

## **Statement for June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Nanaimo City Council**

In 2015, Scott Bradford, the former Executive Director of the Nanaimo Child Development Centre spearheaded the concept of creating an inclusive playground for the City of Nanaimo and began doing preliminary research. A partnership was put together which included: The City of Nanaimo, Nanaimo Association for Community Living, Nanaimo Child Development Centre, Rotary Clubs of Nanaimo & Lantzville, and Pacificsport.

The vision was a gathering place for children and adults to play and engage with their natural surroundings in a safe, inclusive space that was accessible and welcoming to people of all ages and abilities.

In 2018, the NCDC was successful in accessing a grant from the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island for \$100,000 for this project.

AT NCDC we are incredibly thankful to the City of Nanaimo and the Children's Health Foundation for investing in this exciting project. We sincerely express our appreciation and gratitude to everyone who was and is part of this initiative to create accessibility, celebrate inclusion and build our community."

The benefits of the new playground will extend to people of all ages and abilities. Inclusive spaces benefit the entire community. Adults with mobility limitations can swing and engage in active play with their children, rather than watching from the sidelines and grandparents feel confident with stable ground surfaces.

Participation in playgrounds leads to the development of social and emotional skills that can have a lifetime of impact. When children play, they learn to build relationships with peers, solve problems, experiment, invent and generate ideas. Mental and physical health is also improved and there is a proven reduction in the risk of many health conditions. The creation of this accessible play space will provide the opportunity for all children to experience these benefits.

Thank you to the City of Nanaimo and all of the other partners for realizing our vision and making this essential investment in our community

Dominic Rockall  
Executive Director

*The NCDC provides support, assessment and therapeutic services to approximately 1,800 children and their families in Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Lantzville, Gabriola Island and Protection Island areas each year. The NCDC offers specialized assessments to children who live in the areas listed above as well as Duncan, Ucluelet, Tofino, Parksville and Qualicum Beach, who are thought to have Complex Developmental & Behavioural Conditions.*



**Operated by: Nanaimo Child Development Centre Society**  
**"Celebrating over 50 Years of Community Service"**