

Goals of the project:

To connect individuals to their community, outside the scope of Community Living Supports.

Provide the opportunity to further explore, and access, available generic resources that are available to all community members

Enhance the involvement of Natural Supports in the lives of individuals with diverse abilities and their families

Empower the community to become increasingly welcoming to diverse residents

Provide teaching moments to individuals, support networks and the community to increase the opportunity for sustainable connections, skill sets and relationships.

Connector Background

Jay Townsend has been involved within the Community Living Sector since 1998; contributing in roles that include Community Resource Worker, Educator, Day Program Manager, Facilitator and Employment Specialist. Jay's diversity of experience, in British Columbia and Alberta, has provided the opportunity to explore a variety of strategies and concepts associated to connecting people "with" the community.

Jay currently resides in the Comox Valley with his fiancée and 3-year-old son. Jay's spends his free time playing music, camping, snowboarding, and spending time with his family.

Jay is currently the Facilitator of a family lead initiative, in the Comox Valley, called The Friendship Project and has developed and facilitates Community connection training to organizations in Alberta and British Columbia.

For more information
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The North Island Connector Project is made possible through partnerships with Out of School Care Services and CLBC.



**The North Island
Connector Project**
Campbell River, BC

A strength-based initiative that is focused on providing referred individuals and their networks the ability to explore and connect with relevant opportunities and resources in the Campbell River Regional District.



Over the course of a calendar year, the project will assist 12 individuals to connect in meaningful ways to their community.

Individuals will be connected to the project for up to 80 hours over a 4-month period.

Communication and feedback plans will be implemented to ensure that the needs, and vision, of the individual are being met. Transparency is an important aspect of the Connector Project.

This is an individualized opportunity for people to explore and connect to their community.

The North Island Connector Project

An individualized Community based demonstration project that is focused on connecting people to their communities. Through exploration of opportunities and resources that are available in the Campbell River region, the project will work along side individuals and their networks to connect them in meaningful ways, to Natural Supporters and resources that are important to the individual as they seek to deepen their ties and participation in community settings.

PERSON CENTERED DISCOVERY

The Connector will work together with the individual and their support networks to develop a clear sense of who the person is and how he/she wishes to connect to their community. This process will be focused on the experience, relevant history, assets and gifts of the individual.

Discovery will include the process of rapport development between the Connector and the individual and their network.

GOAL SETTING & MOMENTUM

The individual will be encouraged to develop goals. Goal setting will provide direction, clarity & momentum to the experience.

COMMUNITY BASED DISCOVERY

The individual and Connector will explore community based opportunities that relate to the person's strengths, interests, and dreams.

This is a process that will be based within the community. There is no facility associated to the initiative. The community is the best environment for this type of focus. Through the process of Community discovery and

inventory, the person will have the opportunity to connect to, and develop a sense of informed choice within their community.

CONNECTION

The Connector will assist the individual to connect to specific opportunities within their community. Focus will be based in the development of Natural Support and sustainability beyond the initiative.

INTERDEPENDENCE

The Connector will work together with the individual as much as possible to promote the acquisition of skills and knowledge of their community. This will promote the feasibility of long term involvement within the community following participation in the project.

SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS

Connection beyond the scope of the project is a focus of the Connector. This will be achieved through the discovery of Natural Supports within the community.