



Transforming Systems Grants “Influence” Case Studies

These are case studies from TSG-funded projects that show the implementation of community-led systems change aligned with the TSG Influence stream. The Influence grant stream supports organizations with established strategies that are testing, implementing, or deepening efforts to shift systemic conditions.

Last updated: April 22, 2026



Organization:	Matsqui-Abbotsford Impact Society (Impact Society)
Location:	Abbotsford / Fraser Valley, B.C. (Lower Mainland region)
Year:	2025

HOW IT ADVANCES SYSTEMS CHANGE:

Matsqui-Abbotsford Impact Society implements community-designed strategies that shift how substance use, homelessness, and youth wellbeing are addressed across the Fraser Valley. People with lived and living experience lead initiatives like weekly peer advocacy and support groups, neighbourhood clean-ups created by and for the street community, and Indigenous youth-led powwows and cultural nights. The society is also convening the social services sector together for training. Together, these efforts rebalance decision-making power, change everyday practices in services and schools, and inform policy through coalition work, municipal tables, and health-system partnerships.

HOW IT'S COMMUNITY-LED:

Those most affected hold real authority. People with lived and living experience set priorities, raise issues in open meetings, and co-design the responses. Indigenous youth lead programming and cultural revitalization. The Impact Society works alongside the City of Abbotsford, Fraser Health, shelter providers, grassroots groups, and researchers to ensure peer leadership, cultural safety, and accountability guide every decision.

GOALS THEY TACKLED:

- **Put systems change plans into action:** Rolled out peer-led housing and advocacy, youth cultural leadership, and work initiatives by and for the street community.
- **Influence real-world conditions:** Adapted approaches through weekly community governance and lived-experience feedback.
- **Scale up approaches that are working:** Convening a sector conference, expanding peer-engagement models and youth-led cultural programming across B.C.
- **Strengthen cross-sector partnerships and advocacy:** Coordinated with municipal partners, Fraser Health, schools, and provincial coalitions.
- **Build learning to support long-term change:** Partnered with academics to map services and evaluate safer-supply and harm-reduction strategies; used data to refine practice and inform policy.

Organization:	Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association (SSIGA)
Location:	Salish Sea region, B.C. (Vancouver Island & Coast; Metro Vancouver)
Year:	2025

HOW IT ADVANCES SYSTEMS CHANGE:

SSIGA implemented Indigenous-led stewardship and governance tools so member Nations can meaningfully shape decisions about land and water. Guardians are trained and mentored to monitor salmon, shellfish, and habitat health. Their findings feed into a regional data atlas that Nations use to participate in regulatory processes and impact assessments. Elders' knowledge is woven together with Western science to inform policy positions, strengthen consent-based decision-making, guide restoration and design Indigenous-led impact assessment methods. By moving from consultation to Nation-directed monitoring, data, and policy engagement, SSIGA is shifting policies and relationships in environmental governance, while restoring Indigenous authority over how territories are cared for.

HOW IT'S COMMUNITY-LED:

Member Nations set priorities. SSIGA hosts Elders' teas, community meetings, and site visits to shape monitoring plans. The Indigenous Guardians Program builds paid, culturally grounded roles for community members. Data from each project is added to a community-serving atlas that partner Nations control and use to make decisions about their territories. Partnerships with Kwantlen and Semiahmoo First Nations, allies, and other environment groups align resources around Indigenous defined goals.

GOALS THEY TACKLED:

- **Put systems change plans into action:** Ran Indigenous-led monitoring and stewardship programs; applied results in regulatory and policy forums.
- **Influence real-world conditions:** Expanded and adapted monitoring sites and methods based on community feedback and ecological change.
- **Scale up approaches that are working:** Strengthened the Guardians model beyond short-term funding; broadened the regional data atlas and training to more member Nations.
- **Strengthen cross-sector partnerships and advocacy:** Built working relationships with municipalities, the province, NGOs, and academic partners to embed Indigenous leadership in environmental decision-making.
- **Build learning to support long-term change:** Produced cumulative-effects data and shared resources that guide restoration priorities, impact assessments, and long-term governance.

Organization:	Propolis Cooperative Housing Society
Location:	Kamloops, B.C. (Interior)
Year:	2025

HOW IT ADVANCES SYSTEMS CHANGE:

Propolis implements a resident-governed, non-market housing model that redirects money, decision-making, and benefits back to the community. The co-op is building affordable, net-zero homes and financing them with community bonds, so local residents can invest directly and keep housing affordable over time. The approach pairs climate resilience (low/no-cost utilities, walkable sites, shared transportation) with social connection (democratic governance, mutual-aid design, shared spaces), challenging a private-market system that treats homes as commodities. By putting community ownership, inclusive design, and ongoing affordability into practice, Propolis shifts resource flows, strengthens resident power, and lays out a replicable model others can follow.

HOW IT'S COMMUNITY-LED:

Propolis is volunteer-led and grassroots, with a diverse membership that includes people directly impacted by the housing crisis (single parents, seniors, LGBTQ+, low-income residents, and people with disabilities). The co-op uses community bonds to invite broad participation and runs "Could Bee" design workshops to co-create building features and policies. Partnerships with local organizations (for example: A Way Home Kamloops, Kamloops Elizabeth Fry Society, Kamloops Society for Community Inclusion, and Kamloops Immigrant Services) help identify households who would most benefit and inform anti-displacement and accessibility commitments.

GOALS THEY TACKLED:

- **Put systems change plans into action:** Delivering a resident-governed, net-zero co-op model with community-bond financing and inclusion-by-design features.
- **Influence real-world conditions:** Navigated approvals, financing, and construction planning while adapting to market and regulatory constraints.
- **Scale up approaches that are working:** Documenting a replicable development model to accelerate additional co-op sites in Kamloops.
- **Strengthen cross-sector partnerships and advocacy:** Building working agreements with community-serving organizations to align access and support.
- **Build learning to support long-term change:** Sharing learning publicly and through community engagement to strengthen policy advocacy and sector uptake.

Organization:	Vancity Community Foundation – Living Wage BC
Location:	Province-wide (over 25 communities across British Columbia)
Year:	2025

HOW IT ADVANCES SYSTEMS CHANGE:

Living Wage BC works to shift the economic systems that keep workers in low-wage, precarious employment by setting new wage standards, influencing employer practices, and advancing affordability policies. Their model brings together workers, employers, and community partners to calculate living wage rates, certify employers who commit to paying them, and advocate for public policies that reduce the cost of living. By coordinating a province-wide network of employers, unions, community groups, and local organizations, they help redirect resources toward fair wages, strengthen worker power, and build momentum for structural changes that address gendered and racialized income inequality. Their approach challenges the norms that allow wages to fall below basic living costs and creates a pathway for employers and governments to adopt more equitable wage and affordability policies.

HOW IT'S COMMUNITY-LED:

Living Wage BC is guided by a multi-stakeholder advisory structure that brings together low-wage workers, labour organizations, employers, and community partners. The initiative uses worker-led engagement — such as kitchen table discussions, focus groups, and storytelling — to ensure that people most affected by low wages shape priorities, strategies, and policy positions. Their governance model is deepening shared decision-making, with equal representation from community, labourers, employers, and working groups that focus on campaigns, employer engagement, methodology, and policy standards. Partnerships with organizations serving racialized workers, newcomers, and low-income communities help ensure that the initiative reflects the realities of those most impacted by wage inequality.

GOALS THEY TACKLED:

- **Put systems change plans into action:** Strengthening a province-wide wage standard model that shifts employer practices, raises wages and advances affordability policies that reduce the cost of living.
- **Influence real world conditions:** Responding to rapid increases in living costs, employer challenges in maintaining wage commitments, and changing economic conditions that require new outreach, engagement, and advocacy strategies.

- **Scale-up approaches that are working:** Expanding employer certification across nonprofits, municipalities, and medium-to-large businesses, and building a more coordinated provincial network to support adoption of living wage practices.
- **Strengthen cross-sector partnerships and advocacy:** Bringing together employers, unions, worker groups, and community organizations to advance wage protections, affordability measures, and public-sector wage standards that support nonprofit workers.
- **Build learning to support long-term change:** Producing annual living wage calculations for communities across B.C., gathering worker and employer insights, and using this evidence to inform policy advocacy and strengthen sector uptake.