



COMMUNITY CHILD CARE ADVISORY GUIDING DOCUMENT

The Comox Valley Community Child Care Advisory acknowledges that it is a privilege and an honour to live and work in the traditional and unceded lands of the K'ómoks First Nation.

Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative Vision

All children and families are supported and thrive in the Comox Valley.

Comox Valley Community Child Care Advisory Vision

Comox Valley families have a choice of quality childcare so children in the early years can develop in supportive and engaging environments.

Comox Valley Community Child Care Advisory Mission (Purpose)

Ensure families in the Comox Valley have access to **high quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive** child care.

Advisory Goals

1. Advocate to local and provincial governments to build a high quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive childcare landscape in the Comox Valley.
2. Serve as an advisory to School District 71, Comox Valley Regional District, municipalities, K'ómoks First Nation, local Health Authority, and non-profit organizations to meet the child care needs of all Comox Valley families.
3. Understand the local childcare landscape through relationship building and data collection.
4. Support innovative local recruitment of Early Childhood Educators, while also working to raise the professional profile and credentials of Early Childhood Educators/Child Care professionals.
5. Disseminate resources, share information, and gather perspectives that represents the needs of ALL local childcare professionals and families.

Guiding Principles (From the [Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative Strategic Plan](#))

Connectedness

We value connectedness, so we will strive to collaborate through strong and supportive relationships with each other (professionally) and each service (organizationally) to create a growing web of care around families.

Truth and Reconciliation

We value the work to advance truth and reconciliation, so we acknowledge our responsibility to decolonize spaces, structures, and processes to contribute to a more just, equitable and decolonized future.

Diversity

We value diversity, so we will include many perspectives by fostering a spirit of openness and appreciation.

Respect

We value respect, so we will support each other, value each other's expertise and intentionally be culturally aware. Our interactions will be reflective, well-considered, and fun, and they will inspire a feeling of commitment to the collaborative.

Systems Change

We value systems change, so we will embrace, innovative, creative and insightful approaches to change using friendly and family-focused knowledge. We are committed to generative conversations that lead to action.

The Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative is a partner of the Comox Valley Community Health Network, therefore the Community Child Care Advisory also agrees to work within their [values](#).

Assumptions (Adapted from the 2019 [Comox Valley Child Care Action Plan](#))

- That high quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive child care is an essential part of ensuring an equitable society where children who may be systematically excluded have opportunities to grow and develop to their full potential.
- That high quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive child care can ensure all children have the support and guidance to help them have the social, physical and emotional skills to succeed.
- That high quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive child care is essential to supporting healthy and thriving families.
- That improvements to the professional recognition, salary and working conditions of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) is essential in ensuring there will be enough ECEs for the anticipated number of child care spaces needed for the Comox Valley.

- That the short term costs of child care to governments are off-set by the long term savings to social service infrastructure, including improved economic conditions for families and reduced demand for health and legal services.
- That partnerships and collaboration among many parties is essential in successfully addressing the child care needs in the Comox Valley.
- That the mission and goals of the Comox Valley Community Child Care Advisory should be ambitious, but also practical, realistic, and within the means of the pertinent stakeholders to pursue.

Advisory Participants

- Participation in the Comox Valley Community Child Care Advisory is open to anyone with an interest in improving access to high quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive childcare in the Comox Valley.
- The Comox Valley Community Child Care Advisory will actively recruit new participants on an ongoing and/or as needed basis.
- Participants commit to two hours or more a month. This includes attending bi-monthly meetings, contributing to sub-committee work, and responding to committee communications.
- Participants may take temporary leave if needed.

Advisory Participant Responsibilities

- Familiarize oneself with the [Comox Valley Child Care Action Plan](#) and the [Cumberland Child Care Action Plan](#).
- Review meeting agendas and submit additional agenda items as needed.
- Provide timely feedback to the Coordinator via email or phone. Complete any polls used to coordinate meetings and make decisions.
- Attend and participate in bi-monthly meetings and support sub-committee work where possible.
- Meeting invitations, agendas and minutes are organized and circulated by the Early Years Collaborative Coordinator. Minutes will be circulated to all advisory members within a reasonable time frame.

Meetings

- Meetings are held bi-monthly on the **third Wednesday of the month from 12:30pm-2:00pm.**
- Summer meetings (July and August) and meetings that fall during Holiday periods (December) may be canceled.
- Additional sub-committee meetings will be scheduled on an as needed basis.

- Meetings will generally use the following agenda format.

Agenda Format:

- a. Land Acknowledgement
- b. Agenda approval & additions
- c. Introductions & Updates
- d. Recent Activities Summary- CV Early Years Coordinator
- e. Current Work in Goal Areas
- f. Next Meeting

Decision Making

- The Comox Valley Community Child Care Advisory makes decisions using [the Consensus Decision-Making model](#), developed by Comox Valley Community Health Network.
- Decisions are made at meetings by those in attendance. Time sensitive decisions can be made by email.
- If consensus cannot be reached within the scheduled meeting time, the consensus decision making process outlined in the [attached document](#) will be followed.
- The Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative Coordinator does not participate in consensus decision making.