



Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre Community Works – Tourism / Cultural Infrastructure



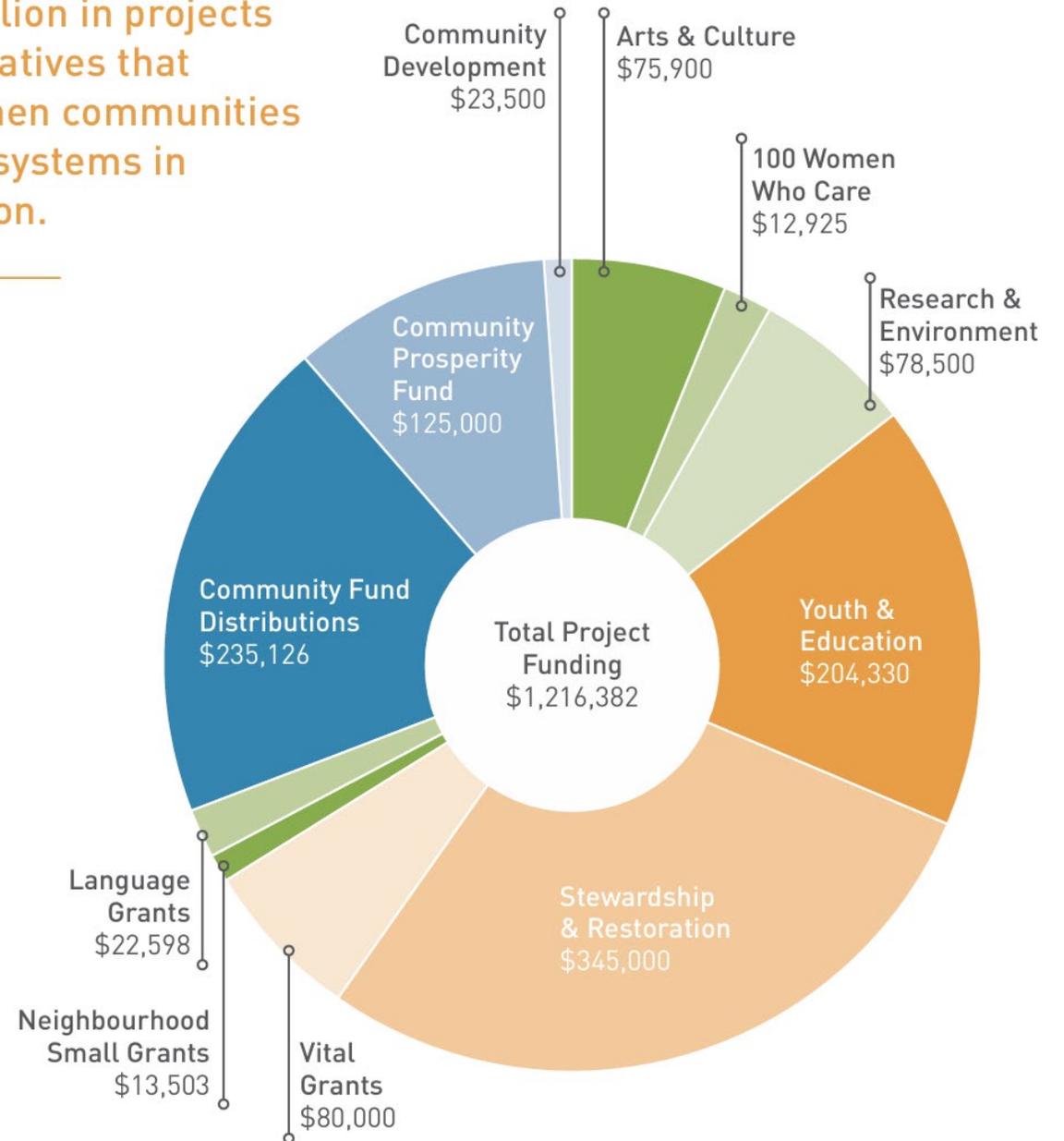
Our Mission

Since 2000, the CBT has invested more than \$5.5 million in projects and initiatives that strengthen communities and ecosystems in the region.

Building a future where people and nature thrive together.

The communities of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region will live sustainably within a healthy ecosystem, supported by a diversified economy and strong, united cultures, guided by the nuučaanuł (Nuu-chah-nulth) teachings of iisaak (respect), q^waaʔakqin tiičmis (our way of life), and hišukʔiš čawaak (everything is one).

The mission of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is to provide funding and logistical support for research, education, and training initiatives that promote conservation and sustainable development.



2024 IMPACTS



Vital Signs: A Snapshot

In the Biosphere Region: health and well-being are linked to lack of cultural and social connectedness; intergenerational trauma; lack of economic and educational opportunities, and high cost of living:

- Prevalence of depression, mood and anxiety disorders significantly exceed Island Health and BC rates
- 33% of people are Indigenous; intergenerational trauma impacts the health of children, adults, elders and communities
- 4th highest in BC for substance-related deaths, related to pain, stress, and trauma. 80% of deaths in Ahousaht have been related to alcohol.
- On a weekly basis 35% of youth feel depressed, 66% feel stressed, and 58% feel anxious or really worried.
- 42% of grade 7 students and 33% of grade 4 students are classed as vulnerable
- Housing costs have risen by 39%; 31% of households spend over 30% of income on shelter
- Living wage has risen to \$26.51/hr
- Food prices 21% more expensive on west coast
- 14 culture grants funded projects including button blanket workshop and winter pride
- 10.1% of active learners for Nuu-chah-nulth language
- Tourism is major driver of economy employing 32% of regions workers

A living wage is the income a family of four requires to maintain a decent standard of living and satisfy all of their basic needs. Working families that earn less than a living wage may face tough choices, such as deciding between paying rent or purchasing healthy food.

Learn more at: clayoquotbiosphere.org/research/living-wage





Clayoquot Biosphere Centre Community Works in Action: Tourism, Culture, and Resilience

- **A Pathway to Regional Impact**
- **Advancing Equity through Community Infrastructure**
- **Strengthening Food Systems with Shared Facilities**
- **Revitalizing Local Economies through Arts and Culture**
- **Collaborating Regionally for Sustainable Development**
- **Creating a Regional Hub for Tourism, Culture, and Resilience**

Biosphere Centre Priorities



- **UNESCO Visitor Centre** – A new regional tourism asset where visitors engage with the unique story of the Biosphere Region and its rich cultural heritage.
- **Elders Room** – A culturally safe infrastructure space for Indigenous programming, intergenerational dialogue, and cultural preservation.
- **Teaching Kitchen** – A destination for culinary tourism and food heritage, supporting traditional food practices, culinary training, and community resilience.
- **Collaborative Coworking Space** – Infrastructure designed to advance innovation, partnerships, and climate action through shared workspace.
- **Workshop Areas** – Hands-on facilities for training, workshops, and skills development that engage both residents and visitors, advancing the tourism learning economy.
- **Community Health Spaces** – Purpose-built rooms that support healthcare programs, wellness initiatives, and collaborative care networks.
- **Library & Archives** – A public knowledge hub for research, education, and climate action planning, accessible to students, researchers, and visitors.
- **Interpretive & Exhibit Spaces** – Infrastructure for sensitive exhibits, Truth & Reconciliation programs, and arts, drawing cultural tourists and providing educational experiences.
- **Ceremonial Firepit** – An outdoor gathering place honoring traditional practices, supporting cultural tourism, and fostering community healing.
- **Outdoor Meeting Spaces** – Flexible spaces for regional programming.



Truth & Reconciliation

The CBT's current activities and future programs at the Biosphere Centre contribute towards several of the TRCs Calls to Action including



Call to Action #7, #10

Respectfully supporting Nuu-chah-nulth community members in their efforts to develop and deliver new education programs, and by increasing access to quality education programs and skills training opportunities for First Nations community members.

Call to Action #14

Supporting Indigenous language revitalization through the inclusion of Nuu-chah-nulth language during meetings and events, providing safe and accessible space for teaching and learning, and small grants to support language revitalization.

Call to Action #57

Providing education to public servants, businesses, visitors, and community on the history of Nuu-chah-nulth people in the region.

Call to Action #62

Supporting education about Indian Residential Schools through partnerships with survivors, local schools, and Nuu-chah-nulth Nations.

Call to Action #63

Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect through learning events and programs

Call to Action #92

Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects; and ensuring that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities that can be created through the building process.



Status and Timeline

- 301 Olsen Road purchased and re-zoned
- 80+ letters of support received
- Zero Carbon Living Building sustainable framework adopted
- Schematic & Design Development completed
- Business Case & Projections completed
- Building Permit application submitted

- Class A budget completed
- \$20M Project cost
- \$12.5M secured in total
- \$5M ask to province pending
- \$1.7M asks to private donors pending
- Goal to break ground 2025
- Anticipated completion: Winter 2026/27