

July 3, 2008

Vancouver Foundation approves \$622,000 for Island non-profits

The Board of Vancouver Foundation has approved \$622,000 in funding for 25 unique projects that address a variety of community issues on Vancouver Island. The list of Vancouver Island projects the Foundation has funded so far in 2008 includes, in alphabetical order by city:

Namgis First Nation (Alert Bay)

\$17,500 for the Namgis Youth and Elder Traditional Food Security Project. Elders will lead youth and the community in traditional food gathering practices to improve health and well-being, and strengthen intergenerational relationships.

Huu-Ay-Aht (Ohiabt) First Nation (Bamfield)

\$20,000 for stewardship training for Huu-ay-aht First Nation. The grant is for training and development of local expertise to manage and conserve marine resources in their territory.

Campbell River Family Services Society (Campbell River)

\$7,500 for the Young Parents Centre renovation project, which will create more group meeting spaces for young families, help to expand programming and create interactive, safe premises for parent and child play groups.

Comox Valley Transition Society (Courtenay)

\$25,200 over two years for the Be Safe Girls Group. The group provides educational programming that promotes personal well-being and violence prevention to girls aged 11-15 in the Comox Valley.

Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (Courtenay)

\$6,000 for a wildlife care and public education project. The project will rescue, care for and rehabilitate raptors, song birds, waterfowl and other injured or sick animals and birds from all over the northern part of Vancouver Island as well as the northern Gulf Islands and Sunshine Coast.

Cowichan Tribes (Duncan)

\$40,000 for a community leadership initiative that will build resiliency in First Nations' youth through mentoring and exposure to First Nation's culture and language.

Crimson Coast Dance Society (Nanaimo)

\$5,500 for *Whizbang Stoked: As Hot as it Gets!* - a full-length dance and performance piece based on Nanaimo's history as a coal mining community.

\$4,000 for The Body Talk Project, which targets Nanaimo youth aged 14 -18 whose access to arts activities is limited by economic and social barriers. Crimson Coast will address these issues through mentoring and by providing access to performances.

Nanaimo Food Share Network Society (Nanaimo)

\$10,000 for a research project on sustainable institutional food purchasing in Nanaimo Regional District.

Nanaimo Youth Services Association (Nanaimo)

\$61,950 for the Clemente Program, which empowers students to cultivate critical thinking and an informed imagination as tools to escape the cycle of poverty.

CTH Management Association (Port Alberni)

\$40,312 for roof repair and maintenance of the Kiwanis Hilton Children's Centre -- a former elementary school that provides shared space for delivery of coordinated, accessible services to more than 500 children and families in the Port Alberni area.

Institute for New Economics Public Interest Research Association (Saanichton)

\$25,000 for a campaign to protect BC's wild northern waters and intact northern terrestrial ecosystems from the threat of six proposed oil and gas projects through targeted outreach and communications work.

Tuned Air Choral Society (Saltspring Island)

\$8,000 for *Vigil* -- a 25-minute Bruce Rundell choral piece that honours the murdered and missing women of the Downtown Eastside and Highway 16 (the "Highway of Tears").

Capital Families Association (Victoria)

\$56,000 over two years for costs of implementing the "Food For All" initiative, whose goal is to increase food sustainability in Victoria and other western communities.

Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria (Victoria)

\$30,000 over two years, for costs of the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Roundtable. Building on phase one of the Strengthening Food Security Foundations project, phase two continues to address challenges and barriers to food security in BC's Capital Region, from food production and distribution to access and health.

Federation of Child and Family Services of British Columbia (Victoria)

\$30,000 for the development of a comprehensive staff and volunteer recruitment/retention strategy.

Music by the Sea Society (Victoria)

\$15,000 for a performance residency over 11 days, providing opportunities for teaching, collaboration, and community involvement through four concerts.

Power of Hope Society (Victoria)

\$45,000 for partnership building and program development. The Power of Hope Society delivers experiential learning programs to more than 2,000 youth and 300 adult youth workers from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds in British Columbia.

\$5,000 for *Hip Hop Hope*, which uses hip hop music and culture to draw youth into a creative process that builds self-confidence and cross-cultural understanding.

Sierra Club of BC Foundation (Victoria)

\$25,000 for Project Lifeline, which will fill a significant gap in BC's environmental community to promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other serious pollutants from the shipping and ports sector.

\$5,000 for Sustainable High Schools: Sustainability Advisory Committee project, which will enhance mentorship to support students and increase youth access to decision-makers. The project will also update and share the Sustainability Advisory Committee guide/training manual with all Vancouver high schools.

\$5,000 for The Green Landlords Project. Co-sponsored with BC Sustainable Energy Association, this project will help residential landlords and their tenants conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create safe, healthy and sustainable rental properties by identifying and delivering sector-specific information and practical solutions.

Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (Victoria)

\$40,000 for the Multicultural Environment Project for Newcomers, which will give training on climate change to community leaders in the Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish and Punjabi speaking communities. The goals of the project are to create multicultural climate change communications materials, increase environmental awareness, inspire action and an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

UVIC, Department of Geography (Victoria)

\$49,961 for an investigation of factors contributing to recruitment and retention of rural and remote community health care workers.

UVIC, School of Child and Youth Care (Victoria)

\$45,940 for collaborating on suicide prevention and an in-depth case study of US school-based suicide prevention program.

The Vancouver Foundation has approved so far this year more than \$4.2 million in grants for initiatives throughout the province.

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.

For more information:

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