



THE FEDERATION
of COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES of BC

Altogether better.



LIFE IN BC SNAPSHOT

The FCSSBC is a group of community-based social services organizations that influence decision-making to improve the wellbeing of communities.

We believe that:

- Healthy supported communities make good economic sense.
- For our families to succeed, all families must succeed.
- For jobs to be the answer to social inclusion other conditions must exist

We have scoured the literature and research to take a snapshot of Life in BC that captures some aspects of the economy that traditionally get overlooked and we will use these markers to determine how good life in BC *really* is. Below are some of the key facts that stood out for us.

"...effective public policy must reach beyond formal schooling to address the life cycles of both adults and their children. "Thinking" governments advance a life-long approach to learning understanding that success in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education, as well as in the workplace--gets a good start or not, depending on early experiences".¹

For over a decade the Ministry responsible for the care and well-being of children and families has seen no real growth in investment, and when cost-of living is included this translates to a cut. We must act to invest in supports to families and children.

WHAT
WE
HAVE
TO
SAY

VOL.1
ISSUE 4

CHILDREN & YOUTH

CASE
STUDY

WHAT
WE
KNOW



While most youth are doing well, children and youth in government care and Aboriginal children and youth are not.²

Aboriginal youth are the fastest growing demographic.³
One in five children in BC live in poverty.⁴



Aboriginal youth are over-represented in foster care and the criminal justice system.⁸

The rate of youth suicide has increased since 2009, with youth in care⁹ and Aboriginal youth more at risk.¹⁰

Children and youth in government care experience multiple moves, and the number of moves increases the longer they remain in care. Evidence suggests that permanency is key to improving the outcomes for a child in care.¹¹

Despite efforts to address school readiness⁵ we have seen an increase in the number of children who are starting kindergarten developmentally vulnerable.⁶

Youth in care and Aboriginal youth are over-represented in the street/homeless youth population.⁷



Mo is a single mom of a three year old boy named Zander. Mo grew up in care and is still in touch with her foster mother. When Mo became pregnant while at university her foster mom got her connected to her local community centre. There Mo was able to attend family programs, where she met other parents and learned inexpensive activities to do with her busy son, songs that he loves to sing with her, and tips for dealing with his tantrums. When Mo went back to school she enrolled her son in the community centre day care and they continue to attend activities together on the weekends.



¹ McCain, M.N., Mustard, J. F & Shanker, S. (2007) Early Years Study 2: Putting Science into Action. Council for Early Child Development. Retrieved from http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/guestid/humandevelopment/UserFiles/File/early_years_study_2.pdf.

² Representative for Children & Youth, Public Health Office, Growing up in BC- 2015. (2015) Retrieved from https://www.rcybc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/reports_publications/guibc-2015-finalforweb_0.pdf.

³ Representative for Children & Youth, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Growing up in BC- 2015. (2015) Retrieved from https://www.rcybc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/reports_publications/guibc-2015-finalforweb_0.pdf.

⁴ First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition. (2014) British Columbia Child Poverty Report Card. Retrieved from <http://stillin5.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/First-Call-Coalition-Report-Card-2014-FINAL-WEB.pdf>.

⁵ Human Early Learning Partnership. (2013) EDI Mapping Wave 4, British Columbia School Districts. Retrieved from http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/mapsets/w4/bc_w4_edimapset.pdf.

⁶ Kershaw, P., Anderson, L., Warburton, B., Hertzman, C. (2009) 15 by 15: A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC. Human Early Learning Partnership. Retrieved from <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/publications/15by15-full-report.pdf>.

⁷ McCreary Centre Society. (2015) Our Communities Our Youth: The health of homeless and street involved youth. Retrieved from http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/Our_Communities_Our_Youth.pdf.

⁸ McCreary Centre Society. (2015) Our Communities Our Youth: The health of homeless and street involved youth. Retrieved from http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/Our_Communities_Our_Youth.pdf.

⁹ Representative for Children & Youth, Public Health Office, Growing up in BC- 2015. (2015) Retrieved from https://www.rcybc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/reports_publications/guibc-2015-finalforweb_0.pdf.

¹⁰ Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. (2013) BC Coroners Service Child Death Review panel: A Review of Child and Youth Suicides 2008-2012. Retrieved from <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/shareddocs/death-review-panel-2008-2012.pdf>.

¹¹ McCreary Centre Society. (2014) From Hastings Street to Haida Gwaii: Provincial results of the 2013 adolescent health survey. Retrieved from http://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/From_Hastings_Street_To_Haida_Gwaii.pdf.

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WE HAVE LOTS OF READING MATERIAL*