

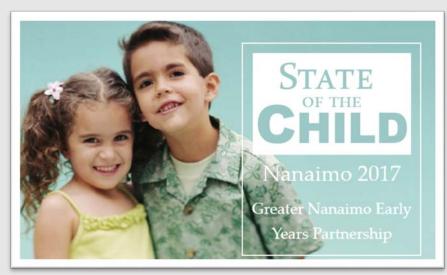
# The Greater Nanaimo Early Years Partnership (GNEYP)

is a diverse group of engaged community partners

working to improve the healthy development of children ages 0 to 6.

www.nanaimoearlyyears.org





State of the Child report – Nanaimo 2017

The report advocates for strategic investments in the first years of a child's life and highlights how our community supports the positive development of young people.

- ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (every two years)
- ✓ Assesses the well-being of children in Nanaimo
- ✓ Various measurements including :
  - Family economics
  - Poverty
  - Newborn health
  - Child Development and Special Needs
  - Aboriginal ancestry
  - School-readiness
  - Etc...

#### How are Nanaimo kids doing?

# Key Findings

## **Family Economics**

- \$79,194 average family income. A 14.8% increase from 2011
- \$45,560 average lone-parent average income. A 14.5% increase from 2011
- 35% of families are lone-parent (78% single mothers). A 5.6% increase since 2011
- 14% increase in the cost of residential home from 2015
- 10% increase in rent for a 2-bedroom home from 2014 to 2015
- 17.3% of people live in poverty. Consistent from 2011

# **Aboriginal Families**

- 8.1% of Greater Nanaimo identify from the 3 First Nations communities
- 15% of children under 15 years identified as Aboriginal
- Aboriginal students graduating within 6 years of Grade 8 was 56.4% 2014 was 63.9%

# **Children in poverty**

- 24.6 % of children under 5 live in poverty
- 20.9% of children under 5 lived in poverty in 2011
- 33% of people accessing the Food Bank are children
- 8,058 different people in 2016 required food banks

# **Children in need of protection**

- 3.5% of children were in need of protection
- This is 75% higher than the BC average
- 53% of children in protection are aboriginal. Consistent with provincial stats

## **Health and Wellness**

- Wait times of up to 1.5 years exist for children with special needs to receive treatment
- 72.2% of children receive full immunization. Up from 61%.
- 44% Grade 3&4s reported sufficient physical activity. Down from 66% in 2011
- 91% of same grades reported eat or drink healthier food or beverages
- 68.2% of children in kindergarten have no dental decay
- 49% said they had eaten 5 or more fruits or vegies in a day. Down from 61% in 2011

## **Child-Friendly Environments**

#### 1. Low cost recreation

- Leisure Economic Access Pass
- LEAP program
- City drop-in programs with \$5 per child fee
- Free sponsored swim and skate sessions
- Access to many special events

## 2. Parks and Playgrounds

- 13 destination parks
- 90 neighbourhood parks
- 4 destination playgrounds
- 26 sports fields
- 4 water parks
- Etc...

## 3. Libraries

• 45% increase in attendance from 2014

## A sampling of recent positive developments

- 1. G.N. Early Years partnership now offers robust website for family information
- 2. G.N. Early Years partnership offers Early Years Healthy Start Fairs
- 3. Nanaimo CDC hosts Family Knowledge nights
- 4. Baby Bed program introduced
- 5. Tillicum Lelum Young Mothers Housing Program
- 6. Snuneymuxw Health Centre Building Beautiful Babies program
- 7. PacificCare Child Care Resource & Referral program
- 8. Kwumut Lelum 4 Seasons Early Years programs
- 9. Multicultural Literacy kits
- 10. Unplug and Play promo campaign
- 11. Playboxes in 3 City parks
- 12. Family Magazine published 2x per year

# Some solutions

A "whole community effort" yields the best outcomes

- Enhanced support of healthy food access
- Enhanced access to low-cost, no-cost library programs
- Enhanced access to low-cost, no-cost recreation programs
- Enhanced support of the GNEYP initiatives such as the Baby Bed program, the Unplug & Play and the Healthy Start Fairs

Our "ask" of Council

 ✓ Council explore seeking designation for Nanaimo as a UNICEF Child Friendly City (<u>http://childfriendlycities.org/</u>)

✓Ongoing support for a Poverty Reduction Plan

✓ Continue to enhance low cost recreation access

✓ Keep kids as a priority when making decisions at City Council.