

January 25, 2010

Vancouver Foundation supports northeast non-profits

Despite a challenging financial picture in 2009, Vancouver Foundation continued to support important community projects throughout British Columbia.

The Foundation and its donors granted almost \$124,000 in funding for four unique projects that address a variety of community issues in north and northeast BC. These projects are listed below, in alphabetical order by city/area:

School District #59 - Peace River South (Peace River)

\$25,000 for the Words on Wheels (WOW) Bus, a mobile early learning and parent resource center that visits different neighbourhoods several times each month in northeastern BC. The WOW Bus delivers an interactive parent/child program, a book and toy lending library, parent resources, and healthy snacks to families with children age 0 to 6.

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (Prince George)

\$35,000 to the Carrier Sekani Conservation Ecological Restoration Strategy, which will protect the environment and improve conservation awareness and methods for member First Nations and their territories. Through this initiative, they will gather information from traditional sources and environmental groups to develop a holistic approach to the conservation of their territories and natural resources.

Fraser-Fort George Museum Society (Prince George)

\$11,000 to the Explorers Urban Garden, a community garden project in Fort George Park that focuses on environmental gardening, recycling, composting, food security and urban greening. Children and museum staff will compost organic and paper material as the first step to "greening" the operation and its childcare programs. The organization will spend the winter planning the garden with children, building containers from recycled city garbage cans, and beginning to build an understanding about food safety.

United Way of Northern British Columbia in partnership with Prince George Aboriginal Development Association (Prince George)

\$52,760 to Financial Literacy workshops for Aboriginal participants about how their ancestors planned for and saved assets for the future and how they can now save towards equity and gain money management skills. Loans are provided to secure housing, prevent residential evictions, avoid termination of utilities, and for damage deposit, utility hook-up costs and first month's rent.

Vancouver Foundation also funded a number of province-wide projects that have implications for northern BC, which include:

BC Spaces for Nature Society

\$35,000 to developing a Rivers Classification and Designation System.

British Columbia's rivers support diverse activities, including fishing, agriculture, power generation, transportation, recreation and tourism. This project will develop the first rivers classification and designation system for BC in order to better plan, manage and conserve our province's exceptional river resources.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

\$26,380 to the Aboriginal Parenting and Early Childhood Development Project.

This project aims to create and deliver an Aboriginal train-the-trainer program for facilitators of its parenting programs. They plan to review four Aboriginal parenting program models from other provinces, and combine the strengths into a new model, with a focus on BC Aboriginal culture and needs. They plan to develop a curriculum for parents that stresses the importance of being involved in their child's early years (0-6). A manual will be created that can be used by many Aboriginal organizations and communities.

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

\$45,000 to mobilizing Support for Children and Youth

This project will work to strengthen public awareness of the importance of, and government commitment to, social investments that improve the well-being of BC's children and youth in response to high child poverty rates and weakened support services for children and youth. Working closely with 90 partner organizations, the project will do public education, community mobilization and policy advocacy. The project includes facilitating talks with government and producing action kits on issues.

With more than 1,300 funds, and assets of \$700 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 \$740 million to BC charities.

For more information:

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