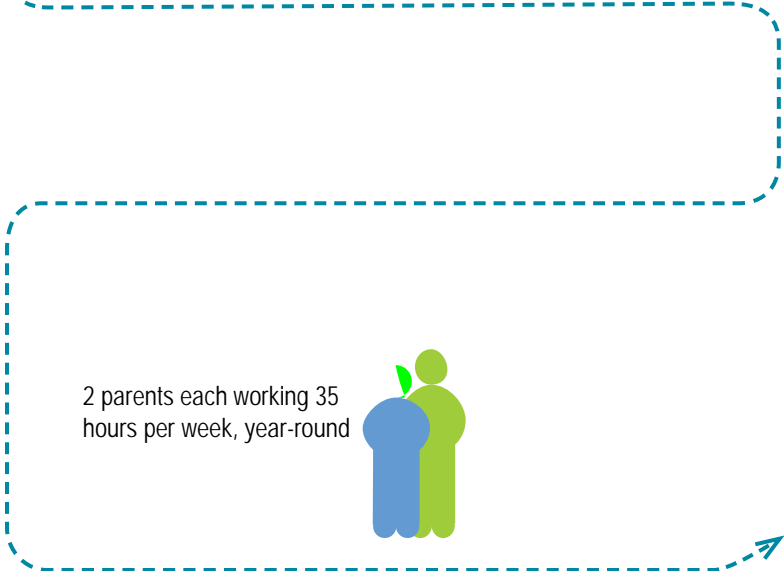


test — a living wage reflects what earners in actual costs of living in a specific community.

and contract employees sufficient to provide

Work should lift a person out of poverty, not keep them there. Working families that do not earn a living wage may face difficult choices, such as deciding between paying rent and purchasing healthy food. Earning a living wage provides security for families to avoid severe financial stress and is associated with better health for children, families, and their communities.

A living wage is not only influenced by employers, but by economic and social policies that increase affordability for families (such as child care subsidies and public transit).



2 parents each working 35 hours per week, year-round

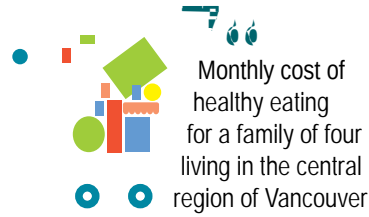


Monthly Expenses	
Housing	\$1,493.94
Phone & Internet	\$210.56
Food	\$849.53
Transportation	\$416.27
Childcare	\$1,478.83
Healthcare - MSP	\$150.00
Healthcare - extended	\$130.00
Clothing & footwear	\$162.00
Parent education	\$75.29
Other household costs & social participation	\$762.70
Contingency	\$234.62
Total Monthly Expenses:	\$5,963.74

Median monthly rent of a 3-bedroom unit plus utilities, and insurance. (Source: community survey, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust)



Some communities in our region lack 3-bedroom rental units or have subsidized units, and this is not captured in the living wage.



Monthly cost of healthy eating for a family of four living in the central region of Vancouver

Island. (Source: Cost of Eating Report, Provincial Health Services Authority)

The living wage does not capture additional costs of food in our region. Food costs are up to higher than nearby Port Alberni and only two of our eight communities have adequate grocery stores, so they must pay to travel to buy healthy food.

(Source: Vital Signs, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust)



Median monthly cost of full-time care for a 4-year-old, and out-of-school care during school holidays for a 7-year-old.

(Source: phone interviews with licensed providers in the region, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust)

