

CLAYOQUOT SOUND BIOSPHERE RESERVE REGION'S

VitalSigns®



Welcome to the Clayoquot Sound Vital Signs® 2012!



Clayoquot Biosphere Trust staff, Rebecca Hurwitz,
Adrienne Mason and Jean Jackson.

We acknowledge that reducing a complex system into one number does not fit with the Nuu-chah-nulth worldview and that's why we've tried to look at regional health from a variety of perspectives. Grounded in the idea of hishuk ish ts'awalk, everything is one, we can use this information to see the big picture.

From the Managing Director

This report provides a snapshot of our communities in numbers and stories. Bringing together data from a range of sources, this information describes the health of our region in areas that matter to us such as education, youth, environment and housing.

The process of producing this report was fundamentally collaborative. As far back as 2007, we began gathering input from our volunteers on indicators that are meaningful and important. Dozens of community members who are experts in their respective fields contributed their knowledge, experience and advice. And local youth completed a survey on youth issues and priorities, the results of which are captured within. To everyone involved, we would like to express our sincere thanks. Together we are building smart and caring communities.

Rebecca Hurwitz
Managing Director
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

From Our Co-Chairs

We see this report as another important step towards the goals first articulated by our communities during the nomination of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve in 2000. We are pleased to join other Community Foundations from across Canada that undertake these regular check-ups and plan to continue the reports every other year to unveil trends.

Why is this important? Because having a complete picture of where we are now will help us get to where we want to be as communities. We hope that this information will inspire you to be a more informed, active citizen and will help all levels of decision makers to make sound and strategic choices. We know that this information will inform our grant making programs and allow us to track the changes that result from informed community programs. And we are ready to work with donors who are eager to join us in responding to the needs and opportunities presented here.

We look forward to continuing the important work and dialogue that has started with this first Vital Signs® report.

Larry Baird and Don McMillan
Co-chairs, CBT Board of Directors

About Vital Signs®

Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Vital Signs® is coordinated nationally by the Community Foundations of Canada.

Why do we need a Vital Signs® report for the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region?

Vital Signs® is a check-up on the vitality of our region. By compiling this information and tracking it over time, we will deepen our community knowledge and provide a valuable tool for our foundation, residents, local governments, and other community groups, enabling us to develop innovative ideas that build a stronger region.

Who is included?

This report includes the eight communities within the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region (CSBRR): Hot Springs Cove, Ahousaht, Opitsaht, Tofino, Esowista/Ty-Histanis, Hittatsoo, Ucluelet and Macoah, as well as Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, Area C. Occasionally, figures are given for a broader region, however, wherever possible, we have tried to gather data specific to our region.

Abbreviations

ACRD-C Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Area C

CSBRR Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region

CVIH Central Vancouver Island Health*

VIHA Vancouver Island Health Authority

(*CVIH includes the Cowichan Valley, Alberni-Clayoquot, Qualicum and Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District catchments.)

Where is the data from?

For this report we used existing data from a variety of local, provincial and national sources. Much of the data was researched and reported by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards in Ottawa. (**A note about census data:** While the last complete census was done in 2011, only limited data has been released. As such, this report relies on 2006 census data for many indicators. While we recognized this data is now more than six years old, this is the only source of detailed community-level data and has the advantage of being collected in a consistent manner over many years and across many communities.)

The Youth Survey

Youth is one of the core priorities of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust so we wanted to give them a strong voice in our first Vital Signs® report. One hundred and forty-six high-school aged youth (approx. 12 to 19 years) completed the survey. This included 55% of the population of Ucluelet Secondary School. Although was a very good response rate, the data only reflects the opinions of those who responded and did not capture a significant portion of youth from Ahousaht or who have dropped out of school.

How is the report organized?

The CSBRR's Vital Signs® provides a snapshot of the trends on issues that are important to our quality of life. The report is arranged by eight key issue areas that contribute to our region's vitality. Under each of the issue areas, several indicators are evaluated using relevant data. The data show whether there is improvement or decline from previous years or how the region compares to British Columbia and/or Canada.

Using input from the community, we chose indicators that we felt were important to the region. We looked for indicators that revealed our strengths and weaknesses, that are of interest to our region, and that report on issues or trends that inspire action.

*Gathering this information
is just a first step.
It's what we all do with
it that really counts.*



2012 Report Highlights

Our region is young and growing

Unlike many other communities on Vancouver Island, our population is quite young with a median age of 34 years. As well, most communities are growing. Measured together, our population grew 9% since the last census in 2006.

Reviving traditional languages

A variety of groups and individuals are trying new initiatives to ensure Nuu-chah-nulth languages survive. The challenge is a large one, however, with only 3.1% of First Nation residents, most of them elders, being fluent speakers.

We are engaged and community-minded

There are close to 80 volunteer community organizations in the region and our municipal voting rates were well above the provincial average.

Our youth are active

While technologies such as gaming, texting and watching television are a large part of our youths' days, they are also active in sports, clubs and enjoying the beautiful setting in which we live. The strong tourism economy also means that most youth have summer jobs. Of the youth surveyed, 62% worked full- or part-time in the summer.

Some people miss out

Lack of public transportation and financial restrictions means that many youth—and adults too—are missing out on opportunities for sports and other activities and may also not be able to access the services they need.

Obesity and diabetes are a concern

Obesity and diabetes rates are high in our region and the incidence of these conditions continues to rise.

Healthy habitats

In general, marine water quality is good throughout the region. Still, there are concerns over the decline of wild salmon stocks and how climate change may affect the ocean in the future.

Re-thinking the definition of home

Many people in the region live in one community and work in another. Perhaps we are more regional than we think? More and more we are sharing human resources, our skills and our energy, from local government projects to community events.

Education is innovative, but not without its challenges

After recognizing some significant barriers, many local programs are in place to help our young students get off to a great start in school. And innovative programs such as Global Education, Sustainability Studies and Kayaking are providing unique opportunities only available on the west coast. Still, many students are failing to complete high school. This is a particular challenge for Aboriginal youth.

Housing is a challenge for many

Higher housing costs, seasonal employment, crowded housing and a large proportion of houses in need of repair, makes housing a challenge for many people. As well, there are few options for seniors and for women and children in need of housing after leaving abusive situations.

Higher cost of living

Seasonal employment, high food and rent costs, and the need for many residents to travel long distances (often by boat) to access goods and services challenges many residents.

How to Use This Report

Read

Take the time to read the report and reflect on the data and what it means to our region.

Reflect

How can we begin to think more as a region? We already share many services and resources, but how can we strengthen these networks for the benefit of the region?

Discuss

Talk about this report with your friends, family and neighbours. Share it with co-workers and board members.

Act

If you're moved by what you read, think of ways that you can participate.

Learn

Find out more about a particular topic that interests you or learn about the many organizations that are catalysts for change.

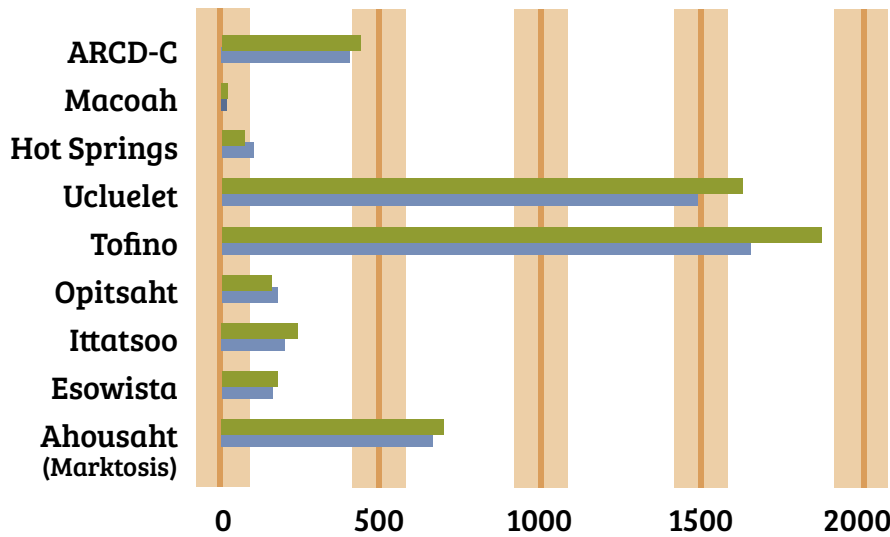
Support

There are dozens of organizations within the region that could benefit from your participation and/or financial support.

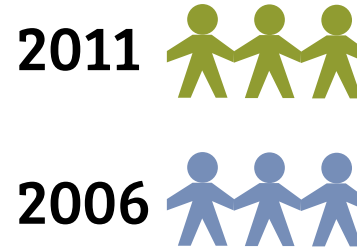
*Together, we can create smart
and caring communities.*



Our Region



POPULATION CHANGE in CSBRR Communities



Between 2006 and 2011 the **population** in the region **grew 9.0%**.¹

In 2011, the **median age** in the region was **34.0** years, compared to 41.9 years in British Columbia and 40.6 years in Canada. By community, the median age ranged from **23.3** years in Esowista to **48.2** years in Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Area C.¹

In May 2011, the total number of **children** (14 and under) in the CSBRR was **860**, which accounted for 16.9% of the total population. This is 0.2 percentage points **above the national share of youth** in total population (16.7%) and 1.5 percentage points above the provincial share (15.4%).¹

In May 2011, the total number of **elderly** (65 and over) in the CSBRR was **420**, which accounted for 7.9% of the total population. This is 6.9 percentage points **below the national proportion of elderly** in total population (14.8%) and 7.8 percentage points below the provincial share of elderly (15.7%).¹

16.2% of residents in the Alberni-Clayoquot region **identify as Aboriginal** compared to 5.8% for Vancouver Island and 4.8% for British Columbia.²

20.6% of the families in the CSBRR are **single-parent families**. This compares to 15.1% in British Columbia and 15.9% in Canada.³

Tofino Parks and Recreation



Belonging & Leadership

In 2010, **33 registered charities** were active on the west coast. Overall, they had 39 part-time employees, 21 full-time employees and contributed over \$3 million in annual expenditures to the west coast economy. ⁴

On the west coast there are approximately **80 community organizations** with a broad range of focuses from youth programs to search and rescue to salmon enhancement.⁵



68.3%
VOTER
Turnout

Compared to 61.1% in national and provincial polls.⁶

85% of youth surveyed strongly agreed or agreed with the statement: **I feel as if I belong** in my community, while only 45% strongly agreed or agreed that they had a say in how their community is run.⁷

What the CBT is doing...

- We compiled a Directory of Community Organizations in 2012. It's a great resource for finding a community organization to share your skills and energy with. Find it at: www.clayquotbiosphere.org/documents



Tofino Parks and Recreation

In 2011 **municipal elections**, **35.6%** of eligible voters in Ucluelet cast ballots, compared to 38% in 2008. In Tofino, **56.4%** voted in 2011, compared to 48% in 2008. Both communities were above the 2011 provincial average of 29.5%.⁸

What you can do...

- Lack of public transit, long distances, poor weather and boat travel make transportation a barrier to many people in our communities. Can you share a ride? Go to tofinorideshare.com
- Reach out to a senior in your community. Take them to a local event or appointment.
- Vote.
- Ask youth for their perspective on an issue.

Arts & Culture

Preserving and strengthening First Nations languages is a priority for our communities. There are at least **15 First Nation language initiatives** in the region, from “Language Nests” where elders share their language with youngsters, to Nuuchah-nulth language story books and interpretive signs, to the “Nuuchah-nulth Speaker” on Facebook. As well, there are many informal ways language is being passed on, such as over shared meals and at community gatherings.

In our region, **3.1%** of First Nation residents are **fluent in their traditional Nuuchah-nulth language**. A further 2.1% individuals speak somewhat or understand, and 5.7% identify as being learners.⁹

Local Leader

Elder Barb Touchie was recently honoured by the Yuuʔiʔat Nation for a lifetime of work helping to share and revitalize her community’s language and history.



Youth photographers from the **Hesquiaht Place of Learning** took many of the photographs in this report.

You can see more of their work at:
hesquiahtplaceoflearning.wordpress.com

Hesquiaht Place of Learning



In the CSBRR, industries related to arts, culture, recreation and sports employed 130 persons in 2006, 23.8% more than in 2001 (105 persons). This industry accounted for **2.5% of total employment** in the region. By comparison, these industries account for 3.5% of total employment in BC and 3.0% of employment in Canada.¹⁰

What the CBT is doing...

- We contributed \$4,450 to the Ucluelet Aquarium to help create interpretive signs in four languages: Nuuchah-nulth, English, French and Latin, and to bring elders and interpreters into the classroom to teach biology and cultural lessons.
- In 2012, we distributed \$6475 to literacy programs through funding provided by Decoda Literacy Solutions to the West Coast Dual Literacy Project.



Arts and cultural events held annually.¹¹

57% of surveyed youth said that in the last month they spent time drawing, painting, carving or **creating** some sort of art. 27% played a musical instrument and 50% did a hobby or craft.⁷



Brent Matsuda

The Westerly News



What you can do...

- Take a friend to a local arts event or volunteer your services.
- Buy gifts created by local artists.
- Listen to Long Beach Radio for Gisele Martin's show on the Tla-o-qui-aht language:
www.longbeachradio.ca/p/local-language.html
- Learn the Nuu-chah-nulth name for a local place.

Children & Youth

Using the most complete census data (2006), the **youth unemployment** rate (15-24 years) in Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District was **15.6%**. This was 21.9% above the national youth unemployment rate of 12.8% and 40.5% above the provincial average of 11.1%.¹²

16.4% of high school students surveyed **texted** for more than 3 hours a day. This compares to 24% for Central Vancouver Island.¹³

Transportation and affordability are barriers to many youth in the region. Of those surveyed, **25%** said they **missed out** in participating in a club, sports or other activity because of a **lack of transportation**, while **21%** **missed out** because an activity was **too expensive**.⁷

28% of youth surveyed, **volunteered**.⁷

Local Leaders

Children and youth who might otherwise be unable to participate in community recreation programs can access the District of Ucluelet's recreation bursary program or the Tofino Recreation Commission's Kid's Access Fund.

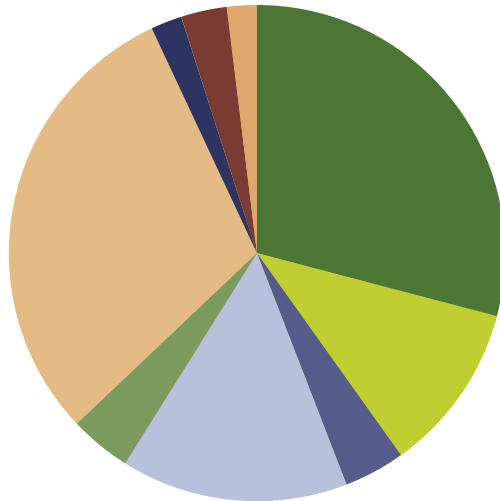
The Coastal Family Resource Coalition is a vital resource for children and families on the west coast. Their innovative and successful model for advocacy, networking, and team building has helped to strengthen services on the coast since 2003. coastalfamilyresources.ca



What high school-aged youth like most about living here.⁷

What the CBT is doing...

- In 2011, we contributed a total of \$54,650 to 14 different youth projects in the region. Annually, we also grant \$1000 to each school in the region for the What I Learned About the Biosphere program that gets children and youth outside, exploring this beautiful region we call home.
- We've identified youth as one of the core priorities of our programs.



Of the youth surveyed, **96%** felt they had people in their life who cared about them.⁷

Here's who they turn to.

- friend
- parent
- other family member
- teacher
- school counsellor
- youth worker
- doctor/nurse
- school staff
- police

rain
isolation
gossip
expensive
far away from the city
no ice rink
not enough to do
not as many opportunities
too small
no pool
boring
tourists
cold
weather
no shopping
far away from events
lack of entertainment



Donovan Williams

What high school-aged youth like least about living here.⁷

What you can do...

- Share your knowledge of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere with a local child or youth today. Explore a new trail, go whale watching, try kayaking or surfing.
- Eat dinner with your family. Studies show that a daily “check in” over a healthy meal can be a protective factor that reduces risky behaviour.
- Create technology-free times (e.g., mealtime) or zones (e.g., bedrooms) in your house.
- Engage youth in decisions that relate to them. Create opportunities to learn about local decision making and how organizations work.

Health

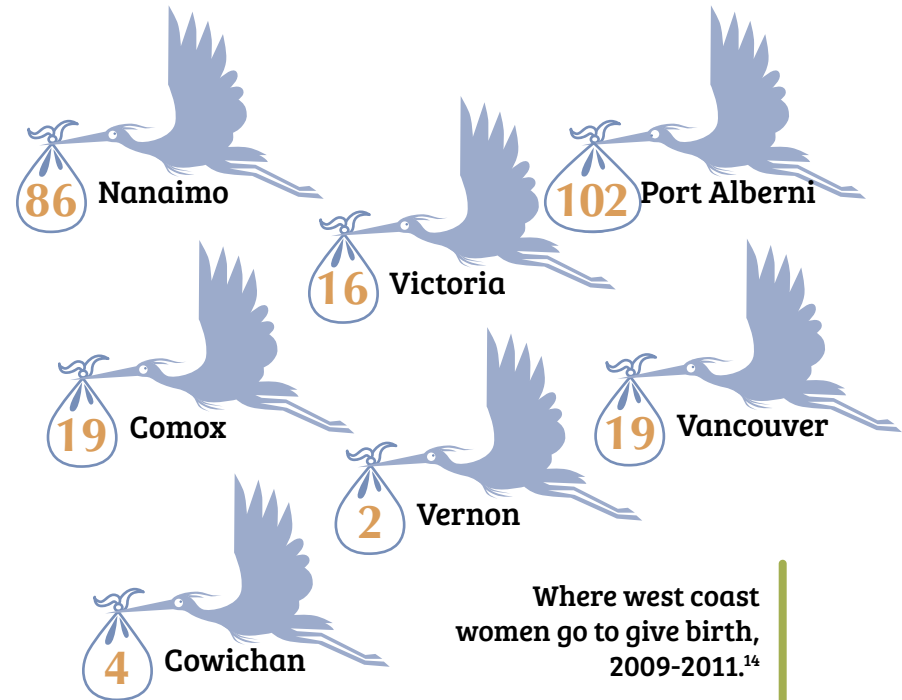
Since 2007, **birthing services have not been available** at the Tofino General Hospital. This means that women and their families must leave the region to have their children and that families incur significant expenses and are separated from support networks in the region.¹⁴

Between 2006 and 2011, **62 babies** have been born to **teen mothers** (19 and under) on the west coast. At 12.6% of the total births, this compares to 1.9% in Victoria, 7.1% in Duncan and 10.1% in Port Alberni during the same period.¹⁴

Our Regional District has a significantly higher rate of **infant mortality** (10.7 per 1,000 live births) than BC (3.9 per 1,000) or the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) (5.0 per 1,000).¹⁵

How the CBT is helping...

- Healthy Food, Healthy Communities is a core priority of the CBT. We're sponsoring a variety of activities to ensure that everyone in our region has access to safe, healthy, affordable food.
- In 2012, with the assistance of the Tofino and Ucluelet Community Food Initiatives, we created the West Coast Garden Guide to help new gardeners. Pick up a copy at the office or download it off our website.



In the 2011-12 fiscal year the **Food Bank** on the Edge served an average of **45 clients each week**. In 2011, an average of 25 people access the weekly community lunches served by Fish and Loaves in Tofino and the Westcoast Community Resources Society in Ucluelet.¹⁶

In our Regional District, **7.3% of the population** has **diabetes**. This is the second highest rate of diabetes on the Vancouver Island and is higher than the provincial rate of 6.5%.¹⁷

In 2011, the **obesity rate** for the population aged 18 and over in the Central Vancouver Island Health region, which includes the west coast, was **19.1%**, 0.8 percentage points above the national average of 18.3% and 4 percentage points above the provincial average of 15.1%. The rate was up 1.8 percentage points from 17.3% in 2010 and up 4.1 percentage points from 15.0% in 2003.¹⁸



Their top five activities include: going for a walk or jog; visiting the beach; riding a bike; playing soccer, basketball or another sport with friends; and participating in a sport or recreation activity organized by an adult.⁷

A comparison of 10 healthy food items showed that **food prices** were **19% higher** on the west coast than they were for the same items in Port Alberni. This figure does not include added transportation costs for residents of the six communities who can only access grocery stores by boat or by driving more than 20 kilometres.¹⁹

In the Central Vancouver Island Health region, which includes the west coast, 10.1% of respondents reported being moderately or severely **food insecure** in 2007. This is 42.3% higher than the national average (7.1%) and 38.6% higher than the provincial rate (7.3%).²⁰



Tofino Parks and Recreation

Communities in Action...

Community kitchens are humming in the region. Canning and preserving workshops, “Grade School Gourmet” classes, healthy cooking programs, food sharing events, and the installation or renovation of community kitchens are all helping to residents of the region make healthy food choices in every community.

What you can do...

- Interested in ways to increase awareness of food security in our region? Join others with similar interests through the Eat West Coast Network. Contact the CBT for more information.
- Start a garden or even a pot of lettuce on your deck. If you’re unsure where to start, visit the demonstration garden at the Tofino Botanical Garden or visit the community gardens where you live. There are community gardens in Hot Springs, Ahousaht, Esowista, Tofino, and at the junction (Wya Information Centre).
- Choose a trail or beach in the region that you’ve never visited and walk it!
- Make regular contributions to the food bank.

Tofino Parks and Recreation

Environment: the land

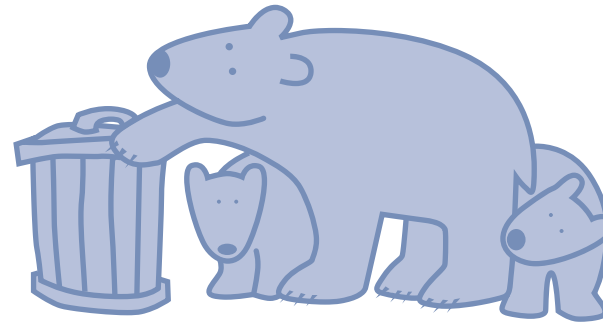
The west coast has a **high density of black bears**. In the Long Beach area alone, 64 different bears were identified in one study. In 1999, Pacific Rim National Park implemented the Bare Campsite Program. All campers at Greenpoint Campground have to maintain clean campgrounds with no enticements for bears. In the 13 years since then, only four food-conditioned bears have been destroyed in the Long Beach Unit of the park. This compares to an estimated one to two bears a year for the previous 25 years.²¹

Of the 46 plants on the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee's list of "priority plants," at least 10 are found in our communities and forests. **Invasive species** can disrupt natural habitats, reduce biodiversity and cause considerable economic and environmental damage.²³

As of 2009, there were **83 species at risk** within the CSBRR. These include the flower, the pink sand-verbena, the red-legged frog, the Keen's long-eared myotis (a bat), and the marbled murrelet (a seabird).²⁴

Local Leader

Barry Campbell has been working hard to remove invasive Scotch broom. Between 2003 and 2012, Barry has removed approximately 182,668 plants or seedlings of broom from Radar Hill and 470,875 from the Wickaninnish dunes.



Between 1999 - 2006

Food Conditioned Bears²²

126

District of Tofino

133

District of Ucluelet

Food-conditioned bears usually become habituated to people and most are eventually killed when they become a hazard. Most bears become food-conditioned as a result of improperly stored food and garbage.

Central Westcoast Forest Society





In 2009, the first full year of curbside recycling on the west coast, **2.6%** of the **waste stream was diverted** from the landfill. This figure rose to 4.8% in 2011. SonBird Refuse and Recycling's installation of a new transfer station in the fall of 2012 will make it possible for even more waste to be diverted from the landfill.²⁵

Dan Harrison



Community in Action...

In 2011-12, the community of Ahousaht implemented **a new waste management strategy**. Their open landfill was decommissioned and capped, and solid waste is now stored safely—away from wildlife—until its monthly delivery to a landfill via a barge. A comprehensive recycling program has been enthusiastically received by the community.



Communities in Action...

Local “citizen scientists” are helping the CBT with a climate change monitoring project. By monitoring the timing of the first salmonberry blooms, they are contributing to our understanding of the local effects of climate change and how it affects the timing of natural phenomena.

What you can do...

- If you have an invasive plant such as Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, periwinkle, English ivy or Japanese knotweed on your property control, contain or eradicate it. For more details go to: **www.coastalinvasiveplants.com**
- Reduce wildlife attractants, which can include garbage, compost, dirty barbecues, bird feeders and fruit trees. For more information on how to ensure your home and property is bear proof, visit: **www.bearaware.bc.ca/be-bear-aware/attractant-management**
- Improve your recycling skills. In a study completed by the Raincoast Education Society, 80% of households had contaminated recycling. The biggest offences? The inclusion of glass and polystyrene foam (i.e., Styrofoam), which cannot be recycled locally; dirty recyclables (i.e., cans with food and greasy pizza boxes); and containers with labels still attached. For more information, go to **www.sonbird.ca**

Environment: the sea

Parks Canada studies over the past eight years have shown that more than **50 species of juvenile fish** use the **eelgrass meadows** of Clayoquot Sound. During the study period, the species found in 12 different meadows have remained relatively stable, both in abundance and species composition. Eelgrass meadows are sensitive to changes in the marine environment, so this stability helps gauge the **health of marine biodiversity** in the region over time.²⁶

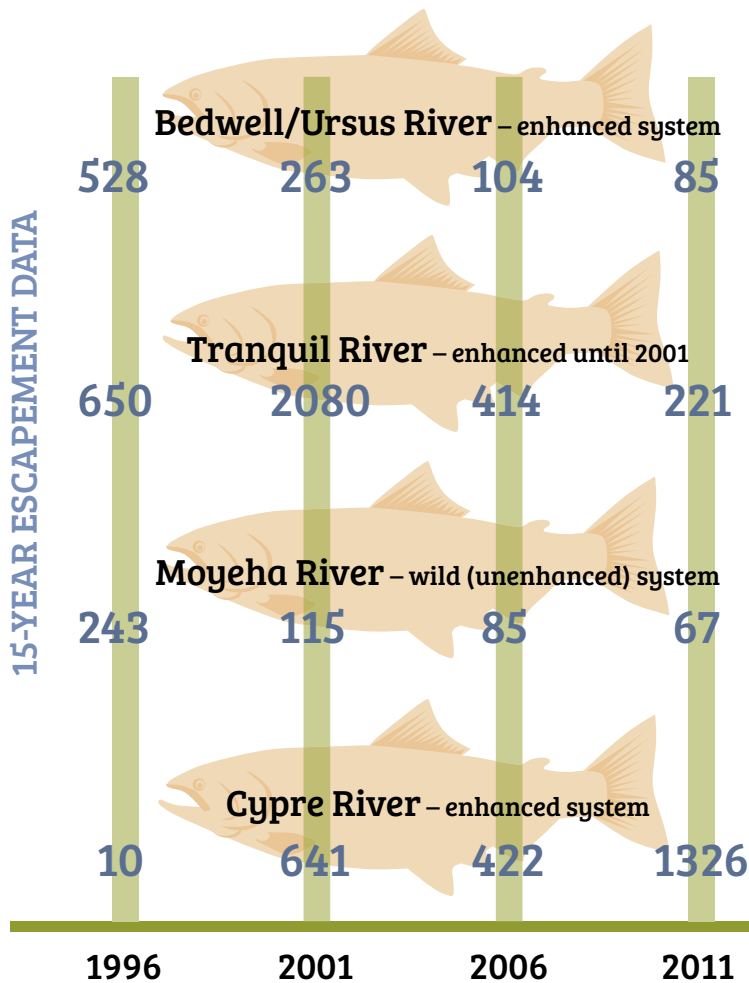
Parks Canada



Communities in Action...

Fecal coliforms are directly associated with the feces of humans and other warm-blooded animals, including land-based wildlife, marine mammals and birds. Its sources are many and include sewage, boat discharges, and natural runoff from the land. In the late 1990s, only the minimum testing was done in Clayoquot Sound. Since fecal coliform measures can vary widely, for instance peaking after a severe rain event, the minimal testing by Environment Canada (EC) meant that large closures throughout the Sound were imminent. Since a more rigorous testing program was beyond the budget and staffing capabilities of EC, locals stepped up and offered to be trained. Dozens of individuals regularly took samples and delivered them to Port Alberni for testing. Their hard work and volunteer efforts paid off and most of Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds remain open. As of 2005, EC was able to staff the program and an intensive sampling program is still underway.

In Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds, over **50 marine water quality stations** are monitored regularly for fecal coliforms as part of Environment Canada's rigorous Shellfish Sanitation Program. Of the 12 stations reviewed for this report (and that were chosen for their close proximity to communities), fecal coliforms (FC) ranged from a median of <2 FC/100mL to 7 FC/100mL. A shellfish closure will occur if the most recent 15 samples are greater than 14 FC/100mL. (In comparison, the standard for drinking water is 0 FC/100mL and the health standard for a beach closure is 200FC/100mL.)²⁷



Salmon are a part of the culture, the environment and the economy of our region, but many **salmon stocks**, particularly those of Chinook, are in trouble. Chinook is the most sought after and the most endangered salmon in the CSBRR. This chart shows the 15-year escapement data (ie., counts of salmon returning to a natal stream) for several rivers in Clayoquot Sound.²⁸



The Westerly News

Community in Action...

In 2011, the Ucluelet Aquarium led a harbour clean up project. More than 6710 kg of garbage was collected.

What the CBT is doing...

- In 2011, the CBT granted a total of \$34,600 to seven different scientific research projects in the region. Some of these projects, such as the amphibian monitoring work done by the Wetlands Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds, has been funded for several years.
- The CBT was proud to be a sponsor of the WildCoast Project: Predators, Prey and People. You can read more about the project here: clayoquotbiosphere.org/web/what-we-do/wildcoast-project
- The CBT partnered with West Coast Aquatic to create a library and archives with a searchable database. This resource will be useful to researchers and the communities of the CSBRR.
- We are partnering with the District of Tofino and the Real Estate Foundation of BC to develop long-term monitoring strategies for shoreline morphology and for wildlife in communities.

Learning

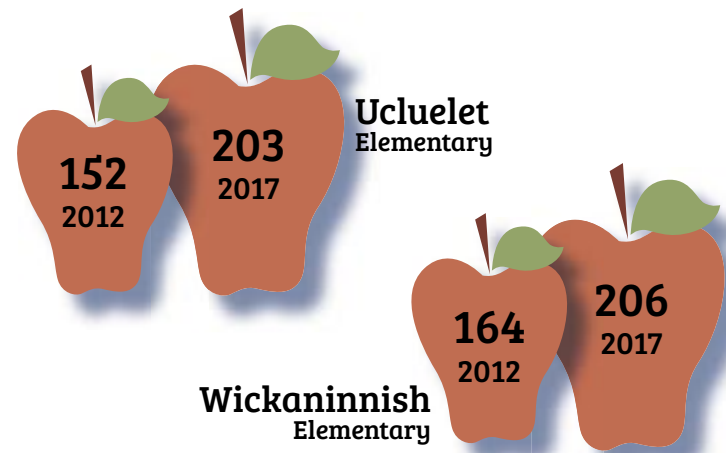


In the CSBRR, **38.1%** of the population had **completed post-secondary education** (university degree, post-secondary certificate or diploma) in 2006. The rate was below the national average (50.7%) and the provincial average (52.2%).³

In School District 70, which includes Ucluelet Secondary School, “six-year completion rates” (**completion of grade 12** within six years) in the 2010-11 school year was **63.9%**. For **Aboriginal students**, the rate was **34.2%**. This compares to a provincial rate of 81% for all students and 53.7% for Aboriginal students.²⁹

In the most recent “wave” of the Early Development Instrument (see page 19) study, Tofino-Ucluelet had the **lowest level of vulnerability** in the school district at **17%**, compared to the overall vulnerability rate of 30% for all of School District 70.³⁰

School enrolment projections.³¹



What the CBT is doing...

- In 2011, the CBT developed Sustainability Studies 11/12, a course that teaches civic engagement, environmental education and leadership skills.
- Each year, the CBT offers up to \$24,000 in high school scholarships.
- Led by a team of enthusiastic volunteers from local communities, we are working to coordinate and strengthen higher learning. We see the west coast as an education destination and believe that by working with existing post-secondary institutions, we can provide stellar learning experiences for visitors and residents in this inspiring place we call home.



Rakaylyn Charleson



Jacine Charleson

Communities in Action...

The communities of Ahousaht and Hot Springs have beautiful new schools that not only provide inspiring places for their youth, but also for the community at large. The Hesquiaht Place of Learning includes a community space, gymnasium, kitchen and pre-school, while Maaqtusiis Secondary provides an up-to-date, modern school environment, also with community spaces, and outfitted with the latest technology, sure to inspire and engage local youth.

Communities in Action...

Since 1999, UBC's **Human Early Learning Partnership** (HELP) has been collecting and mapping child development data used the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI measures physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development and communication skills to assess the overall vulnerability of young children. In many ways, the EDI is like a child development census. Four "waves" of data have been collected since the program's inception.

The west coast's recent success in the EDI points to many local initiatives that were implemented after initial results in Wave 2 (2004-07) showed particularly poor results. Partnerships between the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and the VIHA developed and strengthened programs around early literacy and child and family development. Strong Start Early Learning Centres, Head Start Centres, the Moe the Mouse speech and language development program, and Family Ties all support west coast children and families.

What you can do...

- Join the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at your child's school.
- Be a lifelong learner. Enrol in a continuing education course or attend one of the many educational lectures and events held in the CSBRR.
- Encourage young people to take advantage of the many experiential learning opportunities we have in the CSBRR. Dozens of community organizations offer special events and classes, many of them free; the high school has many experiential programs, including Kayaking, Global Education, and Sustainability Studies; and local tour operators have great deals for residents.

Economy

At **68.0%** in 2006, Clayoquot Sound has an overall **employment rate** 5.6 percentage points higher than the national rate (62.4%) and 6.4 percentage points higher than the provincial rate (61.6%).¹⁰

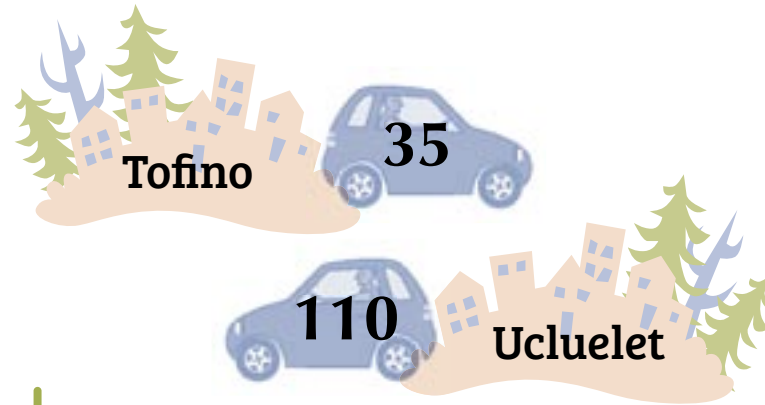
The **unemployment rate** in 2006 was **8.5%**, 2.5 percentage points higher than the provincial rate (6.0%) and 1.9 percentage points higher than the national rate (6.6%).¹⁰

The **average after-tax income** (of the population 15 and over) for our region* was **\$26,124** in 2006. This was 9.6% lower than the provincial average of \$28,908.³² [*Tofino, Ucluelet and ACRD-C only.]

As of 2006, **10.2%** of the population in the Alberni-Clayoquot region (Health Area 70) is **receiving income assistance**, as compared to 5.4% in the Vancouver Island Health Authority and 4.5% in British Columbia.³²

What the CBT is doing...

- In 2011, the CBT funded 15 projects that strengthened local capacity and supported training initiatives.
- We have supported Ucluelet Secondary School's Kayak 11/12 course, which provides students with skills applicable to our region. By the end of the course, students are certified assistant guides.



Commuting is part of the daily life for many CSBRR residents. Commuting flows show that 35 Tofino residents work in Ucluelet while 110 Ucluelet residents work in Tofino.³³

In 2012, **829 business licenses** were issued on the west coast and 20.8% of the Tofino-Ucluelet population are self-employed, compared to 14.0% of the British Columbia population.³⁴

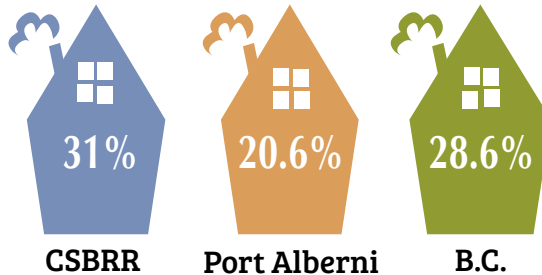
A 2011 **visitor survey** in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve found that visitors stayed an average of five nights in the region. Most visitor groups were adults (17+ years) only, while 28% were adults with children and 7% were seniors only.³⁵

What you can do...

- Shop locally.
- Create strong networks by joining your local Chamber of Commerce or business association.

Housing

Percentage of households spending 30% or more of household income on housing.³⁶



As of 2006, the **average gross rent** in the region was **\$764**, \$225 higher than the Port Alberni average and just slightly higher than the provincial average (\$750).³⁷

In Clayoquot Sound, **15.3%** of dwelling units were **in need of major repair** in 2006. This was 107% above the British Columbia level (7.4%) and 104% above the Canada-wide level (7.5%).³

Between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012, a total of **167 women and 27 children** were referred to the **West-coast Transition House**. This is up slightly from the previous year, where 161 women and 17 children were referred to the house. On average, five women and six children reside at the Transition House each month. As well, on average, 85% of women return to the family home after their stay at the Transition House. Local alternatives (i.e., second-stage housing) are limited and other options usually require them to leave their home, community, work and support network.³⁸

After a heightened period of building activity in the mid-2000s, residential construction in the Tofino and Ucluelet has stabilized to about 27 permits per year over the past five years. In 2011, **20 residential building permits** were issued, compared to a high of 115 in 2006.³⁹



Terry Dorward

Community in Action...

Although density is often used as a measure of careful planning, it can also measure overcrowding. Esowista has a density of 1829.5 people per kilometre squared making it the eighth most densely populated reserve in Canada. (As a comparison, the density of Ucluelet is 238.9.) This recently changed with the transfer of 84 hectares from Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Plans for the new community of Ty-Histanis include 171 units of single detached housing, 32 duplex units and a 12-unit elder's complex.⁴⁰

On the west coast, there are **14 beds available for seniors** requiring assisted living or supportive housing.⁴¹

What you can do...

- Are you prepared for a natural disaster such as an earthquake, fire or tsunami? Visit www.getprepared.ca
- Educate yourself on local housing issues and participate in local initiatives.



Sources

Please note that if you are searching for information through Statistics Canada some communities are listed by reserve number: Hot Springs Cove (Refuge Cove, IR 6), Ahousaht (Marktosis, IR 15), Hittatsoo (Ittatsoo, IR1), and Opitsaht (Opitsat, IR1).

- 1 Statistics Canada, Community Profiles, 2011
- 2 Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) Local Area Health Profile – Alberni (70)
- 3 Statistics Canada, Community Profiles, 2006
- 4 Canadian Revenue Agency www.cra-arc.gc.ca
- 5 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Directory of Community Organizations, June 2012 www.clayoquotbiosphere.org/documents/local/CBTCommunityOrganizationDirectory2012.pdf
- 6 Elections Canada, Official Voting www.elections.ca
- 7 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Youth Survey
- 8 www.civicinfo.bc.ca
- 9 First Peoples' Language Map (maps.fphlcc.ca) Note: Statistics include all residents of each First Nation, even those currently living outside the CSBRR.
- 10 Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006.
- 11 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and Picturing Tofino: Arts and Heritage Scan
- 12 Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. Note: Data for Clayoquot Sound is the weighted average of data from Tofino and Ucluelet.
- 13 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Youth Survey and 2008 BC Adolescent Health Survey, Central Vancouver Island. www.mcs.bc.ca
- 14 Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). Figures for “west coast mothers” include women from Bamfield and Nitinat. They do not include emergency births in Tofino and all home births.
- 15 Local Area Health Profile: Alberni (70), July 2011; BC Vital Statistics (2005-09).
- 16 Food Bank on the Edge, Fish and Loaves, and Westcoast Community Resources Society.
- 17 Local Area Health Profile: Alberni (70), July 2011; BC Ministry of Health Services Primary Health Care Chronic Disease Registries, 2007-08.
- 18 Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 2.1) 2003, Cansim Table 105-0292 for Canada, Provinces, CMAAs and Health Regions.
- 19 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust. Prices averaged between groceries stores on the west coast (2) and in Port Alberni (4). Prices were for regular, not sale, prices in August 2012.
- 20 CANSIM Table 105-0547, based on Canadian Community Health Survey, 2007.
- 21 Parks Canada – Bob Hansen
- 22 Bear Hazard Assessments – District of Tofino (2007) and Ucluelet (2006).
- 23 Coastal Invasive Plant Committee, www.coastalinvasiveplants.com
- 24 BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) and Committee for the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Report: Monitoring Species at Risk in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Barb Beasley, 2008.
- 25 SonBird Refuse and Recycling
- 26 Parks Canada – Cliff Robinson and Jennifer Yakimishyn
- 27 Environment Canada Marine Water Quality Monitoring Program www.ec.gc.ca/marine/
- 28 Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Area 24 Escapement Data
- 29 BC Ministry of Education www.bced.gov.bc.ca
- 30 Human Early Learning Partnership, earlylearning.ubc.ca/
- 31 School District 70
- 32 BC Statistics Agency, 2006 Census
- 33 Statistics Canada, 2006 Census and Ucluelet Economic Development Strategy www.ucluelet.ca/UserFiles/File/Admin/Ucluelet%20Economic%20Development%20Strategy.pdf
- 34 Districts of Ucluelet and Tofino; BC Stats, Community Facts for Tofino and Ucluelet, www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca
- 35 Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (Long Beach Unit) 2011 Visitor Survey.
- 36 Statistics Canada, 2006. Combined data from Ucluelet, Tofino and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Area C.
- 37 Statistics Canada, 2006. Combined data from Ucluelet and Tofino.
- 38 Westcoast Transition House and BC Housing
- 39 BC Stats
- 40 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation www.cmhc-schl.gc.bc
- 41 Sea View Seniors' Housing Society and Tofino Seniors Housing Society.



You can make a difference with a donation

Our region has many challenges, but the CBT is helping to find solutions. A donation to the CBT, our region's community foundation, will make a difference. We can help individuals and organizations establish and build permanent endowments to support local charitable organizations in their efforts to help make the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region an even better place to live. Together, we can build a region where all residents can succeed, contribute and develop their talents to their fullest potential.

How Does It Work?

At the CBT, we see the big picture and provide funding to a full range of community interests including the environment, education, research, arts and culture. Our foundation also serves the entire Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region, from northern Clayoquot Sound, to the communities of Ucluelet, Hittatsoo and Macoah in Barkley Sound.

Giving is strategic, flexible and individual. The funds from our donors can be held in permanent endowments which are invested and the income earned is used to make grants to organizations whose projects enhance and strengthen the quality of life in the CSBRR.

Gifts can be made in many ways, including one-time cash donations, but also multi-year pledges; stocks and bonds; real estate and other assets; gifts made through estate planning, such as bequests and life insurance policies. We would be pleased to discuss various options with you.



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CLAYOQUOT SOUND BIOSPHERE RESERVE REGION'S

VitalSigns®

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and shares opportunities for action in several areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by the Community Foundations of Canada.



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