

vancouver foundation

Community Inspired Giving
2023 | Volume 16

TURNING
\$90K INTO A
**\$30 Billion
Childcare
Movement**

The Remarkable Story of
Generation Squeeze

P.12



PLUS

**Why MacKenzie Scott
is taking a trust-based
approach to giving**

P.9

**Unlocking the
world of giving
with Vancouver
Foundation**

P.10

Land Acknowledgement

Illustration by CHENOA GAO (ONEDOVE)

Vancouver Foundation works on the lands of Indigenous Nations throughout colonial British Columbia.

Our office is located on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) peoples.

We are constantly learning and growing to support the advancement of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and formalized our commitment to this by signing The Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action.



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ON THE COVER:

Illustrator Ameesha Lee captures the spirit of Generation Squeeze, its critical childcare initiative bolstered by Vancouver Foundation

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: GOOD STUDIO / STOCK.ADOBE.COM, NIKKI ERNST, AMEESHA LEE, LISA TANIGUCHI, ISABELLA FASSLER, PHOTOGRAPH: FELICIA CHANG

2
Land Acknowledgement

4
A Foundation for Change

5
Q&A with Kate Hammer

6
Hammering It Home

9
Trust In Giving

10
Navigating the Donor Process

22
Thank You Donors

23



12

16

12
Generation Squeeze

15
Enter to Win

16
Advancing Asian Representation in Theatre

18
Leading the Relationship With Trust

20
Grant Spotlight

22
Thank You Donors

23
Empowering Lasting Change



A FOUNDATION for CHANGE

In a world filled with challenges and uncertainties, trust is the foundation upon which transformative change is built. It is the bridge that connects people capable of providing support with organizations that work hard to create positive change in our communities.

Within these pages, we explore the essence of trust in our work, showcasing its significance and impact, by sharing the stories of individuals and organizations who exemplify it. We invite you to discover how trust nurtures collaboration between donors and non-profits, fostering relationships that yield remarkable results.

As we navigate the complexities of an ever-changing world, please join us in exploring the diverse nature of trust and its role in driving change and building stronger communities. Thank you for coming on this journey with us, and we hope the insights within these pages inspire you to trust in the transformative power of your own generosity.



Sincerely,
Kevin McCort
President & CEO



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Kate Hammer Vice President, Engagement

Photograph by
CLAUDETTE CARRACEDO

THE TEAM AT VANCOUVER Foundation invests countless hours each year getting to know and understand the wishes of their donors and the inner workings of various organizations that are moving work forward. Connecting the right stakeholders and ensuring accuracy and authenticity in messaging requires strategy and direction. Kate Hammer, the new Vice President, Engagement, is tasked with driving connectivity. 2023 marks 80 years of Vancouver Foundation's support within the community. Hammer shares her thoughts on the foundation's impact to date.

How has Vancouver Foundation evolved to stay dynamic and responsive?

Vancouver Foundation is 80 years old, yet one of the things that attracted me to the organization is its appetite to keep learning and changing. It's a big, old foundation, but it's not stuck. Our staff, Board, and volunteers are always looking for new ways to test and deepen our understanding of philanthropy, and to find ways to do more.

We're trying innovative grant designs and offering new products to our donors. We're informing federal, provincial, and municipal policymakers on emerging best practices in granting and sharing our insights with others in the philanthropic sector. I've worked in a variety of roles in the private and public sector, and never anywhere with a bigger appetite for self-reflection and learning than at Vancouver Foundation.

What are your thoughts on Vancouver Foundation's opportunities for growth?

For our 80th anniversary we're celebrating with the theme of "Who's missing?" It's a question that we can ask about any part of our history, going back to the story of our founding, which over time came to recognize ten white men and minimize the contributions of at least two women.

Initiatives like Fresh Voices, Fostering Change, and the Youth Policy Program were born out of that kind of thinking. They bring voices that haven't been heard enough by large institutions, including philanthropic ones, to the table. We want to do more of that so we keep asking, "Who's missing?"

How do you see Vancouver Foundation's role in community?

At Vancouver Foundation, we believe that philanthropic foundations can play a big role in tackling major social issues and disrupting inequity. We are full of hope and optimism for what our community can do and be, but that doesn't mean our work is easy.

We know that we need to keep listening, learning, and improving. Because that's what it takes to make a lasting impact, and that's how we build our community.



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Hammering It Home

The First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC is helping people rebuild their lives in Indigenous communities

By **NATHAN CADDELL**
Illustrations by **NIKKI ERNST**

THERE'S NO OFFICIAL GUINNESS World Record for the number of places one person has lived throughout BC, but it's hard to imagine that Bob Mills wouldn't be the front-runner for such a designation. What's more impressive is that he hasn't forgotten any single one of them.

Mills' story starts in Haida Gwaii, where he was born, back when it was called the Queen Charlotte Islands. That place still adorns his Zoom background, though he left at the age of nine with his family when his father was transferred to Kamloops. Then it was Victoria, where Mills eventually joined the RCMP. From there, the list of places Mills has spent time in gets exhaustive: Port Alberni, Trail, Duncan, Surrey, Coquitlam, Merritt, Chilliwack, and Terrace, among others.

"There's probably no community in BC that I haven't driven through," says Mills with a chuckle. "I know the backroads too."

After retiring from the RCMP at the age of 40, Mills has held a number of jobs, including delivering programming to Indigenous inmates at the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre. "They didn't know what my previous career was, and it was best left that way," he says. He also served as Chief Councillor of the Skidegate Band Council in Haida Gwaii.

A few years ago, Mills took on the role of Manager, Administration and Strategic Partnerships with the Kamloops-based First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC (FNESS) as another in a long line of roles that had been geared toward serving Indigenous peoples. It didn't take Mills long to find his footing.

In the wake of the fires and floods that devastated the region in 2021, FNESS was granted \$340,000 from Vancouver Foundation's Community Response Fund, which provided flexible funding to groups helping those disproportionately impacted by natural disasters. FNESS was in charge of distributing the funds as it deemed adequate, and Mills travelled the region in search of people who needed help building back their lives.

After the atmospheric river event in November 2021, the organization set up to work with people in Merritt who had their homes flooded. With the grant — as well as support from the University of Windsor hockey team that helped reconstruct homes for a week — the organization attempted to get the residents back on solid ground.

Unsurprisingly, Mills had no problem identifying residents who were dealing with issues and getting to them quickly — by backroads if necessary. The first project was with a young, single Indigenous mother whose house had flooded. She had exhausted all options for financial assistance to rebuild her home.

When it was discovered the house had a problem in the foundation, work on it paused because it was thought to be too big an issue to tackle. "By this time, she had been spoken to and it looked like it was a go — and then it wasn't," says Mills. "We couldn't leave her hanging." FNESS had a Red Seal



carpenter come in and dig the house up with a backhoe to repair the foundation. Then, the organization went about fixing the interior of the house.

Another family had to evacuate their house due to the floods and were living first in an RV in front of the house, then at a motel. “They were home when the flood happened, had water and mud coming down, because they lived in the basement suite,” says Mills. “They ended up having time to grab a garbage bag full of clothes and get out.” FNESS came in, upgraded everything to code, installed drywall and purchased new appliances like a stove, washer, dryer, and fridge, as well as cabinets, linens, couches, dressers, and a TV.

“I think they’d still be out of their home if we weren’t able to assist them. FNESS, with donation money, we build back better. We made these places better than before they had the flood and mud and everything.”

Of course, the funding isn’t always there for FNESS, and that’s been the case lately with the fires that raged through Kelowna. While FNESS has had team members on location to help evacuees, the organization has seen a lack of equipment — like mitigative tools and structure protection units — that hindered efforts to save homes.

Upon the Merrit family’s return, FNESS brought in an Indigenous Elder to do a blessing of the home, “so the kids wouldn’t have a fear of water coming down the stairs, because that’s what they saw,” says Mills. “He did a blessing with each member of the family as well, so they didn’t have to be afraid to go to sleep here anymore.” Mills also bought a ‘Welcome Home’ cake on the family’s first day back to celebrate.

The gesture makes sense, for two reasons. The thing above their heads is home, sure, but so is the community around them. Mills and FNESS provided the families with both. ∞

“I think they’d still be out of their home if we weren’t able to assist them. FNESS, with donation money, we build back better.”

To support ongoing fire relief and recovery efforts, please consider donating to any of these organizations:

First Nations’ Emergency Services Society (FNESS)
fness.bc.ca

Shuswap Community Foundation
shuswapfoundation.ca

Central Okanagan Community Foundation
centralokanaganfoundation.org

Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen
cfsso.net

TRUST IN GIVING

MacKenzie Scott’s donation to MakeWay is trust-based philanthropy in action

By TANVI BHATIA

Illustration by ALLY JAYE REEVES



IN 2022, THE BC-BASED organization MakeWay received a series of phone calls by a potential anonymous donor, asking in-depth questions about the organization’s processes and practices. MakeWay CEO Joanna Kerr did her best to answer. The calls turned out to be the precursor to a USD \$15 million no-strings-attached donation from MacKenzie Scott, a billionaire philanthropist and early adopter of trust-based philanthropy. Through her platform, Yield Giving, Scott has donated over \$14 billion to non-profit organizations as part of her commitment to give away most of her personal wealth.

Scott’s approach to giving is based on the principles of trust-based philanthropy, an approach Vancouver Foundation is embracing that tries to address the inherent power imbalances in traditional grantmaking processes. Trust-based philanthropy encourages building a culture of trust between funders and non-profits, where funders are proactive in learning about organizations applying for funding, take feedback, and offer support beyond the money. Funders are encouraged to offer multi-year, unrestricted funding, which allows grantees to allocate funds to where they can best meet their needs, and gives them the flexibility to pursue complex and innovative approaches to change and growth.

Trust-based philanthropy stands on the belief that non-profits are most connected to the communities they serve, and best positioned to determine where funding should be allocated to benefit those communities. When funders remove barriers and restrictions, grantees are free to make meaningful and sustainable choices that meet their unique needs. For MakeWay, Scott’s donation allowed them to strategize around the long-term needs of the organization, including how to invest that money back into the community. Scott’s track record demonstrates the positive impact of trust-based philanthropy, and the potential for it to change the philanthropic landscape moving forward.



NAVIGATING the DONOR PROCESS

Illustration by ALIYA GHARE

ENDOWMENT FUNDS. GRANTS. Trust Agreements. Initiatives. *Philanthropy.* The world of charitable giving may be confusing and even intimidating to first-time donors. “I think we’ve done ourselves a disservice by using the word, ‘philanthropist’ too many times. The word immediately conjures up imagery of the Monopoly Man in tuxedo and top hat,” quips Craig Hikida, Vancouver Foundation’s Vice President, Donor Services. However, becoming a philanthropist is more accessible and far simpler than it may seem. Camille Wong, Manager, Donor Services, and Hikida help us explore the process and dispel some of the rumours.

COMMON DONOR MYTHS

I must demonstrate a high-asset value to become a Donor.

False. As a Community Foundation, we hold ourselves responsible for being the place where ALL members of our community, regardless of their wealth, can express their support for the community. You can set up your own fund with donations starting at \$1,000, and yes, some of our funds have grown to be of significant size — but setting up a fund is not a requirement. You’re also able to give any amount to any one of over 2000 existing funds that all support amazing work.

If I establish a fund, I will be required to do regular fundraising activities.

False. There is no obligation to do any fundraising activities; however, we encourage donors to consider growing their Donor Advised Fund so that the granting dollars can go even further. Some donors engage family and friends in supporting their fund. For example, we set up many funds in memory of a loved one who may have recently passed. Family and friends may have a desire to give to the fund to support the family’s wishes. We can provide an easy online platform to help with that. Alternatively, once you establish a fund, you can keep it very private, be the sole donor and make grants out to your favorite charities quite quietly. You decide.

There are lots of legal responsibilities and paperwork involved in setting up a fund.

False. All funds are established with a fund agreement, and these are template agreements that have been approved by our legal counsel. They are one page and written in plain language, so you won’t need to consult a lawyer. We like to capture your charitable interests so that we have a clear understanding of where and how you’d like to make a difference. We also manage all the requirements of CRA, all tax receipts, investment management, and the transactional elements of issuing grants from the fund. We try to take all the hassle out of giving.

A large portion of my donation will just be taken as fees.

False. In actual fact, none of your donation is taken in fees. But how can that be possible? When you establish a fund at Vancouver Foundation, 100% of your donation is credited to the capital of the fund, which is invested — there are no service charges, set-up fees, or additional fees applied. As we’re a not-for-profit organization, our fees are intended to recover only our operating and investment management costs. These fees are recovered from investment income, not from your donations.

The organization (VF) will dictate where my money goes.

False. As the name implies, a Donor Advised Fund gives you the ability to advise on which charities you’d like to support. We ask that you grant at least annually from the fund. (Don’t worry, if you forget, we’ll remind you). Our 24/7 online tool, The Hub, is an easy way for you to recommend grants from the fund. We can also help if you’re having difficulty selecting charities to support. The Hub contains a section known as The Granting Hub — which provides you with suggested organizations that are doing work in identified priority areas and have received Vancouver Foundation grants in the past.

“It is such an honour to be a part of the process and to meet individuals from all walks of life with their personal and unique charitable passions,” says Wong. This sentiment is shared by Hikida and the entire Vancouver Foundation team.

To explore all your giving options with Vancouver Foundation visit: vancouverfoundation.ca/donors-advisors/how-to-give/



GENERATION SQUEEZE

How to turn \$90,000 into a
\$30 billion social movement

By **SANDRINE CAMMINGA**
Illustrations by **AMEESHA LEE**

NOT SO LONG AGO, affordable childcare seemed like an impossible feat. But non-profit Generation Squeeze paved the way for childcare to get to the top of Canada's policy agenda, starting with a memorable tagline — "\$10-a-day childcare."

Today, affordable childcare is backed by a \$30 billion investment from the federal government. By early 2022, all provinces and territories in Canada signed onto offering residents \$10-a-day childcare.

The "\$10-a-day" tagline was held up by a framework that it developed with a \$90,000 grant from Vancouver Foundation: a framework that Generation Squeeze built a network of allies and supporters around.

Generation Squeeze has been fighting for generational fairness since it was founded in 2012, with the support of the grant from Vancouver Foundation.

Generation Squeeze works to bring about change on a systemic level and names issues such as unaffordable housing and the worsening climate as symptoms of generational unfairness. To achieve its mandate, Generation Squeeze builds and frames evidence so it

More than
1/4
of Canadian
children are
vulnerable
in early
development
when they enter
kindergarten.

Canadians under age 45 have inherited

3x

more government debt compared to four decades earlier.

Annually, government spending on younger Canadians grows

29%

slower than economic growth.

integrates into everyday political discourse and collaborates with similar organizations to bring about policy change. As Kershaw describes it, Generation Squeeze is part of an ecosystem of actors, shaping a stronger social landscape.

It officially launched in 2012, but its roots and ongoing engagement with Vancouver Foundation run back to 2009. At the time, Vancouver Foundation reached out to Kershaw and his colleague to offer guidance.

“They made a generous offer. They said, ‘We would like to allocate \$90,000 to put you in touch with a communications specialist, who will help you with your communications and your thinking about theories of change,’” says Kershaw. “That investment... was just transformative.”

Not only did the meeting provide inspiration for the researchers’ next step, it also taught them how to frame evidence effectively. In the process of building this new skillset, Generation Squeeze was set to coin affordable childcare as ‘\$10-a-day childcare.’ The organization became an important advocate for this concept, being the primary group out of BC to champion the concept on a national level.

“Taking it to a federal level ... has really driven the historic money for childcare that’s not only benefitting Vancouver or the province of BC, but coast to coast,” says Kershaw. “That framing clearly proved important when the government was trying to say, ‘We’re gonna do this, and here’s how we’re gonna sell it.’”

“Taking it to a federal level ... has really driven the historic money for childcare that’s not only benefitting Vancouver or the province of BC, but coast to coast,” says Kershaw. “That framing clearly proved important when the government was trying to say, ‘We’re gonna do this, and here’s how we’re gonna sell it.’”

Generation Squeeze works to bring about change on a systemic level and names issues such as unaffordable housing and the worsening climate as symptoms of generational unfairness.

In addition to playing a key role in Canada’s uptake of affordable childcare, Generation Squeeze has successfully advocated for adding young people as beneficiaries of the national housing strategy. The seeds for these achievements were planted 14 years ago by Vancouver Foundation’s proactive outreach and grew with its financial support to date.

“[Vancouver Foundation’s] patient philanthropic mentoring and investment ... has been absolutely critical to the influence that I think Gen Squeeze has had on the Vancouver, the BC, and the national context.” ∞



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vancouver foundation

Advancing Asian Representation in Theatre

By TANEYA ROGERS

Photograph by FELICIA CHANG

PHILANTHROPY IS AN ONGOING exercise in identifying ways to better our world and committing resources to make those changes. It is also an exercise in building trust, and for Donna Yamamoto these lessons in trust have come full circle.

The accomplished actress launched the Donna Yamamoto Artist Fund in 2020 at Vancouver Foundation. Yamamoto has dedicated the fund to building Asian representation in theatre. When she returned to theatre in 2011 after almost 15 years of film and TV, the actress found herself disappointed that the landscape still lacked representation of Asian Canadians. Yamamoto reflected on her television role as Hanna Green in *The 100*: “The cast was so diverse and I just loved it. I wanted it to continue — I wanted theatre to rise to that.” In those moments, she knew she had to be the catalyst for change.

The Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (vAct) has been the beneficiary of the Donna Yamamoto Artist Fund and has been given full autonomy in deciding how these resources are used. “I trust who is in charge and that makes the difference. As an artistic director I understand the value of keeping it as general as possible to allow for flexibility,” says Yamamoto. This faith in the vAct’s leadership, however, did not come out of nowhere. Yamamoto shares that she has been on the receiving end of such trust, having been the Producing Artistic Director of vAct since 2013 and entrusted with the allocation of donations.

Her tenure with vAct also initiated her relationship with Vancouver Foundation as a grant recipient. “They [Vancouver Foundation] were always open and so interested in supporting the BIPOC community with their grants,” says Yamamoto. Returning to Vancouver Foundation to start her own fund was an organic choice as a means to give back to vAct and to create a legacy for herself. “I want people to know that as an artist or whoever you are, it is so accessible at Vancouver Foundation and you don’t need a lot of money to do it.” Yamamoto’s hope is that this fund will shine a light on the arts and artists, empower voices and create platforms for stories to be told.

To explore ways to begin your circle of trust with Vancouver Foundation visit:

vancouverfoundation.ca/donors-advisors/start-a-fund/



Donna Yamamoto photographed at The Cultch, the contemporary arts theatre where she has produced several plays.



Leading the Relationship with Trust

How one donor is creating meaningful philanthropic experiences for charities

By STACEY MCLACHLAN

Illustration by MARIA NGUYEN

AS THE TRUSTEE OF the Edwina and Paul Heller Memorial Fund, Irene Bettinger has a two-pronged responsibility: she's managing a generous sum of money, but she's also cultivating and maintaining dozens of deep relationships with grantees.

Bettinger is managing, as well as cultivating and maintaining her late parents' relationship with Vancouver Foundation, which began in the 1980s. To this day, she strives to honour their legacy with every grant she awards from their \$8 million fund. Her approach is one that's both thoroughly modern and as old as time: based not on bureaucracy, but relationships.

In philanthropy circles, it's known as 'trust-based giving'. Grantees do not need to apply for a grant from the Heller Fund. Rather, Bettinger intentionally seeks recipients who are in line with her late parents' key passions: the arts, education, and social needs. "By trusting your grantee, you are going to learn something new every single time," Bettinger explains. "I do not know anything more exciting than being exposed to something new."

Bettinger's process involves meeting with potential recipients personally for an in-depth conversation. Face-to-face or over a call, she will learn of their specific needs and goals, their general concept of carrying out this goal, and their estimated one-year budget.

"As a one-person operation and knowing this fund would eventually be depleted, I did not think formal grant requests, documents, or signatures were needed," says Bettinger. She follows two key guidelines: Will the project honour the legacy of her parents, Paul and Edwina Heller? And will this project develop something meaningful?

Importantly, recipients of Heller Memorial Fund gifts are not tweaking or adapting their requests to fit a narrow set of criteria; rather, they are empowered by Bettinger's trust to take their funding and use their expertise to make the most of every penny in ways that are the most meaningful. Bettinger's giving style puts flexibility first, allowing grantees to do what they do best.

The Nanaimo Art Gallery and Kamloops Art Gallery, for example, are on-going recipients of the Fund's support. Bettinger was connected with these smaller organizations through a friend at the Belkin Gallery. Following some meet-and-greets and broad conversations about creating programs to bring youth into the gallery, they provided Bettinger with a specific funding account. Bettinger fulfilled the request and trusted the galleries to use the money where it was needed most.

As the Heller Memorial Fund winds down and Bettinger continues to share her parents' financial gifts with the causes they loved most, she is not only spreading their passions and cementing their legacy, but also bringing joy and meaning to her own life, too. "This has been one of the most rewarding tasks I have been given during my life, and positively influenced my own philanthropy as well," says Bettinger. "I believe strongly that a community's memory of those doing good deeds or performing remarkable tasks will not be remembered forever." "Probably some 10 or 15 years after the death of these people, their names will no longer exist in the conscious memory of community members." With her strategic management of the fund, the Hellers' impact will be felt now.

GRANT SPOTLIGHT

Illustrations by PETE RYAN

THERE IS MORE THAN one way to begin your charitable giving with Vancouver Foundation. You might start your own fund, or donate to one of its socially conscious funds, which support a range of initiatives, focus areas, and charitable organizations of every size. You can also give funds to be spent at Vancouver Foundation's discretion, which goes towards its grant programs, such as:



LEVEL BIPOC Grants

Began Granting: 2020

Amount Granted to Date: \$7.9 million

The LEVEL BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) Grants allow Vancouver Foundation to build trust with organizations that have been traditionally overlooked and underfunded. These flexible funds enable BIPOC-led organizations to identify their own priorities and reach their organizational goals. To intentionally build trust and invest in the capacity of BIPOC-led organizations, this year, LEVEL provided multi-year funding to successful applicants because although flexibility is crucial, multi-year funding creates sustainability and room for organizations to work without worrying about keeping the lights on.

Participatory Action Research Grants

Began Granting: 2018

Amount Granted to Date: \$19.6 million

As part of Vancouver Foundation's commitment to systemic change, we began offering Participatory Action Research Grants (PAR) in 2018 to support root-cause research, specifically academic research done in collaboration with community members. The participatory methodology is based on the belief that research must be done *with* people, not for them or on them. It involves both researchers and community members playing active roles as partners, working to reveal root-cause issues that are impacting the health of their communities. PAR offers both short-term (Convene) and long-term (Investigate) grants to support the various stages of research projects that are grounded in critical reflection and are action-oriented to influence systemic change on the issues they are investigating.



Indigenous Priorities Granting Program

Began Granting: 2021

Amount Granted to Date: \$6.75 million

The Indigenous Priorities Granting Program was the inaugural grant program launched in 2021 by Vancouver Foundation's first Indigenous-led team. The response from community expressed an immense need for increased funding. Vancouver Foundation quickly responded, increasing the initial funding commitment of \$750,000 to \$6.75 million. These one-time grants of up to \$50,000 invested in the work of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities across BC. In 2022, the Indigenous Priorities team convened and listened to grantees, past applicants, Indigenous-led systems change experts, community members, and Indigenous leaders. The feedback and perspectives gathered blazed a trail for future grant programs to embed key principles of reconciliation, reciprocity, and trust.

Neighbourhood Small Grants

Began Granting: 1999

Amount Granted to Date:

\$11.27 million*

**Also includes Downtown East Side Small Arts Grant (DTES SAG), which started in 2009.*

The Neighborhood Small Grants range in size from \$50-\$500 and are an example of "doing a lot with a little." We know when neighbours connect, friendships form, making our communities safer and more vibrant. Our communities are province wide, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to find community, wherever they live. From community cooking classes to Indigenous wellness camps, there are endless ideas inspired by community. The grant program funds a variety of ideas and initiatives, allowing Vancouver Foundation to intentionally invest in the health and resilience of communities in BC.

Thriving Indigenous Systems Fund

Begin Granting: 2024

Amount Committed to be Granted:

\$6 million

The Thriving Indigenous Systems Fund (TISF) launched this fall after consultation and engagement in community. TISF is community-informed to intentionally respond to the pressing needs of land-based First Nations across the province. The decision to focus on land-based First Nations and the Indigenous-led organizations that serve them is another way Vancouver Foundation is committed to reconciliation. The fund will provide multi-year, flexible grants to nations and organizations for Indigenous-led initiatives focused on healing, land, rights, and culture. It will support work that creates the conditions for systemic transformation by preserving, evolving, and transforming the social, political, and cultural systems of Indigenous communities in BC.

Thank You Donors

**YOUR IMPACT
IS UNDENIABLE**

EVERY DONOR HAS A STORY. Why you choose to give, the lives you change, and the impact you have are all a part of it. When you give to Vancouver Foundation, we are honoured to be a part of that story, but you are the true change maker.

We have a mission to create healthy, vibrant, and equitable communities, and thanks to your generosity, we can support essential projects that tackle root causes and foster lasting change. With your help, we gave out \$87.1 million in funding and 6,396 grants last year. That funding had a remarkable impact, and we could not have done that without you. Every contribution you make becomes a catalyst for progress. You are not only giving, but you are also helping shape a brighter future.

But your story doesn't end here — there's no conclusion or epilogue. Your gift endures, your story endures, and you'll continue to be a change maker — over and over again — for generations.

From all of us at Vancouver Foundation, thank you for your trust and generosity, and for allowing us to help tell your story.

Sincerely,
The Staff of Vancouver Foundation

Lettering and illustration by
LISA TANIGUCHI



EMPOWERING LASTING CHANGE

Your legacy gift's enduring
impact on future generations

By ERIN REDDEKOPP

Illustration by ISABELLA FASSLER



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[vancouverfoundation.ca/donors-
advisors/start-a-fund/legacy-giving/](https://vancouverfoundation.ca/donors-advisors/start-a-fund/legacy-giving/)

THE DECISION TO LEAVE a legacy gift in your will is one of the most impactful choices you can make. Legacy gifts transcend your lifetime and represent an opportunity for you to make a profound impact for generations to come. From enabling a charity to address ongoing challenges to creating an opportunity to seize new opportunities, your legacy gift has endless possibilities.

At Vancouver Foundation, we recognize the significance of this decision, and we are here to support you every step of the way. You can designate a portion of your assets in your will to support the charities and causes that hold a special place in your heart. Alternatively, you can entrust Vancouver Foundation to steward your gift, ensuring it addresses the evolving needs of the community over time.

Choosing which charities to support can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming. Our advice is to focus on the issues in the community where you want to create change, and then allow us to assist you with the practical details. Through our well-established approach of involving community advisors, your legacy gift will retain its significance and continue to be responsive to new issues and crises as they emerge.

At Vancouver Foundation, we are deeply honored to work with our donors in determining how they want their legacy to be realized. We take this responsibility seriously and are honoured by the trust our donors place in our work.

If you would like to learn more about legacy giving and the services Vancouver Foundation provides, please reach out to Kristin at kristin.helgason@vancouverfoundation.ca or 604.629.5186.

You have dreams of making the world better.

Count on us to make this a reality.



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**Personal and professional guidance for giving.
Let us help you today.**

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