions:

By (date) our community will have reached these goals:

By these actions:

For municipal councils to produce an excellent child and youth friendly community, it must take action in the following areas: development planning, affordable housing, emergency housing, information and referral systems, food policy planning and service integration.

	We are:	
	Now?	In the Future?

Getting Started:

- Issues concerning the involvement of children and youth in development planning, and the outcomes of such planning for children and youth, occasionally come to the attention of Council.
- Discussion of emergency accommodation for families with children is underway.
- Council relies on not-for-profit agencies to disseminate information on services.
- Council relies on the market to meet the housing needs of families with children.
- Some schools have breakfast and/or lunch programs and children's nutrition is regarded by Council as an area of school board policy.
- The coordination of services for children and youth are integrated through the Municipal Manager's office and by Council direction.

Leading Edge Communities:

- All major development approvals require a child and youth impact assessment to be conducted.
- The Official Community Plan addresses issues of housing affordability for families, and provides for a variety of sizes, types and tenures of housing in all parts of the municipality.
- Safe housing is available for all ages of children and youth, with or without their parent(s).
- A housing referral service provides information and advice on child friendly housing.
- The municipality financially assists the development of co-op housing for families with children.
- Municipal development planning focuses on the integration of services for children and youth -- housing, transportation, recreation, care, etc.
- The municipality takes a comprehensive approach to food systems as they impact children, from community gardens to school meals.

What actions do we need to take to improve this aspect of our child and youth friendliness?

- page 23

34

Children and youth are impacted in two main ways by the world of work: their parents work which impacts their patterns of care; and young people enter the workforce from the age of 15 onwards (although recent changes in BC legislation have allowed children aged 12 to 15 years to work with their parents' permission). Providing the adequate support systems that allow parents to work and their children to be well cared for again lies principally in provincial and federal jurisdictions, but communities can reinforce these systems: examples might include allowing home based businesses, and providing adequate child care (both 0/6 and before/after school care). The municipal governments can also model and promote family friendly policies that allow their employees to balance work and family life. Supporting young people as they enter the workforce can also be an area for community activity. Examples might include: promoting youth-safe workplaces which are free of discrimination, bullying and harassment, as well as ensuring adequate training to keep new workers free of injury; and encouraging work experience and mentorship programs. Again, municipal governments have a responsibility to be model employers.

Indicators:

**Licensed Child Care Spaces
per 1,000 Children Aged Under 13 Years**
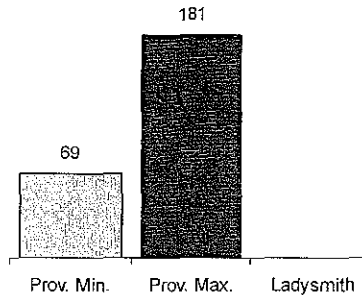
181

69

Prov. Min.   Prov. Max.   Ladysmith

Other Indicators:

Goals and Actions:

By (date) our community will have reached these goals:

By these actions:

For municipal councils to produce an excellent child and youth friendly community, it must take action in the following areas: being a model employer, childcare policies and planning, development planning, work experience and mentoring, employment of students, and young worker safety.

	We are:	
	Now?	In the Future?

Getting Started:

- Municipal employment standards meet provincial and national statutes.
- There has been some discussion by Council of the importance of child care, but no concerted approach has yet been formulated.
- All aspects of young worker employment is seen by Council as the responsibility of the province and other agencies.

Leading Edge Communities:

- Local government human resource policies and practices reflect an understanding of the need for their employees to find a balance between work and family. Council is recognized as a model employer in this regard.
- A comprehensive community child care policy is in place, which also addresses the affordability of care.
- Development planning encourages home-based businesses.
- Council models and promotes work experience and mentorship programs for young people in local businesses.
- Council, school board and local business associations have a code of conduct that covers all aspects of the employment of students (ages 12 to 21) who work part-time.
- Council takes a proactive role in promoting the safety of young workers in local industries.

What actions do we need to take to improve this aspect of our child and youth friendliness?

- page 25

Children and young people need to have a positive sense of where they belong.
This sense of place comes from many factors:

- Local heritage and culture and how they are celebrated through community events and festivals.
- Parks and trails, greenways and bike paths, all contribute to the relationship with nature that hold special importance for children as they grow up.
- Completeness of the local neighbourhoods and the ability for families to maximize their time together, as opposed to continual travel for children and adults to school, to work, to local amenities.
- High quality air and water are also fundamental human rights for children and adults.

Indicators:

Hospitalization Rates of Children 0 to 14 per 1,000 Population for Respiratory Diseases

37.4

21.1

5.8

Prov. Min.   Prov. Max.   Ladysmith
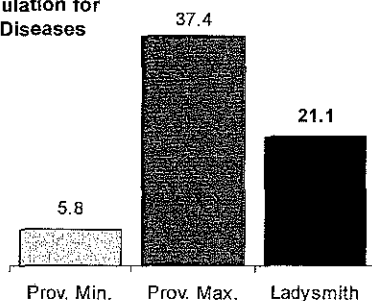
Commuting Distance (km) for Employed Labour Force 15 Years and Over
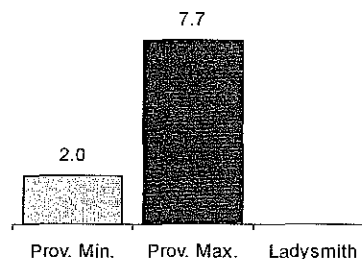
7.7

2.0

Prov. Min.   Prov. Max.   Ladysmith

Other Indicators:

Goals and Actions:

By (date) our community will have reached these goals:

By these actions:

STANDARDS: Sense of Place

For municipal councils to produce an excellent child and youth friendly community, it must take action in the following areas: neighbourhood spaces and places, community events and festivals, the role of education in building a positive sense of place, and children and youth as stewards of local environments and heritage.

Getting Started:

- Children and youth are sometimes involved in the planning of local parks and open space.
- Community centres are recognized as child and youth friendly spaces.
- There are one or two community events each year and children are encouraged to participate in the event (but not the planning).
- There is little understanding of the opportunities that the community offers for children's education.

Leading Edge Communities:

- All neighbourhoods have completed 'child and youth assessments' and have plans in place to upgrade as necessary.
- Council supports a broad range of community festivals and events with seed funding, action kits, and other resources.
- Local schools promote field trips and community exploration as part of the curriculum. Council encourages these groups of students to report back to them about their experiences, their learning and their recommendations.
- The role of children and youth as stewards of local parks, streams and local history and heritage is embedded in the policies and practices of all local government agencies.

We are:	
Now?	In the Future?

What actions do we need to take to improve this aspect of our child and youth friendliness?

- page 27

Play is vitally important to the growth and development of children and young people. It is both a spontaneous and unstructured activity and also a structured process often associated with skill development, and normally organized by adults. This organized play or recreation includes sport, cultural activities, outdoor programming and many other forms. It is organized by municipalities, by not-for-profit groups (such as soccer clubs or girl guides), and through individuals (such as music teachers). Access to these activities are widespread, but are usually offered on a user pay basis; it is essential to ensure access to children and youth from low income families. Unstructured play occurs when children and youth just 'hang out' together. This may be when they are of pre-school or kindergarten age when it occurs close to home, at the local park or in the street (such as street hockey) for those in middle childhood, or farther afield for teenagers. Wherever it happens, risks must be managed and safety ensured.

Indicators:

Other Indicators:

Goals and Actions:

By (date) our community will have reached these goals:	By these actions:

For municipal councils to produce an excellent child and youth friendly community, it must take action in the following areas: structured play through recreation programs, unstructured play in parks and open spaces, the environment as a place for play, and play for all children and youth.

We are:

Now?	In the

Getting Started:

- The municipal recreation department offers programs for children, primarily aged 0 to 12 years.
- Most neighbourhood parks include some children's play equipment.
- There are funds available for subsidizing recreation program costs for families, but these policies are not well promoted or advertised and the application procedures are cumbersome.

Leading Edge Communities:

- Council recognize play as a critical childhood activity, and have developed and implemented a Children's Play Strategy.
- Children can play throughout the municipality in safe streets, parks, woods, and open space, as well as in the recreation centres and through recreation programs run by municipal and not-for-profit groups.
- Play opportunities are both affordable and accessible in a non-stigmatizing manner, for those who cannot afford the established rates.
- The needs of all age groups are met in parks...youth parks, skateboard parks, adventure play parks, children's water parks, etc.

**What actions do we need to take to improve this aspect of our child and youth friendliness?**
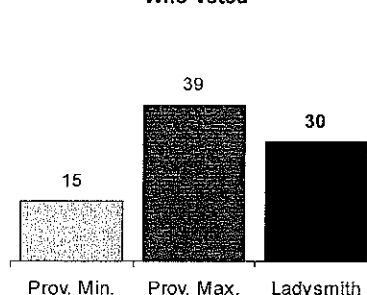
Engaging

Children and youth have the right to be engaged in the their communities. As a community, we want them to become contributing and engaged citizens. Older youth, once they reach the age of 18, have the right to vote in all elections. Before that age, their engagement is reliant on locally developed policies and practices; examples would include Youth Advisory Councils and programs such as 'Mayor for the Day'. This broad-scale engagement is very important, but so is project specific engagement. This may be on topics that are of concern to children and youth, such as building a youth centre of skate park, or on more general issues, such as the construction of a multi-age recreation centre or a new transit line. Again, it is critical that age-appropriate and culturally-appropriate consultation practices be employed.

Indicators:

% of Eligible Voters Aged 18 to 24 Who Are Registered
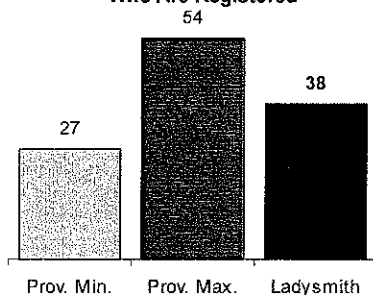
Prov. Min.	27
Prov. Max.	54
Ladysmith	38

% of Eligible Voters Aged 18 to 24 Who Voted

Prov. Min.	15
Prov. Max.	39
Ladysmith	30

Other Indicators:

Goals and Actions:

By (date) our community will have reached these goals:

By these actions:

For municipal councils to produce an excellent child and youth friendly community, it must take action in the following areas:

Getting Started:

- Council has some mechanisms to hear from children and youth but seldom are issues significant, and seldom does action result from these discussions.
- There are no actions designed to encourage youth to vote in local government elections.
- Any communication with 'youth' is conveyed via print materials.

We are:	
Now?	In the Future?

Leading Edge Communities:

- There is a specific Civic Children's Strategy and a Civic Youth Strategy. These strategies encourage and include mechanisms for all children and youth to become engaged (i.e. both participative and representative democratic approaches).
- Council policies require specific consultations with children and youth as part of all major planning initiatives.
- All council members have designated responsibilities re communicating with children and youth either on a neighbourhood basis or regarding city-wide issues.
- Local media are encouraged to have a 'youth voice' and to employ youth reporters.
- Council use primarily electronic media to communicate with children and youth — websites, e-mail, listserves, etc.
- The school board regard children and youth as their customers, not as an input to or output of a learning process.

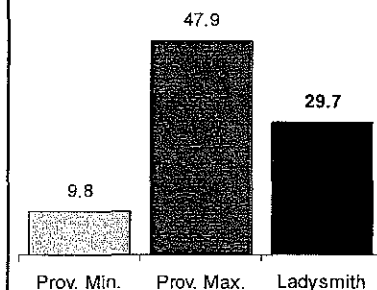**What actions do we need to take to improve this aspect of our child and youth friendliness?**
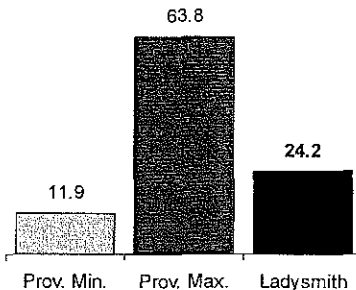
Learning happens from early childhood through elementary and secondary school years, and on to post-secondary education. In all communities, education from ages 5 to 19 is universal; this is not the case for either early childhood education or post-secondary education.

Indicators:

% of Students Below Standard in Reading - Avg Gr. 4, 7 & 10	Grade 12 Provincial Exam Non-Completion Rate - English	% of Population 15 to 24 Attending School Full-Time
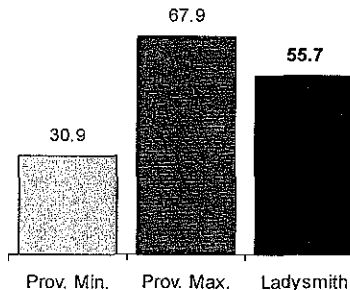
47.9	63.8	67.9
29.7	24.2	55.7
9.8	11.9	30.9
Prov. Min. Prov. Max. Ladysmith	Prov. Min. Prov. Max. Ladysmith	Prov. Min. Prov. Max. Ladysmith

Other Indicators:

Goals and Actions:

By (date) our community will have reached these goals:

By these actions:

For municipal councils to produce an excellent child and youth friendly community, it must take action in the following areas: early childhood education, community schools and community libraries, learning values as well as skills, and service integration.

	We are:	
	Now?	In the Future?

Getting Started:

- Learning is the function of school for children and youth.
- Recreation programs are primarily about learning skills.
- Schools are rented to not-for-profit groups for recreation programs in the evenings, but seldom are on weekends.
- The library is for borrowing books, but also runs some children's story time programs.
- There is very little early childhood education for most children aged 0 to 5 years outside the home.

Leading Edge Communities:

- Council embraces a 'learning community' concept that sees learning occurring in many venues and for many ages as opposed to just in schools for children ages 5 to 19 years.
- Council is committed to the integrated delivery of early childhood education, child care, and recreation programming for the 0 to 5 year age group.
- Council has guiding principles which see children and youth recreation programs (both those run by the municipality and by not-for-profit organizations – sports, arts, etc.) as venues for learning skills and positive values (such as Fair Play).
- Council assists, financially and in other ways, the school district to make all schools 'community schools'.
- Libraries are venues for community learning and literacy.
- Environmental education and stewardship are key functions of the municipal parks department.

What actions do we need to take to improve this aspect of our child and youth friendliness?
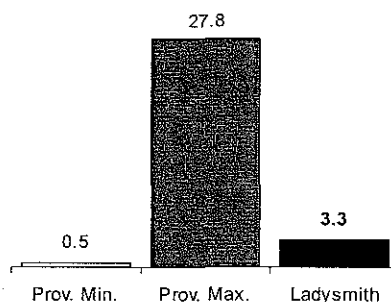
INDICATORS: Moving

Children and young people need to move around their communities in order to access the many resources that they need for their daily lives. In their youngest years, adults make sure that they arrive safely by driving them or accompanying them on foot, by bike or by bus – younger children seldom travel alone. But as they grow, it is important that they be able to use these modes of travel independently and safely. In order to do this, a community must ensure safe walking and bike routes, such as to schools, parks and local shopping areas; safe, accessible and affordable transit; and that travel at times when young people are about, but transit services are not, is available in a safe and managed fashion. Many of society's problems stem from our acculturated use of the car; acquainting children and young people to alternate modes of transport is critical to the long term protection of the environment.

Indicators:

**Death Rate for 15 to 24 Year Olds
from Motor Vehicle Accidents
(per 10,000)**

	27.8	
0.5		3.3
Prov. Min.	Prov. Max.	Ladysmith

Other Indicators:

Goals and Actions:

By (date) our community will have reached these goals:

By these actions:

STANDARDS: Moving

For municipal councils to produce an excellent child and youth friendly community, it must take action in the following areas: walking and biking plans, public transit, and involvement of children and youth in transportation planning.

	We are:	
	Now?	In the Future?

Getting Started:

- While most schools provide places to park bikes on school grounds, most children are driven to school by their parents.
- There are discontinuous systems of sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Major transportation planning, even those initiatives which directly involve children and youth (e.g. graduated licensing), seldom consult children and youth in any meaningful way.
- While children and youth receive age discounts on public transit, the cost is a disincentive to use.

Leading Edge Communities:

- Council, jointly working with the school district, ensure that every school has a school transport plan which includes physical improvements (e.g. sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, temporary road closures) and programming (e.g. walking school buses), whose outcome is that a higher proportion can walk and bike safely to school.
- Child/youth impact assessments are prepared for all major transportation plans.
- The 'free bike' or 'blue bike' program is endorsed by Council.
- All neighbourhoods have an official walking/biking plan.
- Travel for children and youth on public transit is free for those under 18 years of age.
- Council encourages the development of car co-operatives for young drivers to ensure that they can travel safely once public transit ceases in the evening/night.
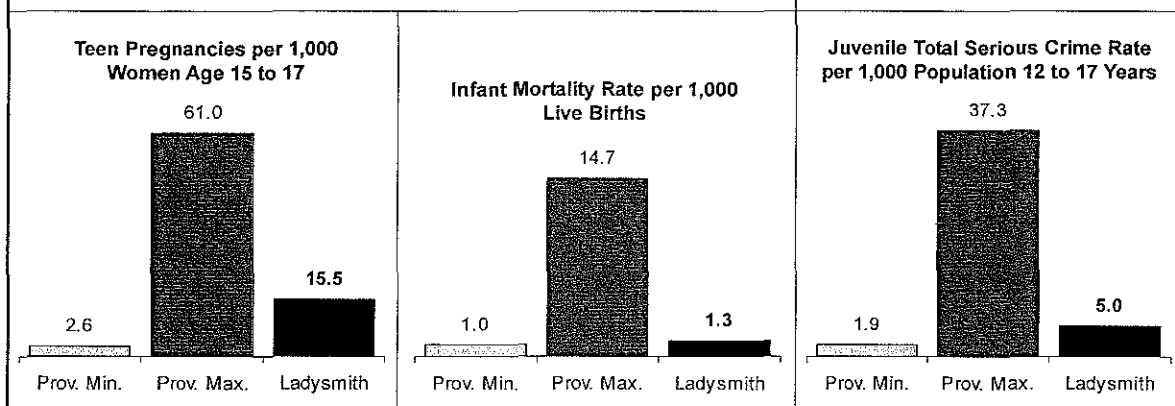
What actions do we need to take to improve this aspect of our child and youth friendliness?

- page 35

46

INDICATORS: Caring

As communities, we must care for children and youth in those circumstances where their parents are not able to provide for them. For children who become sick, the health system cares for their needs. For children whose parents are not able to care for them, the child welfare system intervenes. For children and youth in trouble with the law, the criminal justice system steps in with its more structured version of care. Most of these caring systems are funded and managed by the provincial and federal governments, but local communities can and must be involved.

Indicators:

Children in Care per 1,000 Population 0 to 18

1.6	34.7	15.5
Prov. Min.	Prov. Max.	Ladysmith

Teen Pregnancies per 1,000 Women Age 15 to 17

2.6	61.0	15.5
Prov. Min.	Prov. Max.	Ladysmith

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births

1.0	14.7	1.3
Prov. Min.	Prov. Max.	Ladysmith

Juvenile Total Serious Crime Rate per 1,000 Population 12 to 17 Years

1.9	37.3	5.0
Prov. Min.	Prov. Max.	Ladysmith

Other Indicators:

Goals and Actions:

By (date) our community will have reached these goals:	By these actions:

STANDARDS: Caring

For municipal councils to produce an excellent child and youth friendly community, it must take action in the following areas: health service support, family support services, social support programs including those for youth in contact with the justice system.

	We are:	
	Now?	In the Future?

Getting Started:

- Council generally distances itself from the provision of social or health services to children and youth, regarding them as areas of 'provincial downloading'.
- Family support service providers receive some municipal support through community grant programs.

Leading Edge Communities:

- Councils advocate for and provide funding and other support where necessary, for a system of caring that includes:
  - Comprehensive public health programs, including home visiting, for children age 0 to 5 years.
  - Support for a wide range of not-for-profit agencies providing family support programs to children and youth and their families.
  - Provision of in-school support services for children with cognitive, physical, mental or other challenges.

What actions do we need to take to improve this aspect of our child and youth friendliness?

LOCAL YOUTH RESOURCES

Compiled by the Cowichan Valley Youth Caregivers Project

Crisis and Emergency Services

IF YOU ARE IN A SITUATION THAT INVOLVES *IMMEDIATE* RISK OR HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS, PLEASE CALL 911.

<u>Crisis Society</u>

24 hour Crisis & Information lines

Cowichan: 250-748-1133
Nanaimo: 250-754-4447
Suicide line: 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

For people in emotional crisis.

<u>Youth Against Violence Line</u>

Phone: 1-800-680-4264

Call anytime to: Stop a violent or criminal activity that you know is about to take place, such as a fight, robbery or drug trafficking. Give information about a violent or criminal activity that has already taken place to stop it from happening again. Get help with other issues you may be dealing with, such as gangs, bullying, harassment, intimidation, and sexual assault. All calls will be handled by a police officer that works with youth in your community.

First Nations Youth Activities

<u>Cowichan Tribes</u>

Kwam Kwum Tthun Shqwaluwun - Youth Centre

5526 River Road, Duncan
Cherie White. 250-746-0607

The Cowichan Tribes Youth Centre provides youth with a safe and positive environment to hang out, have fun and learn. Youth are able to participate in community event planning, join youth groups, study and interact with other youth. Free.

First Nations Army Cadet Corp

5526 River Road, Duncan
Cherie White. 250 746 0607
Email: Cherie.White@cowichantribes.com

This is a new Army Cadet Corp that will be made up of all First Nations Youth and will be based in Cowichan. Free, but you must register.

Wisdom Seekers & Knowledge Keepers

Contact Hwiemtun/Fred Roland at 250-710-5384
E-mail: hwiemtun@wilderness-international.org

Learn about conservation of traditional territory and natural resources, develop leadership skills, learn cultural teachings, participate in community service, travel to Germany on a youth exchange. (Cost: $500 for exchange). For Cowichan Tribes Youth ages 14-18 and their parents.

Health Centres and Walk-in Clinics

Beverly Medical Clinic (Walk-in)

201-2763 Beverly Street, Duncan (at Beverly Corners)
Phone: 250-597-3390

Margaret Moss Health Unit

675 Canada Avenue, Duncan
Phone: 250-709-3050
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Services: Birth Control, Sexual Health (testing, treatment, counseling), Pregnancy support.

Open Door Birth Control Clinic

721 First Avenue, Ladysmith
Phone: 250-245-1040

Birth control clinic staffed with doctors and nurses. Affordable birth control choices, testing and treatment for STDs, pregnancy testing, counseling.

Ts'ewulhtun Health Centre

5768 Allenby Road, Duncan
Phone: 250-746-6184
Hours: 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday

Several support groups and counseling available by counselors who are professionally trained and culturally respectful. See website for more info.

Valleyview Treatment Centre

Medical Walk-in Clinic

27-1400 Cowichan Bay Rd, Cobble Hill
Phone: 250-743-9395

Mental Health and Wellbeing (Counseling, Support Groups, etc.)

Boys to Men Program

The Cowichan Men's Resource Centre

Grant Waldman, Director - Boys to Men Canada West
Phone: (250) 597-2801
Email: info@cowichanmen.org

This program mentors adolescent males between 12-17 years of age into their passage from boyhood to healthy manhood. With the understanding that inside each boy is a "man of honor," boys are guided to discover their own individual strengths, talents and gifts. Rite of Passage Adventure (ROPA) weekend provides an insightful and meaningful experience. Minimal costs, funding available.

Canadian Mental Health Association

371 Festubert Street, Duncan
Phone: 250-746-5521

Affordable counseling for children, youth and their families.

Free counseling for children and youth who are dealing with issues involving disordered eating and also around sexual abuse/misconduct. Neither of these services require a referral.

CMHA also offers a program called Rainbows, a 12 week grief and loss group (Jan and Sep).

Child and Youth Mental Health - Ministry of Children and Family Development

Duncan office:
161 Fourth Street, Duncan BC
Phone: (250) 715-2725

Provides a wide range of services to help children and youth with mental health. Free.

Community Options Society

200 Cowichan Way, Duncan
Phone: 250-748-0232

Counseling, mediation, independent living support, parenting courses and support groups.

Services are for youth 13 to 19 years of age, their families and young parents to 26 years of age. Free.

COS also offers the following programs:

Girl Power! An educational, skill-building and creative group designed to introduce girls to concepts and skills that promote a positive self-image. For girls ages 10-13.

Gay Straight Alliance Group. A club that strives to improve school climates for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Meetings are once a week and include movies, community events, education, support, great snacks and lots of fun. For 13-17 year olds of any sexual orientation.

Still Warriors. Boys will have an opportunity to express ideas, identify and normalize a full range of emotions while strengthening their resilience. For boys ages 10-13.

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society (CWAVS)

#103-255 Ingram Street, Duncan
Phone: (250) 748 7000

CWAVS works from a feminist perspective to provide a supportive environment for victims and children who have been affected by abuse. We support diversity, change, choice and growth through counseling, advocacy, emergency shelter, community development and education.

Discovery Youth and Family Addiction Services - Central Island

200 Cowichan Way, Duncan
Phone: (250) 737-2029

Provides counseling for youth who are experiencing difficulties related to their own or another person's substance use.

Kids Help Phone

Toll-free 1-800-668-6868

An anonymous and confidential phone and on-line professional counseling service for youth. Big or small concerns. 24/7. 365 days per year.

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Duncan District Office
161 - 4th St. Duncan
Phone: (250) 715-2725

- Intake & Investigation
- Family Service
- Guardianship & Fostering
- Adoption
- Youth Probation
- CYMH/CYSN

Services for Aboriginal Children & Families:

135 Craig St. Duncan
Phone: (250) 715-2737

- Intake & Investigation
- Family Service
- Guardianship & Fostering
- Youth Probation
- CYMH/CYSN

Youth Caregivers Project

Facilitator: Dan Vaillancourt
Phone: 250-746-0989 / Cell: 250-732-4502
Email: dan@familycaregiverssupport.org

Support Group: Youth caregivers meet every second Wednesday (4:30-6:00) at the Family Resource Centre at Alexander School, Beverly Street, Duncan.

Meet new friends that are also caregivers. Share your challenges and listen to theirs. Find help and support from other youth caregivers.

Resource Team: Members meet every second Wednesday (3:30-5:30) at the Family Resource Centre at Alexander School, Beverly Street, Duncan.

Be part of a dynamic group that advocates for youth caregivers.

More helpful links:

Youth In BC

Teen Relationships

Recreation

Cowichan Aboriginal Film Festival

200 Cowichan Way, Duncan
Michelle Staples: (250) 746-7930
Email: aff@cowichan.net

Youth FX film festival workshops in April ($75.00 for 3 days). Youth activities (film screenings, etc.) are by donation. Some other activities like carving workshops are free.

Cowichan Intercultural Society

#101-255 Ingram St, Duncan
Phone: (250) 748-3112
Email: office.cis@telus.net

Services to immigrants, education and volunteer opportunities to the wider community. Individual, family, youth and community programs. Free.

Drop-In Zones

Chemainus (Old Chemainus Fire Hall)

Crofton (New Crofton Community School)

Phone: (250) 246-4217
Email: chappell@northcowichan.ca

Meet up with friends new and old, and shoot a game of pool, play the Wii or just chill on the couch. Get to know the awesome leaders and find out what else is happening in and around the Valley. Free.

Hiiye'yu Lelum (House of Friendship)

205 - 5462 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan (behind Serious Coffee)
Phone: (250) 748-2242

Youth centre: Various activities including pool, video games, arts and crafts, board games, movie nights and youth workshops.

Special events throughout the year include pool tournaments, Halloween and Christmas parties, multi-cultural nights, and day camps during Spring Break and Summer Holidays. Homework support and computer access. Free.

New Life Youth (Faith-based youth group)

New Life Community Baptist Church

1839 Tzouhalem Rd, Duncan

Tammy Klassen: 250-748-6521
Email: tammy@newlifechurch.ca

New Life's youth ministry is a place for youth to meet God and grow in their faith, to meet friends and have fun together, and to meet people who truly care about them. Free.

Two youth groups: Xtreme (Grades 7 & 8) Oxygen (Grades 9-12)

U-Fix It Bike Works and Youth Craft Shop

51 Trunk Road, Duncan
Phone: 250-746-5521

Build a bike and many other crafts and creations. Open Tuesday-Friday from 2:30-5:30 and Saturdays from 12-4. Ages 10-18. Free

Youth Corner

Island Savings Centre, James Street, Duncan
Phone: 250-746-0417

Pool table, Board Games, Art Supplies, Nintendo Wii - Rock Band and other games, MAC Computer with Internet, Space for and help with homework, Leadership Opportunities and much more! Ages 12-18. Free.

Studies and Work

Career Planning and Job Search

The Cowichan Region has many organizations that provide services and programs at no cost to job seekers. With one click, discover the organizations that can help you with your job search or career change.

Cowichan Valley School District

Listing all schools in the district. Also information on programs and events.

Literacy Now Cowichan

213b 80, Station Street, Duncan
Phone: (250) 597-1776
Cell: (250) 732-2831
Literacy Outreach Coordinator: June Hughes

FREE adult tutoring classes for anyone over 18 or Youth not in school. This can be anything from improving reading and writing skills to filling out forms, or helping to prepare for Driving tests.

We would also like to encourage youth to volunteer to help seniors/adults with technology challenges. This can be navigating the internet, emailing or Facebook challenges.

Vancouver Island University

E-mail: info@viu.ca
Toll-free: 1-888-920-2221

Transport

BC Transit

Bus schedules and maps.

School District 79

School Bus Routes and Info.

Volunteer Opportunities for Youth

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Cowichan Valley

24-127 Ingram St, Duncan, BC
Phone: (250) 748-2447

Teen Mentors spend 1 hour per week with a child who has been identified as benefiting from a little extra TLC. The Teen Mentor plays games, reads books, and participates in arts and crafts, sports or activities both the Teen Mentor and the Child enjoy.

Skills and Experience: Must be going into Grade 10 or currently in Grade 10-12 at Cowichan or Chemainus Secondary. No experience required.

Literacy Now Cowichan

213b 80, Station Street, Duncan
Phone: (250) 597-1776
Cell: (250) 732-2831
Literacy Outreach Coordinator: June Hughes

FREE adult tutoring classes for anyone over 18 or Youth not in school. This can be anything from improving reading and writing skills to filling out forms, or helping to prepare for Driving tests.

We would also like to encourage youth to volunteer to help seniors/adults with technology challenges. This can be navigating the internet, emailing or Facebook challenges.

Youth Caregivers Project

Facilitator: Dan Vaillancourt
Phone: 250-746-0989 / Cell: 250-732-4502
Email: dan@familycaregiverssupport.org

Resource Team: Members meet every second Wednesday (3:30-5:30) at the Family Resource Centre at Alexander School, Beverly Street, Duncan.

Be part of a dynamic group that advocates for youth caregivers.

Indicators and Their Function in Understanding Youth Safety

What are *indicators*?

Indicators are numbers that are used to represents trends. They can be used to track measurable change in a trend. An indicator focuses on very specific, observable, and measureable information.

Example: The number of youth on Income Assistance is an indicator of family poverty.

Several indicators can be combined to provide an *index*.

Example: BC Stats creates a *composite index* of youth at risk by combining or aggregating data on the percent of youth on income assistance, the percent of 18 year olds who do not graduate from high school, and the number of youth serious crime offences per 1,000 population.

The information that is tracked by indicators is *data*.

Example: BC Stats tracks the percent of people under 19 years of age who receive income assistance on a quarterly basis.

Dec '09   3.8

Mar '10   3.9

Jun '10   3.7

Sep '10   3.3

Selecting indicators

When determining a set of indicators to use for a project it is critical to think about what the community values. Indicators can measure gains in conditions that are valuable and important.

Example: Education is valuable because it helps to equip people for employment, leisure activities, life skills, and active community participation. High school completion rates are an indicator of educational levels in a community.

Some indicators can track behaviours or events which are not desirable. These indicators can alert the community to problematic trends.

Example: The youth serious crime rate is an indicator of how many young people are engaged in serious property and serious violent crime.

Indicators can be used to measure conditions that promote resiliency and wellness in a population.

Example: The rate of volunteerism among youth can indicate how connected youth are to the community and how well they feel a sense of belonging.

1

It is a good idea to choose some of each type of indicator to get a well rounded picture of community well-being.

A good set of indicators will be able to track changes in conditions over time, create a relatively holistic picture of the issue being studied, is easy for people to understand, and has data that can be easily collected or measured.

An excellent set of indicators will inspire action and motivate people to create change.

Indicators of Youth Safety and Well-being

Below is a list of possible indicators that CSAC might select to measure youth safety and well-being in the Cowichan Region. The list is not exhaustive but is a good start. It would be a good idea to include youth in selection of indicators that we use.

# of youth in care

Suicide rate

Drug use-(age at first use, age at referral for services)

Youth crime rates/ juvenile arrests

Youth homelessness

Family violence

Bullying

Teen pregnancy

Risk taking behaviours (smoking, unprotected sex)

Youth homicide rate

Youth injury rate

# of youth on youth agreements

# of youth living at or below the low income cut off (LICO)

Youth on Income Assistance

Youth unemployment rate

Youth employment rate

High school completion rates

and type of restorative justice programs

2

"Positive ticketing"

# of youth volunteering