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Vancouver Foundation provides transportation grants to immigrants, refugees, and homeless youth

Vancouver Foundation announced today it has distributed \$83,000 worth of grants to local charities aimed at covering transportation costs for immigrants, refugees, and homeless and at-risk youth.

The grants were made possible as the result of a successful class action lawsuit related to price-fixing of a rubber product. Since the courts found it difficult to identify individuals who were affected by the price-fixing, they decided to give part of the settlement to community foundations. The community foundations in turn decided to use the funds to provide grants throughout Canada that would help meet transportation needs.

"It is very fitting that community foundations are returning the proceeds of this class-action suit to the community in the form of transportation grants," says Faye Wightman, President and CEO of Vancouver Foundation. "Some of the money originally came from people in the community and we are giving it back to the community, helping refugees and homeless youth who have difficulty with basic transportation costs."

With the proceeds it received, Vancouver Foundation created "On the Move" grants for organizations serving immigrants, refugees, and homeless and at-risk youth. It provided the following organizations with grants:

- The Directions program at Family Services of Greater Vancouver - \$15,000
-- to help homeless youth who want to return to their home community.
- Immigrant Services Society - \$19,000
-- for bus tickets to help refugees attend orientation programs and medical treatment. For example, many refugees need to travel from Langley to the Bridge health clinic in Vancouver, which offers free treatment for refugees and refugee claimants.
- Canadian Red Cross First Contact Program - \$19,000
- Broadway Youth Resource Centre - \$15,000
- Urban Native Youth Association - \$15,000.

NOTE: Background on the case is available at www.classaction.ca/content/actions/ethylene.asp. The settlement can be found at http://www.classaction.ca/pdf/Distribution_Protocol_EPDM.pdf.

With more than 1,100 funds, and assets of almost \$800 million, Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation, and one of the oldest in North America. In 2007, Vancouver Foundation, in partnership with our donors, distributed almost \$60 million to communities and innovative projects across British Columbia. www.vancouverfoundation.ca

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