

June 28, 2010

Vancouver Foundation supports arts, education, and families

Vancouver Foundation recently approved grants for projects in the areas of arts and culture, education, and children, youth and families. The Foundation and its donors granted almost \$3 million to support 134 unique projects in these areas that address a variety of community issues across the province. Funding for other areas of interest will take place this Fall.

Almost \$284,000 in funding went to seven projects in the Cariboo/Chilcotin. A sample of these projects is listed below.

School District #27 - Cariboo-Chilcotin

\$180,000 to develop a shared, on-line curriculum for remote learners.

This initiative will use satellite technology to bring education to secondary students in their homes. Elementary school students in the Cariboo-Chilcotin are spread over a large geographical area. Most are of First Nations ancestry, and attend five remote schools. When these students reach high school, they must move to an urban centre. This isolation from family and community can lead to high drop-out rates, substance abuse and depression.

This project will strengthen the quality of the educational experience for students, and give them the skills to excel in a technological society. It will also expand service to federal band schools and remote adult students.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Quesnel

\$40,000 for an in-school Teen Mentor Coordinator.

This two-year grant will be used toward the salary of a coordinator who will help meet the increased need for teen mentors for elementary school-aged children in Quesnel.

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council -- Prince George

\$17,500 for Dakelh Language Teacher.

This grant will be used to bring a Dakelh language teacher/Elder-in-Residence program to Carney Hill elementary school, which will become the Prince George Aboriginal Choice school in September 2010.

With more than 1,300 funds, and assets of \$720 million, Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation. Since it was founded in 1943, Vancouver Foundation, in partnership with its donors, has distributed more than \$786 million to BC charities.

For more information:

Catherine Clement, VP Communications
604.688.2204