

Benefits of Vancouver Foundation



vancouver
foundation

	Vancouver Foundation	Commercial Donor Advised Fund	Private Foundation
Background	Established in 1943, Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest, and one of North America's oldest, community foundations. Vancouver Foundation supports charities throughout BC, and is the custodian of over 1,800 endowment funds and over \$1.1 billion in total assets.	Led by financial institutions and investment management firms. A newcomer to the philanthropic sector, the first commercial foundation came to Canada in 2004.	There are more than 750 private foundations in BC.
Minimum contribution	Establishing a fund requires \$10,000, or, with an initial contribution of \$1,000, individuals can establish a Start-Up Fund or a Legacy Fund, and build the capital over time.	Varies from \$10,000 to \$250,000, depending upon the commercial foundation.	In most cases, private foundations are initiated with a capital contribution of \$1 million to \$5 million or more.
Fees	As a not-for-profit organization, Vancouver Foundation's fees are only designed to recover our actual costs. We handle all the daily administration for you, file annual tax returns, process grants, and issue cheques and receipts. Total fees, including administrative and investment charges are 1.15%.	Fees vary from approximately 1.5% to more than 2.5%. Depending upon the financial institution and fund type, additional fees may be charged for investment fees, operating expenses, brokerage fees, grant distribution, and reporting.	Fees vary from 0.75% to 1.5% of assets, depending on size and staffing. Additional fees for professional services may also be incurred.
Administrative Requirements & Responsibilities	A fund can be established in a short time, often one business day, and there are no start-up costs involved. Vancouver Foundation manages all accounting and tax filings.	Funds can be initiated within a short time, and there are no start-up costs. The commercial foundation manages all accounting and tax filings.	Establishing a private foundation can take up to a year. Legal, accounting and filing fees are applicable. Private foundations are responsible for all reporting requirements, which may require the services of lawyers and accountants.
Investment Management	Vancouver Foundation provides several investment choices, including our Consolidated Trust Fund and Socially Responsible Investment Fund. An Investment Committee, comprised of leading investment and finance professionals, works with Vancouver Foundation to set the investment policy, monitor performance, and oversee the hiring of investment managers.	The financial institution's investment arm manages the investment portfolio.	Trustees and directors are responsible for setting the investment policy and monitoring performance. They either manage the funds directly or hire professional investment managers.



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Donor Involvement	Donors can grant to qualified charities on a quarterly or annual basis, or may provide standing wishes. You can appoint a successor fund advisor or ask Vancouver Foundation to carry out long term support for a specific charity. With our extensive knowledge and connections in the community, donors are provided with a wide range of opportunities for philanthropic engagement.	During their lifetime, donors can recommend grants to qualified charities. Grants are approved by trustees of the gift fund.	Donors can be involved as much as they choose, or can hire staff and professionals to manage the private foundation. Donors can involve their family in the foundation's work.
Fund Options	With a personally named Donor Advised Fund , you can support your favourite charities or any of Vancouver Foundation's Charitable Causes (health, environment, arts & culture, etc). A Donor Advised Fund enables you to change your preferences at any time. With a Designated Fund , you can name specific charities or any of Vancouver Foundation's Charitable Causes to receive support from your fund in perpetuity.	Most commercial foundations offer one fund, with several different investment options. Depending upon the fund type, granting from the fund's capital may be permitted.	Donors may set up a private foundation according to their personal wishes.
Grantmaking Support	Vancouver Foundation has 75 years of experience evaluating grant proposals and working with volunteer community advisors to identify the pressing needs of the community. We work closely with you to ensure your grants have the most impact in the community. Whether it is helping to identify charities or selecting one of our Charitable Causes, we're here to help.	Commercial foundations have limited community knowledge and expertise.	Expertise will depend upon the individuals involved with the foundation.
Staff Support	Vancouver Foundation is committed to providing a high level of service through our professional and responsive staff in areas such as community grants, donor services, investment and finance.	Varies	Varies
Governance	Vancouver Foundation is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. In addition, over 100 professional leaders from the community, business, legal and finance sectors volunteer their expertise on various committees. This includes an Honorary Governors Council, Investment Committee, and granting advisory committees.	Board membership varies, but generally includes financial institution staff.	Board comprises trustees/directors initially chosen by the donor. More than half the Board may be persons in a non-arm's length relationship with the donor. Governance successorship can sometimes be an issue of concern for private foundations.
Anonymity	Donors can remain anonymous if they wish.	Donors can remain anonymous if they wish.	Because of CRA reporting requirements for private foundations, there is limited opportunity for anonymity.