2026 CAMPBELL RIVER'S VitalSigns®

Campbell River COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Michaela Arruda
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Campbell River Community Foundation, I am pleased to present our 2026 Vital Signs report. As in previous years, this report draws extensively on input from the community — particularly from organizations working across the issue areas we examine. It reflects the priorities and concerns that matter most to residents of Campbell River today, while also incorporating data from the past decade to help us understand how we got here.

In our 2024 report, I concluded with the observation that "change is constant." In the two years since, that sentiment has evolved; change now feels increasingly relentless. At every level — from local to global — we are navigating a number of significant shifts. These include persistent affordability challenges, transformations in the labour market, changing immigration policies, the accelerating impacts of climate change, the rise of artificial intelligence, and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.

Responding to these pressures is demanding. Nevertheless, Campbell River has a strong tradition of meeting challenges with resilience and collaboration, and we believe this report reflects that spirit. For example, the Campbell River Food Bank has experienced record demand and a shifting client demographic, yet continues to provide essential support to those facing food insecurity. The Strathcona Housing Alliance remains a committed advocate for diverse housing needs in Campbell River and across the Strathcona region. Meanwhile, organizations such as North Island Employment Foundations Society and the Immigrant Welcome Centre have adapted quickly to federal policy changes, ensuring they can continue to effectively support newcomers to the community.

These examples represent only a small portion of the work being done across Campbell River. In closing, I offer a simple but enduring reminder: this is a community where people support one another. As your Community Foundation, we are committed to upholding and strengthening that collective responsibility for years to come.

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Campbell River Community Foundation is "Helping People Help Others" in the unceded traditional territories of the Liǧʷiɬdaxʷ people - the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and Kwiakah First Nations. We honour our relationships with these First Nations, the Homalco First Nations and all other First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples who reside in these territories.

Front cover photo, pictured: Thousands of community members gather at CR Live Streets in the summer of 2026. Photo credit: Wild Shay Photography. Submitted courtesy of the City of Campbell River.

Back cover photo, pictured: Donors and attendees at the unveiling of the Campbell River Community Foundation's newly completed Legacy Wall in Robert Ostler Park. Photo credit: Blue Tree Photography.

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Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. The Vital Signs trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.

CAMPBELL RIVER AT A GLANCE | *ƛamatoʷ*

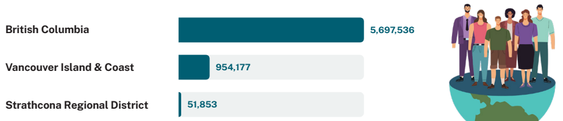
Gilakas'la to June Johnson of the We Wai Kai Nation for providing Liǧʷiɬdaxʷ words for the Vital Signs issue areas headings, found throughout this report.

Geography Note[1]

In most instances in this report, provided data for Campbell River includes the City of Campbell River, Strathcona Regional District Area D (Oyster Bay-Buttle Lake), and the portion of Strathcona Regional District Area A situated south and east of Mohun Creek.

43,897 Total Population & Population Estimates (2025)

BC Stats estimates that Campbell River's **population was 43,897 in 2025**, an **increase of 10.7%** compared to the 2023 estimate. In the same time frame, the provincial population is estimated to have grown by 3.0%.



Population by Age Cohort[2]

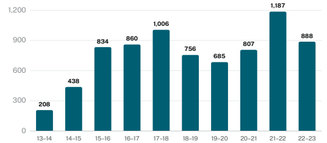


48.2 Median Age (2025)[3]

The median age in both **Campbell River (48.2)** and **British Columbia (41.1)** is slowly rising, likely a result of an aging population and fewer babies born.

Net Total Migration (Strathcona Regional District)[4]

Net migrants per year, 2013–14 to 2022–23.



Where Recent Migrants Come From[4]

Approximate share of net migration, last five years.

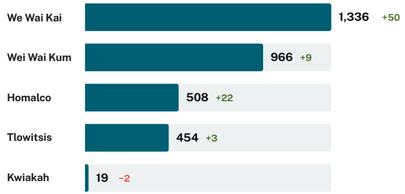


Coastal First Nations

In Campbell River, **12.5% of residents identify as Indigenous** (First Nations, Metis, Inuit), slightly more than double the **provincial rate (5.9%)** and higher than the **national rate (4.9%)[5]**. Campbell River is geographically located within the unceded territory of the Liǧʷiɬdaxʷ Nation, which extends from the northern end of Johnstone Strait to Qualicum River and the channels, rivers, fiords, islands and mountains, and resources between. Today, there are three First Nations of the Liǧʷiɬdaxʷ confederacy: The Wei Wai Kum whose reserve is downtown Campbell River and on the spit, the We Wai Kai with 5 reserves but two occupied at Quinsam and Cape Mudge on Quadra Island, and the Kwiakah First Nation from Phillips and Frederick Arm with most members residing in Campbell River. Other First Nations with reserve land in this area are the Homalco First Nation located by Jubilee, and the Tlowitsis Tribe located on York Road.[6]

Registered First Nations Population[7]

Members registered to each Nation, with changes since 2024.





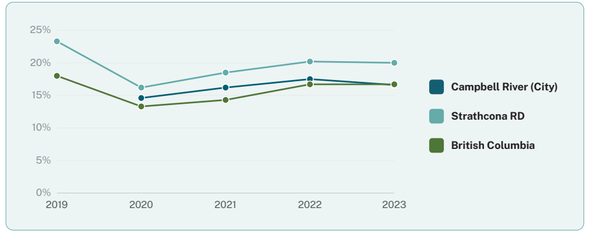
Pictured: Street banner painted by Jessica Chickite for the CR Arts Council "Living Oceans Community Banner Project"

CHILDREN & YOUTH | *Gəgananəm (children)*

The proportion of the local population comprised of children and youth has remained relatively stable in recent years. Where change is observed is in various behaviours including screen time, physical activity, sleep, and eating breakfast, all of which worsen as children get older.

1 in 6 Child Poverty Rate (0-17)[8]

In the most recent data, **1 in 6 British Columbian children** lived in poverty. **In the Campbell River area, 1 in 5 or 1 in 6 children** lived in poverty, depending where in the area they lived.



EDI Vulnerability[9]

Across the province, school districts participate in monitoring vulnerability in Kindergarten students through the Early Development Instrument (EDI). Kindergarten teachers assess five developmental domains: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge. In School District #72, which includes Campbell River, the overall vulnerability rate in one or more domains is **38.8%**, slightly higher than the **provincial rate of 37.3%** and the highest overall vulnerability rate to date.

The domains continuing to be of most concern are the social competence and emotional maturity. Over the last 20 years, Campbell River's youngest have demonstrated increasing vulnerabilities in the areas of overall social competence, and in behaviours that are anxious, fearful, hyperactive, and inattentive. In the same time period, Campbell River's youngest have shown stable trends in the areas of gross and fine motor skills and physical independence.

8,007 Number of Children and Youth (19 and Younger)[1]



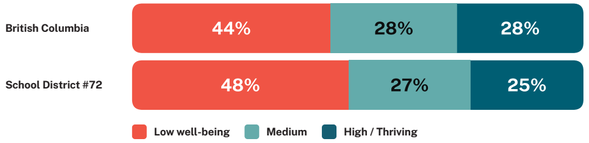
Recent population estimates from BC Stats suggest that there are **8,007 children and youth (19 years and younger)** living in Campbell River. While the estimated child and youth population is numerically less than it was in 2023, the proportion is similar: **18.8% in 2023** and **18.2% in 2025**.



Pictured: Qwaya Sam and Qwaya Junior sharing Nuu-chah-nulth culture, songs, and drumming with Penfield and Cedar students.

MDI Thriving[10]

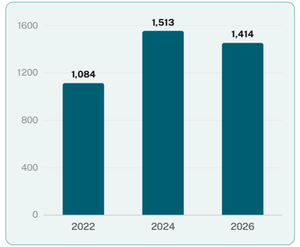
Proportion of Grade 8 students thriving across Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) Domains, 2024-2025. Domains include physical health & wellbeing, social & emotional development, connectedness, school experiences, and use of out-of-school time.



1,414 Child Care Spaces[11]

As of mid-2026, there were **58 licensed child care centres** in Campbell River, of which 26 were home-based. As of mid-2026, there were 99 fewer licensed child care spaces than there were two years ago.

Of the 1,414 licensed child care spaces, **288 spaces (or 20.4%) were part of the provincial government's $10 a day child care program**. The cost of full-time daycare for a child in a $10 a day spot is $200/month.[12]

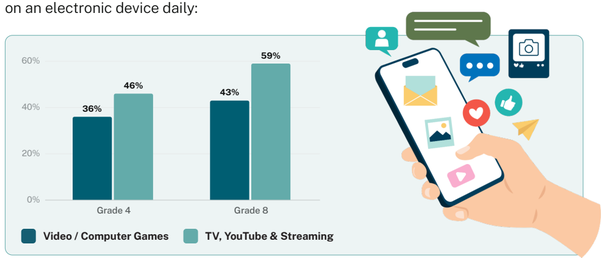




Pictured: Children learning about the Willow Point Estuary and watershed, led by Greenways Land Trust.

Screen Time[13]

Proportion of students spending more than 2 hours on an electronic device daily:

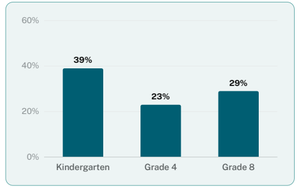




Pictured: Exploring nature at the Discovery Passage Ocean Academy. Photo Credit: Anna Nickoloff.

Physical Activity[14]

Proportion of students getting at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily:



Youth Mental Wellness[15]

Proportion of youths (12-17) in SD72 who felt lonely, often or always: **27%**
Proportion of youths (12-17) in SD72 who felt a little or no hope for their future: **17%**

Child & Youth Mental Health Program Usage, John Howard Society of North Island[16]

2023–24	1,743
2024–25	1,858

CHILDREN & YOUTH | *Gəgananəm (children)*

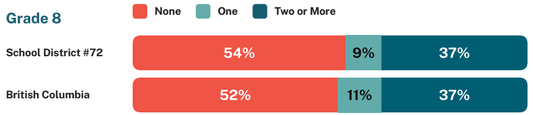
Number of Important Adults at School (2023-24)[10, 13]

The MDI defines an important adult as "the specific adults at school whom a student in middle childhood (Grades 4 through 8) identifies as caring, supportive, and trusting figures in their lives."

Grade 4



Grade 8



Outside of their home and school, 79% of SD72 youth reported that they had at least one adult in their neighbourhood or community who they felt cared about them.[15]



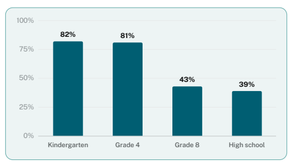
Pictured: Hospice Society Summer Kids Camp staff leading play-based mindfulness and art activities.

SPOTLIGHT: CAMPBELL RIVER CARES

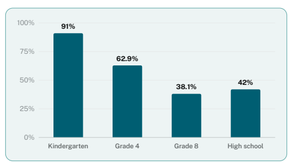
Becoming the Village for Young Families

"It takes a village" is a truism that speaks to the necessity of the entire community - neighbours, friends, family, businesses, agencies, schools, city officials and others - coming together to give young children a good start in life. Some parents have a ready-made village, and all parents can benefit from the numerous programs and services available to Campbell River families. The Campbell River Area Family Network's website provides a listing and calendars with low or no cost programs offered by local organizations. This includes StrongStart, Family Place, regular play gym, story time, and parenting groups offered through the City of Campbell River, the Campbell River branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library, and the Laichwiltach Family Life Society, respectively. Campbell River Family Services Society operates several weekly family drop-in programs and support groups for new parents. Parents of young children, your village is waiting for you.

Students Who Regularly Eat Breakfast[10, 12, 13, 15]



Students Getting the Recommended Sleep[10, 12, 13, 15]





Pictured: Daybreak Rotarians serving pancake breakfast at Cedar Elementary for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

BELONGING & LEADERSHIP | *Galgapoła (working together)*

The charitable sector remains stable in Campbell River, though the declining number of donations is concerning. As a community, reports of sense of belonging, feelings of loneliness, and reliance on fellow community members are on par or better than provincial rates.

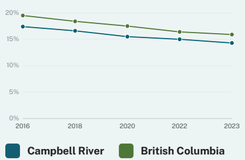
81 Number of Registered Charities[17]

There are **81 registered charities in Campbell River**. Since our last report, 5 charities have dissolved and 1 new charity has been registered.

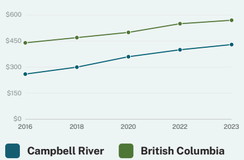
296+ Number of Registered Societies[18]

There are at least **296 active, registered societies in Campbell River**. These are more commonly known as non-profits. Like charities, non-profits exist to make things better (social welfare, civic improvement, pleasure, recreation) and not to generate a profit. Unlike charities, non-profits cannot issue tax receipts. Obtaining the specific number of registered societies is not possible due to database restrictions. Similarly, without full database access it is not possible to determine which organizations are registered as both a charity and a society and thus may be double counted.

Proportion of Tax Filers Making Receipted Donations[19]



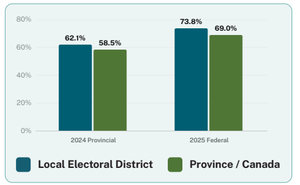
Median Annual Receipted Donation[19]



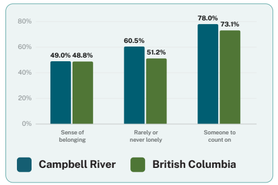
10 Number of Service Clubs[20]

Service clubs are different from many non-profit organizations because, as a part of their charitable work, they raise money for other organizations. The number of service clubs is **unchanged from 2024.**

Voter Turnout[21, 22]



Quality of Life Indicators[23]





Pictured: Tobyn Pearson at the Evergreen Shelter

SPOTLIGHT

Neighbourhood Small Grants

The Campbell River Community Foundation offers Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSGs) twice per year, in the fall and spring. These grants offer $50 to $500 to local residents who want to build community. NSGs have supported the development of Little Libraries, neighbourhood block parties, and arts activities, among others. In 2025, we received an application from Tobyn Pearson, a local magician, who wanted to teach basic juggling and magic skills at the Evergreen Shelter. Pearson uses juggling and simple magic tricks to facilitate team building and to teach about how the brain works. Ten men attended and enthusiastically learned from Tobyn - both how the brain processes what the eyes see, and magic skills, which were furthered by the gift of magic props that the men can use to practice dexterity and build their self-confidence. In Tobyn's words: "The men were appreciative of what I was trying to do with my NSG - connect community!"

Update: Campbell River's Social Profit Sector in 2026

In our 2024 report, we included a spotlight on Campbell River's social profit sector (charities and non-profits). Vantage Point, a provincial organization that works to strengthen BC's non-profit sector, began surveying the sector in 2020 to get an understanding of the effect that the pandemic was having on a variety of charitable and non-profit organizations, and has continued to conduct their survey annually.

The Campbell River Community Foundation surveyed local charities and non-profits in 2024, to both establish a local baseline about the impact of the social sector and to compare local trends with provincial ones. In 2026, a similar survey was utilized. The survey ran from May to June, and garnered 30 responses.

BC's Social Profit Sector

According to Vantage Point's "Stretched Thin: 2025 State of BC's Non-Profit Sector" report, BC's non-profit sector:

- Is comprised of 31,900+ organizations
- Provides 377,000 jobs
- Generates a $31.8B contribution to provincial GDP (2023)
- 4 in 5 organizations report increased expenses
- 2 in 5 organizations report decreased revenues

In Campbell River, there are **81 federally registered charities** and approximately **300 active provincially registered societies**.

Using only the information provided by survey respondents, Campbell River's social profit sector:

- Provides at least 1,063 jobs
- Reports an average annual revenue of $610,014*
- Reports total annual revenue of $53,874,941*

both omit the largest response reported, of nearly $70 million, so as not to present a misleading average or total.

Non-Profit: Provincially registered and must comply with the Societies Act of BC; not authorized to issue official donation receipts.

Charity: Federally registered and must comply with the Income Tax Act; authorized to issue official donation receipts.

Campbell River Survey Data[24]

Vantage Point identified **four key themes** in their survey data, which were echoed in Campbell River:

Increased demand for services (from clients and/or funders):

67% of local respondents report that they are actively exploring or considering exploring opportunities for expansion. Respondents report that funding has flatlined or decreased, despite increased client numbers and increased costs.

"[We face] capacity pressures in programs given the growing need for housing and services."

Increasing severity of issues (more complex issues and/or more concurrent problems):

"The work we do has changed. There are more people accessing services with more complex needs than 5-10 years ago. Definite increase in families facing significant financial difficulties, housing issues, significant mental health challenges and or substance misuse. Also an increase in the severity of domestic violence and sexual assaults. Additionally, we are also seeing an increase in newcomers to Canada accessing our services than previous years. These trends have required us to ensure our staff are properly trained to navigate service provision for people with more complex needs. We also have longer waits for services as a result of the increased needs."

Organizations are being asked to pivot in the midst of difficult times:

"The [culture] sector is undergoing a period of transformation as a result of de-colonizing and reconciliation and many other societal pressures. Fortunately, an [organization] of our size is able to navigate these changes quickly in comparison to our larger counterparts in the urban centers. While we do have the advantage of being a little more nimble we also need to remain connected and relevant to the new generation of supporters. Finding ways to engage youth will be a challenge for this sector in the years to come. The other challenge for [cultural organizations] is "where do we fit" within society. As there are increased pressures relating to social issues such those who are underprivileged and unhoused, the cultural sector is often seen as a "frill" and not essential. The reality is that the arts and culture industry is a major economic driver and a foundational element of social cohesion."

Providing adequate compensation and care to staff reduces staff burnout/ increases retention:

At the time of local survey completion, there were at least 72 vacancies in the social profit sector.

Of the organizations surveyed, 50% reported that their staff capacity had not changed in the past 12 months. 20% reported a decrease in capacity over the last 12 months.

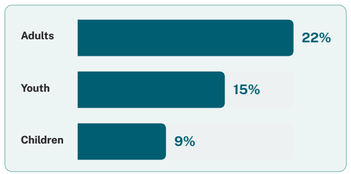
"It is very difficult to attract qualified, certified, experienced trades specific to our industry on the North Island. Training opportunities to level up existing staff are also limited due to the lack of formal education available."

"We are unable to offer a living wage and benefits to our full-time employees."

"We experience challenges in staff wellness due to challenging work environments."

More about Campbell River's social profit sector:

Among survey respondents, the top 3 populations served by local social profit organizations are:





Pictured: Ricky Belanger, Manager at Discovery Passage Aquarium, and Erika Anderson, Executive Director of the Maritime Heritage Centre, at the opening of the "What Lies Beneath" exhibit.

Board Type

Governance board: A board with staff to pursue the organization's mission.
Working board: An organization entirely volunteer-based in pursuit of its mission.



Governance Board (+7.2% since 2024) **Working Board** (-1.2% since 2024)

While most (72%) organizations reported having the right number of board members, 28% of respondent organizations would like more board members.

Sources of Revenue

Proportion of respondents per year, 2024 & 2026.





IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

What is Going Well

"We have an excellent work culture and the right people in the right positions."

"We have a longstanding reputation in Campbell River for making a difference in the lives of families."

"We're really excelling at community collaboration... We know that our work doesn't happen in a vacuum and resiliency is improved by diversifying in a number of ways."

What is Concerning or Challenging

Funding dominated the responses to this question. Some representative quotes:

"Our budgets are really tight and funders don't allow more than 10% for admin costs - this is not sustainable in the long term as operational costs continue to rise. We cannot fundraise enough to cover the shortfalls and most grants will not support operational needs such as rent, hydro, phones, computers, etc."

"I see we need more staffing and support with program co-ordinating but we don't have the funds to support more staff."

"Sustained funding streams - provincial, federal and municipal grants are decreasing year over year. Operating costs are increasingly disproportionate to revenue generation opportunities."



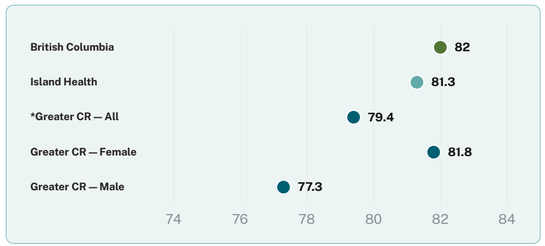
Pictured: Representatives from 14 CR organizations at Thriving Non-Profits Boot Camp (a program that helps non-profits develop custom revenue diversification plans for organizational sustainability) in Aug 2026.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Access to primary care has improved in Campbell River, with an increase of 9 family doctors with patients attached since 2024. Higher than average emergency room visits and the number of residents waiting for a family doctor suggests a need for still more primary care providers.

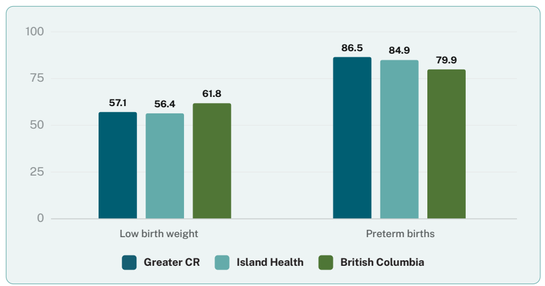
Life Expectancy at Birth[25]

*In this instance, Greater CR includes both Campbell River (municipal boundaries) and Rural Campbell River (Quadra, Cortes, Read, and other outlying islands).



Low Birth Weight / Preterm Births[25]

Rate per 1,000 live births, aggregate data from 2019-2023.

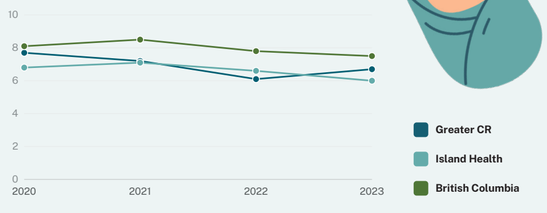




Pictured: Children hugging Mr. Tyee at CR Live Streets. Photo credit: Wild Shay Photography submitted by City of CR.

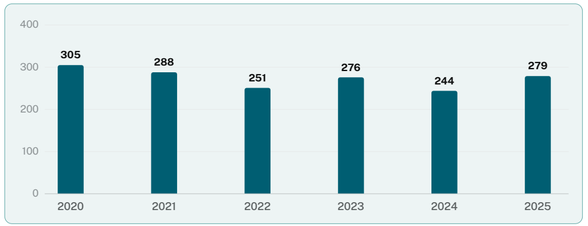
Live Birth Rate[25]

Rate per 1,000 population



Babies Born[26]

By residential address of mother (Campbell River).



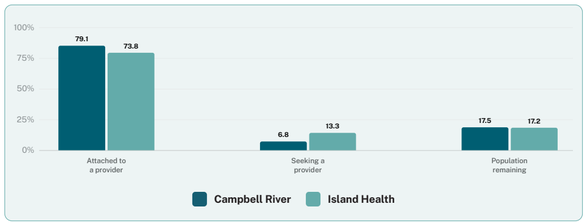
50 Number of Family Physicians[27]

As of June 2026, there were **50 family physicians** carrying a patient panel in Campbell River, an increase over the 41 reported in 2024. Additionally, there are **11 Nurse Practitioners** carrying a patient panel.

Note: Specialist physicians, locums, and ER doctors are not included in this count.

Physician Attachment (June 2025)[28]

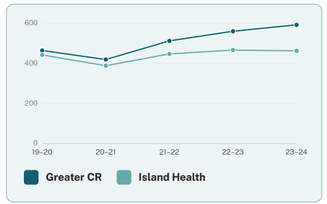
In Campbell River, the average wait time for a person on the Health Connect Registry is approximately one year. A 2023 gap analysis from the First Nations Health Authority estimated that 676 First Nations people in Campbell River were not attached to a primary care provider.[29]



Unscheduled Emergency Department or Urgent Care Visits[25]

Per 1,000 population.

Did you know: North Island Hospital - Campbell River & District is one of BC's most crowded hospitals, reporting an occupancy of 117% in 2024.





Pictured: The Laichwiltach Community Health Centre team in front of the Centre, located at 929 Ironwood Street in Campbell River.

SPOTLIGHT

Laichwiltach Community Health Centre

The Laichwiltach Community Health Centre (LCHC) is a community health centre operating within the primary care network, supporting self-identifying Indigenous individuals and their immediate family within the Campbell River catchment area (South to Oyster River, West to Gold River, North to Sayward and East to Cortez Island).

LCHC currently has four primary care physicians, one Nurse Practitioner, three Registered nurses, two Social Workers, one Dietitian, one Occupational therapist, one physiotherapist, two community health workers, and five Cultural support members including Elders.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Chronic Disease Prevalence (2024–25)[30]

Rate of chronic disease per 100,000 population. Chronic disease affects personal well-being and community well-being, as disease management requires more interaction with, and thus strain on, health services.



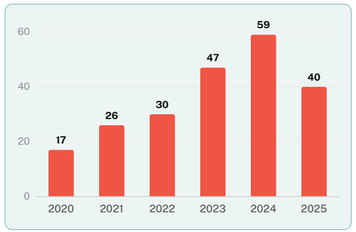
Per Capita Alcohol Sales[31]

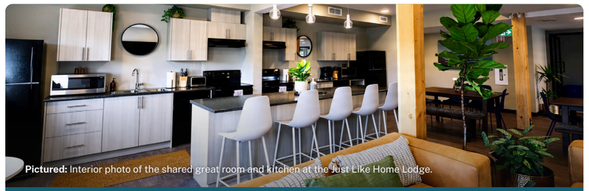
In 2024/2025 in the Greater Campbell River LHA, an **average of 740 standard drinks were purchased per resident ages 15 years and older**, down from an average of 819 in 2023. The Island Health average for the same time period was 564 standard drinks. Standard drinks are defined as: 12 oz. serving of 5% beer, cider, or cooler; a 5 oz. serving of 12% wine, or a 1.5 oz serving of 40% spirits.



Pictured: Kaitlyn Nohr, founder of WILD Collaborative Harm Reduction Association, receiving the 2026 Inspiring Social Worker of the Year award, presented by UBC Social Work.

Unregulated Drug Deaths (Greater Campbell River)[32]





Pictured: Interior photo of the shared great room and kitchen at the Just Like Home Lodge.

SPOTLIGHT

Just Like Home Lodge

The Just Like Home Lodge, located next to the Campbell River Hospital, offers 10 affordable suites of accommodations for residents of North Island communities accessing health care services in Campbell River. Each equipped with a kitchenette and washroom, visitors also have access to a number of communal spaces including a living space, a large kitchen, and laundry facilities. The top floor of the Just Like Home Lodge has an additional 20 units of housing for health care professionals, helping make it easier for locums and other travelling health care providers to find a place to stay and to allow health care providers new to the community to have a launching pad. The facility is owned and operated by the Strathcona Regional District.

SENIORS | *Gʷilsgwilyak (elders)*

12,572 Senior Population (Estimated)[1]

Per projections, the senior population in Campbell River is growing. In 2025, the area had an **estimated senior population of 12,572**, or an increase of nearly 2,600 seniors compared to 2023.

35%

Senior Population Projection[1]

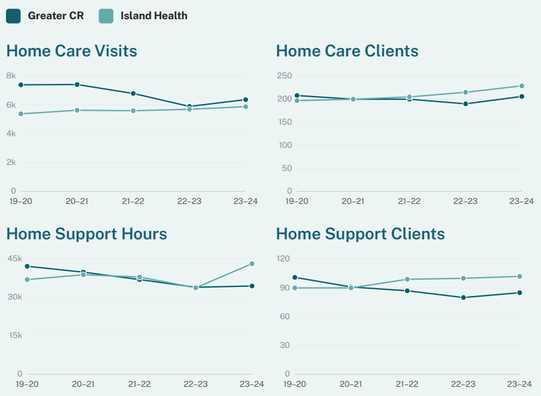
2025 Estimate (Total: 12,572)

65–74	75–84	85+
7,087	4,260	1,225

2035 Projection (Total: 14,687)

65–74	75–84	85+
6,087	6,094	2,506

Home Care and Support (per 1,000 Pop.)[25]



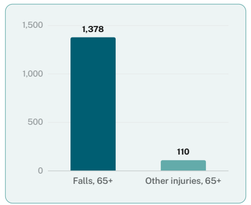
312 Residential Care Beds[33]

Residential care beds remain unchanged, **with 312 beds across 3 sites**. Of the 312, **258 are publicly funded** and **54 are private pay**. As of July 1, 2026, wait times for these sites ranged from 6-9 months (Yaculta Lodge) to 12-24 months (Discovery Harbour Seniors Community and Evergreen Seniors Home).[34]

Falls[35]

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations for adults aged 65+ in the Greater Campbell River Local Health Area. Every 2 days, an adult aged 65+ in the region is hospitalized for a fall-related injury.

(Graph shows rate of hospitalizations per 100,000 persons by injury type and age group in Greater Campbell River LHA, 2024)



0.81 Dependency Ratio[36]

The dependency ratio measures the proportion of dependents (those typically too young or too old to work) to the working-age population. Campbell River's dependency ratio has **risen from 0.75 in 2024 to 0.81 in 2026**, while British Columbia's has risen slightly in the same time period, from 0.58 to 0.59.

SPOTLIGHT

Linking Seniors to Support

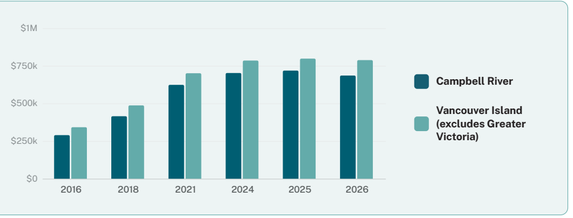
Programs and services designed to support seniors are offered across various agencies and providers. For seniors (or their caregivers), identifying services available to them and then accessing said services can be challenging. Enter the Seniors Info Hub. Operated by Seniors Support North Vancouver Island, the Seniors Info Hub is a free, drop-in resource for older adults in Campbell River. Offered twice each week, the Info Hub utilizes staff and volunteers to help seniors navigate local services, complete applications (including PharmaCare, Canada Dental Plan, and SAFER), and troubleshoot basic tech questions. No appointment is needed, just drop in. For information about service dates and times, visit ssnvi.ca.

HOUSING | *Gukʷgeʔqʷəs (where you live)*

Barriers to renting or purchasing a home include rising costs and persistently low rental vacancy rates. The City's participation in CMHC's Housing Accelerator Fund offers hope that more housing stock will be available in the near future.

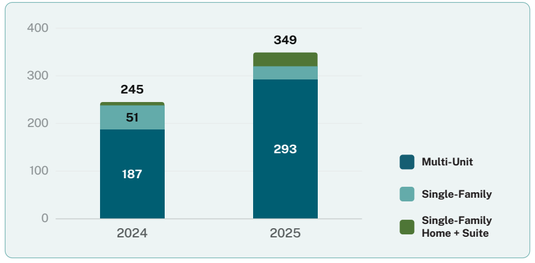
Benchmark Home Price[37]

Did you know: To qualify for a mortgage on a benchmark price single-family home, the household income would need to be at least $121,000 annually, assuming no other debt payments, a down payment of 20%, an interest rate of 5.25%, and a 25 year amortization.[38]



Building Permits Issued[39]

The number of units that the City of Campbell River approved for construction, or were in progress or recently completed.



Housing Accelerator Fund[40]

In January 2024, the City of Campbell River entered into an agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) called the "Housing Accelerator Fund" (HAF), which is intended to quickly increase housing supply by streamlining municipal development processes. **The agreement sets a target of 1,227 net new permitted housing units by January 2028, of which:**

- 549 units are missing middle housing
- 345 units will be other multi-unit housing
- At least 200 units will be designated as affordable housing

At February 2026, progress to date is:[41]

- 292 units of missing middle housing
- 228 units of other multi-unit housing units
- 0 units of affordable housing



2.0% Rental Vacancy Rate[42]

In 2025, **Campbell River's rental vacancy rate was 2.0%**, while **BC's was 3.5%** — an increase for both geographies. In 2023, Campbell River was at 0.9% and BC was at 1.2%. **A healthy rental vacancy rate is between 3 - 5%.**

Average Rent[43]

To achieve housing affordability — spending 30% or less of before-tax income on housing — a Campbell River household would need to earn the following annually:

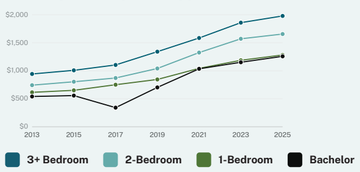
3-bedroom: $79,152

2-bedroom: $66,233

1-bedroom: $51,275

Bachelor: $50,315

Monthly Rent by Unit Type



90 Emergency and Temporary Housing[44]

There are **90 units of emergency and temporary housing in Campbell River**, an increase of 8 since our last report. As in 2024, the Salvation Army's Evergreen Shelter offers 22 beds, the Rose Bowl (operated by Vancouver Island Mental Health Society), offers 20, and Homewood, operated by Lookout Housing Society, offers 48 (compared to 40 in 2024).

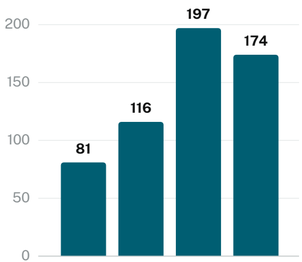
0 Extreme Weather Response (EWR) Shelters[44]

With the closure of Kwesa Place, there are **0 units of specially-designated Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters in Campbell River**. The City of Campbell River operates a warming centre when temperatures drop. The warming centre is open overnight but does not provide beds.



Pictured: The playground and outdoor area at Eagle Harbour operated by the North Island Transition Society.

Point-in-Time Homelessness Count[45]



Tenure in Region[45]

60% of respondents from the 2025 PiT Count had lived in Campbell River for 5 or more years. This indicates that the majority of people experiencing homelessness in Campbell River are residents.

50 Supportive Housing Beds[44]

As in 2024, there are 50 supportive housing beds in Campbell River, located at Q'Waxsem Place, which is operated by Vancouver Island Mental Health Society.

SPOTLIGHTS:

Youth Housing Needs[46]

In 2025, the John Howard Society of North Island commissioned a youth housing needs report. Point-in-Time counts demonstrated there were at least 33 homeless youth in 2021, and 30 in 2025. Youth are often "hidden homeless," couchsurfing or living rough, making the estimated number of homeless youth in Campbell River approximately 90. While some housing exists, it is limited: John Howard's Barnett House offers transitional housing for youth 16-19, but rooms are few. Supportive housing and shelter beds exist for youth 19-24, but waitlists are long and neighbouring units are usually tenanted by older adults. To meet local needs, the report recommends a youth-specific emergency shelter, youth-specific supportive housing (crucial for those needing 24/7 mental health or substance use support), transitional housing with onsite staff, and longer-term affordable housing, recognizing that high rents and lower youth earnings can prolong homelessness.

Women Experiencing Homelessness[45]

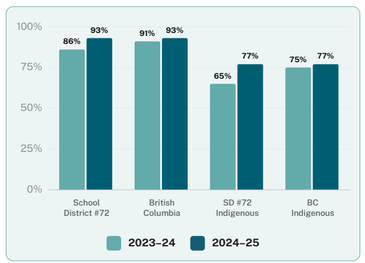
The 2025 Point-in-Time (PiT) count contains a number of insights about homelessness in Campbell River, including those about the gendered experience of homelessness. Of the respondents, 58% were men and 40% were women. In Campbell River, there are no women-only shelter spaces, and there are only 6 shelter beds that are designated women-only. When the 2025 PiT count was conducted, 6 women were identified as seeking a shelter bed the night of the enumeration. This is disproportionate to the number of women respondents and may indicate a shortage of shelter beds for women. Additionally, women experiencing homelessness may choose to be unsheltered (staying outside, in a vehicle, or couchsurfing, for example). Often, women's experiences of homelessness tend to be hidden for safety reasons.

Though high school completion rates are near the provincial average, the rate of transition to post-secondary is below the provincial average. North Island College is the closest and most affordable post-secondary institution in the region.

59 Ripple Rock Bilingual Immersion Program Students

Ripple Rock Elementary is home to the Kwak̓wala Liḵʷala Bilingual program, in which **59 children were registered in the 2025-26 school year**, similar to the 61 registered in the 2023-24 school year. Additionally, 309 students across School District #72 are participating in Kwak̓wala Liḵʷala language learning, and 140 in ʔayʔaǰuθəm language learning (the language of the Homalco and Klahoose), both dramatic increases over the 151 and 7 students, respectively, reported in 2023-24.

High School Completion Rate

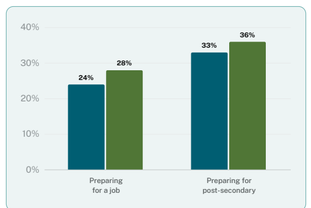




Pictured: The Liḵʷiłdaxw Culture Group performing the first dance to celebrate graduates at the Kwanwatsi Big House.

Post-Secondary and Career Preparation

Proportion of 2024-25 secondary students who answered “Most of the time” or “All of the time” when asked about their satisfaction with...



School District #72 British Columbia



Pictured: Shasta LeBlac (left) of Lush Valley, explains how to transform locally harvested seaweeds into unique snacks to NIC researcher, Allison Byrne at the inaugural Pacific Seaweed Summit hosted at NIC.

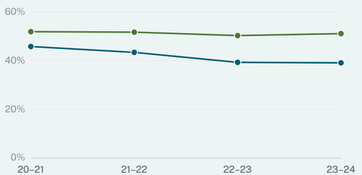
SPOTLIGHT

NIC’s Centre for Applied Research, Technology, and Innovation (CARTI)

North Island College’s Centre for Applied Research, Technology and Innovation (CARTI) connects students, researchers, businesses and communities to solve real-world challenges through applied research. Since its launch in 2012, CARTI has built strong partnerships across Vancouver Island, creating hands-on learning opportunities while advancing innovations in fields ranging from marine science to Indigenous knowledge and health care. A standout initiative is the Seaweed Innovation Hub, which is helping position British Columbia as a leader in the emerging seaweed economy. The Hub brings together researchers, industry and Indigenous partners to improve kelp cultivation, seed production and processing while exploring new food, agricultural and environmental applications. What may surprise those new to the industry is that seaweed research extends far beyond food—it has the potential to support climate resilience, reduce plastic use in aquaculture, create sustainable products and generate new economic opportunities for coastal communities, making it one of CARTI’s most impactful and forward-looking research programs.

Transition to Post-Secondary

Proportion of previous year’s graduating class enrolled in BC public post-secondary in listed academic year.



North Island College (Campbell River Campus)

Student numbers for the 2025-26 year.

On Campus	1,587	International Students	4%
Domestic Students	96%	Indigenous Students	17%
Students Learning a Trade	32%		



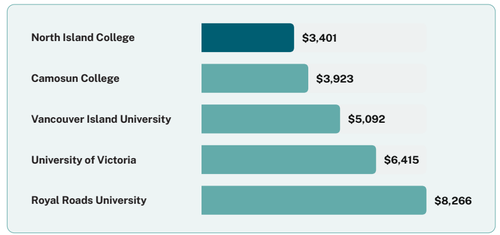
Pictured: Funded by a Neighbourhood Small Grant, Reading Circle participants pose with their book, “Infectious Generosity”.



Pictured: A group of children at the Discovery Passage Aquarium Ocean Discovery Academy. Photo credit: Anna Nickoloff.

Post-Secondary Tuition Fees

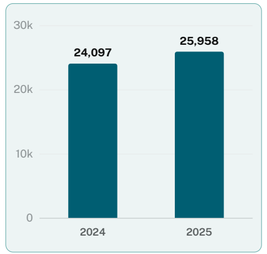
Annual tuition fees for arts programs, Domestic students, 2025-26 academic year.



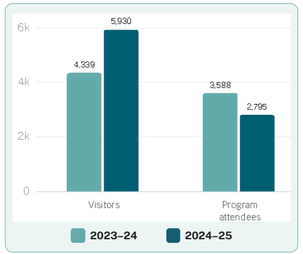
ARTS & CULTURE

Generally, arts and culture organizations report more patronage than in previous years. This sector is increasingly interested in making programming accessible to the general public.

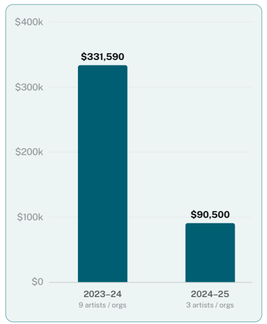
Museum at Campbell River Usage[53]



Campbell River Art Gallery Usage[55,56]



Canada Council for the Arts Funding (Campbell River)[54]





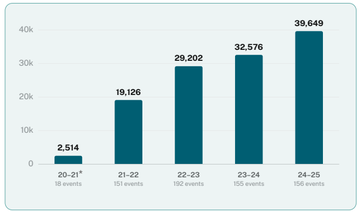
Pictured: Stilt walkers pose with Mr. Tyee at CR Live Streets Street Fest. Photo credit: Wild Shay Photography submitted courtesy of City of CR.



Pictured: CR Arts Council street post banner by Ken Blackburn.

Tidemark Theatre Usage[58]

*During Covid-19, the Tidemark livestreamed 100 events from a closed theatre, to a total of 7,548 livestream views.



SPOTLIGHT

Making Culture Accessible

It is a common belief that arts and culture participation is expensive. In Campbell River, local organizations are debunking this by offering arts experiences regardless of ability to pay. For example, the Tidemark Theatre's Theatre Angels Program provides free show tickets to low-income individuals and families, giving out 663 tickets in 2023-24. Similarly, the Campbell River Art Gallery's weekly Art Hive program offers art-making to those impacted by homelessness, substance use, and mental health challenges. This welcoming initiative recently won an award for promoting positive social policy change.

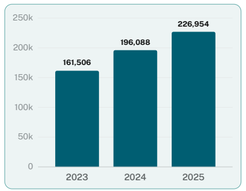


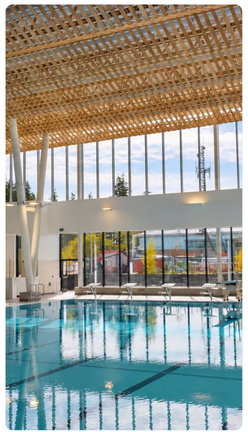
Pictured: Art Hive doing live screen printing in Spirit Square.

LEISURE | *Xusa (rest)*

Leisure opportunities are diverse in Campbell River: from no and low-cost time outdoors, to organized sports teams and recreation activities, the choices are abundant.

Admission to City of Campbell River Recreation Facilities[59]

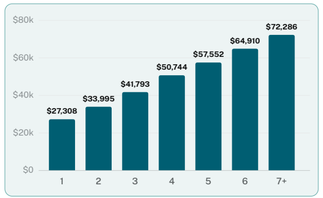




Pictured: Photo of the new pool at Strathcona Gardens.

LIFE Income Thresholds[60]

The Leisure Involvement for Everyone (LIFE) Program, open to City of Campbell River and Area D residents, offers low-income individuals and families access to otherwise unaffordable recreation opportunities. The LIFE program application utilizes Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cut-Offs, requiring household income to be under a certain amount depending on the number of household members. In 2025, the City of Campbell River provided 563 LIFE memberships.[59]



DID YOU KNOW

The new aquatic centre at Strathcona Gardens opens in Fall 2026, followed shortly thereafter by a new Wellness Centre. Then, in Spring 2029, a third sheet of ice is expected to be added to the facility.



46 Organized Sports Clubs[61]

There are at least **46 organized sports clubs in Campbell River**. Some clubs are broad and open to all, while others target a specific demographic (for example, seniors or youth). Many are non-profit societies while others operate as private businesses.

17 Sports Offered by Special Olympics[62]

In the 2025-26 year, **Campbell River Special Olympics offered 17 sports** — 11 in the fall/winter, 5 in the spring/summer, and one year-round.



Pictured: Carihi Fly Fishing Club student showing off a catch.

Beaver Lodge Lands Trail Usage[63]

A 2023 survey about the Beaver Lodge Lands (520 hectares of urban forest with an extensive trail network protected by the Beaver Lodge Forest Trust Renewal Act) asked respondents about the frequency of their visits.

In the spring and summer months (April - September), **65% of respondents visited 1-3 times per week.**

In the fall and winter months (October - March), **58% of respondents visited 1-3 times per week.**

SPOTLIGHT

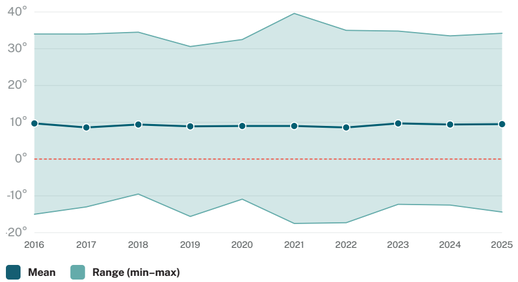
BC Bike Race

In May 2026, 855 mountain bike riders arrived in Campbell River, part of the epic BC Bike Race that would take them all over Vancouver Island. Campbell River was the destination for the second leg of the race, which saw riders cover 47.6 kilometers of trails, including 843 metres of elevation. Riders traversed the Snowden Demonstration Forest and some of Elk Falls Provincial Park, which BC Bike Race christened "the green room" and an "emerald paradise" because of the abundant ferns and other verdant flora. The community's biking trails, long celebrated by locals, have been venerated by riders from British Columbia and the world over.

Local measures of air and water quality are cause for celebration. Another piece of good news? Transit ridership has rebounded since the pandemic, and electric vehicles are becoming increasingly popular, making transportation a bit greener.

Mean, Maximum, Minimum Temperature (Celsius)[64]

25 year average annual maximum temperature: 33.6°C
25 year mean temperature: 9.2°C
25 year average annual minimum temperature: -12.6°C

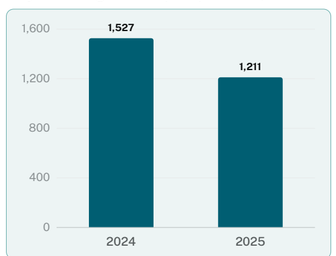




Pictured: Greenways Land Trust with a native fresh water specimen: a Signal Crayfish.

Annual Precipitation (mm)[65]

25 year average annual precipitation: 1,337.9mm.



Air Quality[66]

Average monthly PM2.5, August 2025 – July 2026.

3.7 µg/m³





8,889 Household Waste (Tonnes)[67]

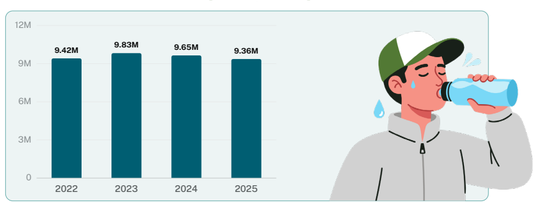
Within the City of Campbell River, garbage, recycling, and organics (yard waste and compost) are collected curbside year-round. In 2025, **8,889.22 tonnes of waste were collected,** comprising **4,300.41 tonnes of garbage, 1,394.49 tonnes of recycling,** and **3,194.32 tonnes of compost and yard waste**. Compared to the data we reported in 2023, garbage and recycling volumes are relatively stable, while organics increased significantly.



Water Quality[68]

The City of Campbell River monitors the quality of its drinking water regularly, and reports on it annually. In 2025, Campbell River's water quality met or exceeded the Island Health or national guidelines for drinking water quality in 25 of the 25 measures.

Annual Water Consumption, Campbell River (m3)[69]



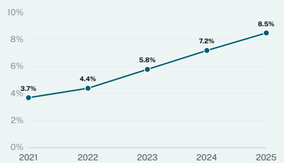
14 Guardian Watchmen[70]

As of 2026, there are 14 Guardian Watchmen — 5 from We Wai Kai, and 9 from Wei Wai Kum. Guardian Watchmen monitor, protect, and remediate the ecosystems they have stewarded since time immemorial.

Electric & Hybrid Vehicles[71]

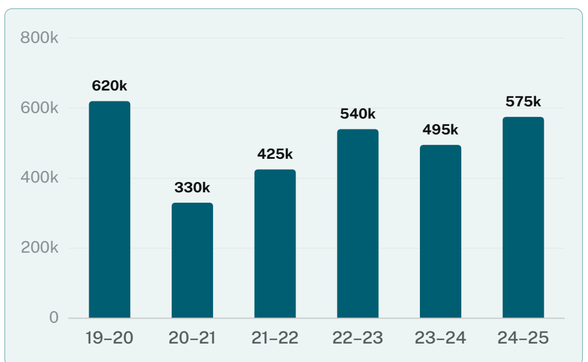
Proportion of total passenger vehicles that are electric or hybrid.

Did you know: Electric vehicle drivers needing a re-charge can choose from any of the 77 EV charge ports in Campbell River.



Number of Public Transit Riders (Annually)[72]

As of 2026, BC Transit offers **8 bus routes** in Campbell River.





Pictured: Food Bank staff and volunteers stand together with their refrigerated delivery truck.

FOOD SECURITY

In Campbell River, there are approximately 5,000 hectares of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), which restricts non-farm use for designated lands. In the surrounding Strathcona Regional District, there are an additional 19,000 hectares.

The Strathcona Regional District, which includes Campbell River, experiences low self-reliance in local food: 6.7% of the food consumed in the region is grown in the region. This is about half the Vancouver Island rate (estimate ranges from 11.8 to 15.2%).[73]

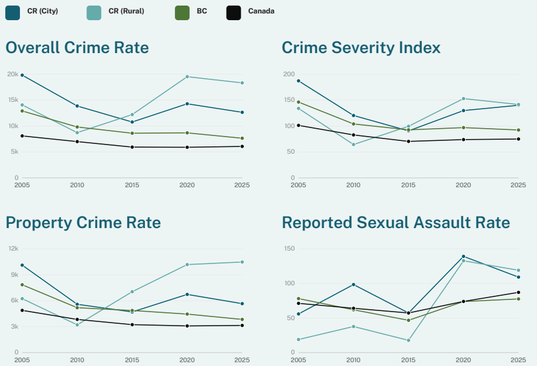
Food Security Infrastructure in Campbell River, By the Numbers:[74]

- At least 10 community gardens
- 11 school gardens
- At least 3 food forests
- 4 kitchens (either community kitchens or commercial kitchens available to rent)
- 2 seed libraries
- Weekly Farmers' Market
- At least 15 farm stands

Additionally, programmatic food security infrastructure includes the Campbell River Food Bank, various free and low-cost meal programs including school meals, the Greenways Gleaning program, and the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

Fostering community safety is a shared responsibility, and requires the partnership of community members and many organizations. The data in this section reflects both proactive measures and responses to community safety.

Crime Rates (per 100,000 Pop.)[75]



Total Service Calls to Campbell River RCMP[76]

2024	15,669	2025	13,857

Cyber Crime[77]

Cyber crime is a growing concern. Incidents of cyber crime reported to the Campbell River RCMP are forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. These data are not available at the municipal level. Number of reported cyber crime incidents for British Columbia are as follows:

*Only reflects January – March 2026

2024	23,670	2025	21,320	2026	5,572*

Beds in Transition House[78]

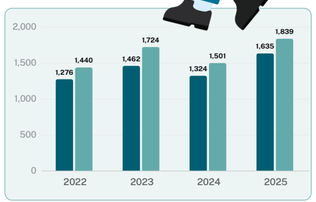
In its 2023-24 fiscal year, Anne Elmore House was funded for 11 safety beds but offered a **total of 18**. In that time, 139 women and 75 children stayed for a total of 3,005 bed nights.

Total Search and Rescue Calls[79]

2024	71	2025	65

Bylaw[80]

Did you know: Between 2023 and June 1, 2026, City of Campbell River bylaw officers have completed 3,251 hours of proactive foot patrols in Downtown.





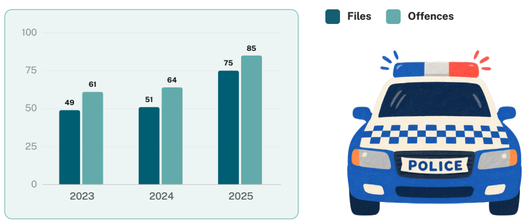
Pictured: Jesse Challoner, Jared MacNeil, Michaela Arruda, and Cody Gent celebrating the newly established Campbell River Professional Firefighters Fund.



Pictured: Campbell River RCMP team members celebrated for International Women's Day.

Restorative Justice[81]

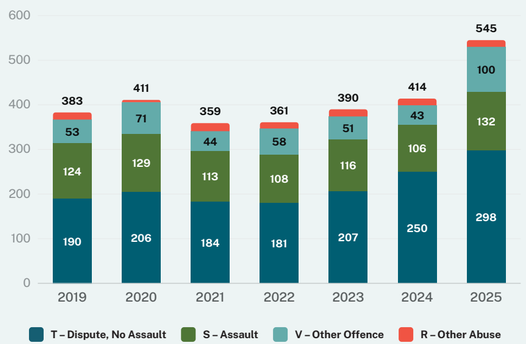
As part of the RCMP's commitment to community policing service delivery, the Campbell River RCMP actively utilizes Restorative Justice as an alternative to the traditional criminal justice system. Restorative Justice is not a singular practice, but a framework guided by key principles, which include engaging victims, offenders, and the community in the justice process; recognizing crime as harm caused to people, rather than solely a violation of law; and prioritizing flexible, forward-thinking approaches to accountability and resolution.



SPOTLIGHT

Intimate Partner Violence[82]

Per the Campbell River RCMP, reported incidents of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) increased for the fourth consecutive year in 2025. The increase was anticipated but the scale (+131 / +31.6%) exceeded expectations as it was the largest recorded since at least 2019. The overall increase in IPV-related files was driven by increases in three of the four sub-categories of IPV. In particular, 'Spousal / Partner Other Offence' was +57 / +132.6% year-over-year. These files may involve an offence such as Harassing Communications, Breach / Bail Violations, Threats or Mischief due to damaging property but the files do not involve direct acts of violence targeting a partner. Another category contributing to the year-over-year increase in IPV files is 'Spousal / Partner (Dispute) No Assault' (+48/+19.2%). This type of file may involve calls for police assistance when partners are verbally arguing or causing a commotion. These files involve no criminality (other than perhaps 'Breach of Peace' or 'Cause Disturbance') and no allegation of physical abuse but are taken seriously by police as these files can be a precursor to physical violence.



INCOME GAP

For the first time, Campbell River's living wage has been calculated. The gap between the legal minimum wage and the living wage is wide. Increasing financial strain has contributed to increased food bank usage.

Living Wage[83]

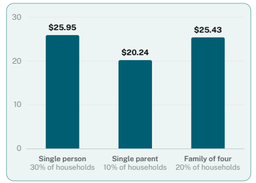
In 2025, Campbell River's living wage was calculated for the first time. The living wage is the "hourly rate a full-time worker must earn to meet their basic expenses and participate fully in their community."

Difference between Living Wage and minimum wage: $7.05/hr



Living Wage by Household Type (Campbell River, 2025)[83]

Living Wage BC estimates that outside of BC's major population centres, 1 in 5 workers does not earn a living wage. As of June 2026, there were 6 certified Living Wage employers in Campbell River and area.



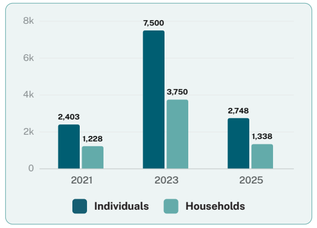
SPOTLIGHT

Community Dinner Program

The closure of Hem'?aelas Community Kitchen in June 2025 left a gap in support for community members experiencing homelessness and other forms of precarity: access to hot meals. Nearly a year later, a new partnership was announced: a Community Dinner Program, hosted and managed by the Salvation Army and Laichwiltach Family Life Society, and with initial funding from the City of Campbell River. Offering a hot meal every weeknight at the Centre of Hope (Cedar Street), the program is now indoors, allowing for safety in all weather, and offers warm, nutritious food. The first meal was served in June 2026, and the partners anticipate serving 50 - 75 people each evening. Volunteers are needed and can contact the Salvation Army for more information.

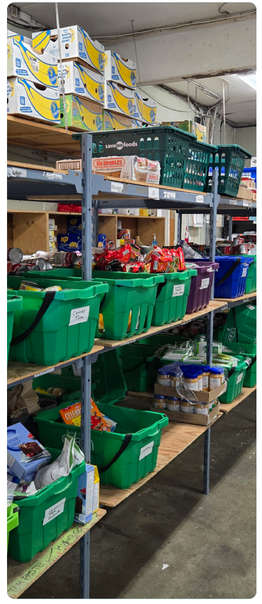
Campbell River Food Bank[84]

Across British Columbia, food banks are experiencing demonstrably greater demand than in 2019 (the pandemic and its impacts are part of the reason). Provincially, food bank visits have **increased by 79% between 2019 and 2025**. Campbell River has also experienced this upswing in demand, and the number of households and individuals served by the Campbell River Food Bank has continued to rise every year since 2019. In 2025, the 2,748 individuals registered made a total of 13,017 visits to the food bank.



The Food Bank's client data reflects a number of interesting shifts that demonstrate how the increasing cost of living is squeezing Campbell River residents:[84]

- Children and youth (0-18) comprise 29.8% of individual clients.
- Homeowners comprised 10.2% of clients.
- Employed people comprised 25.1% of clients.
- Senior use of the Food Bank has increased, with 15.8% of clients being 60 years and greater, 12.1% of clients receiving Old Age Security (OAS), and 11.3% receiving a pension.
- In a 2024 survey of Campbell River food bank clients, 60% of respondents (or 674 people) said that the food bank helped them keep their housing.



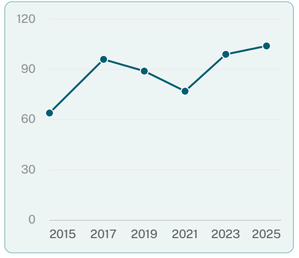
Pictured: Full shelves are ready for clients at the Campbell River Food Bank. Photo credit: Campbell River Food Bank

GETTING STARTED

Many newcomers report feeling welcome and like they belong when they move to Campbell River. More newcomers report that their employment is lower than their skills.

Countries Represented at North Vancouver Island Immigrant Welcome Centre[85]

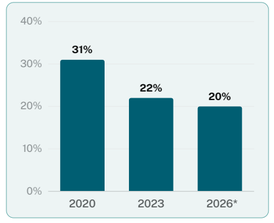
With the exception of 2021, the Immigrant Welcome Centre has served an increasingly geographically diverse number of newcomers over the last ten years.



Experiences of Racism and Discrimination[86, 87,88]

Proportion of respondents reported experiencing racism and/or discrimination in the last 5 years.

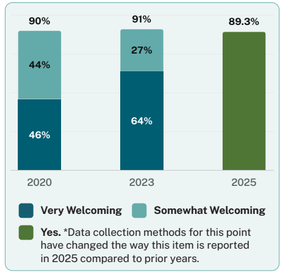
***Question modified:**
"I feel respected by members of the community regardless of my racial, cultural, or religious background." 80.0% agreed with the statement.





Pictured: Staff and clients meeting at the NVI Immigrant Welcome Centre.

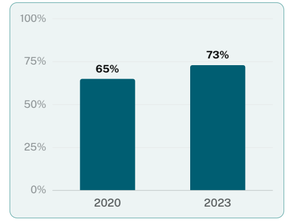
Newcomers Who Say the Community is Welcoming[86, 87,88]

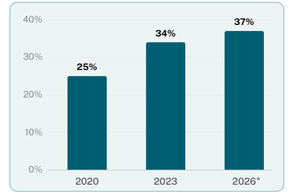


Newcomers Whose Employment is Lower Than Their Skills[86, 87,88]

***Question modified:** "I can find jobs that use my skills and experience." 63.4% agreed with the statement.

Sense of Belonging, Very Strong or Somewhat Strong[86, 87,88]





SPOTLIGHT

Teaching Swim Skills to Newcomers

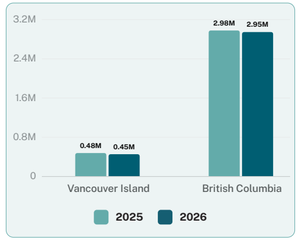
One of Campbell River's greatest assets is its proximity to water: rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Local bodies of water can be dangerous to those who don't know how to swim, including newcomers who did not learn to swim in their country of origin.

Strathcona Gardens offers "Swim to Survive" classes, meant for kids and adults to quickly learn skills to survive an unexpected fall in deep water. In some sessions, Strathcona Gardens offers priority registration to Immigrant Welcome Centre clients, ensuring newcomers know the basics of water safety.

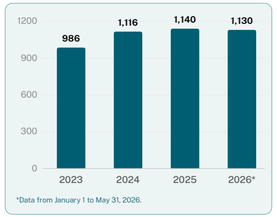
WORK & ECONOMY | *ʔiʔaxəla (work)*

Labour force participation is down and unemployment is up, both in the Vancouver Island & Coast Economic Region and in BC. Locally, seaweed represents an innovative economic opportunity.

Labour Force Participation[89]



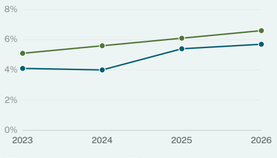
Average Monthly EI Beneficiaries (SRD)[90]



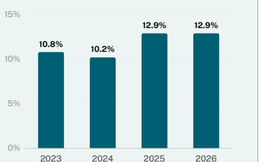
*Data from January 1 to May 31, 2026.

Unemployment Rates (June, Annually)[91]

Overall Unemployment Rate



Youth (15-24) Unemployment



Average Employment Income (2023)[92]

Campbell River	$56,400
British Columbia	$59,900

Did you know? Job postings for the Tourism and Hospitality industry are posted frequently on the NIEFS job board. In 2024, 241 postings - or 21% of the total - were for the tourism and hospitality industry. In 2025, the numbers were similar: 240 postings, or 23% of the total.

NIEFS Job Postings (Yearly Totals to March)[93]

2024	1,944
2025	1,662

New Business Licenses Issued[94]

2024	272

Airport Takeoffs and Landings[95]

No data available for 2024.

2022	24,000
2023	31,000
2025	49,730



Pictured: NIEFS staff celebrating their second year as a Certified Living Wage Employer (and 40th anniversary!)

Did you know: Community Futures is a national program that supports entrepreneurship and community economic development in rural Canada. In Campbell River, the local branch offers strategic planning, business development, and access to capital. In 2025-26, **59 loans were granted, totalling nearly $3,000,000**. These loans created, maintained, or expanded 151 jobs.[96]

SPOTLIGHT

Working from The Heart

The Campbell River Community Foundation officially opened “The Heart,” a shared professional office space designed to organically bring together individuals working across diverse sectors in our community. The space offers separate rate structures tailored to businesses and non-profits. In its first six months of operating, 36 businesses and 17 non-profits (plus guests) have utilized the shared desks, event and meeting space, office, and tech packages offered at The Heart. Beyond building connections, the space generates mission-related revenue that is reinvested back into the Foundation’s overarching purpose: to enrich life in Campbell River. The Heart provides accessible commercial office space and resources while enhancing the economic well-being of our community and sustainability of the Community Foundation.

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