

Tsawout Education Support Services (TESS) is a new service area and we bring you greetings on behalf of the staff in the department.

TESS will now be responsible for the services that are currently delivered through the After-School Program, Head Start Program and the Daycare Centre. We are in the process of hiring an administrative assistant for the department and also increasing the level of staffing and overall program content.

We wish to acknowledge the commitment and contribution of all the teachers, Tsawout staff, volunteers and parents who have added to the successes of these programs over the past few years. It is because of their efforts that we are now able to build our services confidently for the future.

We are also grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration of the Tsawout Health and Social Development Departments in helping the new Education services to get off the ground, and for the support of Tsawout Administration, and Chief and Council.

In time, we hope to significantly expand our services to improve the quality of individualized education and training support being provided to the young children, school-going youth and adult learners at all stages of the education process. We will pay close attention to the importance of Sencoten language as well as the traditional teachings of the community of Tsawout.

Over the last 6 months we have developed partnership initiatives with education institutions in Saanich, with the University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, and will soon develop new projects with other external agencies such as Beacon Community Services in Victoria. As a result of these collaborative efforts we currently have the Cafeteria 12 program running as well as the Digital Stories Project with RRU.

We will aim to develop comprehensive supports for parents and guardians of students in the community, all with the goal of improving the outcome of education. Your cooperation will be much valued, as this initiative will only be possible with the support of the Elders and parents of

Tsawout.

We look forward to working with the community to develop this important field for the future of the youth and the community.

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## Program Areas

Click image for larger view.

**Credit: Catherine Wong**

