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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,  
HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023,  
AT THE HOUSE OF UNITY AT TSAXANA**

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**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Arlaine Fehr, Chairperson (Gold River)  
Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot)  
Katie Unger (Gold River)  
Allison Stiglitz (Tahsis) (Zoom)  
Cyndy Rodgers (Zeballos)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer  
Annie McDowell, Associate Director of Human Resources  
Eight Attendees from the Nation and District

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm, acknowledged and gave thanks that the meeting was taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation. She also noted that the Board was very happy to be in the House of Unity.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**2023:R-029** MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson  
AND RESOLVED:  
*"TO approve the agenda."*

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**2023:R-030** MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Rodgers  
AND RESOLVED:  
*"TO correct the minutes to indicate the next meeting date being June 12, 2023, and to adopt the minutes as corrected."*

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Nil.

**PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**a. Ms. Natasha Toth, Principal, Ray Watkins Elementary School**

Ms. Toth presented a report on the following highlights:

Operations:

- New playground was put in place
- New grass placed around dirt patches
- Staff computers replaced last summer
- Old Smartboards are slowly being replaced with updated Smart TVs
- Chalk boards will be replaced with sliding white boards over the summer
- New classroom furniture for the two Grade 6/7 split classrooms as well as the First Nations room
- New sensory room for students being built over the summer

Staffing:

- Great opportunity that everyone enjoyed, having VIU student teachers at school this year
- Three new Special Needs Education Assistants on the staff this year
- The K-2 classroom worked out really well
- Nice to have a Vice-Principal who provides a vital link to the Mowachaht/Muchalat community
- Academics
- Teachers enjoying collaboration time, and this has really helped to improve literacy instruction

- Teachers have a better understanding of how to use assessments and how to use data from assessments to inform their teaching
- 52% of students are reading at grade level (double from last year) and 69% improved their reading level
- 33% of students are fully meeting on the Spring SNAP, 73% of students at 'meeting or higher'
- Noticed from looking at data and student work that reading is improving, but that students were struggling with writing cross all grades – and this has been included as one of the new goals moving forward

Other:

- Breakfast program has been popular with about 30-50% of student use depending on what's being served
- Hoping to have a person come in to help with breakfast and hot lunches next year
- Fun Fridays were a big hit – they were a trial for this year and the goal is to have more regularly next year
- Students are enjoying Mr. Cooper's outdoor classroom trips
- The Cultural Event was a big success, and much great work done by students
- Upcoming events include the Yuquot trips, Fun Carnival, Bike rodeo, and music performance

Wishes

- Having more replacement staff as is it very difficult with staff being away
- Definitely see a need for more counselling as many students are struggling
- Need to work on building team spirit (students) next year
- Getting the community more involved in school

**b. Ms. Fatima McCarthy, Children's Health Hub Navigator, re Service Providers Conference**

Ms. McCarthy provided a very informative presentation, a copy of which is attached and forms part of these minutes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair, SD5 (Southeast Kootenay)</li><li>• BC School Trustees Association</li><li>• BCSTA</li><li>• Strathcona Regional District</li><li>• BCSTA</li><li>• Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association</li><li>• BCSTA</li><li>• BCSTA</li><li>• Ray Watkins Elementary</li><li>• BCSTA</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copy of Letters to Minister of Education and Child Care, Minister of Health, and BCSTA President, re Speech Language Pathologist Deficit</li><li>• BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees</li><li>• BCSTA Update: Preparing for Provincial Council at AGM</li><li>• SRD – Building Bridges Through Understanding the Village</li><li>• BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees</li><li>• Agenda – VISTA Annual General Meeting – April 28</li><li>• BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees</li><li>• BCSTA Update: Your Guide to AGM</li><li>• April Newsletter</li><li>• BCSTA Weekly: Welcome to AGM 2023; Indigenous-Focussed Graduation Requirement Resources; ChildCare BC Bulletin; Losing a Son to a Fentanyl Overdose; Mental Health and Substance Use Survey and Resources; Opinion – Advocacy; Reminders</li><li>• March/April Newsletter</li><li>• April Newsletter</li><li>• May Newsletter</li><li>• BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees</li><li>• BCSTA Weekly: Thank you; Dates for Board; School Food Newsletter; New Report – Mission; Opinion – Advocacy Needs to be Planned; Reminders</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zeballos School</li><li>• Ray Watkins Elementary</li><li>• Ray Watkins</li><li>• BCSTA</li><li>• BCSTA</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

**2023:R-031**    **MOVED:** Trustee Rodgers, **SECONDED:** Trustee Hanson  
**AND RESOLVED:**  
*"TO receive and file the correspondence."*

**REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:**

Chairperson Fehr reported that the Board discussed one land and two labour issues.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

**a.    School Reports**

Trustee Rodgers reported that the exchange program with the Nelson students was a great success, with both groups having a really good time. Everyone is now excited about the upcoming Zeballos School graduation ceremony, taking place on June 15.

Chairperson Fehr reported that the Gold River Secondary School track team went to the Island and Provincial competitions and did really well and returned feeling very confident. It is hoped that more students will take part next year.

Vice-Chairperson Hanson reported on the many activities at Kyuquot School. With the guidance of Grandma Daisy Hanson and Lead Drummer Brandon Smith, students practiced almost daily to prepare for and participate in the Cultural Sharing event at Gold River Secondary School. On Mother's Day, the first monthly gathering took place - a KESS and community dinner – and there will be an end-of-the year dinner as well as a welcome back dinner in September, hosted by the community. Intermediate students recently enjoyed exploring the Territory and helping to plant tree seedlings in a deforested area and explored forestry concepts both in class and on the land. They have also been learning woodworking skills and worked with visiting archeologists to explore the history of the shoreline right in Houpsitas. There was lots of fun at the 'Celebrate Reading' Dinner and book giveaway, and a splendid celebration at the graduation ceremony on June 9. Now, everyone is looking so forward to the upcoming School and Family Trip to Haida Gwaii from June 16-25.

**b.    Enhancement Agreement/Local Education Agreement Meeting**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported on the May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting at Zeballos School. Discussion items included a recap of the cultural sharing at GRSS, with many good notes and items to follow up on for next time; discussion about next year's budget for Indigenous Education and a decision made on how the targeted funds would be spent; the third Enhancement Agreement will be drafted for next meeting; increased funds for feeding students in schools - \$350,000 for the District - and Principals will be talking to their communities about how that will work best; upcoming summer literacy camps for primary-aged students in each community; joint transportation plans, with people agreeing that school buses are still needed; the VIU courses and the Indigenous portfolio course will run again in September and will be advertised as soon as the date is known. This year's program was expanded outside the District, with people participating from Nanaimo and Port Alberni.

The Committee also discussed the Student Teacher Program, with six local people starting the program in September and are still part of it, so that has been great. For those who had all the prerequisites beforehand, they will graduate with their full five-year certificates in December. For any who had prerequisites to complete, they will graduate in Spring 2024. The District is submitting for another program and, for highschool grads who are interested in becoming teachers, it would be good for them to start their prerequisites as soon as possible. The Board has a special hiring program to allow preferential hiring for First Nations applicants, so will be able to hire these student teachers once they graduate. There will also be Education Assistant training through NIC in partnership with the NTC, which will be a blend of online and in-community programming, running part-time over three years, to become certified as Education Assistants which will also prepare them for a possible teacher training program in the future.

The next EA/LEA meeting will be held by Zoom on June 26<sup>th</sup>, to wrap up the year and get organized for next year.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. District Cultural Event – May 18, 2023**

All of the schools participated in the very impressive event at Gold River Secondary School. This was the first time, coming back from COVID, to offer this size of an event and, by all accounts, the students were so much more confident about doing their presentations than in the past, as a result of all of the work going on behind the scenes including ongoing practice and training. The GRSS students have been asked to go to other communities to share. In KESS, they had a group come up and stay in the hotel across the water and, in the Community Centre, everyone was in there drumming and dancing and the building was bouncing! The students would sing and dance themselves across the water – a very beautiful time! The next cultural event will be in Kyuquot on May 15, 2024, with Zeballos School hosting in 2025 and Captain Meares School in 2026. The pride, care and attention that people were showing and the students' focus were evidence of how important this event was to everyone. Chairperson Fehr noted that the representatives from the Pacific Rim School District were extremely impressed.

Prior to today's Board meeting, the Trustees and Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer had the opportunity to sit in a circle with the Gold River Secondary School students and they shared, sang, drummed, and involved everyone.

**b. Teacher Education Program Update**

In addition to the report already presented, the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that four of the six students are Nuu-chah-nulth, so more and more Nuu-chah-nulth people are working in the schools which is making a difference for students. It is that normal integration where one would expect to see Nuu-chah-nulth people teaching their students.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. School Fees 2023-2024**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer noted that, although schools are allowed to charge a fee, he recommended to the Board that no school fees would be charged in 2023-2024.

**2023:R-032** MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson  
AND RESOLVED:  
*"THAT there will be no school fees charged in 2023-2024."*

**b. Student Codes of Conduct 2023-2024**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer reported that each code aligns with legislation and Board requirements, and recommended approval.

**2023:R-033** MOVED: Trustee Rodgers, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson  
AND RESOLVED:  
*"TO approve the Student Codes of Conduct for 2023-2024, as presented."*

**c. Five-Year Capital Plan (Major Capital Programs)**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer noted that the previous Boards completed the required community consultation and made the decision to combine both Gold River Schools, subject to the Ministry providing funding to build secondary school space and a new gym. Given the high cost of maintaining Gold River Secondary School, the Ministry of Education is showing interest in this proposal and has inquired if the District would contribute to make it happen – which would also result in the District being able to recoup management fees that could be available for other improvements.

**2023:R-034** MOVED: Trustee Rodgers, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson  
AND RESOLVED:

*"In accordance with provisions under section 142(4) of the School Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 84 (Vancouver Island West) hereby approves the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan (Major Capital Programs) for 2024/25, as provided on the Five-Year Capital Plan Summary for 2024/25 submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care."*

**d. Amendment to AP 505, Purchasing and Tendering**

An amendment to Administrative Procedure 505, *Purchasing and Tendering*, was presented to the Board for information and will be posted on the District's website.

**e. Summer Closure of School Board Office – July 5, 2023 to August 25, 2023**

**2023:R-035** MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Hanson  
AND RESOLVED:

*"TO approve the closure of the School Board Office to the public, effective July 5, 2023 to August 25, 2023 inclusive."*

**SUPERINTENDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**a. District Update**

There are so many exciting things happening in the District! The 'book give-away' dinners have been happening this week and, after a short presentation about the importance of reading, the students are given books to take home. There have been large turnouts and, if families are not able to attend, Joni Johnson and Heather Goodall follow up with the family to provide books. The hard work to support literacy in the schools is now reflective in the improved District-wide reading results for primary students!

In terms of athletics, two students went to the BC track and field competition and performed well, with both placing in different categories.

Recruiting remains a challenge, with two teacher vacancies in Kyuquot and three in Tahsis.

**b. Enrollment Report**

The enrollment decreased slightly to 342 students including homeschoolers, continuing education and international students.

**c. Finance Warrants**

The finance warrants were reviewed and the District has 20% of its budget remaining for this fiscal year, ending June 30, 2023.

**TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:**

Trustee Rodgers, who is an advocate for the neuro-diverse – the 'invisible disability' such as autism, ADHD, trauma, PDS – spoke of 'masking'. Neuro-divergence and invisible differences are linked to 'masking' or hiding behaviours and identifiers that may make one's condition or difference apparent – trying to be 'normal', think normally, say things normally, and never being allowed in public to just be themselves. An individual who masks is constantly scanning their surroundings, policing their own behaviours and/or overcompensating for symptoms. It is exhausting and causes frustration and anger because they are not allowed to be themselves and, as a result, get criticized, reprimanded, etc. Trustee Rodgers explained that neuro-diverse children, within 10 minutes of walking through the school door, may become anxious and shut down and, if staff do not understand, it could result in aggression and violence. For this reason, she asked if the Board could start talking more about neuro-diversity.

Chairperson Fehr agreed that this is an important discussion and the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer will follow up with the Curriculum Implementation Committee.

**PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:**

Public inquiries addressed the following:

- Further discussion about neuro-diversity;
- A follow-up to the community consultation meeting in Gold River;
- The cultural event that showed so much pride and confidence in the students;
- Appreciation to the Board and the schools for all the work to support First Nations culture for students;
- A request for the Board to continue supporting the Local Education Agreement, the Enhancement Agreement and the cultural sharing to grow the communities together – which the Board fully supports;

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS:**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 4 pm, at the School Board Office in Gold River. The public is invited to attend. Any requests for agenda additions should go to [amcdowell@viw.sd84.bc.ca](mailto:amcdowell@viw.sd84.bc.ca) two weeks prior to the meeting. Board meeting minutes are posted on the District's website at <http://www.sd84.bc.ca/board-meetings-school-district-84>.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 5:59 pm:

**2023:R-036**      MOVED: Trustee Unger, SECONDED: Trustee Stiglitz  
AND RESOLVED:  
"TO adjourn."

SOLELY SPONSORED BY SCHOOL DISTRICT 84 SINCE 2020

# VIW- CHILDREN'S HEALTH HUB SD84



GOLD RIVER CHILDREN'S HEALTH HUB

Helping Families Thrive

# **The VIW- Children's Health HUB**

**is grateful to be able to  
gather, share knowledge,  
work, and play on the  
unceded ancestral territory  
of the Mowachaht /  
Muchalaht First Nation.**



# GOLD RIVER CHILDREN'S HEALTH HUB

*Helping Families Thrive*

**(250) 283-7108**



**Join Gold River Children's Health Group on Facebook**

*The VIW Children's Health Hub's main mandate is to connect families from our remote communities with Service Providers, facilitating the flow of services and creating more opportunities for our children to have a well-rounded and healthy physical, emotional, and mental development.*





**Children's  
Health Hub**  
*Helping families thrive.*

**PHONE: 250-283-7108**

PROUDLY FUNDED BY:



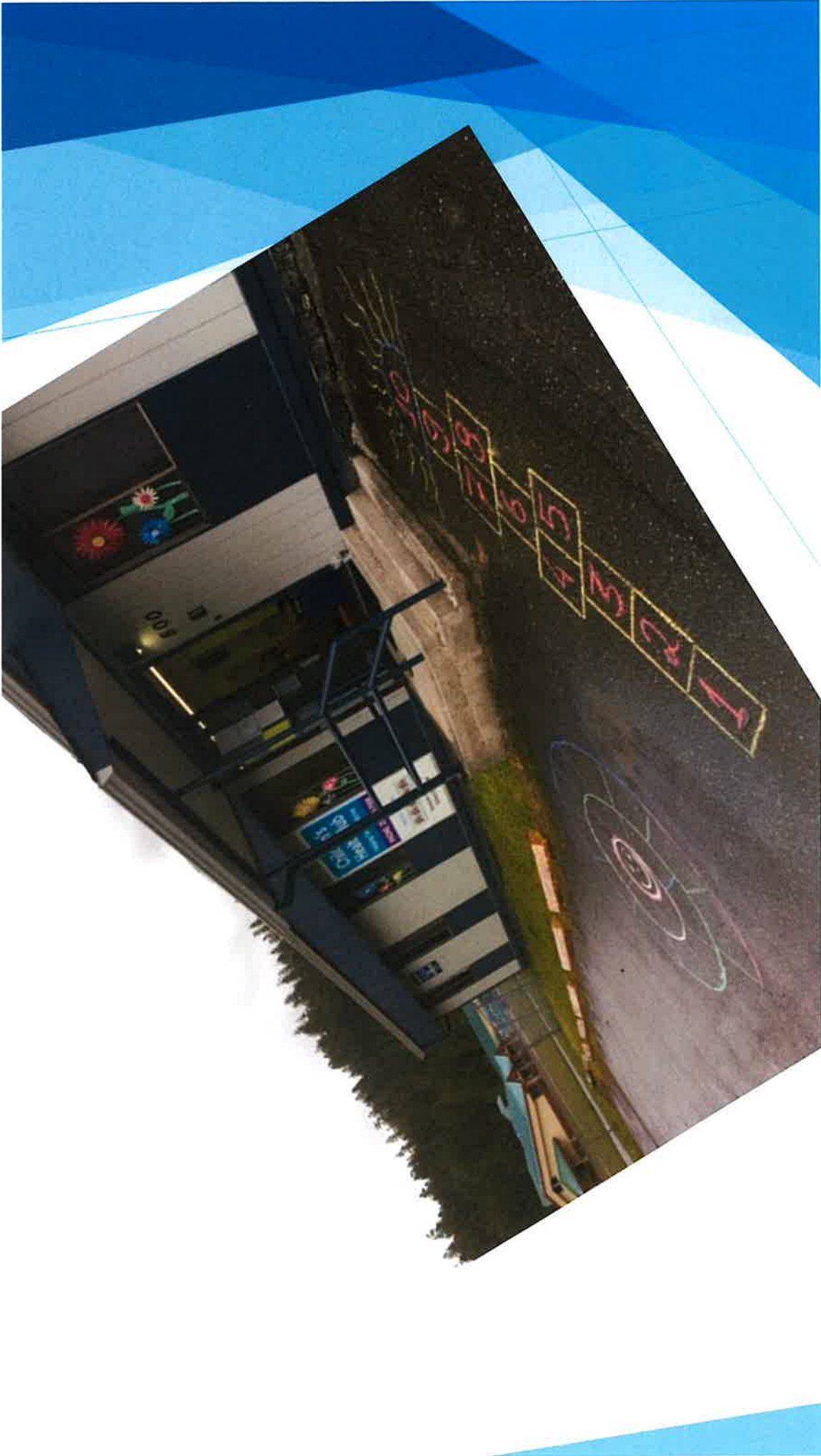
**Vancouver Island West  
School District 84**





## The main goals of the Hub are:

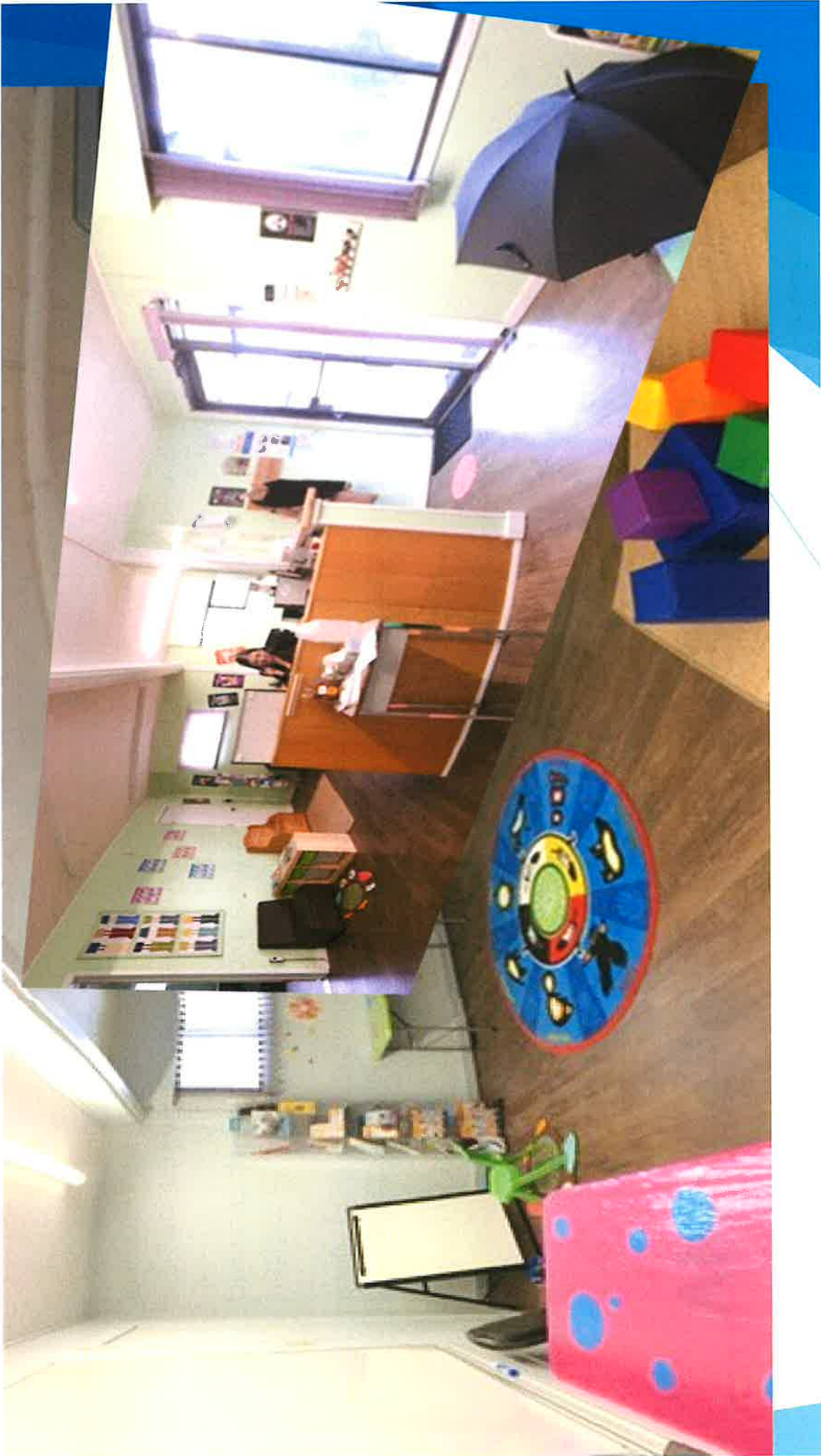
- Connect people;
- Develop relationships;
- Share experiences;
- Gather knowledge;
- Enrich communication and
- Improve the flow of services for the families we serve.





## Service Providers Using the HUB's Facility for their programs

- ▶ Dogwood Place
- ▶ Laichwiltach Family Life Society
- ▶ John Howard Society
- ▶ Share a Smile
- ▶ Campbell River Family Service Society
- ▶ Island Health
- ▶ MCDF
- ▶ NCT
- ▶ Pre-school and Day Care ( GR and Tsaxana)



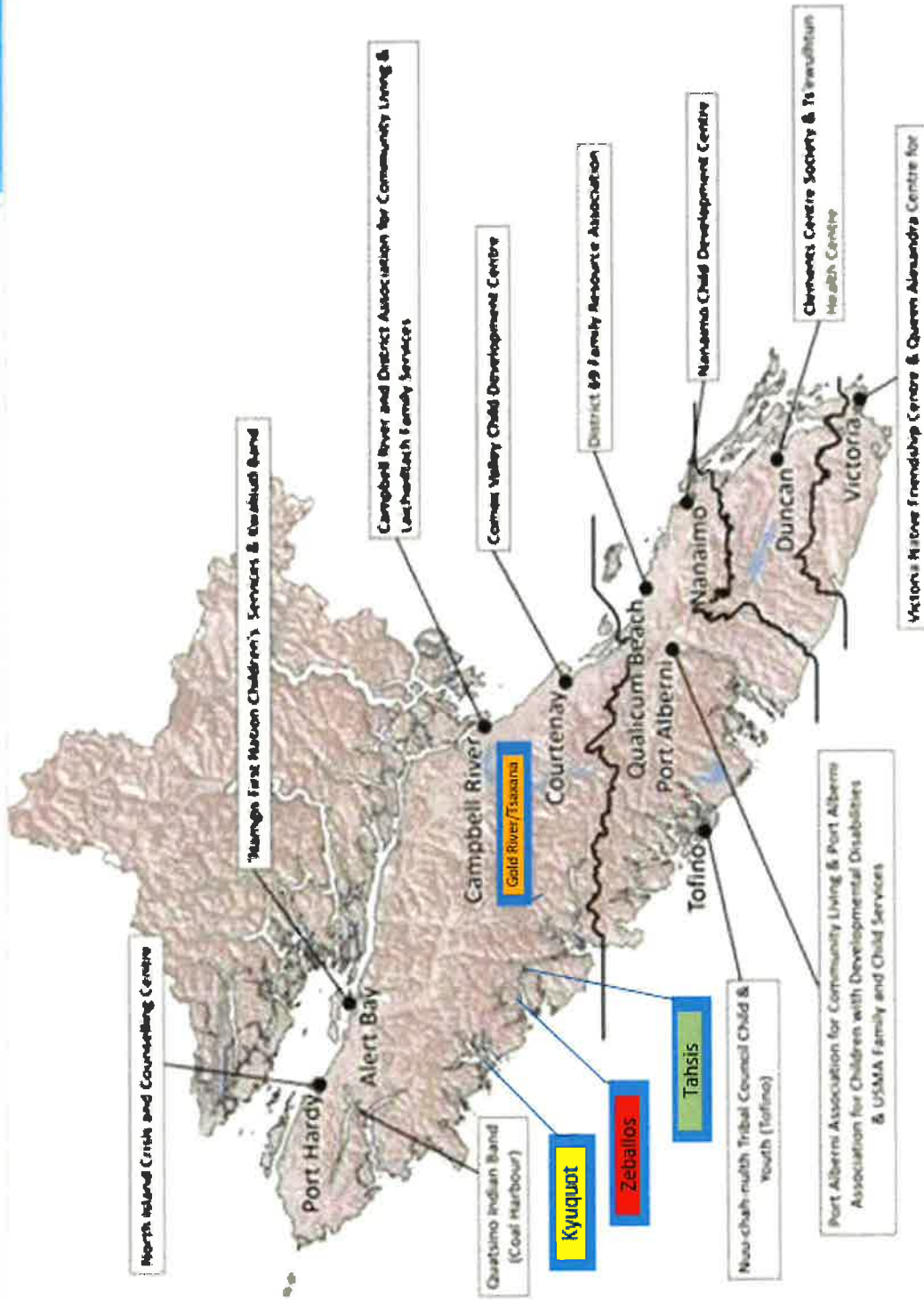
# VIW-Children's Health Hub

## Guiding Principles

- **Trusting relationships:** Build relationships by interacting with families in a caring and supportive way.
- **Non-judgmental:** Interact with families without labeling or judging them on the basis of background, choices, or experiences.
- **Holistic:** Engage families in a manner that recognizes the mental, physical, spiritual, and social connections of good health.
- **Trauma-informed:** Recognize that some families have experienced trauma. Use that knowledge when building relationships and implementing services.



# Our Communities



# HUB's Participation in Early Years Service

## Providers

## Bodies' Meetings

- Vancouver Island West Early Year Table: HOST
- Campbell River Earlier Years Table: Member
- Campbell River Region Council: Member
- Vancouver Island Navigators: Member

# Developing trust and relationships

Visits to Kyuquot,  
Zeballos, and Tahsis  
Attending Elders Lunch  
and other  
community events at  
Tsaxana.

Volunteering for events  
Connecting with  
community Key members



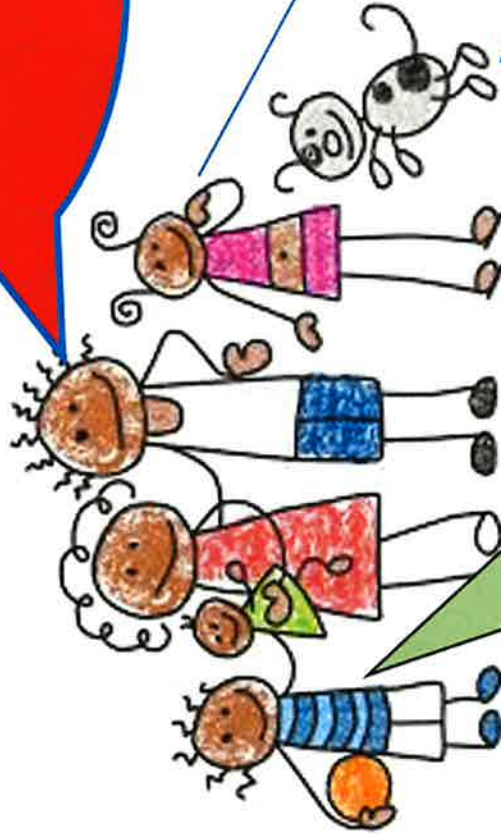
# Projects and Programs



**FUN FAMILY TIME**

**CHILDREN'S  
HUB DROP IN!**

Call the GOLD RIVER  
CHILDREN'S  
HEALTH HUB:  
**(250) 283-2241**



**Weekly activities for families with  
small children (\*)**

(\*) not yet in kindergarten.

**A fun weekly activity with people you  
can trust, connect and share ideas.**

**Tuesdays  
1:30 to 3:00 PM**

**It's a drop in but you  
need to  
Call to register!**

Arts, crafts and other  
creative experiences....



# ARE YOU PREGNANT?

Do you know  
someone who is  
Pregnant?  
Please share this



## INFORMATION SESSION AND LUNCH WOMEN'S HEALTH HUB

# November 9

- FREE Prenatal vitamins and supplements
- Weekly Grocery Vouchers (\$)
- Services of a Registered Dietician
- Services of a Public Health Nurse
- Services of a Prenatal drop-in groups
- Pre-Natal and Post Natal drop-in groups
- Support with a pregnancy outreach worker
- Support with a pregnancy outreach worker
- Baby's Best Chance Program.

This month we will have 3 amazing service Providers to support you, your baby and your family.

Angie MacDonald (she/her)  
Infant Development Consultant

Natalie Wright BHSc., RM., ECE (she/her)  
Pregnancy Outreach Worker

Christine Surina, RN, BSM, IBCLC  
Public Health Nurse

vided to people

# DENTAL CARE CLINIC at the HUB



Working along with GR Library  
**Borrow a book about Dental  
Care and get a toothbrush  
and toothpaste for free.**

**BOOK YOUR CHILDRENS  
DENTAL CARE  
APPOINTMENTS  
AT THE HUB!**

**Tue, October 5th**

**Call: (250) 2837108**



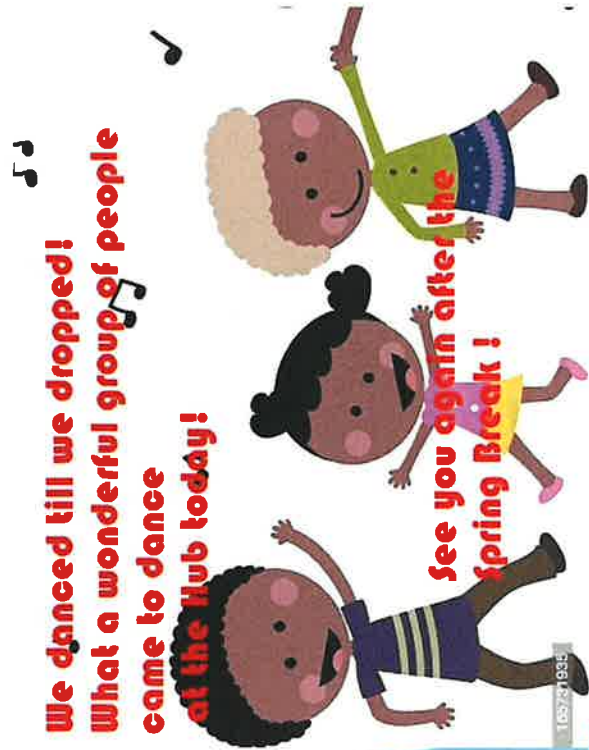
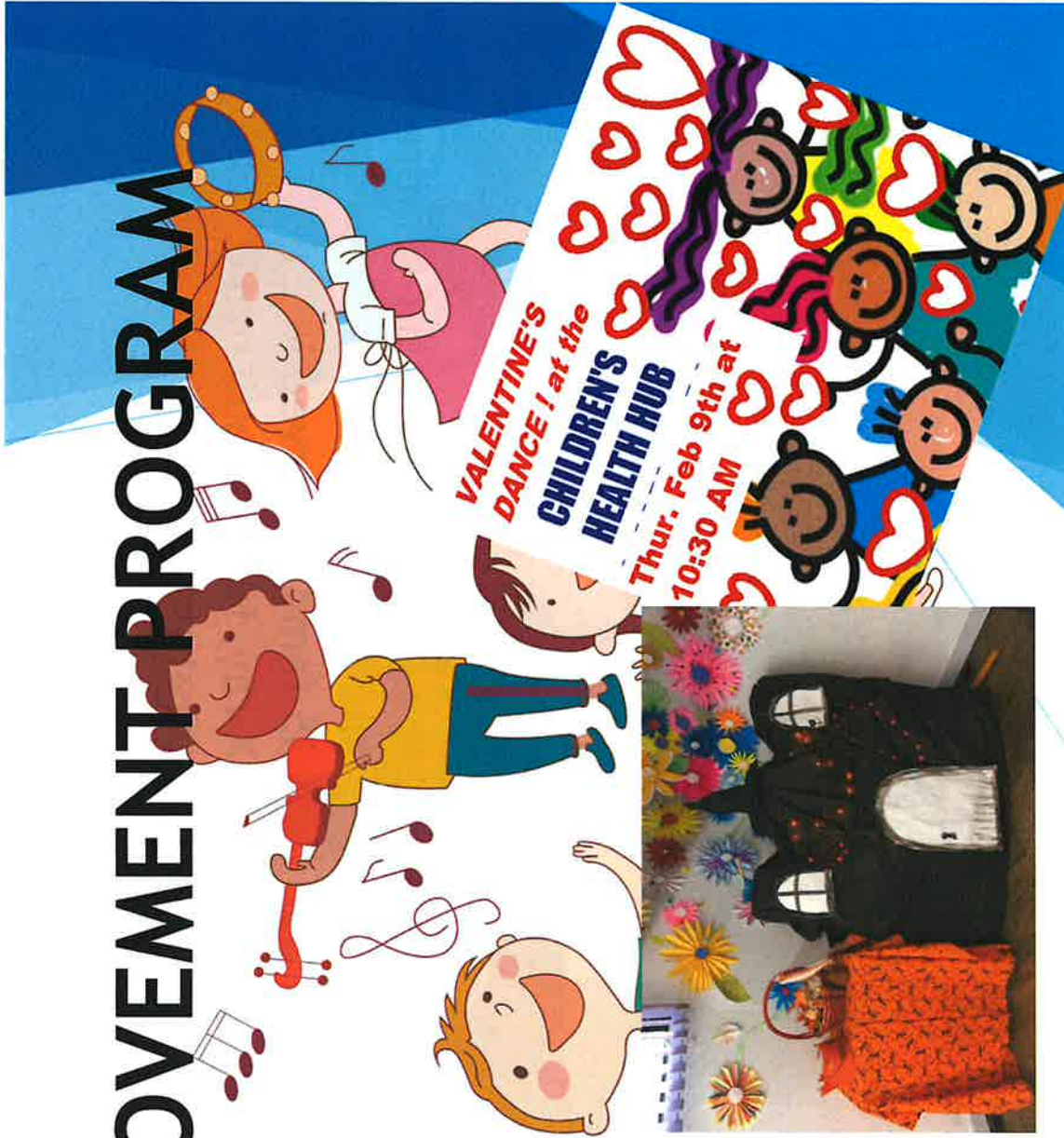
Dental Treatments for Children  
and Families

35 families served in 2 days  
X-ray, fillings, and hygienist  
treatments.

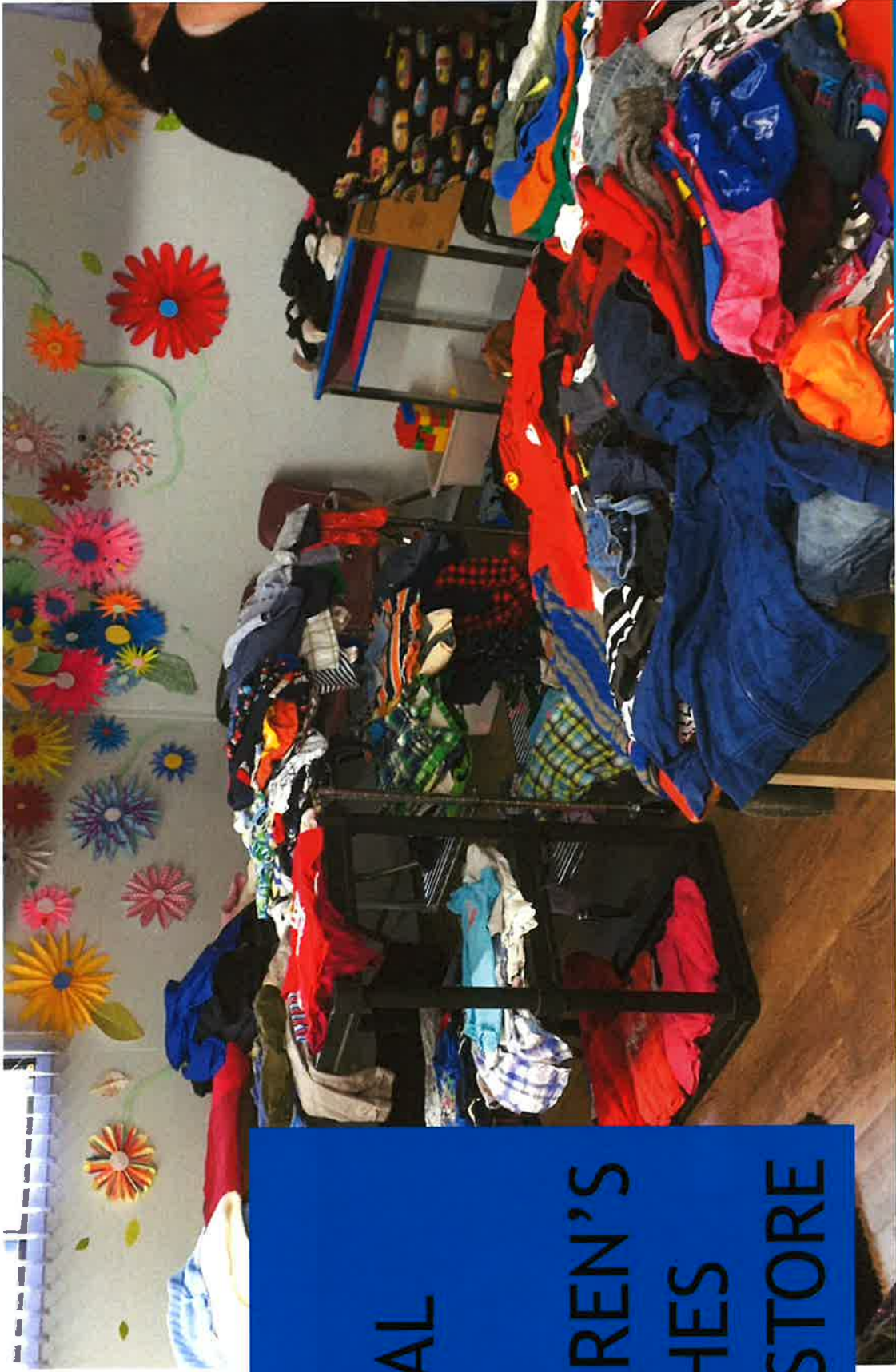


DENTAL MONTH CAMPAIGN with Island Health

# MUSIC AND MOVEMENT PROGRAM







**THE  
ANNUAL  
HUB  
CHILDREN'S  
CLOTHES  
FREE STORE**

# 2023 - VIW - SERVICE PROVIDERS CONFERENCE





## Vancouver Island West Service Providers Day Conference

The main goals of this event are to connect people; develop relationships; share experiences; gather knowledge; enrich communication and improve the flow of services for the families we serve.

**MON. MARCH 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 in Gold River, BC**  
(Location will be confirmed depending on the number of attendees)

It is an in-person event for Service Providers serving one or all the communities in our region:

- Gold River,
  - Tsaxana,
  - Tahsis,
  - Zeballos, and
  - Kyuquot.
- 
- Opening and Introduction Traditional First Nation song by the GR SS students
  - Encouraging participants to look into the vision and principles of early learning through Nature School, how it can enhance their practices, and the lives of the children they care for. Tree of Life Playschool- Victoria BC, Kate Lawes
  - Pharmacare and FNHA services
  - Enriching the Understanding of Indigenous Culture in our Region. Introduction Protocol and its significance. SD84 Joni Johnson

# INCLUSION BC COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



12 people / Service Providers & families attended the Evening Event and they were able to continue the conversations with families and service providers attending the Children's Health Fair.



**CHILDREN'S HEALTH FAIR**



**Elementary School—GYM**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 2nd**  
**10 am to 2 pm**  
**FREE TOYS, GAMES, CLOTHING, SNACKS**  
**Lots of Activities**

**for children and adults.**  
 Health Service Resources and information.

### 2022 CHILDREN'S HEALTH FAIR PASSPORT

Get a stamp from at least 8 service providers and enter the draw for great prizes.

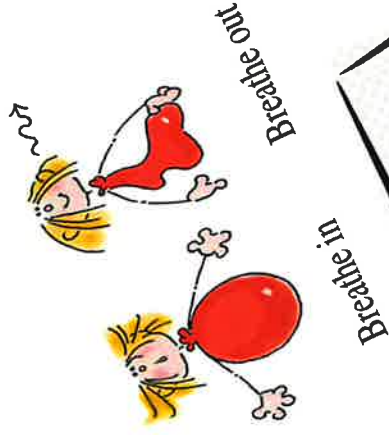
Dental Care	Ages & Stages Q.	Hearing	Speech and language
Children Development	Vision	Literacy	Peace Program
STV- Legal Aid	Qwalayu House & Island Kids first	Laichwitach Family Life Society	METS Family Connection
The Baby Moose	FASD	Peace Program	Victims services
Mobile Clinic	Read shoes rack!	Campbell River Family Services	Pacific Care
Youth Counselling	Mental Health and addictions		

If you get the full card stamped, BINGO! you get a special prize.

# Children's Health Fair



# Community Engagement Project



Gold River, Zeballos, Tahsis and Kyuquot  
Helping Children dealing with  
Stress and anxiety through  
dance, music, and art.

Day events with Families

Distribution of “FEEL GOOD”  
kits and Booklets.



# Community Engagement

## Gold River/Tsaxana

Continuous visits to Strong Start Program connecting with families.

Projects and programs involving the Library, Literacy Center, preschool(s), and Daycare (s).

Connecting with local services and working with them to optimize the calendar schedule so families don't have to choose between weekly activities.



# Community Engagement ACTIVITIES



Mother's Day Art class



## Hub's Involvement in Community Events

Some of our strongest supporters....

Island Health

School District 84

Dogwood Place  
Child and Youth  
Development  
Centre

Children's Health  
Foundation of  
Vancouver Island

Campbell River Family  
Services Society

Pacific CARE

Sasamans Society

Nuu-Chah-Nulth  
Tribal Council

Mowachaht/Muchalaht  
First Nation

Gold River  
Literacy Society

Campbell River Region  
Early Years Table and  
Council

Vancouver  
Island Regional  
Library

Ka:yu:'k't'h' /  
Che:k'tles7et'h'  
First Nations

METIS FAMILY  
Connections  
Vancouver Island

Laichwiltach  
Family Life Society

Amongst many others!

**WITHOUT YOUR  
SUPPORT AND  
ENCOURAGEMENT  
THIS PROGRAM  
WOULDN'T BE  
POSSIBLE**





You

THANK YOU!

int