

COMMUNITY NEWS + INFORMATION FROM

THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION

pulse

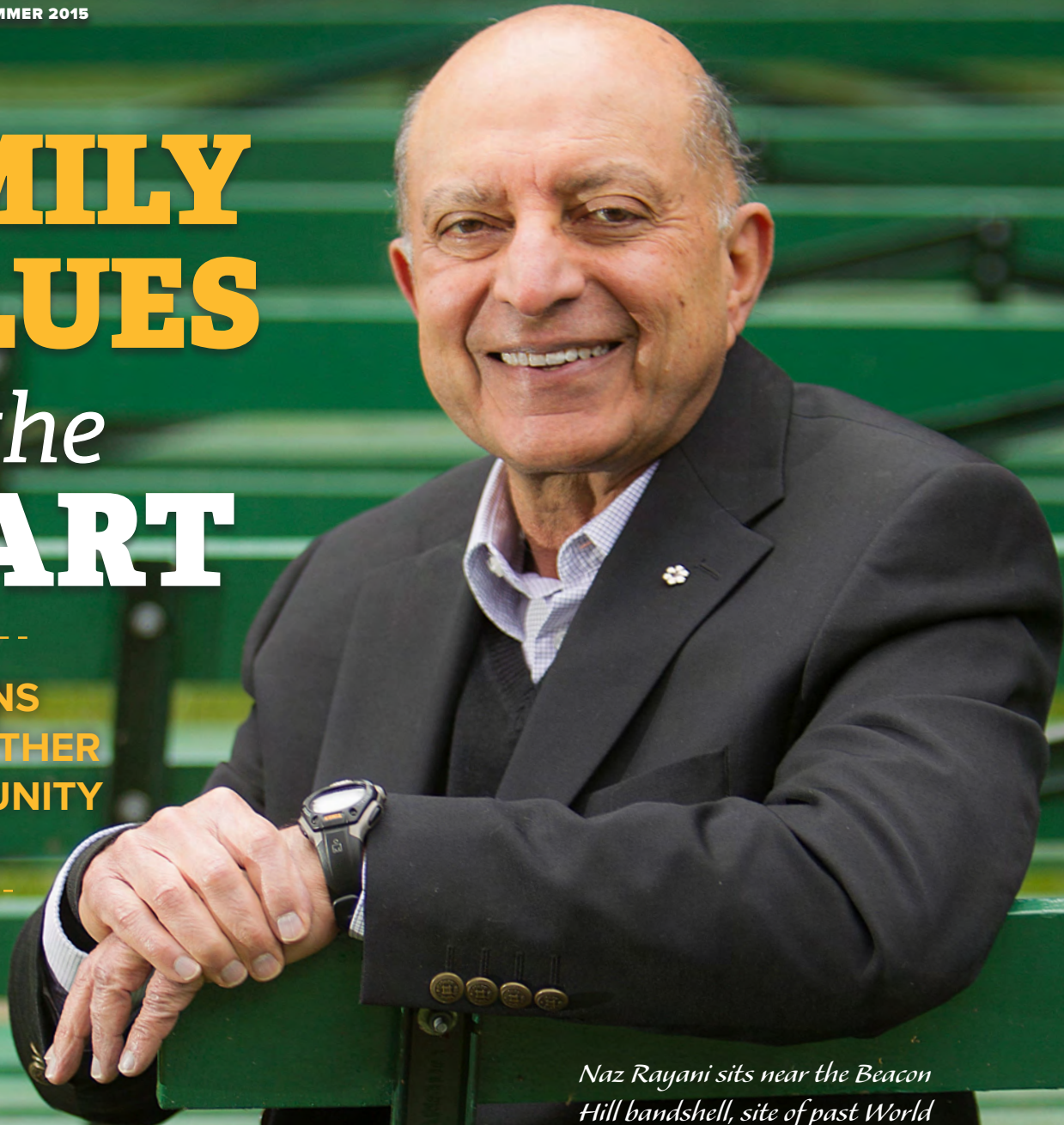


SUMMER 2015

FAMILY VALUES

at the HEART

GENERATIONS
COME TOGETHER
FOR COMMUNITY
SUPPORT



Naz Rayani sits near the Beacon Hill bandshell, site of past World Partnership Walk celebrations.

WELCOME GARDENS! // YOUTH IN TRANSITION // FUNDING THE FUTURE



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If there is a theme to this issue of *pulse*, it's that together we're better.

You'll see it in our feature about the Rayani family that embodies what it means to embrace community. Together, they've set up two family funds to give back to the place that has nurtured them personally, professionally and spiritually.

It's also evident in the articles on recent grant recipients. You can read about the artists, elders and youth coming together in the Digital Forage program, or the story about networks that support youth in transition at the Victoria Youth Care Network or at the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre.

Our piece on scholarship recipient James Smith is a testament to the positive outcomes that occur when a community supports the educational aspirations of young students. It's a similar story with our article on alumni of the Foundation's Vital Youth program.

From supporting Aboriginal communities in BC's north, to helping an organization create a new "childcare hub" in Saanich, this issue of *pulse* highlights the power of coming together to help one another.

At the Victoria Foundation, we believe in *connecting people who care with causes that matter*®. Since we began in 1936, these connections and the collective support that they have generated has allowed us to grant more than \$145 million to charitable organizations and scholarship recipients in our region and beyond.

I hope that the stories and articles on the following pages will increase your own appreciation of the power of collective action, and perhaps inspire you to start or expand your own involvement in making this great community an even better place to live, work, play and grow. ♦

Sandra Richardson, Chief Executive Officer

WHEN MONEY MATTERS

VITAL LOANS AID LOCAL CHARITIES

Necessity may be the mother of invention, but for community-based, not-for-profit initiatives, need doesn't always bring funding.

Enter the Vital Loans program, created and administered by the Victoria Foundation and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union.

Since February 2013, Vital Loans has provided financial support through loans to registered charities on southern Vancouver Island (Nanaimo south) and the Gulf Islands. The program complements the Victoria Foundation's "Vital Lending" philosophy, designed to provide charitable organizations with access to critical funding at favourable rates, based on the strength of the application.

Charities requiring a short-term loan (up to 36 months) that may not qualify for a conventional loan have the potential to access up to \$500,000.

Funded by both partners, the Vital Loans program evaluates all applications via a nine-member committee that also considers supporting information such as financial statements, budgets and letters of support, explains Ian Wong, Chair of the Victoria Foundation's Vital Loans Committee. Criteria include the applicant's past credit history, the organization's financial strengths and ability for repayment.

"Vital Loans provide access to funding local charities' needs. With the Victoria Foundation's unique knowledge of the community and Island Savings' financial expertise, we are able to assist where others are unable," Wong says.

For example, Saanich Neighbourhood

Place (SNP) has been approved for a \$500,000 loan request to pursue a "childcare hub" at Pearkes Recreation Centre, explains executive director Colleen Hobson.

SNP currently operates a pre-school program, but envisions creating 49 additional childcare spaces, including 24 infant/toddler spots and 25 spots for three- to five-year-olds. Space would also be allocated to complementary service providers, such as childcare information and referral or child and family health and wellness programs.

"SNP is hopeful the proposal will also receive a provincial grant — which includes criteria of being able to show additional funding support — so the Vital Loans approval couldn't have come at a better time," Hobson says.

The childcare hub would have a significant impact for local families. Having a variety of services in one place — and in a non-threatening environment like a recreation centre — raises awareness of available programs and normalizes services like early prevention/intervention programs for children and families.

"It becomes more familiar and less scary," Hobson says.

The proposal is currently moving through the Saanich approval process, and will include considerable public consultation, but ideally, Hobson hopes to open in September 2016. "Overall, people have been very, very excited."

These kinds of proposals reflect areas the Victoria Foundation has identified as valuable to the community.

"Saanich Neighbourhood Place's

Charities requiring a short-term loan (up to 36 months) that may not qualify for a conventional loan have the potential to access up to \$500,000.

proposal articulates the growing demand for funding organizations in order to address the increase in demand for the services they provide. By providing funding through a Vital Loan, this organization will be able to match the increasing demand for their services with increased capacity and increased levels of service to the community," Wong says.

For Island Savings, "Saanich Neighbourhood Place's vision to create a childcare hub in the Capital Region aligns perfectly with the philosophy behind Island Savings' Growing Island Families Together community investment program," says Colin Nicol, Vice-President of Advisory Services at Island Savings.

"Strong families are the backbone of strong communities — and improved access to childcare meets a vital need related to the financial health of all Island families, as does the potential for health and wellness programming if



*Colleen Hobson,
Executive Director, Saanich
Neighbourhood Place.*

this proposal moves forward.”

Vital Loans also offers a unique opportunity for donors, who can see their contributions used over and over in the community. As loans are provided to charities — and then paid back — money is recycled into the fund to be used again.

“The strength of the Vital Loans

program is its ability to provide affordable loans to the organizations that need it the most. Through the partnership with Island Savings, these charities will be able to offer more services to more people in our communities,” Wong says.

And as Hobson at SNP points out, this busy community non-profit also

welcomed the ease of the process.

“The process for the Vital Loan was so grounded; it was practical and quick and I can’t tell you the stress it relieved on our end,” she says. “It’s so responsive. It will make a huge impact in this community.”

For information about Vital Loans, visit victoriafoundation.bc.ca/vital-loans ♦

THREE WAYS TO ACE YOUR FINANCES IN VICTORIA

According to Vital Signs survey data, Victoria’s high cost of living is a barrier to financial success for many families across the region. Jeffrey Roberts, a financial advisor at Island Savings’ Mayfair branch, has three quick tips to help Victorians save a little more each month:

Keep track of your money.

Log everything you spend using a mobile app, spreadsheet, pen—whatever works for you. After a full month you’ll be able to quickly pinpoint areas of spending that can be trimmed. Use this data to create a reasonable monthly budget that has you spending less than you earn.

Save for a rainy day.

Budget 10% of each paycheck for savings—first to build an emergency fund (3X your monthly expenses) and then to start growing long-term savings with a TFSA and RSPs. Golden rule: your savings and investments should grow faster than Victoria’s rate of inflation.

IslandSavings

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Get cooking.

Victoria is known for its amazing restaurants—but all this eating out adds up to a major excess expense, especially for young people. Learning how to cook healthy, inexpensive meals at home is one of the best financial decisions you can make.

*“Talking about establishing a fund
and the reasons why we are doing
this may inspire others.”*

— Rasool Rayani



Naz Rayani and family at Beacon Hill Park



A FAMILY putting VALUES into ACTION

SIMPLIFYING THEIR GIVING, MULTIPLYING THEIR GENEROSITY

The Ismaili Muslim faith is bound by a strong sense of social responsibility.

In Victoria, Heart Pharmacy's owner Naz Rayani and his family have embraced their faith's deeply held tradition of service to others and they have reached out to the Victoria Foundation to ensure that their philanthropy is a lasting gift to the greater community.

Naz and his wife, Yasmine, have established a fund at the Victoria Foundation that will allow the family to indefinitely support such institutions as the University of Victoria Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, Campus Family Housing and CanAssist, which is dedicated to helping people with disabilities improve their quality of life.

Naz's son Rasool, Chair of the Victoria Foundation board, and his wife, Laurel, have also established a sustainable fund to support the community.

Sitting around the dining table in Rasool and Laurel's kitchen, the family — including Yasmine and daughter Zahra — is gathered to talk about their collective desire to give back to the community.

Naz, now retired from the family pharmacy business, joins the gathering after his weekly piano lesson. He is wearing a "World

Partnership Walk” ball cap and a Heart Pharmacy windbreaker.

Naz says “words don’t come easy” because of two strokes he suffered four years ago, but his passion for giving and for service burns brightly.

“I wish we had participated earlier, but it is never too late. It is an honour to be doing this with the Victoria Foundation.”

It is immediately apparent that Naz’s zest for living is undiminished by his strokes. When he’s not learning to play the piano, Yasmine says, he “is learning to play bridge, taking swimming lessons, playing table tennis or doing yoga.”

That evening he will be off to his Rotary meeting and later that week he will take 35 Maria Montessori Academy students to tour the Ismaili Centre in Vancouver.

Since 1993, Naz has escorted more than 3,000 Vancouver Island students and adults to the centre.

He says: “The experience of bringing people of different faiths together and sharing the values of Islam has been profound.”

“I am extremely proud of my dad,” Rasool says. “He’s been a role model and a source of inspiration regarding philanthropy.”

Rasool now runs the five-pharmacy family business with Zahra, a pharmacist like her dad, and Zahra’s husband, Farhan Kanji.

“My parents have always been engaged in philanthropy. They wanted to create a sustainable, long-term fund that would support their causes. The funds will be a platform for giving. The Foundation’s ability to ensure the needs of the community are bubbling to the top in a vital way is a powerful tool for thoughtful giving,” Rasool says.

Laurel, a nurse who established a travel health clinic in Heart Pharmacy at the Fairfield Road location, says a huge part of the Ismaili faith is about volunteerism and paying back to the community.

“Naz has role modelled philanthropy for all of us. It feels so good to contribute.”



“I am extremely proud of my dad, he’s been a role model and a source of inspiration regarding philanthropy.”

— Rasool Rayani

After the “9/11” disaster in New York, Muslims were often “painted with a one-stroke brush,” Laurel says. “Naz really got involved with the Centre for Studies in Religion as well as being an ambassador for Islam and educating people.”

Naz studied pharmacy at the Robert Gordon University of Aberdeen, Scotland and opened his first pharmacy in 1972 in Kenya where he was born. He came to Canada two years later to live and work in a more politically stable environment. After 15 years operating pharmacies in the West Shore and Sidney, he purchased the small independent Cadboro Bay Pharmacy in 1991. In 2003, he opened his second drugstore in the Student Union Building of the University of Victoria. In 2011, the family acquired the Peoples Pharmacy

locations at Shelbourne Plaza, Fairfield Plaza and Fairfield Road at Moss Street.

Recognition for his good works just keeps stacking up. In 2006, Naz was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada by her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General of Canada, at the Order of Canada Investiture Ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. In 2012, he received the Leadership Victoria Lifetime Achievement Award at the eighth annual Victoria Leadership Awards ceremony.

As well, the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce presented a lifetime achievement award to Naz at its annual awards in May.

“He is being recognized as both a business leader and humanitarian for his work to end global poverty through the World Partnership Walk,” says Chamber Vice-Chair Al Hasham.

Naz’s daughter Zahra says: “My family has been giving back to the community for a long time. The Foundation fund will be a wonderful opportunity to continue giving to the community and make an impact in an achievable manner.”

Victoria Foundation CEO Sandra Richardson agrees.

“This is hugely important for the Foundation because when we talk about the next generation giving back to the community, this is a perfect example of what we are doing in this generation. The Rayanis represent the qualities and values we want to pass on to our children.

“To the Rayani family this is about investing in the future. It is all about family values. It is a wonderful illustration for others in the community to think about this as family and to appreciate how far you can reach.”

Rasool says the idea of sharing this initiative with the public was the subject of much family deliberation.

“But the idea of talking about the rationale for establishing the fund and the reasons why we are doing this may inspire others and illustrate how easy this is to do,” he says. ♦

GIVINGTUESDAY™

LOOKING BACK AT 2014 AND FORWARD TO 2015

Imagine a day dedicated to giving back — around the world, across Canada and right here in Greater Victoria!

GivingTuesday is a Canadian movement for giving and volunteering; it takes place in December each year after Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

For the past two years, the Victoria Foundation has celebrated GivingTuesday by holding an **#UNselfie** contest on our Facebook page. Rather than asking the community to give, we asked people to show us how they give back.

The spirit of generosity depicted in the photo entries was overwhelming. Last December, two winners were randomly selected from all 73 entries to receive \$500 each to donate to a charity of their choice.

Anne Boquist won for her photo of her work with the Sooke Children's Garden Club. She directed her winnings to the Sooke Residents in Need Society. **Gagan Leekha** won for her photo from World Refugee Day, Victoria BC. She donated her \$500 to the Victoria Refugee Sponsorship Group.

We thank them both for sharing their love of volunteering, and we're counting the days to an even bigger celebration of GivingTuesday on December 1, 2015. ♦



I'm making
kindness a priority.
Will you?

Random Act Of
KXndness Day®
November 6th, 2015



#RAKDAY

PAYING IT FORWARD ON NOVEMBER 6

In November of 2008, The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation embarked on a simple, yet extremely meaningful initiative called **Random Act of Kindness Day®**.

The idea has spread across the country and in 2015 the Victoria Foundation will participate for the first time.

The day is an invitation for schools, community groups,

service clubs, businesses, healthcare institutions, churches and individuals to join hearts and hands to celebrate the kind and friendly community in which we live.

Through simple, kind deeds, we can all pay it forward and help build a better community. **Watch for details on our website, in our newsletter and on social media.**
@vicfoundation #yyjRAKday

PHILANTHROPY

for the

FUTURE

Imagine being given \$2,500 to distribute to local charities of your choice. This is exactly what Victoria Foundation's Vital Youth program does: it offers students first-hand experience with philanthropy and community development. Teams of students identify community needs and make final recommendations for where the money is spent. Since 2003, the program has grown to reach seven schools in three districts, involving up to 100 students annually. The personal gains to participants are monumental and the impacts are enduring. Here are three examples:

KATE DEARDEN



THEN

In 2005, Kate joined the Vital Youth Program at Oak Bay High.

"It opened my eyes to the potential of collective donations, as well as to the range of people in the community who were involved in organizations that were contributing in a positive way to people's lives," she says, adding, "Learning of these organizations and having the opportunity to connect them with funding was exhilarating and a great honour. It allowed me to develop as both a local and global citizen. I developed skills around negotiation and balancing the needs of different actors. I continue to use and value these skills, not only in the charitable environment, but also within our larger, and increasingly diverse societies."

NOW

Kate has continued to volunteer, beginning with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) during her undergrad at UVic. Through WUSC, she socially supported young students from refugee camps in Africa and Asia, who had been awarded scholarships to study in Canada.

Her current graduate studies in International Migration and Social Cohesion, in Dublin, are a direct result of her participation in WUSC. Her research revolves around how neighbourhood and city planning practices can better include newer members of communities.

"Through my studies, work and personal life, I have continued to look for ways to create more just and cohesive communities in my local community, as well as how to connect and contribute to wider society."

FUTURE

"When I reflect on my path since Vital Youth and my future goals, I know that I am influenced greatly by my exposure to philanthropy in high school. I would like to continue to connect individuals to other people, information and opportunities. Specifically, in the future I hope to work in immigrant resettlement services in order to create more inclusive communities." ♦

SCOTT HIGBIE



THEN

Scott took part in Vital Youth at Frances Kelsey Secondary in 2011.

“Getting to know the people, that was probably the best part. It changed my view on large foundations and how they operate ... these are great organizations. They spend time doing research and then they do all the middle work, the administration.”

NOW

In his final year of Physics and Mathematics at UVic, Scott still makes time to maintain a strong commitment to the charitable sector. Co-president of Rotaract, the youth arm of the Rotary Club, Scott organizes volunteer work that fits around student schedules. It's all about positive change.

“It's low key — weeding on Mt. Doug, serving lunches at Our Place, typing for The Story Studio and fundraising for the 1000 x 5 Children's Book Recycling Project. Most of our members are students, so we try to find ways they can volunteer even while they're studying. Whenever I have to donate or look for funding for Rotaract, I go straight to what I learned at Vital Youth about the process, the research and the grant writing.”

FUTURE

“When I'm older, I want to continue to pay attention to philanthropic opportunities, to donate more to charities. I hope to be able to make a larger contribution.” ♦

LISA LEHIVE



THEN

“The biggest thing I *gained* from the program was a love for community,” says Lisa, who was a participant in 2006 at Belmont High School.

“The most important thing I *learned* was the importance of creating relationships within the community — and how you can do that with volunteer work. The program empowered me. We were given the money and the tools to implement something I'd wanted to do. Before that, I'd felt I had the capacity, but not the resources. Vital Youth made it possible.”

NOW

Lisa went on to pursue an interdisciplinary degree at UBC in Community & Development, focussing on community relationship building. She volunteered at a number of projects overseas and then, in 2008, began her own project here in Victoria.

Stocking Challenge & Care Backpacks provides filled wool socks and backpacks to Victoria's homeless, all through donations. In seven years, Lisa hasn't lost a donor, but has gained many.

“After my humanitarian experience overseas, I realized my skills could be used locally. In Guatemala, I saw local people helping local people. I wanted to do that here. I've used my skills in community development and relationship building to create my own niche of volunteer work. And I've taken the skills I learned through Vital Youth — how to research and how to build relationships — into my adult life and my career.”

Lisa, who now works as an administrative coordinator at a care home in Victoria, notes, “Community-building happens even within the care home.”

FUTURE

“I want to continue to do volunteer work. My career is important to me but volunteering keeps me balanced. I want to pass along my love for community to my children and my family, and to continue to instil what I've learned in the work that I do.” ♦

More than just sustenance, food is a view into another culture, a source of traditional knowledge, and a way of connection. With food security as a priority, the Victoria Foundation has funded two recent projects that bring people together through foraging and gardening food.

Welcome Gardens!

NEW PROJECT CULTIVATES FRIENDSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE — AS WELL AS FOOD

It was more than the garden variety of people who gathered for afternoon tea in an outdoor setting one day in early April.

Organized through the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) the tea brought together people of varying ages, languages and cultural backgrounds. But they held one thing in common: a desire to garden and learn together.

After getting to know each other over refreshments, they broke off into groups and set to work in the soil — clearing, raking, tilling — and putting a new VIRCS program called Welcome Gardens! into action.

With help from a Victoria Foundation grant of \$13,473, VIRCS has established the Welcome Gardens! project, which places newcomers and locals together in gardens. Ultimately, these gardeners will sow more than just food — the bushels of benefits include creation of friendships, cultural awareness and the sharing of horticultural knowledge.

David Lau, executive director at VIRCS, says the concept sprouted as he overheard more and more gardening conversations occurring in the Centre's reception area.

"Gardening is important around the world as part of people's daily diets. Here, gardening becomes more

challenging [for newcomers] because the climate is different and they often live in apartments."

It struck VIRCS that Victoria has a number of seniors who have well-established gardens but are no longer able to work in them. Putting the two groups together — immigrants without gardens and local seniors needing help — seemed to offer many potential positive outcomes.

In the area of food security, the program would provide fresh food to two population sectors that are often low income. But beyond food-related issues, it would foster relationships amid people who can sometimes become isolated.

"People who come to Canada often miss their [former] communities, which included little children as well as older people. They've come from places with more intergenerational cultures," Lau says. "And sometimes they've lost the family structure ... People crave sitting with older, wiser people, who have time to form and express their thoughts."

VIRC's Pam Devito was the perfect person to put the Welcome Gardens! concept into action, says Lau: she has a background in project development, was a VIRCS board member in the early years of the Centre, has set up a women's agricultural group and owns a blueberry farm.

A total of 19 people were involved in Welcome Gardens! by April, including newcomers from China, Japan, Korea, Colombia, Mexico, Romania and Poland.

Devito was thrilled to take on the challenge and is excited by its initial success, which is already beyond target. However, she says, the project as it was originally conceived has undergone a few changes.

A few issues such as language, transportation, proximity and the time of day that people are available to work in a garden have resulted in a few adaptations.

"Basically, it's come down to people with gardens and people without gardens."

While there are still seniors and newcomers involved, in some cases the roles are reversed. For example, a local senior without a garden might have a desire to learn about organic gardening and be paired with a newcomer, who



From left, Mayumi Mason, Merina Rael, Gale Anshelm, Pam Devito (project co-ordinator) and Monica Lerma prepare to work in Merina's backyard gardens as part of the Welcome Gardens! project.

does have a garden.

"In general, people who have gardens have opened them up and groups are forming around them. Right now, we have two to three people per garden, because people really like working together as a group."

Devito has also discovered the advantage of placing ESL trained people into the settings.

At the garden tea event she says, pairings occurred as people worked together in the garden: "Natural relationships developed."

A total of 19 people were involved in Welcome Gardens! by April, including newcomers from China, Japan, Korea, Colombia, Mexico, Romania and Poland.

"Two young couples, newcomers from China, have gardens and want to

share them and, at the same time, learn about local horticulture," Devito says. So she has placed local seniors in each of these gardens.

"These two young couples are best able to work in the morning so they're matched with retired people with ESL backgrounds," she says, adding that the Chinese couples also have their family elders with them. These older parents participate in the gardens as well, and even though they can't speak English, the activity is bringing them out of isolation.

"So now, one woman is able to talk to her father about what she's learning, and — bringing the next generation — she has a daughter who's totally into it as well."

Welcome Gardens! is finding other

ways to deal with language barriers. Often older newcomers have no English at all, Devito points out, but they're able to learn gardening information via YouTube videos, charts, pictures and ESL modules.

Following the successful tea and work party, Devito was setting out to another garden, this one at the home of a senior in her 80s.

"Her son has passed away as have most of her friends. She's lonely, but has 45 years of gardening experience."

A group of six or seven people — including a couple from Romania in their 70s — were heading over to clean and prepare a space for a communal garden. And as the day unfolded, it became clear that much more than food was under cultivation. ♦

“Food is primal. It’s something we all need and that tends to be imbued with our deepest cultural values and stories.”



FERTILE GROUND



STORYTELLING, FORAGING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

A \$10,000 grant from the Victoria Foundation to the Galiano-based Access to Media Education Society (AMES) program Digital Forage: Gathering the Wisdom of Island Elders gives a financial boost to a unique project that brings together school children and Penelakut elders in a special forum to share knowledge.

Pulse contacted Executive Director Deblekha Guin to hear more about the project.

What is Digital Forage: Gathering the Wisdom of Island Elders?

This is a wild-food and plant-focused intergenerational digital storytelling program that involves the reciprocal sharing of knowledge between Galiano and Penelakut artists, elders, and youth.

The elders share their specialized

and “seasoned” knowledge of foraging; the artists share their knowledge of photography, digital storytelling and new media production. Finally, the youth go full-circle, and share their own emerging knowledge of new and social media with their elders.

How did this get started?

Digital Forage emerged out of ideas generated through “Two Islands United” — a project initiated by The Galiano Community Food Program in 2012. That project brought together youth and elders from the neighbouring Islands of Penelakut (formerly Kuper) and Galiano to share knowledge of wild and traditional foods and medicines. Access to Media Education Society’s role was to use technology as a bridge between generations and ways of life, in an attempt to help preserve essential knowledge that is in danger of being lost.

Between September 2012 and May 2014, AMES worked with young people from both islands to help them gain the know-how to record these inter-island gatherings. The work culminated in the creation of salishharvest.com, a site that features short videos, background information about the plants and related recipes.

In the 2015 iteration of the project, the programming involves a younger group of children in and around their local schools. The focus has also expanded to include wild plants as well as foods to engage kids in looking at the different forms of nourishment (food, medicine and spirit) that are alive in their natural world around them.

What has been the biggest benefit to emerge from this program?

Albeit a slow process, one of the



most rewarding aspects of this program is the gradual development of trust (one relationship at a time) between the two communities.

I would also say that one of the biggest benefits to this program has been the partnership that AMES is developing with the Galiano Island Conservancy to deliver and significantly enhance this project.

The energy and resources that the Conservancy brings has enabled us to incorporate some elements that will live on after the project has officially ended. Most notable is the hands-on habitat restoration workshop on Penelakut Island that will see students planting Sxwesum (Soapberry or Soopalalie) and Q'uxmin (Indian Consumption Plant) at both the Penelakut Island Elementary School and the community garden (overseen by Penelakut Health).

Another legacy aspect of this program is the building of a traditional pit oven at the Galiano Learning Centre. This oven, which will ideally

enhance and make possible many feasts to come, will be built under the guidance of a Penelakut elder and with the helping hands of many people from both islands.

What is the importance of connecting over land-based storytelling, and how does this foster intergenerational and cultural relationships?

Food is primal. It's something we all need and that tends to be imbued with our deepest cultural values and stories. As a result, it's pretty fertile ground to start from.

The creation of engaging opportunities for children to practice place-based storytelling, creatively reflect upon their natural surroundings and learn why they are worth protecting is important. It deepens their knowledge of plants, foods and medicines in their midst, enhances their awareness of the local habitats that support them,



and contributes to environmental sustainability.

In addition to making an investment in the next generation of potential land stewards, the cultivation of young people's interest in and ability to harvest local, wild foods helps to ensure access to healthy and sustainable food sources, essential aspects of both personal and ecological health and wellbeing. ♦



Unique to Vancouver Island, ORCCA aims to provide youth under 19, who are from low-income families, access to oral care in a not-for-profit setting.

KEEP ON SMILING

Dr. Mitra Hashemi cleans the teeth of nine-year-old Logan Brech.

GRANT BENEFITS FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR CHILDREN

Over 100 people were all smiles at the March grand opening of a new facility that provides oral health care to children from low-income families.

Funded in part by a grant from the Victoria Foundation, the ORCCA (Oral Care for Children and Adolescents) dental clinic is now operating from an annex in Sidney Elementary School on Henry Avenue.

"We have been flooded with people applying," says Heather Burkett, ORCCA board chair and one of the masterminds behind the concept. "I just read an email from a dad of seven children looking for help for his six year old — the stories touch my heart."

Unique to Vancouver Island, ORCCA aims to provide youth under 19 who are from low-income families access to oral care in a not-for-profit setting.

The concept began percolating when Burkett, now retired, was district principal at School District 63. She received a request for emergency entry into a special program for a young boy who suffered behavioural challenges.

"They weren't even sure if he could talk — he wouldn't open his mouth — he just grunted. When he did eventually open his mouth, they saw that it was black."

Eventually they discovered he was the child of a single, working mom, who was able to get food on the table, but couldn't even consider paying for dentistry.

"We found two or three dentists willing to do the work, but when they actually saw the boy's mouth they declined, saying it was too much work," Burkett says.

Finally, one dentist who was about to retire, did take on the project. It took six months of twice-weekly visits to deal with the child's dental situation.

"The child became a good student, doing really well in school with no behavioural problems."

Shortly after, Burkett visited her dentist, Mitra Hashemi, who had just had an appointment with a 19-year-old who needed to have his front teeth extracted. Although Hashemi offered to provide implants pro bono, the youth didn't want to accept charity. Reluctantly she extracted his teeth and he left.

"She said, 'We need to do something.' So we started talking."

During the ensuing research, they discovered there were about 500 children on the Saanich Peninsula and in the Gulf Islands that would fall within established criteria and benefit from an affordable dental clinic.

And so the idea for ORCCA began to take shape. A couple of years in the planning and organizing stages, the clinic had a soft opening in February, and by the grand opening in March, had seen about a dozen children.

"Most have lots of work to do," Burkett says.

Criteria for entry to the program includes being part of the BC Healthy Child Program, wherein the government pays up to \$700 for dental work (ORCCA pays the rest); being part of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program for First Nations Children and Adolescents; or, belonging to a family with an income of less than \$40,000 a year and no dental insurance.

There is also a process for "special consideration" for those outside of these criteria.

At present, ORCCA benefits from services provided by half a dozen dentists (more are welcome) and 10 hygienists, all volunteering their time two or three times a month. School

District 63 provided space in the Henry Avenue annex rent-free for five years.

The Victoria Foundation grant of \$25,000 is providing a crucial element, enabling ORCCA to hire an administrator.

"We want our clinic to feel really comfortable and having an administrator helps with this," says Burkett, describing the importance of having "one face" that people can deal with, and also to have one person doing the scheduling and ensuring that children see the same dentists at repeat visits.

"Victoria Foundation paid for the first six months and then we hope to be able to fund it ourselves."

Following the grand opening — where "everything went really well" — Burkett is enthused about the potential success of the program.

"I'm hoping we can make a real difference for many children and adolescents in our community and beyond," she says. ♦

HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Highlights of the many other Victoria Foundation-funded projects that address children's wellbeing:

- **Kids Klub** received a \$10,000 grant for their Brown Bag lunch program that provides free nutritious lunches to children in need at local elementary and middle schools

- Since 2013, the Foundation has funded **physical literacy** programs for at-risk kids at local elementary schools, giving children the skills to play with confidence

- A \$14,695 grant funded the **Child and Youth Health Network**, a collaboration of dozens of organizations working on systems-level change to improve the wellbeing of children and youth in Greater Victoria

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STEWART
LITTLE &
COMPANY**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

“Navigating in the adult world can be an ordeal for any young person as they face the challenge to become someone.”

YOUTH IN TRANSITION

EASING THE PATH TO ADULthood

*Susanne Harnden,
Family Community Program
Outreach Worker, IDHHC.*



Taking the step from adolescence to adulthood can be tenuous for any young person. But add barriers such as hearing disabilities or moving out of government foster care, and the transition becomes even more challenging.

“I’m 39 and I still call home for [advice],” laughs Tara Skobel, Network Coordinator for Victoria’s Youth in Care Network: Youth Transitions & Support Program, which helps youth in and from government care between the ages of 14 and 24 who are working towards independence.

It’s one of several projects aimed at youth in transition to benefit this year from funding accessed through the Victoria Foundation. Some \$10,000 from the Lex Reynolds Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund, managed by the Victoria Foundation, provides the bulk of funding for the Care Network’s Youth Transitions & Support program. Also helping youth in transition is a new Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre project, which was awarded \$17,270 from the Victoria Foundation’s community grant program this year. Both projects will make a huge difference in the lives of many adolescents.

VICTORIA YOUTH IN CARE NETWORK

“We really appreciate the funding,” says Skobel at the Care Network. “Without it, we couldn’t be doing any of this.”

The Youth Transitions & Support Program provides monthly workshops and “how-to” events, helping youth take that step from adolescence into adulthood. These are youth, Skobel points out, who don’t have the same “fall back” options that others have. Once they’re out on their own, there is no home to return to if they’re short on funds, for example, or need advice.

“They have no one to call and just say, ‘Hey, I’m having a bad day.’”

Programming for the workshops and “how-to” events has been developed after consulting with youth, who described the types of things they’d like to learn before they move out of foster care.

In April, participating youth aged 14 to 24 took part in a suicide prevention workshop and attended a “how-to” cooking event. Another workshop coming up is on financial empowerment, while past workshops have included cyber bullying and “advocacy and action,” dealing with individual rights.

“It’s an awesome network and

transition program,” says Skobel, stressing that everything is offered for free, including special events such as the recent glow in the dark mini golf outing and a winter celebration laser tag event.

And in addition to building knowledge, offering support and smoothing transitions, the program helps foster a sense of belonging among the participants.

“It helps them build friendships and connections with each other — now they have somewhere to go if they need a friend.”

Skobel says five volunteers now run the Care Network, which started in June 2012 with two people, all volunteering their time. Last year, 61 youth were involved.

ISLAND DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CENTRE

Youth in transition are also the focus of a new service emerging at the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre (IDHHC), where funds from the Victoria Foundation are helping develop long-term services for deaf and hard of hearing youth aged 15 to 20.

Youth transition is a process that requires a planning team comprised of community agencies, educational professionals, family members and the



*Lundie Russell,
Coordinator, Family
and Community
Programs, IDHHC.*

youth themselves, says IDHHC Executive Director Denise Robertson. It is an outcome-oriented process that considers the students' interests, abilities, preferences and individual needs so they can become successful members of the adult world — including the world of work.

“Navigating in the adult world can be an ordeal for any young person as they face the challenge to become someone,” says Robertson. “Access is the biggest challenge faced by deaf and hard of hearing youth. The focus of our service is to ensure youth have the support and skills they need to self-advocate, and are able to access the same opportunities and services as other young people.”

Some deaf youth from Victoria live in Vancouver while they attend the BC Provincial School for the Deaf. Other deaf & hard of hearing youth live at home and attend mainstream schools or are home-schooled. Once these students leave school they lose the professional support networks provided by the education system.

As Robertson points out,

some deaf and hard of hearing students have additional developmental or learning challenges which means they need extra support during their transition into adulthood.

IDHHC is reaching out to both local and Vancouver-based students and their families, inviting them into dialogue about their need for services. The transition program offers guidance and support in areas like education, career and lifestyle choices.

Supports may include assistance to find volunteer or part-time summer employment, develop life skills and coping strategies, make peer and community connections, and/or develop effective strategies for communication, says Robertson, adding that “serving youth well includes helping them to identify who they are now, and who they want to become.”

Ultimately, both these projects reach out to youth, helping them build self-esteem, empowering them with life skills, and giving them their best chance for independence as they make their way in the world. ♦

IN MEMORIAM

The Victoria Foundation lost a number of supporters over the past year. Our condolences go out to their family and friends. They will be missed.

FUND HOLDERS:

- **James Kinghorn** (February 6, 2014) and his wife Mary (2009) established a fund to support their many favourite charities. We are honoured to continue their legacy through annual grants from their fund.

- **Ian Mair** (February 19, 2014) served as a long-time member of our finance committee, Board of Directors and Honorary Governors, as well as establishing a fund with his wife Margaret to support charities important to them.

- **Hugh Davidson** (July 14, 2014) established the Hugh Davidson Fund at the Victoria Foundation to promote the public rehearsal, performance and recording of newly composed Canadian orchestral music. We are honoured to facilitate this inspiring and remarkable legacy.

- **Rodney Allan** (October 25, 2014), along with a group of volunteers, completely restored salmon habitat in Nile Creek flowing into Qualicum Bay. Their simple methods have been studied globally for their outstanding success. Through annual grants from the Enid and Rod Allan Fund, this vital work will continue.

- **Belsonia Paul** (December 24, 2014) was a dedicated and passionate community activist who cared deeply, lived fully and provided an inspirational example of what generosity of spirit truly means. The Belsonia Bogatin Paul and Frank Paul Foundation Fund will continue her legacy.

OTHER DONORS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED US THROUGH THEIR ESTATE PLAN:

Mary Evelyn Brown
Shirley Ann Cuthbertson
Howard Ralph East
Maurice Hodgson
Dorothy May Kelly
John Bradley Grierson McIlveen



The Lasting Legacy of Bel Paul

As a Victoria Foundation Victoria Circle member, Bel ensured her generosity continued after her lifetime through additional gifts of life insurance policy proceeds to her fund.

Belsonia Bogatin Paul's passion for community and the arts has left a lasting legacy that will continue to change lives for years to come.

After a lifetime spent giving back, first in the US and later here in Victoria, Bel passed away in December. However, the fund she launched 16 years ago with the Victoria Foundation ensures her impact will continue to be felt.

A passionate community contributor and activist, Bel shared her time, talents and enthusiasm with many groups over the years. Coming from a social work background, Bel worked for years with street youth in the US; she also attended 1973's International Conference on Health

Education in Paris, and the UN Conference on World Population in Bucharest in 1974, among other important events.

Moving to James Bay with her husband in 1977, Bel quickly immersed herself in her new community. She was a founding board member of Seniors Serving Seniors in 1981, and participated in the Prime Time Women's Project, James Bay Community School/Centre, James Bay Multi-level Care Society and Long Term Care Citizens Association.

"Bel Paul supported good works throughout the James Bay neighbourhood, contributing to the sense of community that James Bay Community Project strives to facilitate and

foster,” says JBCP executive director Kaye Kennish. “She gave the James Bay Community Project a lot of her time, her spirit and her ideas as a member of our board of directors. She took part in some of our events, promoted us to her friends and was a generous donor to our programs.”

Donations from the Belsonia Bogatin Paul and Frank Paul Foundation — the fund Bel created in 1999 at the Victoria Foundation — allowed JBCP to continue to support residents through the Family Centre, helping isolated seniors and those seeking a can of soup or to use a phone or computer.

“The James Bay Community Project is a better organization because of Bel Paul and her foundation, and the people who participate in our programs are better served because of her,” says chair George Jamieson.

Complementing Bel’s community efforts was her passion for the arts and organizations like Pacific Opera Victoria, the Belfry Theatre, the Victoria Symphony and the Victoria Philharmonic Choir.

“Bel Paul was a friend of Pacific Opera Victoria for years,” says Executive Director Patrick Corrigan. Believing



Bel and Frank Paul

the arts were important to everyone’s life, and that accessibility to the arts — especially for children — was vital, “she was very dear to a lot of people at the Opera.”

While Bel’s financial support helped POV continue its exceptional performances, her efforts to raise awareness in the community were just as important.

“She understood the importance of the role of philanthropy in a strong arts community,” Corrigan notes.

Today, Bel’s legacy continues.

As a Victoria Foundation Victoria Circle member, Bel ensured her generosity continued after her lifetime through additional gifts of life insurance policy proceeds to her fund.

Bel’s fund will now join others that support the community-granting program, where priorities are based on the insights acquired through working with hundreds of charitable organizations and researching the annual community report card, *Victoria’s Vital Signs*®. “Bel’s gifts have had a large impact in our community and have demonstrated inspired leadership,” Victoria Foundation CEO Sandra Richardson notes. “Bel cared deeply, lived fully and provided an inspirational example of what the generosity of spirit truly means.” ♦



THE VICTORIA CIRCLE

Bel was a member of the Victoria Circle, which includes individuals who have indicated to the Victoria Foundation their intention to make a future gift through a bequest, life insurance policy, property, retirement fund accumulations or other estate plan.

Donors join the Victoria Circle for various reasons — to perpetuate a lifelong passion, inspire greater giving, fuel the dreams of future generations, involve their families in charitable giving or thank a community that has enriched their lives.

To learn more about the Victoria Circle, email Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services at sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca or call her at 250-381-5532.

VITAL VICTORIA FUND

The Vital Victoria Fund responds to applications for funding of projects by local charities across a broad range of interests: arts and culture, community service, environment, education, and health and recreation.

This is one way to help us do what we do best: respond to the needs and opportunities identified through our *Victoria’s Vital Signs*® report. Contribute now to the community granting program through a monthly or annual contribution or set up a named fund through your bequest gift.

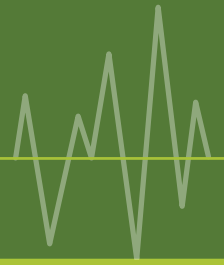
To find out more, ask us about our *Make it Happen!* booklet which summarizes the yearly applications.



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Victoria's Vital Signs®



Vital Signs measures the health of our region and reports citizens' grades in a number of areas critical to Victoria's vitality.

+ Quality of Life in Greater Victoria

Participants in the 2014 Vital Signs survey were generally very positive about their quality of life and feeling of connectedness to their community.

88%

Would describe themselves as **happy**

66%

Are satisfied or very satisfied with **work and homelife balance**



82%

Feel somewhat or very **connected** to the community

79%

See it likely or somewhat likely that they will be living and working in Greater Victoria **10 years from now.**

76%

Rated their general sense of **mental wellbeing** as high

73%

Are **happy in their job** and satisfied with work

79%

Rarely or never feel **uncomfortable or out of place** because of religion, skin colour, culture, race, language, accent, disability, gender or sexual orientation



71%

Rarely or very rarely **felt lonely** over the previous week

68%

Rated their general sense of **physical wellbeing** as high

87%

Feel supported by **loving family, companions and/or friends**

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VICTORIA!**

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SIGNS®**



ANNIVERSARY

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- Add your VOICE
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VICTORIAFOUNDATION.CA

MILESTONES a year of important changes, events & activities at the Victoria Foundation

FEBRUARY 2014

VITAL PEOPLE

Vital People page began appearing monthly in the Times Colonist Islander, complementing the popular CHEK TV Vital People weekly video segments.



Carol Hall

SEPTEMBER 2014

LORAN SCHOLAR

Reynolds Secondary School grad and Victoria Foundation Vital Youth alumnus Faelan Prentice was named one of 30 Loran Scholars out of 3,500 applicants from across the country.

DECEMBER 2014 GRANTS

ANNOUNCED

We announced close to \$1.5 million in community grants to 86 non-profit organizations on Vancouver Island, bringing the total amount granted by the Foundation in 2014 to over \$13.2 million, and over \$144 million since the Foundation began in 1936.



Kyman Chan



Patrick Kelly

FEBRUARY 2015 HOMELESS

PREVENTION FUND

One of the best ways to address homelessness is to prevent people from experiencing it. A Victoria Foundation donation of \$110,000 means that the Homeless Prevention Fund can keep operating through 2016, providing emergency assistance grants to those in financial need and at risk of losing their housing.



JULY 2014 NEW AND DEPARTING STAFF

Carol Hall joined our staff as Director of Community Initiatives & Grants, replacing Marg Rose, who moved to a new career opportunity.

OCTOBER 2014 GREATER VICTORIA WELLBEING

We released our 9th annual *Victoria's Vital Signs®* report, which included the 6th annual Youth Vital Signs section. Results from the Capital Region Community Wellbeing Survey complemented survey indicators. Residents of the CRD generally consider themselves happy and satisfied with many aspects of their lives, but some are struggling with issues such as the high cost of living, housing, employment, food security and other financial stresses.



JANUARY 2015 BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHANGES

Kyman Chan and Patrick Kelly joined the board as new directors, while Lori Elder, Julia-Anne Morris and Marek Tyler were welcomed as new committee members. Michael Cridge, Sang-Kiet Ly and Erin Shaw were also appointed to committees in late 2014.

FEBRUARY 2015 11TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Pacifica Housing received the 2015 Victoria Foundation Community Leadership Award. The award recognizes an organization that is building community capacity and achieving positive change.

"My dream goal is to work in renewable energy. I don't want to limit myself to just working in indigenous communities, but I do want to work in independent, off-the-grid places."

— James Smith

Making the dream of education a

SCHOLARSHIP EASES STUDENT'S STRESS LOAD

"Ecstatic." That's how James Smith felt when he heard he was the recipient of the 2014 Aboriginal Student Award. He had defied the odds — again.

James grew up in the small community of Yunesit'in, 100 kilometres southwest of Williams Lake. With a population of just 207, James was one of a handful of kids from his reservation able to attend high school. To do so meant relocating with his parents to Williams Lake. James was one of an even smaller number from his community to graduate, and the only one he knows of from his generation to go on to university.

"I did really well in high school," he explains, "so I got an entrance scholarship to UVic."

Currently in his fourth year of Mechanical Engineering, he has just added a minor in Electrical Engineering and hopes to graduate in 2017. Engineering came instinctively to him.

"I'm not good at anything else," he jokes. "I'm fluent in math. It came naturally. I always liked making things, fiddling with junk and electronics, taking things apart — like TVs — and putting them back together."

James grew up understanding the importance of education. When he

was seven, he moved to Victoria for five years so that his mom could study at UVic for her Masters in Linguistics.

After returning to Yunesit'in, he shot to the top of his class, where he stayed until he graduated. His mom has remained extremely supportive of his studies. She first found out about the scholarship and encouraged James to apply for it.

The BC Aboriginal Student Award, which aims to assist Aboriginal people pursuing post-secondary education, is administered by the Irving K Barber BC Scholarship Society. James has won the Award twice!

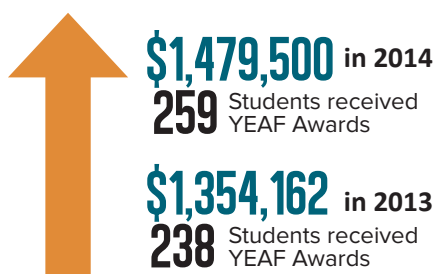
In 2014, the scholarship was



MORE ON SCHOLARSHIPS

THE YOUTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FUND

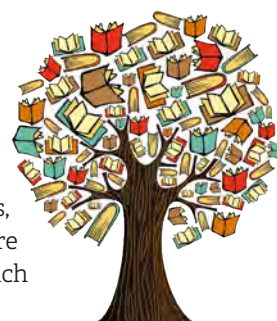
This fund provides education grants to young adults who were formerly in the care of the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development or a designated Aboriginal agency. This fund is a partnership between the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Victoria Foundation. The Foundation manages the fund. Applications are adjudicated through the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.



Since the program's inception we have issued 2,149 YEAF awards for a total of \$11,879,510.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Victoria Foundation administers over 400 funds, some of which provide grants to support annual scholarships and bursaries at educational institutions, both locally and across Canada. Funds are provided directly to the institutions, which in turn manage the selection processes for recipients.



	2014	2013
Average scholarship/bursary	\$ 5,779.19	\$4,627.47
Total of all scholarships & bursaries	\$335,192.80	\$254,511.00
Number of Grants	58	55
Number of Funds	42	37

reality

awarded to 310 Aboriginal students across BC — the highest number of recipients since it was established in 2008.

Despite these numbers, James' educational path is still rare in his community. "There are some other people with degrees — just not very many. There are two other Chilcotin people at UVic, but neither of them lived up north. They didn't come from up there."

Now, with the scholarship, James is able to make the 16-hour journey to visit home once a semester.

"Before, the biggest restriction was not being able to visit home. It was a struggle. The ferry costs are so high. Flights are almost double. Even the bus is expensive."

The scholarship has helped in other ways too.

"I was eating a lot of ramen," he laughs. "Now I can actually cook for myself. I was also trying to save money by rooming with people, but it was loud and it made it hard to study. Now I've got a small, quiet bachelor suite."

"The biggest difference the scholarship has made is not having to worry about money. You'd already be panicking about exams and then you didn't know how to make rent next month. It's an additional stress that I don't want."

Now James can focus fully on his studies.

"My dream goal is to work in renewable energy. I don't want to limit myself to just working in indigenous communities, but I do want to work in independent, off-the-grid places. I want to help them achieve independence. I can think of a community I know that relies entirely on generators for power. It's so loud and expensive. I think I can help to change that."

Ideally, he'd like to work in BC.

"It's close to my heart. I want to use my skills to help at home. ♦



James Smith in front of the First Peoples House on the UVic campus



2014

VICTORIA FOUNDATION
BY THE NUMBERS

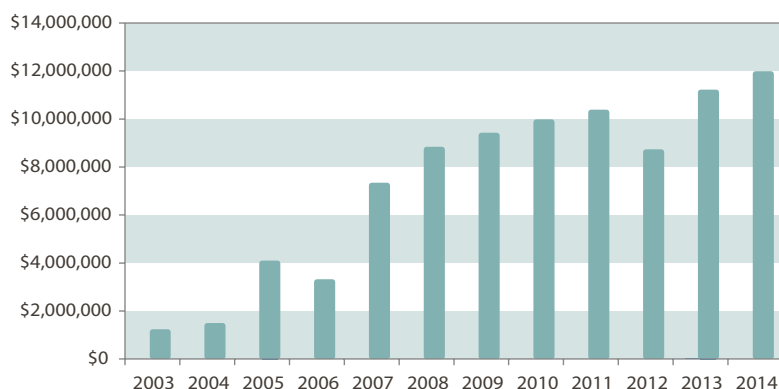
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Total assets of over \$250 million
- ▶ Total endowed assets increased to \$180 million
- ▶ Donations and bequests received of over \$16.7 million
- ▶ Investment returns averaged 10.95% and ten year returns averaged 7.7%
- ▶ Operating expenses average 0.84% of average total assets
- ▶ Over \$4.6 million in grants from endowment funds
- ▶ Over \$7.1 million in grants from pass through, trust and provincial funds

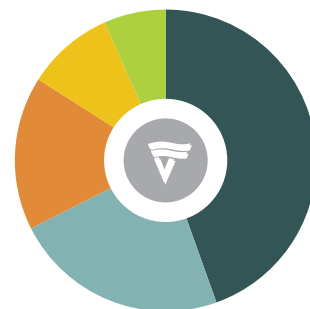
SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31	2014	2013
REVENUE:		
GIFTS RECEIVED FOR IMMEDIATE GRANTING	\$7,157,352	\$ 7,679,459
GIFTS TO OPERATIONS	183,502	232,753
TOTAL RETURNS ALLOCATED TO OPERATIONS & GRANTING	6,200,443	4,707,099
FEE REVENUE - TRUSTS & MANAGED FUNDS	406,175	502,269
LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS	935,544	455,247
	14,883,016	13,576,827
EXPENSES:		
GRANTS	11,769,047	10,999,615
COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP	480,020	262,843
OPERATIONS EXPENSES	1,542,449	1,573,979
LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS	935,544	455,247
	14,727,060	13,291,684
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	155,956	285,143
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	162,703,384	137,493,733
NEW GIFTS & NET CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENDOWMENT FUNDS	9,053,801	8,815,467
TOTAL RETURNS ALLOCATED TO NET ASSETS	8,626,362	16,109,041
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	155,956	285,143
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$180,539,503	\$162,703,384

GRANTING GROWTH

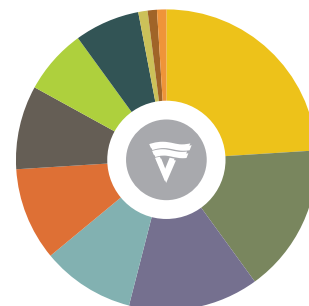


- ▶ The Victoria Foundation increased the distribution rate from 3.75% to 4.00% for 2015. The amount of grants disbursed from endowment funds increased by 38.9%, due to a combination of new endowment funds, growth in market value of funds and an increase in the distribution rate for 2014.

2014
GRANTS BY
FIELD OF
INTEREST*

- 45% ■ **COMMUNITY SERVICE** \$5,075,797
- 23% ■ **HEALTH & RECREATION** \$2,625,679
- 16% ■ **ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE** \$1,875,007
- 9% ■ **EDUCATION** \$1,068,035
- 7% ■ **ENVIRONMENT** \$753,751

* Excludes grants between funds of \$409,979

2014 GRANTS BY
VITAL SIGNS
INDICATOR
AREA*

- 24% ■ **HEALTH & WELLNESS** \$2,702,294
- 16% ■ **ARTS & CULTURE** \$1,764,116
- 14% ■ **HOUSING** \$1,636,139
- 10% ■ **BELONGING & ENGAGEMENT** \$1,112,403
- 10% ■ **STANDARD OF LIVING** \$1,175,066
- 9% ■ **LEARNING** \$1,040,511
- 7% ■ **ECONOMY** \$820,390
- 7% ■ **ENVIRONMENT** \$819,178
- 1% ■ **SAFETY** \$156,516
- 1% ■ **SPORTS & RECREATION** \$112,356
- 1% ■ **GETTING STARTED** \$59,300
- 0% ■ **TRANSPORTATION** \$0

* Excludes grants between funds of \$409,979

EXPLORE YOUR COMMUNITY



The **Community Knowledge Centre** is an online space where you can discover charities working on local issues that matter most to you.

DISCOVER

Search for organizations by the regions, people or Vital Signs issue areas that matter most to you.

CONNECT

Read stories, watch videos and connect with the people and organizations who understand the issues and are making an impact.

GIVE

Donate directly from a CKC profile page, or contact the Victoria Foundation for assistance with your giving decisions.

Victoria is full of incredible stories. Learn more about them from the organizations that are making Victoria the best place to live.



START YOUR SEARCH
ckc.victoriafoundation.bc.ca

GIFTS THAT KEEP *GIVING*

THE GARDEN HOUSE FOUNDATION

After retiring from careers in education, Jackie and Jim Barker wanted to give back to their community. In 2008, they began the Garden House Foundation as a means of offering support to families and animals in need in the Cowichan Valley, along with promoting childhood literacy and recycling. These are broad goals, making their success all the more inspiring.

"The best thing we ever did was form our fund under the umbrella of the Victoria Foundation. It has relieved us of the legal costs and provided investment services and advice when we have asked," says Jackie.

Through the Victoria Foundation, the Barkers have met other fund donors.

"This has made us feel like we are part of a 'family' of donors and that we belong to a caring group," Jackie adds.

Each October, the Garden House Foundation hosts a charity book sale to raise funds.

"Tens of thousands of books have been donated over the past seven years. Community involvement has been tremendous. One of the most rewarding moments is the first 10 to 15 minutes of the sale when the doors open and hundreds of people pour into the hall," says Jim. "We will most likely hit \$100,000 in our fund this year. We had originally hoped to make \$25,000 in five years."

With the money raised, the Barkers

are able to fund the Cowichan Family Life Association, Cowichan Women Against Violence and the Duncan and District SPCA.

"We have chosen to let them direct the funds into areas that are in most need of support," says Jackie.

The Barkers continue to find unique opportunities to fundraise and deepen their own community involvement. They worked with the South Cowichan Seniors' lunch program, loaning their own personal china and raising a hard earned \$1,000 for the Foundation.

"Over the past 20 years we have also allowed Cowichan Family Life to put us on their garden tour and so we have helped them to raise thousands of dollars," explains Jackie. "We want to continue to do what we are doing, to be involved and contribute so that our lives remain purposeful."

To learn more about the Garden Foundation, visit gardenhousefoundation.wordpress.com.

ZACK DOWNEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In the face of grief, Tania and Wayne Downey have created something tremendously positive.

The Zack Downey Memorial Scholarship was established last December, in memory of their son, Zack, who passed away in May, 2014, after battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"Our son was our inspiration in so many ways," says Tania. "One of my biggest fears was that after he passed

away, he would be forgotten. We needed to find a way to make a difference in even a small way, to enable us to carry his legacy and beautiful spirit on."

Set up with the support of Golf for Kids, Help Fill a Dream Foundation and the Victoria Mariners Baseball Association, the scholarship will be offered annually to graduating students from Lambrick Park School.

From the age of four, Zack was an avid sports player. At the time of diagnosis, he was a pitcher and infielder for the Victoria Mariners Baseball Team.

"The Mariners became our biggest supporter. They were there for us every step of the way," explains Tania. "The Help Fill a Dream Foundation was also a big support system for our family."

After Zack received his diagnosis, Help Fill a Dream teamed up with Golf for Kids to grant Zack's dream to go to Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas following his graduation. When Zack passed away before his dream was realized, just one week before his high school graduation, Help Fill a Dream put the money towards the memorial scholarship.

"The impact that the community had on our journey was immense. At times there were no words that could truly describe our appreciation. Family, friends, schools and sports organizations all stepped up to help us through this incredibly difficult time. It allowed us to focus on what mattered the most, our son and our family, and for that we are forever grateful," Tania says.

"Our main hope is to recognize



*The Downey family —
Tania, Wayne and
Brooklyn with
a painting of Zack.*

young men and women with the same amazing attributes as our son. He was a dedicated young man who fought each battle he faced with integrity. Above all, he was an amazing athlete. After graduation, he hoped to receive a scholarship to study business and, more importantly, to do what he loved best — play baseball.”

The scholarship will be awarded to students pursuing further education, who also have a passion for playing sports.

“To be able to assist a Lambrick Park High School graduating student truly makes a difference in our lives,” Tania explains. “Cancer may have taken my son, but cancer can’t take his memory or his amazing spirit away from us. The most rewarding part for us is to see our son’s legacy continue through this wonderful memorial scholarship.”

THE HOUSING, HEALTH, SHELTER & COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND

Victoria Cool Aid Society first opened its doors in 1968. Since then, it has grown from offering emergency shelter to advocating and working towards ending homelessness.

The Housing, Health, Shelter & Community Services Fund offers a means for community members to make a positive impact in this area.

“We wanted to set up a way for people to make a long-term gift to Cool Aid; to give people a different way to give that would keep giving for years and years to come. We also wanted it to be flexible, to support any of our services that need extra support,”

Continued on next page

Long-Term

Pass Through

Emerging

Different Fund Types Offer Flexibility

Most funds at the Victoria Foundation are permanent; that is, the capital contribution is invested forever and the annual distributable return is available to be granted out to registered charities or qualified recipients as defined by the Income Tax Act.

The Victoria Foundation recognizes that donors may wish to have more options in managing their philanthropic giving, particularly regarding the “lifetime” of their future grants that result from their giving.

THE LONG-TERM FUND

This is an alternative to the permanent fund which allows donors to make a gift to the Victoria Foundation that will generate distributable returns and will also utilize a portion of the capital on an annual basis for granting purposes. The amount of capital distributed each year will be determined according to a formula established when the fund is created. These funds start at \$100,000 and grants from capital are made for at least a 10-year term.

THE PASS-THROUGH FUND

With this kind of fund, a donor can make a contribution and provide advice on the grants, eventually seeing the entirety of the fund disbursed to their chosen charities within a 36-month period.

THE EMERGING FUND

This is a fund in which the donor makes contributions over a period of time until the minimum amount of \$10,000 required to start a permanent fund is reached. After that time, the fund can begin to make grants.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of securities are a tax-effective way of giving, whether as a contribution to a fund or for an immediate gift to a favourite charity.

When publicly listed securities are donated to the Victoria Foundation, the tax on the capital gain is eliminated. To take advantage of the tax savings benefit, the donor must transfer the securities “as is” through a direct transfer from the donor’s brokerage account to the Foundation’s brokerage account.

It is easy to do. We work with you and your advisor to ensure the transfer is smooth and your donation receipt is delivered to you. Simply follow the step-by-step directions on our *Donation Form for Gifts of Securities* (available on our web site or by calling us at 250-381-5532). You will receive a donation receipt for the fair market value of the securities based on the closing price on the date the securities are received into the Foundation’s account.

Thanks to the generosity of many fund holders and community members, gifts of publicly listed securities crossed the \$4 million mark in 2014, far surpassing previous years. We thank those who chose to give in this way and the advisors who facilitated the gifts.



Cool Aid's Jeff Keays and Christopher Geater in the courtyard area at Cool Aid's community centre

THE HOUSING, HEALTH, SHELTER & COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND

Continued from previous page

explains Alan Rycroft, community relations manager.

The fund was established by creating specific policies around undesignated bequests. When monetary gifts are left to Cool Aid without the donor specifying where it is to be spent, 60 per cent or more of the bequest is put towards building housing for the homeless, and at least 30 per cent goes into the fund. The remaining 10 per cent or less is used to promote other legacy gifts in the community.

The fund has been operating for seven years.

“Establishing the fund was one of the first things I did when I started at Cool Aid,” says Rycroft. “I am really pleased about the number of bequests that we are receiving and how they’re contributing to the fund’s growth. When people make an end of life gift, they want it to keep giving for a long time.”

So far, the fund has been used to support the Every Step Counts Program.

“The Victoria Foundation brought this program to Cool Aid. It’s designed for people having problems with housing, whether it’s because of unemployment,

addiction or other issues. We include volunteers and employees and we gather as equals to do some stretches, walk or run as a group, and then have some nutritious food. It’s a means of bringing diverse people together in a healthy activity. We see it as very important, but we’ve found it difficult to find funding over the years.”

Moving forward, the fund can be put towards any charitable purpose at Cool Aid.

“That’s the beauty,” says Rycroft. “There are no strings attached. We can use it where it’s needed most.”

This is the first fund of its sort at Cool Aid.

“I can see the possibility of establishing other endowments in the future, perhaps for specific funds,” says Rycroft. He has ideas of funds for building maintenance or for the pets of people who are homeless or poor. “Establishing the fund has been a very positive experience. It’s truly a legacy.”

To learn more about Cool Aid and the Housing, Health, Shelter & Community Services Fund, visit www.CoolAid.org/endowment. ♦



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CELEBRATE WITH US!

Join us for some cake, and a BBQ fundraiser at our first birthday celebration on June 19th, 2015 at our Fairfield Plaza location and meet our special guest, Victoria's own, Ryan Cochrane - Olympic swimmer and Pan Am Games representative.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Proceeds from all fundraising during the month of June will go to the ALS Society and Victoria Hospice.

**For more details about celebrations at all
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"The aim of the settlement funds is to improve the social and economic wellbeing for members of these Nations."



FUNDING THE FUTURE

In 2008 and 2009 respectively, the Kwadacha and Tsay Keh Dene First Nations were awarded significant settlements by BC Hydro and the provincial government for damages resulting from the construction of the Williston Dam in the 1960s. The Victoria Foundation was selected as the trustee for these two settlements.

The aim of the settlement funds is to improve the social and economic wellbeing for members of these Nations through expenditures for broad community purposes, such as health care, educational, and spiritual and cultural facilities and programs.

"The structure of the trusts provides annual cash flow for immediate needs and projects, while the permanent

endowment portion grows and generates additional income from investment, thus providing long-term financial security so the Nations can continue to improve facilities, programs and opportunities in their communities," explains Steve McKerrell, past chair and Honorary Governor of the Victoria Foundation.

Both the reserves are remotely located, about 12 hours north of Prince George, BC. McKerrell visited in 2009 and again in 2010.

"Like most remote communities, grocery selection was poor in nutritional value and quality and very expensive."

Nevertheless, McKerrell saw evidence that the BC Hydro

settlement funding was already having an impact.

"The Kwadacha Chief and Council had hired a full-time resident healthcare provider; the school appeared to have adequate equipment and they were closer to realizing a dream to educate youth in the community through high school; there was evidence of improved housing and a general sense of optimism."

Initially, the Foundation provided what McKerrell refers to as a "roadmap" to assist in deciding where to direct the funds to meet the needs of the community within the terms of the settlement agreement.

"The Chiefs and Councils could identify and prioritize needs



The Kwadacha Nation (Tsek'ene) is commonly known as Fort Ware. Kwadacha is located 570 km north of Prince George BC.



● Prince George

that led to their implementation plans, providing timely, recognizable benefits," he explains. Over the last six years, the funds have been put towards health care, educational supplies and upgrades, a safe house for children, community green houses, a society for elders and equipment for managing reservoir lands.

The Foundation has also assisted in establishing committees with the Nations for funding off-reserve members.

Sandra Richardson, Victoria Foundation CEO, says, "We met with the community, listened to their needs and worked with them to define responsibilities, funding priorities, application procedures, approval

processes and how to be accountable to the members of their community for the funds."

McKerrell witnessed the results of this, noting "Off-reserve members of both communities had received funding for various lifestyle enhancement projects, home improvement and so forth," he says.

Drawing on its past experience of providing administrative, management and investment services for the benefit of BC First Nations, and from its knowledge of community, the Foundation's aim has been to offer the Nations guidance far beyond financial management services, including facilitating community development. In McKerrell's experience, its success is apparent.

"There was a strong hopefulness in both communities that they could become more autonomous within their communities — operate their own general store, grow food and perhaps reduce dependency on diesel generated power."

When McKerrell visited, he noted, "There was excitement around the potential of meaningful employment in the communities which provided a solid reason for members and their families to remain on the land. Chief and Council from both Nations were actively managing the present, while carefully planning for the future needs of their communities."

Now six years into the trusteeship, that future continues to offer positive change, growth and hope. ♦

A CONVERSATION

with Sandra Richardson, CEO



You joined the Victoria Foundation as CEO 14 years ago following a successful career in fundraising. What attracted you to this position? I am easily seduced by a challenge! Fourteen years ago, the Victoria Foundation was poised for change, wanting to become better known, to increase its reach and to make more impactful grants. It felt like a marvellous opportunity for me.

In the time you've been with the organization, what strikes you as the biggest change? I think the biggest change is that we have become an integral part of this community through partnerships, collaboration and new initiatives. There is more understanding of our role in building a stronger, healthier region. We are a voice in supporting our charitable sector and are known for our governance model.

Have you always been involved in the non-profit sector? I have been involved in the non-profit sector for close to 30 years and continue to love it. You see first-hand how lives are changed through philanthropy. The stories, the people and the passion make every day memorable.

Your position affords you a unique perspective of Greater Victoria. What keeps you motivated doing the work you do? My motivation comes from wanting to make a difference in our community. When you have the opportunity to meet with organizations and the amazing people working for them, you realize you are seeing the best of humanity. Working with the Foundation is exciting and rewarding as we are constantly looking for new ways to strengthen the non-

profit sector. Recently, for example, we learned how organizations were struggling to obtain bridge financing or working capital. This wasn't something we could address through grants, so we worked hard to establish a Vital Loans program in partnership with Island Savings, and together we are giving new opportunities to organizations.

What do you think are some of the biggest misconceptions about the Victoria Foundation? There are a number of misconceptions about community foundations in general. Often people don't realize we are broad in scope and fund all sectors in our community, throughout the province and even across the country. The idea that you have to be rich to make a difference through a foundation is another misconception. As we host funds for many organizations, sometimes donors will give to those funds directly, or give into the Vital Victoria Fund that addresses ongoing community needs. Sometimes they will augment a community grant with their giving. We are not all about endowments either. There is so much flexibility for people to establish their giving program through us, either for immediate needs or future endeavours.

You've accomplished a lot since you joined the foundation. Assets have grown from \$20 million to over \$250 million; annual grants have grown from \$102,000 to over \$13 million. What are you most proud of? The success and growth of the Foundation is linked to a number of factors all of which make me very proud. Firstly, a strong staff and Board team to work with. Secondly, the introduction of Vital Signs has been one of the biggest change agents for us. It focuses on listening to the community and then weaving this information into all our programs and grants. Showing

the impact of initiatives such as Every Step Counts, a running program for the marginalized, and Physical Literacy, a program for school-age children to encourage more physical activity through basic skills of running, jumping throwing and balance, are examples of the impact of Vital Signs statistics.

Despite the wonderful work of the Foundation for nearly 80 years, challenges remain. What do you consider the biggest challenge facing our community today? I think the biggest challenge for our community is to recognize the importance of the non-profit sector and be able to focus on the impact of their collective work. There is a "clutter" out there of many new ways to give, a demand for immediate information and flexibility in giving. This all translates into more transparency and accountability for the sector and a need for core funding. Through volunteering and giving back, we can build a stronger community. You make your community and your community makes you.

Looking back on your time with the Foundation, what are some of your fondest memories? Some of my fondest memories involve the difference a grant can make. Seeing what happens when a little boy coming from a challenging background is now able to read. I remember him saying to me, "This is something no one can take away from me." This is building our community from the ground up! The difference a small of amount of money can make was evident through a small grant to the LifeCycles organization a number of years ago. We provided funding for fruit bags

used by volunteers that would go and pick fruit that people had no use for from their backyards. They took it to a community centre and preserved it and then sold their goods in community markets or donated them to food banks. They were so grateful for the grant that they came back to say thank you to our Board and presented each member with a cauliflower from their gardening project!

I've heard the Victoria Foundation referred to as a leader in Canada's community foundation movement. Why do you think that is? Victoria Foundation is known as a leader in the community foundation movement because we have been bold and taken risks with new initiatives and set our goal of blooming where we are planted in this community. We are known for a high quality of staff and Board members. We were the first foundation in Canada to have the Governor General, David Johnston, arrive to launch our Smart and Caring Community initiative of Physical Literacy. And we were one of the first foundations to receive accreditation through Imagine Canada's Standards Program. ♦



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