

2014

CLAYOQUOT SOUND BIOSPHERE RESERVE REGION'S

# VitalSigns®





# Welcome to the Clayoquot Sound **Vital Signs®** 2014!

## ***From the Managing Director***

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

Just as the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) brings together our region, the process of producing this report has created opportunities to work together with local governments, organizations, and researchers. For example, communities joined forces to address difficulties obtaining data at the scale of our region by issuing a regional survey, of which some of the results are included. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to count themselves in by completing this survey or the youth survey conducted in the high schools. I also extend thanks to the dozens of community experts who contributed their knowledge, experience, and advice. Together we are building smart and caring communities.

**Rebecca Hurwitz**  
Managing Director  
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

## ***From Our Co-Chairs***

We are pleased to present our second Vital Signs report. Vital Signs is a valuable tool for planning, both at the community and regional level, and we hope that the information included will inspire you to be an informed, active citizen. Please share the report with your friends, family, colleagues, community groups, and decision makers.

At the CBT, the Vital Signs report informs our grant-making programs and allows us to focus our work and resources where they will make the biggest impact. Individuals can make a difference as well. If something

resonates with you and you are keen to make a difference, we can help match your ideas, energy, and resources to needs and opportunities in the region.

A principle tenant of biosphere reserves is that people are part of their ecosystem. Biosphere reserves strive for a holistic view—healthy environments *and* healthy communities—so it is fitting that we share with you Vital Signs, a document that examines health

in its broadest sense. Grounded in *hishuk ish ts'awalk*, everything is one, we know that all aspects of our lives contribute to our health and that of our community. We look forward to continuing the conversation with you.

**Tammy Dorward and Catherine Thicke**  
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. Special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs® initiative. **For more information visit: [www.vitalsignscanada.ca](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca)**

## Why do we need a Vital Signs® report for the Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve 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 government, and other community groups, giving us a basis from which to develop innovative ideas that build a stronger region.

## Who is included?

This report includes eight communities within the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region (CSBRR): Hot Springs Cove, Ahousaht, Opitsaht, Tofino, Esowista/Ty-Histanis, Hitacu, 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.

## Where is the data from?

For this report we used existing data from a variety of local, provincial, and national sources including a regional survey designed by SPARC-BC. Some of the data was researched and reported by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards. We were constrained by the loss of the long form census, which was replaced by the National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS does not break out small communities, including Tofino and Ucluelet, however, so results pool the west coast with Port Alberni. The sources of all data are listed on page 22.

## The Youth Survey

Youth are one of the core priorities of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, so we wanted to give them a strong voice in our Vital Signs® report. One hundred and seventy-eight high school-aged youth (ages 12 to 19) completed the survey. This included 70% of the population of Ucluelet Secondary School and 82.5% of the population of Maaqtusiis Secondary School in Ahousaht. Although these are excellent response rates, the data only reflects the opinions of students who responded and who are still in school.

## How is the report organized?

The CSBRR's Vital Signs® report tries to capture trends on issues that are important to our quality of life and health in its broadest definition. The report is arranged by 10 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 other regions and/or to provincial and national trends.

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

### ACRD-C

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District,  
Area C

### CSBRR

Clayoquot Sound Biosphere  
Reserve Region

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



# How to use this report



Tofino Parks & Recreation

## Read

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

## Discuss

Share the report with your friends, family, employers, and elected officials. The report is available in print or on-line at [clayquotbiosphere.org/vital-signs/](http://clayquotbiosphere.org/vital-signs/)

## Act

If you or your organization is motivated by what you read, use this report as a starting point for positive action.

## Support

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

## Get Political

Use the information in this report to engage and inform politicians and other decision makers.

## Contact Us

The CBT knows the issues and organizations in our community. If you are looking for ways to make a difference, we can help.

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

# 2014 Report Highlights

Rebecca Hurwitz



## **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 in the region are growing. Measured together, our region's population grew 9.0% between 2006 and 2011.

## **Our elders need more support**

Elders (age 65 and over) account for only 7.1% of the region's population. This is quite a bit lower than the national (14.8%) and provincial (15.7%) rates. As people age, the lack of services, options for supported living, and challenges around transportation often result in them leaving the region.

## **Reviving traditional languages**

While the number of First Nations people who are fluent in their traditional languages continues to decline, interest in learning is gaining momentum.

## **Housing is a challenge for many**

Higher housing costs, seasonal employment, crowded housing, and a large proportion of housing in need of repair, makes stable housing a challenge for many. For a person working full-time, earning minimum wage, living in a one-bedroom apartment (averaged cost), 41% of their income goes towards rent.

## **We are community-minded**

There are 98 community organizations, including 33 registered charities, in the region. While this sector is largely driven by volunteers, these organizations also provide employment and in 2012 contributed over \$4M in expenditures.

## **Our youth feel cared for**

94% of youth surveyed felt they had people in their life that cared about them. Most turn to friends, parents, or other family members when they need help. 91% of students surveyed agreed that they were a happy person.

## **Post-secondary aspirations**

While the percentage of our population with a post-secondary education is 10.8 percentage points lower than the provincial average (44.9% vs. 55.7%), the rate is slowly increasing. In a recent survey, 77 % of respondents aspired to one day attain a level of education higher than their current level.

## **Many residents are food insecure**

Many residents have challenges securing healthy food. Use of the food bank is on the rise, wild salmon are not as plentiful, and the overall cost of food is higher than in larger centres. As well, only two of the eight communities in the region have grocery stores with a wide selection of healthy foods.

## **Young people can work if they want to**

The strong tourism economy means that young people are able to easily find summer work. 92% of youth who worked in the summer said it wasn't hard to find a job.

## **Voter turnout could be better**

While voter turnout for the last federal election was higher than the national average (68.3% vs. 61.1%), in the 2013 provincial election only 49.7% of eligible voters in the region cast a ballot. This compares to the provincial rate of 57.1%.

## **Life expectancy is rising**

Overall life expectancy is slowly rising, however, at 78.07 years, the life expectancy of residents of the Alberni Health Area 70 is more than 4 years lower than the provincial rate (82.25 years).

## **We are losing track of our salmon**

Successive cuts to monitoring programs mean that fewer streams are assessed for salmon. In 1981, DFO funded surveys on 27 streams. In 2014, only 4 were funded.

## **Not necessarily our "best friend"**

Overall, youth feel safe in their home, school, and communities, however, when asked what makes them feel unsafe walking alone, many expressed a fear of free-ranging dogs.

# Our Region



Clayoquot Biosphere Trust



Between 2006 and 2011, the **population** in the region **grew 9.0%**, from 4860 in 2006 to 5297 in 2011. This reflects a growth rate 3.1 percentage points greater than the national growth rate of 5.9%.<sup>1</sup>

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 **23.2** years in Esowista to **48.2** years in the ACRD-Area C.<sup>1</sup>

In 2011  
**16.9%**

of residents in the Alberni-Clayoquot region identify as **Aboriginal** compared to **6.6%** for Vancouver Island (Island Health Region) and **5.4%** for British Columbia.<sup>2</sup>

In 2011  
**20.2%**

of the families in the CSBRR were **single-parent families**, which is down slightly from the 2006 figure (21.1%). This compares to the **15.3%** in British Columbia and **16.3%** in Canada.<sup>1</sup>

**17.2%**

of the population in CSBRR are **children** (14 and under). This is 0.5 percentage points above the national share of youth in total population (16.7%) and 1.8 percentage points above the provincial share (15.7%).<sup>1</sup>

**7.1%**

of the population in CSBRR are **elderly** (65 and over). In 2011, the total number was 375. This is 7.7 percentage points below the national proportion of elderly in the population (14.8%) and 8.6 percentage points below the provincial share of elderly (15.7%).<sup>1</sup>



While English is most commonly spoken, there are more than different languages used around dinner tables in the CSBRR.<sup>1</sup>



Tofino Parks & Recreation

# Belonging and Leadership

On the west coast, there are approximately **98 community organizations** with a broad range of focuses from animal welfare, to language education, to stream restoration. While a few have some staff, the majority are run by volunteers.<sup>5</sup>

**49.7%**

of eligible voters in the CSBRR **cast ballots** in the 2013 provincial election, compared to 57.1% in British Columbia.<sup>6</sup>

In 2014, **female elected officials** filled over a quarter of the seats in public office. This includes one mayor and one chief councillor.<sup>4</sup>

**81%**

of youth surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: **I feel as if I belong** in my community, while **55%** agreed or strongly agreed that they **had a say in how their community is run**.<sup>7</sup>

In 2012, **33 registered charities** were active on the west coast. Overall, they had 69 part-time employees, 24 full-time employees, and **contributed over \$4 million in annual expenditures** to the west coast economy. This is an increase over \$1 million since 2010.<sup>3</sup>



Toquaht First Nation

## The CBT at Work

Our Directory of Community Organizations is a great resource for finding volunteer opportunities. Find it on our website: [clayoquotsbiosphere.org](http://clayoquotsbiosphere.org)

We support community organizations by hosting workshops on board governance, strategic planning, and other fundamentals for effective organizations.

## Get Involved

Donate time, skills, ideas, and, if you can, money to a hard-working community organization.

Reach out to seniors. Services and facilities for seniors are lacking in the CSBRR, so your help can increase their involvement in community life.

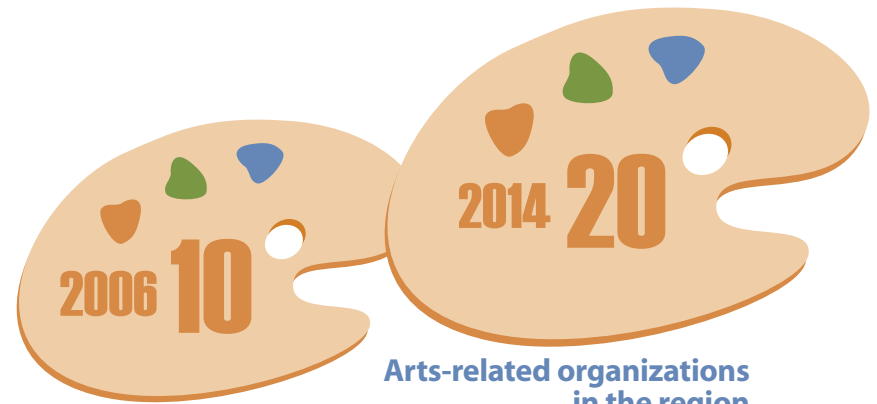


# Arts, Culture & Recreation



Jacqueline Windh

In our region, **1.7%** of **First Nations people are fluent in their traditional language**, which is down from 3.1% in 2012. But **interest in learning traditional languages is on the rise**. A further 2.6% speak somewhat or understand and 6.3% identify as being learners. Both these figures have increased slightly since 2012.<sup>8</sup>



A 2013 **survey of visitors** showed that beaches, shopping, and visiting parks top the list of tourist attractions, but arts and culture-related activities were also on the agenda. This included **galleries** (44%), the **public market** (25%), **historical sites** (21%), **gardens** (19%), and **First Nations facilities and events** (18%).<sup>9</sup>

**Hiking and Surfing**  
**57% 44%**  
**are top recreational activities for visitors.<sup>9</sup>**



Ucluelet Parks & Recreation





Josie Osborne

**43%** of surveyed youth said that in the last month they spent time **drawing, painting, carving**, or creating some sort of art. **26%** played a **musical instrument** and **35%** did a **hobby or craft**.<sup>7</sup>

Together, the **public libraries** in Tofino and Ucluelet had **2003 registered borrowers** in 2013, which is **57%** of the population. Of this total, only **8.7%** of borrowers were **children** under the age of 12 and **2%** were **teenagers**, aged 13 to 19.<sup>10</sup>

In 2013, Tofino's **St. Columba Church** celebrated its centenary. On-going support and fundraising from the congregation and community has maintained this historic structure.



Tofino Parks & Recreation

## The CBT at Work

In 2013, the CBT donated \$33,775 to projects related to arts and culture. This included funding for a Cultural Heritage Festival and the creation of the Tla-o-qui-aht language app.

We host the community event calendar. This is the one-stop spot to learn about local events in the region. Check it out and add your events! [westcoastcalendar.com](http://westcoastcalendar.com)

## Get Involved

Take visitors to the Ucluelet Night Market (Friday evenings) or the Tofino Saturday Market to show off local artisans, food, and musicians.

Visit the library. You'll find free access to books, magazines, music, movies, and the Internet, as well as a great source of knowledge – your public librarian!

# Children and Youth

West coast children have unlimited access to nature's playground: beaches, forests, and ocean waves. There are also

**32**  
facilities

built for them that are free and accessible (no need for a key or an adult). This includes:

12 playgrounds  
8 basketball courts  
2 skate parks  
2 bike parks  
tennis courts  
soccer fields  
and more.

**Transportation and affordability are barriers** to many youth in the region. Of those surveyed,

**26%**

said they missed out in participating in a club, sport, or other activity because of **lack of transportation**, while

**22%**

missed out because an activity was **too expensive**.<sup>7</sup>

Local youth appreciate the beauty of the places they call home.

**23%** of youth surveyed noted the **natural environment, wildlife**, and/or the **area's beauty** as things they **like about living here**. Beaches, the ocean, fishing, fresh air, and the weather (yes, even the rain) were also noted by many students as things they liked.<sup>7</sup>



Youth Excellence Society



Ucluelet Parks & Recreation

**91%**

of youth surveyed, strongly agreed or agreed with the statement

**"I am a happy person."**<sup>7</sup>

Of the youth surveyed,

**41%**

**worked part- or full-time in the summer.** Living here gives them ample opportunities to gain job experience. 92% said it wasn't hard to find a job.<sup>7</sup>

Ucluelet Parks & Recreation



**94%**

of the youth surveyed, felt they **had people in their life who cared about them.** Friends (55%), parents (55%), and other family members (34%) topped the list of who they turned to.<sup>7</sup>  
(Note: Students could select more than one answer.)

When asked to name the things they **like about living on the west coast**, the top answer for students from Ahousaht was their **family**. For other youth surveyed, the top response related to beaches, wildlife, and the **natural beauty**.<sup>7</sup>

*Super chill.*<sup>8</sup>

– one youth's response to the question,  
What do you like about living on the west coast?

### The CBT at Work

In 2013, the CBT donated just over \$38,000 to projects and programs that supported youth.

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The CBT coordinates Generation Y-Not, a youth-led ("for youth, by youth") program that facilitates opportunities in youth leadership and philanthropy in the CSBRR.

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Check out our website to see how local youth use video to interpret Vital Signs. [clayoquotbiosphere.org](http://clayoquotbiosphere.org)

### Get Involved

Invite youth to participate in your organization. They may not be keen on meetings, but could help in other ways.

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Explore the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve region with a local child or youth. Many companies offer discounts for locals and the beaches and trails are free!

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Shared meals are a great time to check in with your family. Search "mealtime conversation" on-line for ideas on how to broach subjects important to youth health and well-being.

Tofino Parks & Recreation





# Learning

Our communities are young and growing. Enrolment projections show continued growth in our schools.<sup>12</sup>



Ucluelet Elementary



Wickaninnish Elementary



Ucluelet Secondary

In School District 70, which includes the CSBRR, "six-year completion rates" (**completion of grade 12 within six years**) in the 2012-13 school year was 73.4%, up 9.5 percentage points from the 2010-11 school year (63.9%). For Aboriginal students, the rate was 39.4%, up 5.2 percentage points from the 2010-11 school year (34.2%). This compares to a provincial rate of 83.6% for all students and 59.4% for Aboriginal students.<sup>13</sup>

In 2011, Alberni-Clayoquot, which includes the CSBRR,

**44.9%**

of the population aged **15 and older had a post-secondary education**. This rate was 9.4 percentage points below the national average (54.3%) and 10.8 percentage points below the provincial average (55.7%). The Alberni-Clayoquot rate was up 1.9 percentage points from its 2006 rate (43.0%).<sup>15</sup>



Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

In a 2014 regional survey,

**16.7%**

of respondents said they had considered **leaving the west coast to access educational opportunities** for their children.

**26.4%**

considered **leaving to obtain educational opportunities for themselves** or another adult in the home.<sup>41</sup>



We were curious about those six-year completion rates so have taken a closer look. While the data gives an overall indication of graduation success, students who drop out or move to another school district aren't captured. Of the 47 students who entered grade 8 at Ucluelet Secondary School in 2007 for instance, 47% graduated five years later at USS. 34% moved out of the region (and may have graduated or dropped out elsewhere) and 15% dropped out or had not yet graduated by 2012.<sup>14</sup>

Anecdotally, educators tell us that **stability is a great indicator of education success**. Students who move often, shifting homes and schools, experience more education challenges. Inconsistent attendance also affects their success.



UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership collects and maps child development data to create the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The **EDI measures physical health and well-being, emotional maturity, communication skills**, and more to assess the overall vulnerability of children. The most recent "wave" of the study (2013) found that students in the West Coast Region (which includes Ucluelet, Tofino, and Bamfield) showed a vulnerability of 29%, compared to 30% overall in the school district and 32.5% in the province.

Programs around literacy and child and family development all strive to improve this measure. These programs include Strong Start, Head Start, Family Ties, and the Moe the Mouse speech and language development program, all of which are offered in the CSBRR.<sup>17</sup>



Nora Boileau-Morrison

## The CBT at Work

We've convened a Regional Learning Council and education listserve as a way to share educational opportunities and set collective goals for education in the region.

Each year, the CBT offers up to \$24,000 in high school scholarships.

We've developed an Education Asset Inventory to share the region's assets (infrastructure and curriculum, for example) that are useful to educational groups from near and far.

[clayquotbiosphere.org](http://clayquotbiosphere.org)

## Get Involved

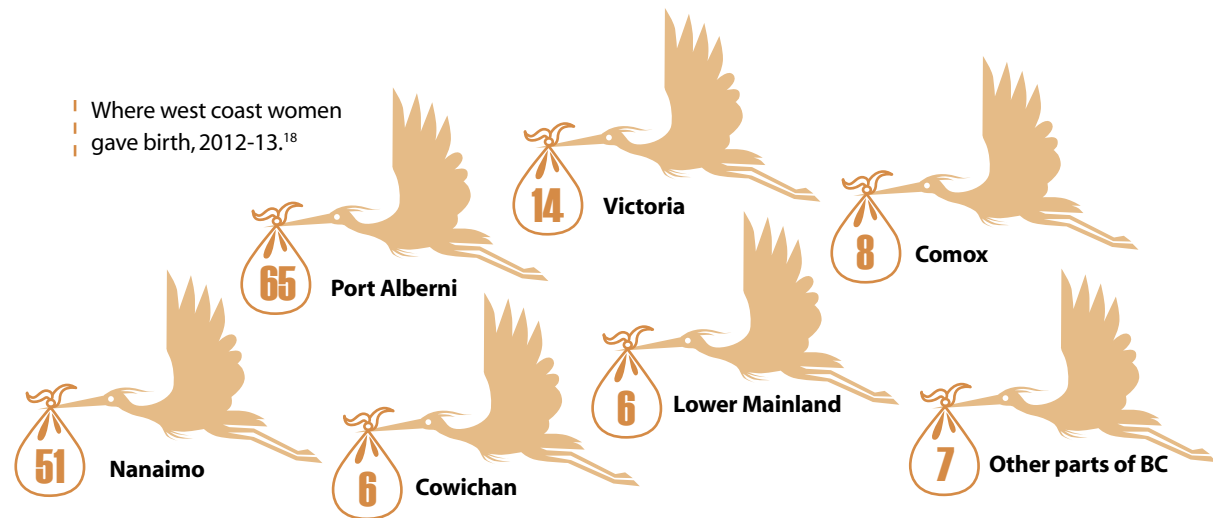
Encourage life-long learning. Consider sharing your skills and expertise with a local school, youth group, or community organization.

Strengthen your leadership skills through Leadership Vancouver Island, a ten-month program held annually in the CSBRR. [clayquotbiosphere.org](http://clayquotbiosphere.org)

Check [westcoastcalendar.com](http://westcoastcalendar.com) to find upcoming lectures, workshops, and other educational events.

# Health

Since 2007, **birthing services** have not been available at the Tofino General Hospital, which serves the CSBRR. 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.<sup>18</sup>



Eleven of the births in 2013 were to mothers aged 19 or younger and 14 were to mothers aged 35 to 39. A baby born to a mother who is younger or older is not necessarily a health risk (for mother or baby), especially if social networks are in place. While birthing services may not be available on the west coast, there are several programs that support new parents. Family Ties, for instance, offers weekly drop-ins that cover a variety of topics, including healthy nutrition and parenting skills. To learn more about support services for children and their parents, visit the Coastal Family Resources Coalition website: [coastalfamilyresources.ca](http://coastalfamilyresources.ca)

In 2013, there were

# 84

babies born on the west coast, up from 77 births in 2012.<sup>18</sup>

The Alberni-Clayoquot Health Area has a higher rate of **infant mortality** (8.2 per 1,000 live births) than BC (3.7 per 1,000) or Island Health (4.4 per 1,000).<sup>19</sup>



As of August 2014, there are **45.5 kilometres** of built trails for walking and/or biking in the CSBRR.



Ucluelet Parks & Recreation

**Life expectancy of residents** in Alberni Health Area 70 has slowly risen over the past 20 years, but at

# 78.07 years

it is below the life expectancy for the entire Island Health region (81.85 years) and province (82.25 years).<sup>22</sup>

The Alberni-Clayoquot Health Area **ranked highest in deaths** due to ischaemic (coronary) heart disease and medically-treatable diseases (pneumonia, for example) on Vancouver Island (Island Health boundaries) and second highest in diabetes-, motor vehicle-, and alcohol-related deaths.<sup>23</sup>





When people lack “food security” they do not have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and to live an active and healthy life. **Individuals who are food insecure are at a higher risk** for poor physical, social, and mental health; diet-related diseases; impaired ability to work and learn, and more. In the CSBRR, **only 2 of 8 communities have grocery stores** with a wide selection of healthy foods. This adds travel costs to the price of food as residents have to travel by boat or more than 20 km by car to purchase food.

A comparison of 10 **healthy food** items shows that food prices were **13% to 21% higher** on the west coast than they were for the same items in Port Alberni.<sup>20</sup>

### The CBT at Work

With support from Island Health we convene Eat West Coast Network with a goal to help vulnerable individuals and communities in the CSBRR access safe, healthy, affordable food.

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We supported a community forum on long-term care for seniors. Few long term care options mean that seniors often have to leave the west coast, separating them from family and friends.

### Get Involved

Join the Eat West Coast Network, the Tofino Community Food Initiative, and/or the Tofino-Ucluelet Culinary Guild. All of these organizations are trying to find ways to bring healthy, affordable food to west coast communities.

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Volunteer at the community lunches offered by Fishes and Loaves, in Tofino, and the Westcoast Community Resources Society, in Ucluelet.

# Environment

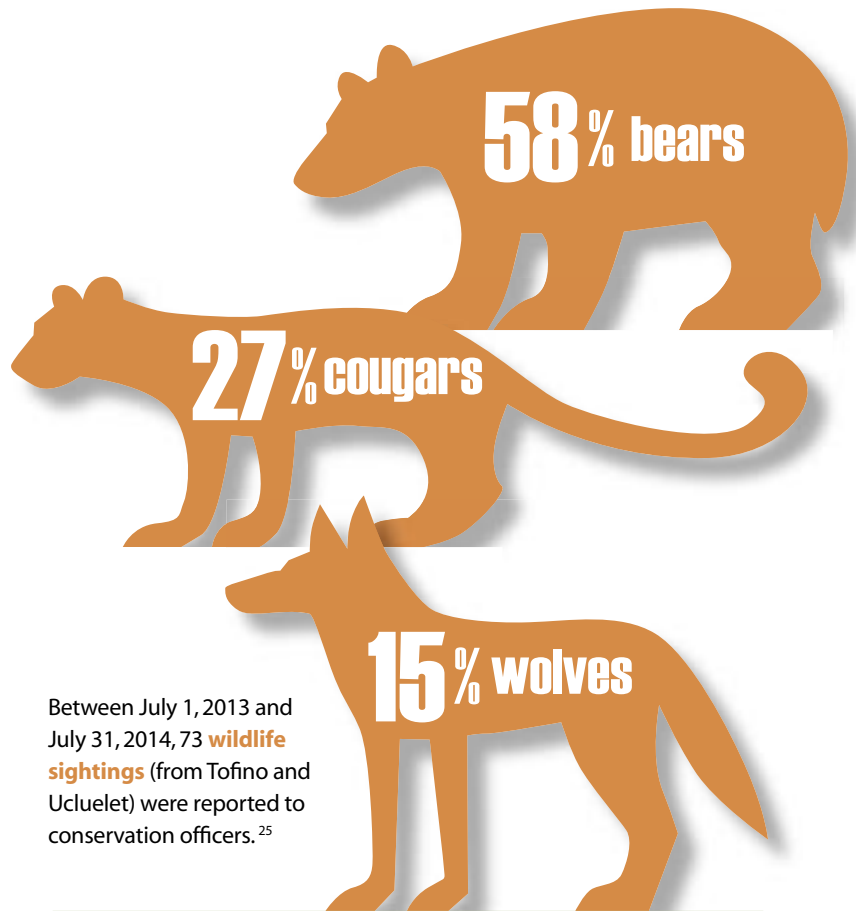


Reducing attractants is the easiest way to keep people and wildlife safe. **67.5%** of the public garbage cans in Ucluelet and Tofino are **animal-proof**, with proper latches to keep wildlife, including rats, crows, raccoons, and bears out. Of these, **only 25% included an option for recycling**.<sup>24</sup>



Dan Harrison

**Eelgrass meadows** are sensitive to changes in the marine environment. A 10-year Parks Canada study on eelgrass beds in Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds found that 54 fish species use eelgrass meadows as habitat. Over this time, fish population have remained stable in abundance and composition. In 2013, the Raincoast Education Society began a long-term study to map the size of eelgrass beds in Clayoquot Sound to see if they change over time. This study will help us gauge the health of the marine environment.<sup>26</sup>



Between July 1, 2013 and July 31, 2014, 73 **wildlife sightings** (from Tofino and Ucluelet) were reported to conservation officers.<sup>25</sup>



In Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds, dozens of marine water quality stations are **monitoring regularly for fecal coliform (FC)\*** as part of Environment Canada's rigorous Shellfish Sanitation program. While the current monitoring sites

have all been approved for harvesting, the area completely closed to harvesting has increased in recent years. In 2014, for instance, Closure 24.1, near Tofino, was expanded to the southern end of Echachis Island due to elevated FC counts at nearby sites.<sup>27</sup>

(\*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 can include sewage, boat discharges, and natural runoff from land.)

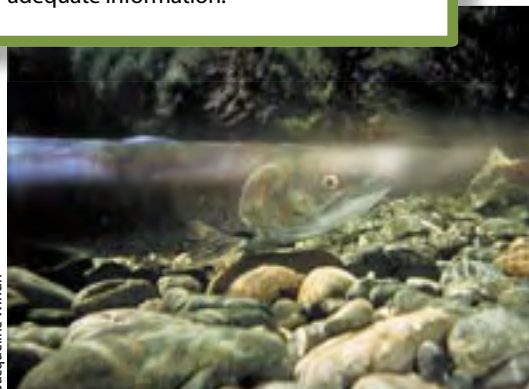


Central Westcoast Forest Society

Historically, Lost Shoe Creek provided important **rearing habitat for juvenile salmon**. In the late 1960s, the riparian forest was logged and remnants from slash fires and post-harvest stumps were pushed into the stream. Sampling by the Central Westcoast Forest Society (CWFS) between 1985-2012 found no fish in the stream. In 2013, after two years of restoration work by the CWFS, cutthroat trout and coho returned to the system.

**Assessments of salmon escapements** (counts of salmon returning to their natal stream) provide the Department of Fisheries

Oceans (DFO) with valuable information on the health of salmon stocks. However, funding cuts have meant fewer streams are being monitored. In 1981, there were 27 streams assessed with funding from DFO. In 2014, there were four. With the loss of federal funding, some businesses and not-for-profit groups have helped fund some assessments. Still, there are concerns that decisions are being made without adequate information.<sup>28</sup>

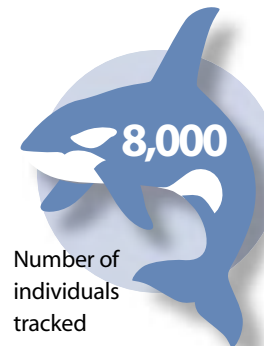


Jacqueline Windh

Since 1991, the Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society has been monitoring Bigg's (transient) killer whales in Clayoquot Sound.<sup>29</sup>



Days  
visitation  
to Clayoquot  
Sound



Number of  
individuals  
tracked

## The CBT at Work

In 2013, we held a science symposium that brought together researchers doing work in the CSBRR. This gave the public and other researchers a chance to share their project findings.

In 2013, we supported six scientific research projects for a total of \$24,329.

We partnered with the West Coast Aquatic to create a library with a searchable database. This resource is useful to researchers and the communities of the CSBRR.

## Get Involved

Join our citizen science program, which is tracking the bloom dates of salmonberry. Monitoring the timing of the first salmonberry blooms contributes to our understanding of the local effects of climate change.

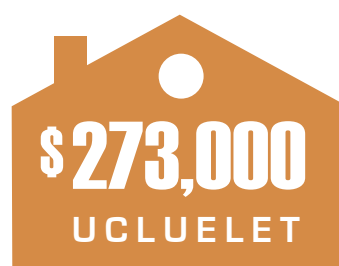
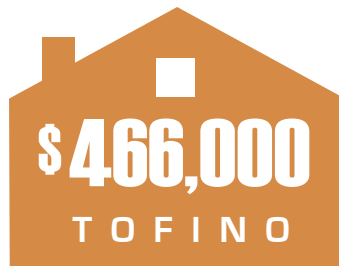
Recycling and compost help reduce pressure on the regional landfill. For more information, go to: [acrd.bc.ca](http://acrd.bc.ca)

Reduce wildlife attractants on your property. This includes improperly-stored garbage, outdoor freezers, barbecues, and even off-leash pets.



# Housing & Transportation

Median assessed value of single family dwelling, 2012.<sup>30</sup>



Of the total private dwellings in the CSBRR,

**17.6%**

are not occupied by usual residents.<sup>36</sup>  
(i.e., they do not occupy the residence for the majority of the year)

In a 2014 regional survey,

**19.4%**

of respondents had **moved three times or more** in the last 5 years. 11.9% had moved twice. Housing was the primary reason for moving, followed by employment.<sup>41</sup>

2012

**\$659**

**\$668**

2013

Average price of one-bedroom housing in the CSBRR.<sup>33</sup>

In the CSBRR there are **5 assisted-living units** and no residential care beds. Port Alberni has 36 assisted-living units and 192 residential care beds spread between six sites.<sup>35</sup>



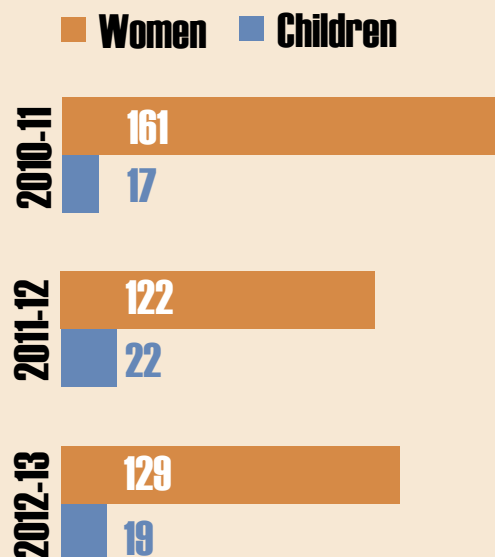
For a single person in the CSBRR, who works full-time and earns minimum wage

**41%**

of their income **goes to rent**.<sup>34</sup>  
According to Canada Mortgage and Housing guidelines, rent should not exceed 30% of income.<sup>34</sup>

*Housing is a health issue. When people don't have adequate housing, it contributes to health problems.'*

– Dr. Paul Hasselback, Central Island Medical Health Officer



### Women and children referred to the West Coast Transition House

The primary reason women access the transition house is to escape abuse. Most women leaving the transition house returned home, usually because there were limited opportunities for affordable, safe shelter in the CSBRR and because their social, work, school, and family supports were in the community.<sup>31</sup>

**\$375**

Shelter allowance for single person on social assistance.<sup>32</sup>

In a 2014 survey, 12.8% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that **lack of transportation** regularly affected their ability to get to **appointments or work**. 16.8% agreed or strongly agreed that lack of transportation affected their ability to participate in **social events**.<sup>41</sup>

Josie Osborne



### The CBT at Work

We regularly track the cost and availability of housing in the CSBRR throughout the year.

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We coordinated delivery of a regional survey to gather information around housing.

### Get Involved

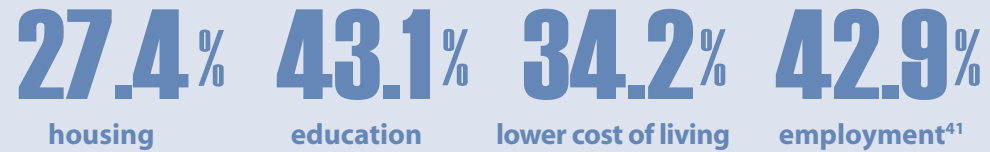
Participate in local initiatives around affordable housing.

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Learn about the work of the Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network at [acrd.bc.ca/achn](http://acrd.bc.ca/achn)

The ACHN gives the region's citizens a collective voice on issues related to health, including housing.

# Economy

When asked what might cause them to leave the region respondents to a regional survey answered:



Building permits for single dwelling units



After a construction boom in the 2000s, when 50 **building permits** for single dwelling units were issued in 2004 and 38 in 2006, residential construction has slowed considerably.<sup>37</sup>

**753** In 2013, 753 business licences were issued on the west coast. **27%** of the licenses were for **accommodation** services.<sup>38</sup>

**34.6%**

of people surveyed strongly agree or agreed that the region provide a **good quality of life** for the cost of living here.<sup>41</sup>

In a 2014 regional survey

**26.6%** had 2 jobs.  
**11.6%** had 3 or more.<sup>41</sup>

As of 2011,

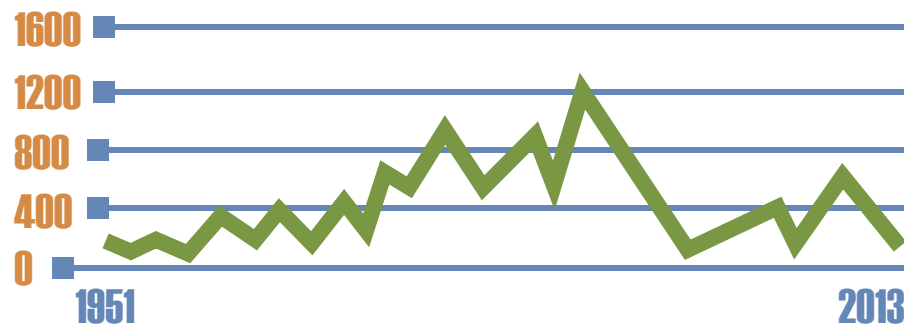
**4.4%**

of the population in the Alberni-Clayoquot region (Health Area 70) is receiving **income assistance**, as compared to 1.9% in both the Island Health region and in British Columbia. However, the regional rate is down 5.8 percentage points from the 2006 figure of 10.2%.<sup>35</sup>



For years, forestry was a significant part of the economy of the region. This graph shows the harvesting trend since 1951. In the past, the tree farm licences were owned by large corporations. Today, Lisaak Forest Resources, 100% owned by the Central Region Nuuchahnulth Nations, manages most of the TFLs within the CSBRR.<sup>39</sup>

hectares harvested







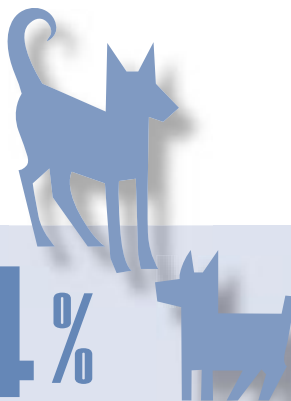
## Safety

**40%**

of youth surveyed said there were places on the west coast where they **didn't feel safe walking alone**.<sup>7</sup>

**94%**

of youth surveyed, said that they **felt safe at home** and **84%** felt safe in their community.<sup>7</sup>

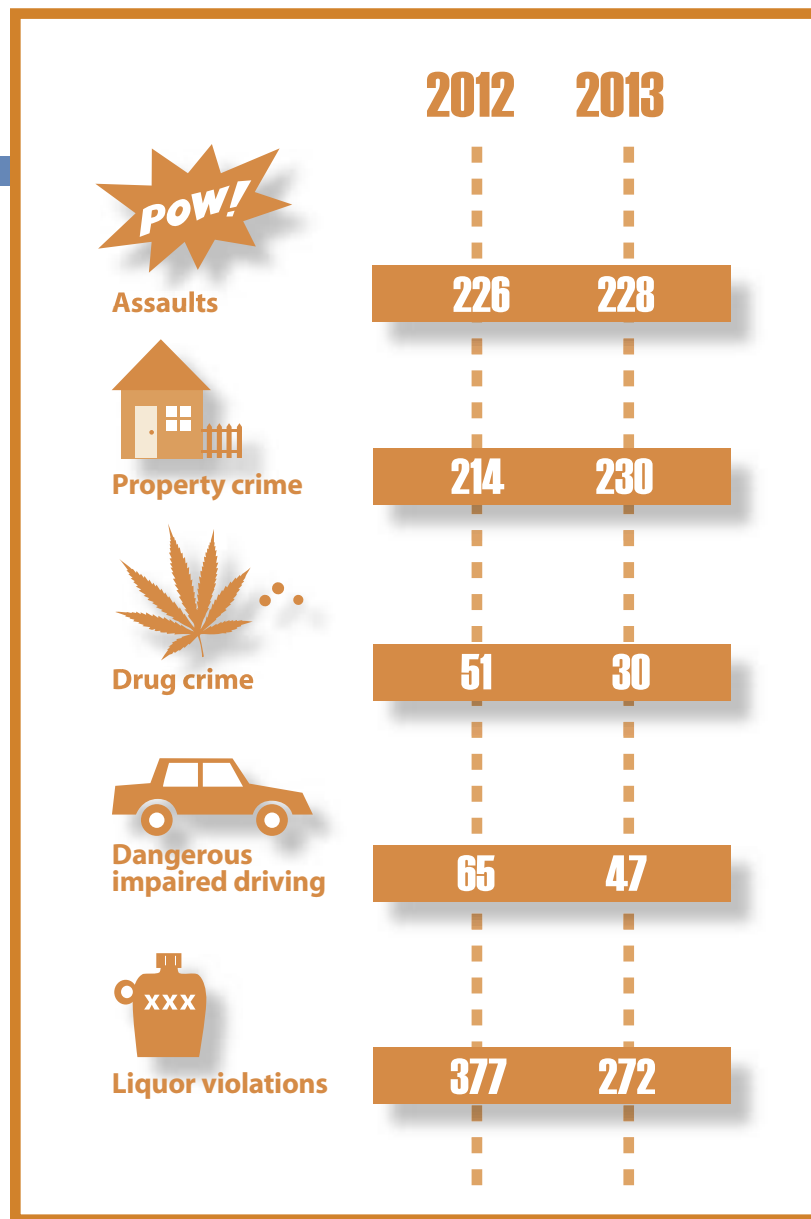


**54%**

of students in Ahousaht who said they **felt unsafe** in some places said it was **due to free-ranging dogs**. For other students dark streets or trails and wildlife such as cougars made them feel uneasy.<sup>7</sup>



Over the last few years crime rates are stable or trending down.<sup>40</sup>



# Sources



Dan Harrison

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- 2 Local Area Health Profile: Alberni (70), Island Health, 2013
- 3 Canadian Revenue Agency [cra-artc.gc.ca](http://cra-artc.gc.ca)
- 4 Female-to-male ratios of elected officials as of July 2014: Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation 1:10; Hesquiaht First Nation 4:3; Ahousaht First Nation 2:11; District of Tofino 3:4; District of Ucluelet 1:4; Toquaht First Nation 2:3; Yuułuʔiłʔatʼ Government 2:5
- 5 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Community Organization Directory
- 6 Elections BC [elections.bc.ca/docs/rpt/2013GE/2013-GE-SOV.pdf](http://elections.bc.ca/docs/rpt/2013GE/2013-GE-SOV.pdf)  
Note: The figure does include advanced polling, but does not include voters who took advantage of an absentee voting opportunity and voted at a place other than their assigned voting place.
- 7 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Youth Survey
- 8 First Peoples' Language Map ([maps.fphlcc.ca](http://maps.fphlcc.ca)) Note: Statistics include all residents of each First Nation, even those currently living outside the CSBRR.
- 9 Visitor Profile – Tofino, 2013. Nichola Everden, Vancouver Island University
- 10 Vancouver Island Regional Library
- 11 Tourism Tofino and Tourism Ucluelet
- 12 School District 70
- 13 BC Ministry of Education [bc.ed.gov.bc.ca](http://bc.ed.gov.bc.ca)
- 14 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and Ucluelet Secondary School
- 15 Statistics Canada – 2006 Census and 2011 National Household Survey
- 16 Association of Universities and Colleges  
[aucc.ca/canadian-universities/facts-and-stats/](http://aucc.ca/canadian-universities/facts-and-stats/)
- 17 Human Early Learning Partnership [earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps)
- 18 Port Alberni Health Unit, Island Health. Note: Figures for “west coast mothers” include women from Bamfield and Nitinat.
- 19 Island Health, Local Area Health Profile Alberni (70), December 2013
- 20 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust. Note: Prices averaged between stores on the west coast (2) and in Port Alberni (4). Prices were for regular, not sale, prices in July 2014. The 13.2% figure does not include Walmart in the Port Alberni totals. When the prices for Walmart are included, the difference jumps to 21%.
- 21 Annual Hunger Count statistics. Food Bank on the Edge, Ucluelet
- 22 Figures 2009-13. Vital Statistics, BC Ministry of Health.  
[bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/VitalStatistics.aspx](http://bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/VitalStatistics.aspx)
- 23 Local Area Health Profile – Alberni (70) - BC Vital Statistics Annual Report, 2011.
- 24 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- 25 Wild Safe BC – Wildlife Reporting Program (WARP) [wildsafebc.com/warp](http://wildsafebc.com/warp)
- 26 *Elgrass monitoring program in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve 2004-2013* by Jennifer Yakimishyn and *Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area Elgrass Mapping and Inventory: 2013 Report*, Raincoast Education Society.
- 27 Environment Canada Marine Water Quality Monitoring Program  
[ec.gc.ca/marine/](http://ec.gc.ca/marine/)
- 28 Tofino Salmon Enhancement Society, Doug Palfrey, [pers.comm](mailto:pers.comm).
- 29 Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society [strawberryisle.org](http://strawberryisle.org)
- 30 BC Assessment [bcassessment.ca](http://bcassessment.ca)
- 31 Westcoast Transition House and BC Housing Management Commission
- 32 BC Employment and Assistance Rates, Income Assistance  
[eia.gov.bc.ca/mhr/rates.htm](http://eia.gov.bc.ca/mhr/rates.htm)
- 33 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust – Weekly tracking of rental prices using The Westerly News, websites (e.g., Tofino Trading Post), and other local sources.
- 34 Clayoquot Biosphere Trust – Based on minimum wage of \$10.25 (before deductions), a 40-hour work week, and one-bedroom housing.
- 35 Island Health, Community Health Facts [viha.ca/mho/stats/lha\\_profiles](http://viha.ca/mho/stats/lha_profiles)
- 36 2011 Statistics Canada Census Profiles for: Ahousaht (Marktoosis), Tofino, Ucluelet, Esowista, Opitsat, and Hitacu (Ittatsoo).
- 37 BC Stats [bcstats.gov.bc.ca](http://bcstats.gov.bc.ca)
- 38 District of Tofino, District of Ucluelet
- 39 Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources.
- 40 RCMP – Tofino and Ucluelet combined; Assaults include “general” assaults, sexual assaults and assaults of children; property crime includes break and enters and thefts; drug crimes include trafficking and possession.
- 41 Data from a regional survey designed by SPARC-BC in conjunction with the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, District of Ucluelet, District of Tofino, Yuułuʔiłʔatʼ Government, and the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

# About the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

## Who

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) is a community foundation that works with all communities in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region (CSBRR). The CBT manages the Canada Fund, an endowment entrusted to the region on creation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

## What

- We provide grants to dozens of non-profit organizations and other qualified donees working in all sectors of the community.
- We convene and coordinate regional initiatives that benefit us all.
- We offer expertise and advice to donors wishing to establish charitable funds, endowed in perpetuity.
- We support community organizations with workshops and training.
- We fund research to gain knowledge about the CSBRR.

*Together, we can build a region where all residents can succeed, contribute, and develop their talents to the fullest potential.*

## When

**2000** Our region is declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, joining an international network of over 600 reserves. The region receives the Canada Fund and the CBT is formed to administer the fund.

**2012** The CBT joins over 190 other community foundations as a member of the Community Foundations of Canada to better support our work.

**2014** To date, the CBT has granted more than \$1.4M to communities and community organizations to support works that make a difference.

## Where

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust serves all communities in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Region: Hot Springs Cove, Ahousaht, Opitsaht, Tofino, Esowista, Hitacu, Ucluelet, Macoah, and Area C of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

## Why

After consulting with the people of the region, we crafted this vision in 2000: "To live sustainably in a healthy ecosystem, with a diversified economy, and strong, vibrant, united cultures while embracing the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations living philosophies of lisaak (living respectfully), Qwa'aak qin teechemis (life in the balance), and Hishuk ish ts'awalk (everything is one and interconnected)."





COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA

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 supports action on issues critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by the Community Foundations of Canada.



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