



Community voices on ‘tapping into tech’:

Fostering equity for children with disabilities and/or medical complexity in rural & northern British Columbia

Funding Success!

A large consortium of child development stakeholders, led by Dr Alison Gerlach from the University of Victoria and Jason Gordon from the BC Association of Child Development & Intervention, have received a **Vancouver Foundation** grant for \$200,000. This grant will fund a project to explore the role of technology in promoting and expanding service quality and access for children with developmental and/or health concerns and their families in rural and northern British Columbia.



What will we do?

Taking a community-driven approach, the experiences and views of children, families and service providers will be explored in order to understand the current and potential use of technology to promote child development. A community council will be established and will include rural and northern families, young people with lived experience of disability, ECD champions, grassroots child disability advocacy groups and researchers. This group will guide and support the project, ensuring the voices of the community inform the research and implementation of the findings.

This two-year participatory action research project has the potential to make a large and lasting impact on the provincial early childhood development system in BC by mobilizing community knowledge(s) to tailor information and communication technologies in response to the lived realities, preferences and resources of northern, rural and Indigenous families,

children and ECD providers.

The research will be governed by the University of Victoria, Human Research Ethics Committee.

Informing and transforming the use of information and communication technologies for children with dis/Abilities and/or medical complexity in our province, requires that this project is co-designed and informed by those most closely impacted by its findings – rural and northern families, children with disabilities and ECD champions.

The project co-leads Jason Gordon and Dr Alison Gerlach look forward to sharing further information once this project is launched in June/July 2021!

Contact Details

If you are interested in finding out more about this project, please contact Alison and/or Jason at:
Alison Gerlach alisongerlach@uvic.ca
Jason Gordon Jason@bcacdi.org



Pictured : Project leaders Alison Gerlach and Jason Gordon

May 2021