



# The Village Initiative

Helping children, youth and families thrive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## It Takes a Village: Introducing the Village Initiative

September 6, 2022 - The Village Initiative (TVI) is a regional network of over [40 community service organizations](#) dedicated to improving the lives of Sooke and West Shore children, youth, and families. Each year TVI partners deliver hundreds of health and social programs serving thousands of community members, ranging from childcare, recreation, and literacy programming to family support outreach services and more. TVI partners provide equitable access to the care and services children, youth and families need.

The Village Initiative took root when the Sooke School District and Island Health started a conversation with community partners, recognizing that the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families are best supported through an all-hands-on-deck approach – a Village. As a result, the network was created to include local municipalities, government, and non-government agencies, while businesses and funders are invited to partner in speaking in a collective voice and working on evidence-based local solutions.

TVI's partners include the Sooke School District, Island Health, Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division), Thrive Social Services, BGC South Vancouver Island (formerly Boys and Girls Clubs), and Sooke Family Resource Society. United Way Southern Vancouver Island is the initiative's foundational funder powering this work in the community.

Despite the ongoing efforts of many across the Sooke and West Shore region, it has been an ongoing challenge to keep pace with the needs of our rapidly growing community. Important lifelines for child and family developmental health, housing, financial aid, youth support, among others, have been struggling to keep pace for over a decade.

The initiative will be working on an integrated approach in areas such as:

- Creating more spaces dedicated to vital community services such as childcare
- Improving infrastructure for service provision and training
- Delivering enhanced access to vital services such as mental health and substance use
- Creating positive spaces and opportunities for youth
- Delivering accessible social programs for marginalized and low-income community members
- Improving support for immigrants and newcomers to Sooke and West Shore, among others

According to a recent survey of regional service providers, over 8,000 more people could be served if suitable space was available for children, youth, and families throughout the region. Such an improvement in the availability of community services would be truly transformative.

Learn more about TVI at [thevillageinitiative.ca](http://thevillageinitiative.ca)

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