

vancouver  
foundation

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2018

In 2007 Vancouver Foundation updated its logo to incorporate an infinity symbol to reflect the perpetual giving of the foundation to the community.

For 75 years, Vancouver Foundation has been community inspired.

Our approach today still reflects this ethos as the collective wisdom of our community leads us forward.

Learn more at  
[vancouverfoundation.ca/give](http://vancouverfoundation.ca/give)



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1943

The iconic 'Lions' logo was developed in 1950 to represent the longevity of Vancouver Foundation and its dedication to the community.

## Community Inspired for 75 Years

Vancouver Foundation started in 1943 with one person, \$1,000 and a vision. Alice MacKay had saved \$1,000 from her secretarial job and wanted to help homeless women trapped in a cycle of poverty. Inspired by Alice's generosity, local businessperson and philanthropist Whitford VanDusen added \$10,000 to her endowment and encouraged nine other prominent families to match his own gift. Starting with that original \$101,000 Vancouver Foundation has since become the largest community foundation in Canada.

From the very beginning, we have been community inspired. We respond to social and political change, focusing on what matters most to British Columbians. Together, we support newcomers, rally through war and poverty, empower citizens, and champion equality and cultural vibrancy. We seek out innovative breakthroughs in technology, research and medicine. For 75 years we've shared the dream of both Whitford VanDusen and Alice MacKay—creating healthy, vibrant and livable communities.

1948

**The Red Cross Workshops of Vancouver asks Vancouver Foundation to administer its \$10,000 fund.**



1952

**The W.J. VanDusen Foundation Fund designated for the study of forestry in B.C. is created.**

1955

**H.R. MacMillan establishes \$500,000 Education Fund**

This fund created support for research and study in the fields of forestry and fisheries. Writing to partner and friend VanDusen, he states "It seems beneficial that the public should see that those who have benefited by use of resources here are voluntarily assisting important educational efforts..."

**\$1 Million**  
IN TOTAL GRANTING



1963

**Local Charities come to Vancouver Foundation to establish funds**

Including Vancouver Symphony Society, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Vancouver Parks Foundation and B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation.



1968

**Pender Fund is created as first Donor Advised Fund**

This new type of fund allows donors, for the first time ever, to make ongoing granting decisions during their lifetime.

1972

**As demand for funding grows, Vancouver Foundation forms advisory committees with experts from the community to advise on granting decisions.**



1974

**Vancouver Foundation funds significant artistic presentations throughout the years such as the Bill Reid Collection at the Vancouver Art Gallery.**



1976

**Vancouver Museum and H.R. MacMillan Space Centre create an endowment fund to develop programs and finance exhibitions.**

1977

**Whitford VanDusen retires from Vancouver Foundation**

After 34 years of service as Chair and Honorary Chair, VanDusen passes away the following year. The market value of the VanDusen family donations has grown to over \$100 million today.

**Vancouver Artgallery**

1984

**The Vancouver Art Gallery moves into old courthouse and establishes a \$4M fund to buy new works of art.**



1993

**Many Happy Returns**

Vancouver artist and AIDS-survivor / activist Joe Average creates a work of art to commemorate Vancouver Foundation's birthday entitled 'Many Happy Returns'.

2000

**'The Unnatural and Accidental Women'**

With funding from Vancouver Foundation, Métis playwright Marie Clements writes a play about the disappearance of Indigenous women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. She has since received funding for her 2017 opera, 'Missing'.

2006

**Vancouver Foundation releases first Vital Signs report taking the pulse of communities on a variety of important issues.**



**\$750K granted to the Vancouver Aquarium for Clownfish Cove.**

**fostering CHANGE**

**FRESH VOICES**

2011

**Vancouver Foundation creates youth initiatives**

Fostering Change program advocates for foster youth transitioning out of care and Fresh Voices helps empower immigrant and refugee youth.



2013

**Vancouver heiress Judith Jardine bequeaths \$34M to Vancouver Foundation**

The largest single gift in the foundation's history. Income from the W.E. Jardine Memorial Fund is split between the United Church and our Community Fund which supports current and pressing projects.

**\$1 Billion**  
IN TOTAL GRANTING

2015

**Truth and Reconciliation**

Vancouver Foundation signs a Declaration of Action committing to positive action on reconciliation.

2017

**B.C. Government partners with Vancouver Foundation to administer a \$7 million poverty reduction fund.**



1944

**The General Fund is created**

Established to provide funding in perpetuity for the Vancouver Welfare Federation (known today as United Way of the Lower Mainland). This longstanding relationship continues to this day.



1950

**Vancouver Foundation's iconic 'Lions' logo is launched.**

**Vancouver Foundation Act is established**

The Vancouver Foundation Act expanded our mandate beyond the Vancouver Welfare Federation, allowing gifts and bequests to be directed toward charities other than the General Fund.



1956

**The Girl Guides of British Columbia create an endowment fund**

Establishing perpetual funding for generations of educational activities for girls and young women.

**\$100,000**  
IN TOTAL GRANTING

1957

**Granting expands to New Westminster, Port Moody, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Burnaby, and Richmond.**



1967

**The 'Dugout' opens its doors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside**

Offering a comfortable place for unemployed men to gather, and eventually, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and a soup kitchen. Vancouver Foundation funded the 'public living room' with a grant of \$1,000 in 1968. The Dugout still provides services to this day.

1971

**Vancouver Foundation provides support to Outward Bound**

"Climbing for the future..." One of the many activities of Outward Bound dedicated to helping young people prepare themselves physically and emotionally for life in modern society.



**\$10 Million**  
IN TOTAL GRANTING

1975

**\$400,000 is granted to 48 voluntary health and welfare agencies**

Temporarily altering our practice of funding experimental activities, research and new services, a special dispensation is granted to agencies affected by decreased revenues and unpredictable loss of government grants.



1981

**Funding supports a variety of emerging advocacy organizations**

This includes Amnesty International, Vancouver Co-Op radio, and the Alternatives to Racism Society.

**\$100 Million**  
IN TOTAL GRANTING



ARTS CLUB

1990

**Renovation of the Arts Club Waterfront**

Vancouver Foundation donors grant \$100,000 to help reclaim the Revue Theatre, and revamp it for the rigours of small plays.

1989

**Vancouver Foundation becomes Canada's largest community foundation.**



1999

**Neighbourhood Small Grants program launches**

Helps build community through block parties, cultural festivals, art installations, beekeeping groups and more. Still expanding across B.C. today, the small grants program is active in 18 communities.

2003

**Disability Supports for Employment Fund is created**

B.C. Government partners with Vancouver Foundation to establish a \$20 million fund to support organizations working to increase employment for people with disabilities.



2008

**Funding continues during economic crisis**

Vancouver Foundation ensures funding continues to charities and spearheads research report to protect the charitable sector from similar impacts in the future.

2012

**Vancouver Foundation launches its seminal 'Connect & Engage' report that found that a large number of people living in Metro Vancouver are lonely.**



GREENEST CITY

2014

**Greenest City Fund grantmaking exceeds \$1M mark in support of 286 projects reinforcing the City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan.**

2016

**\$500,000 in funding provided for housing Syrian Refugees**

Community Foundations of Canada contributes to the Welcome Fund that assists families recently arrived from Syria.



2018

**Vancouver Foundation celebrates being Community Inspired for 75 years.**