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THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION

pulse



SUMMER 2019



VICTORIA CHINESE CULTURAL LEGACY FUND

Supporting the
community's
long-standing
heritage

Women in Technology Scholarship

Recognizing those
coding a trail into
a brave new world

FOSTERING
CONNECTIONS
TO SUPPORT
ISOLATED SENIORS

CIVIL SOCIETY IMPACT REPORT

Shining a
spotlight on
the region's
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Civil Society
Impact Report



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Grace Wong Sneddon, in Victoria's Chinatown.
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The Victoria Foundation's Grace Wong Sneddon, Board Chair, and Sandra Richardson, Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION

OUR VISION: A VIBRANT, CARING COMMUNITY FOR ALL

Established in 1936, the Victoria Foundation is Canada's second oldest community foundation and sixth largest of nearly 200 nation-wide. We manage charitable gifts from donors whose generosity allows us to create permanent, income-earning funds. The proceeds from these funds are then distributed as grants for charitable or educational purposes. To date, the Victoria Foundation has invested more than \$222 million in people, projects, and non-profit organizations that strengthen communities in BC and throughout Canada.



With an estimated 17,240 people who identify as Aboriginal, Greater Victoria is home to a rich diversity of Indigenous peoples and cultures. We would like to acknowledge that the Victoria Foundation's office is located on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people, as represented by the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

VICTORIA CHINESE CULTURAL LEGACY FUND

Supporting the community's long-standing heritage



In 1908, Grace Wong Sneddon's father came to Canada. He was a young Chinese man, immigrating from Toi-Shan county, where severe population pressure, bitter civil wars, land exhaustion, and rebellion forced many to leave. He wanted a better life for his family, and he was willing to work hard to get it. Yet it took until 1949 before his wife and son could join him in Canada. Grace Wong Sneddon was born in Victoria soon after.

It was there, in 1950s Victoria Chinatown, that Wong Sneddon learned the meaning of belonging. As a young girl, she was welcomed into the shops and doted on by friends of her parents who had redefined their own families. She remembers holidays where men her dad's age surrounded their table: many had been forced to leave partners and children behind, some were waiting for their families to arrive, and some had stopped hoping. Wong Sneddon became a foster child of sorts for those missing their own daughters, and her world was filled with care, compassion, and history.

"Despite enduring hardships, our parents and grandparents were not victims; they garnered what agency they could to provide opportunities for us to succeed," she says.

"We want to acknowledge their care and commitment to us and to helping Canada grow and prosper. As Canadian-born Chinese, we want future generations to understand and appreciate their sacrifices."

Wong Sneddon, Victoria Foundation Board Chair, worked with other members of the board and the community to create the Victoria Chinese Cultural Legacy Fund. While the Victoria Foundation has a long history of supporting Victoria's Chinese-Canadian community, this new fund is the latest in a series of initiatives and has four main objectives:

- 1** assisting with the revitalization of Victoria's Chinatown, the oldest Chinatown in Canada and second oldest in North America;
- 2** providing opportunities for Canadians of all ethnicities to engage in dialogue to learn more about each other;

- 3** assisting seniors in the Chinese community who are struggling economically and/or socially to receive support; and

- 4** helping to preserve Chinese cultural traditions for future generations.

"Supporting a link between the culture and beliefs of the [Chinese] parents and a Canadian way of life is a vital yet challenging element of belonging for this generation of Chinese-Canadians, and it plays a significant role in processes of identification," says Wong Sneddon. "We want to preserve cultural traditions for future generations so their children and grandchildren do not forget the sacrifices their grandparents made to give them these opportunities in Canada."

Former Victoria Mayor, Alan Lowe, was one of the first donors to the new fund. He believes the Foundation's efforts in supporting Chinese-Canadian culture have had a strong impact on the community.

"Giving back to your community is important, and this fund will help support

Grace Wong Sneddon, who grew up in Victoria's Chinatown, is Board Chair for the Victoria Foundation and worked with board members and the community to create the Victoria Chinese Cultural Legacy Fund.



various needs in the Chinese community that have been ignored in the past, ranging from youth activities to seniors' services," says Lowe. "I remember how hard it was for my parents and grandparents, and I would like others in the Chinese community to also give back, so we can grow this fund to benefit our community."

Wong Sneddon says the fund will be

open to any charitable groups doing work in the four identified areas. Those interested in supporting the fund are also welcome.

"This is a place of belonging for many Chinese. The reality with history is we could lose it all in the next generation," she says. "Even though we don't live in China, it's part of who we are and it's vital that, as we grow and evolve, we don't forget our path."



The Lee Mong Kow Family is depicted here in a 8' x 12' mural, one of several murals in the 500-block of Fisgard Street in Victoria's historic Chinatown.

IN ADDITION TO THE NEW FUND, THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION DIRECTS A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES TOWARDS SUPPORTING VICTORIA'S CHINESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY.

The David Lam Centre Chinese-Canadian history project

In 2011, a \$50,000 grant was given to the David Lam Centre at Simon Fraser University to support the development of educational materials about the contributions of Chinese-Canadians towards the building of Canada. These materials are for use by schools, community organizations, and the tourism industry to educate students, the public, and visitors to Canada.

Various elements of Chinese-Canadian history were included in the project, from historical photographs to the federal government's official apology in 2006 for the imposition of the Head Tax. The centre also studied specific Chinatowns in Canada, including Victoria's Chinatown, a National Historic Site.

Victoria Chinatown Community Care Foundation's support of the Care Centre

Located in the heart of Chinatown, the Victoria Chinatown Care Centre was built in 1982 and replaced the Chinese Hospital that had operated on the same site since 1899.

A \$5,000 grant to the Victoria Chinatown Community Care

Foundation was used to support areas of greatest need for the Care Centre, including the purchase of new bedding for the residents. The Victoria Chinatown Community Care Foundation also established an organization fund with the Victoria Foundation as part of the Smart and Caring Community initiative to support the Care Centre's programs and services.

Chinese-Canadian community bursaries and scholarships on Vancouver Island

Since 2011, four Vancouver Island post-secondary institutions — Camosun College, Royal Roads University, Vancouver Island University, and the University of Victoria — have each received \$10,000 annually. The grants are used to help establish awards to support the educational pursuits of individuals of Chinese origin.

Greater Victoria Public Library's Chinese language collection

A \$15,000 grant allowed the Greater Victoria Public Library to enhance its Chinese language collection, as well as provide each library branch with copies of two DVD documentaries about Chinese Canadians: *From*

Harling Point and Unwanted Soldiers. The Chinese language collection is the largest world language collection in the Greater Victoria Public Library system, and Chinese language materials are available in book form, CDs, and DVDs for adults and children. The libraries also carry Chinese language newspapers and magazines.

The Lee Mong Kow Fund to support education

The Lee Mong Kow Fund is an endowed fund held at the Victoria Foundation. It was established in 2004 through the efforts of Lee Mong Kow's granddaughter, Dorothy Yung, to honour her grandfather's dedication to learning.

Lee Mong Kow was an avid volunteer and strong advocate of education. He recognized the importance of maintaining the Chinese language and culture and, in 1899, started the Lock Quon Chinese School, which later became the Victoria Chinese Public School and still operates today. Annual distributions from the fund provide scholarships for students at the school and support the production of the school's yearbook.

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association digitization project

Rare historical documents

detailing the history of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association are housed in the archives at UVic Libraries. The documents reflect the many significant activities of the association, including protesting racial discrimination, mediating in the business community, facilitating the movement of Chinese people within Canada, making contributions to Chinese people in other parts of Canada, China, and Cuba, and supporting the creation of Chinese hospitals in British Columbia.

A \$26,000 grant to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association means those documents can be scanned, translated, and shared with the community.

Victoria Symphony's Chinatown celebration concert

In 2013, the Victoria Symphony presented "A Chinatown Celebration," a month-long festival recognizing Victoria's historic Chinatown. The showcase included an oral history of Chinatown in the 1930s, Chinese New Year celebrations, lantern-making festivities, and world-premiere performances. Preparations for this major community event started in 2011 with a \$60,000 grant to the Victoria Symphony. ■



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Newest Vital Youth School

SHOWING THE IMPORTANCE OF CARING FOR EACH OTHER

When Azuz Al-Rubaye first came to Canada, he noticed a difference in the way people took care of each other. Specifically, those who were hungry.

Al-Rubaye, originally from Iraq, had spent most of his young life as a refugee, first in Syria for five years, then in Jordan for another six. During that time, he became intimately aware of the need for food and watched as his family, friends, and neighbours did what they could to support each other.

"I know what it's like to be hungry and to see others who are hungry. I know what it's like to not have food," says Al-Rubaye. "Back home, I think our society takes care of each other more. Even if it's very little, we will share what we have. Food is one of the most basic needs, and no one should have to be without that."

Al-Rubaye is in his second year of a two-year, pre-university program at Pearson College. Pearson, which is located alongside Pedder Bay in Metchosin, is Canada's only United World College and is part of a network of 17 UWC schools worldwide. The college holds tight to its mission "to make education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future." International and intercultural understanding is a key value for the school, as are service, sustainability, and experiential learning. Al-Rubaye is one of 200 students, aged 16 to 19, from more than 100 countries and every region of Canada.

Pearson College is also the latest of nine local schools to become part of the Victoria Foundation's Vital Youth Program. Each year, dozens of students in school leadership classes or youth advisory committees participate in the Vital Youth Program, which is designed to engage youth from around the region in philanthropic efforts. The Victoria Foundation allocates \$2,500 to each team annually to distribute to federally registered charities on southern Vancouver Island. Students learn about critical issues in their community, research potential charities, and conduct interviews and on-site

visits. Each participant provides input and the team as a whole decides how to allocate the grant funds. Since the program began in 2003, youth have recommended over \$260,000 worth of grants to local charitable organizations.

"This is a really powerful way for the students to learn more about philanthropy and the needs of the community as well as grant funding," says Carly Milloy, Pearson's Director of Advancement. "We're thrilled to be partnering with the Victoria Foundation in this way, and it's been exciting to see how passionate and organized the students are about this initiative."

Milloy says the vast majority of Pearson students, nearly 90 per cent, attend the school on full or partial scholarships — an education grant. By being involved

with the Vital Youth Program, Pearson students gain an enhanced understanding of the impact a grant can have and the challenge that goes along with the selection process.

When Pearson first agreed to become part of the program, Milloy wasn't sure how to

select the student group. Unlike some schools that have leadership teams, all 200 Pearson students are considered leaders. Yet students like Al-Rubaye stood out, finding Milloy at lunch breaks to ask about details around forming the group and becoming part of the team. Once Milloy put out a call for student applications, the committee formed quickly, complete with a built-in "succession plan" so next year's Pearson Vital Youth committee will be able to learn from their processes.

"The students were very clear that they wanted to make sure new people would have the chance to dedicate the funds each year, and they're working with us on an application process, so new students can make a case for why their cause may be considered," says Milloy.

As student leader for Pearson's Vital Youth committee, Al-Rubaye worked with the others on his team to select a cause they believe in and find a way to distribute a grant. For Al-Rubaye, the cause is tied to his experiences before coming to Canada — and after he arrived.

"One of the opportunities I got to have since becoming

THIS IS A REALLY POWERFUL WAY FOR THE STUDENTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PHILANTHROPY AND THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

A photograph of three young adults standing on a wooden pier. On the left is a young man with dark hair wearing a black puffer jacket and blue jeans. In the center is a young man with a beard and curly hair wearing a grey t-shirt and a dark jacket. On the right is a young woman with blonde hair wearing a white dress and a blue jacket. They are all smiling at the camera. The background shows a body of water and some trees under a clear sky.

Three members of the Pearson College Vital Youth team (left to right): Daniel Corredor Liorente, Azuz Al-Rubaye, and Elis Soord. The Pearson College Vital Youth team chose to support organizations working to address food insecurity.

a new Canadian was volunteering at organizations focused on building food security,” says Al-Rubaye. “I was really inspired by the work they do, so my classmates and I decided that considering them for our grant would be a good way to help a lot of people.”

Choosing organizations working to address food insecurity not only relates to Al-Rubaye’s personal experience but also connects to Goal #2 (zero hunger) of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 goals created to transform the world by 2030. The SDG connection isn’t by chance. Pearson became a member of the Vital Youth team of schools just as the Victoria Foundation integrated the SDGs into the program. Now students are asked to consider the connection between the global goals and local charitable initiatives, then select an SDG as a theme around which to frame their granting.

The Pearson students visited three organizations and ultimately decided to split the funds between two: Victoria’s Rainbow Kitchen and Living Edge, which both work to address food insecurity in the region.

“A lot of people might be surprised to know that it actually takes very little money to make a difference. In some of the places we visited, for example, just \$10 can feed three people,” says Al-Rubaye. “If there’s anything I’ve learned since being here, it’s that we can all find a way to do more to help each other. That’s what I plan to do.”

Vital Youth is a program that leaves a lasting impression on participants.

“What’s really remarkable about these students and their level of engagement is that they’re thrilled to sign up for this in addition to their rigorous studies and their other practices and activities,” says Milloy. “These are young people who believe strongly in making a difference in their world.” ■

GRANT SPOTLIGHT

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1



Elders, knowledge keepers, youth, and families attend the Xwaaqw'um Cultural Plan Gathering. The group is creating an ecological restoration plan and re-engaging youth in traditional cultural practices.

CHRISTINA MARSHALL

COMMITTED TO **POSITIVE ACTION** **TOWARDS RECONCILIATION**

The conversation around truth and reconciliation has grown stronger, both across Turtle Island (North America) and in individual communities, where change is aching to take place.

In 2018, the Victoria Foundation supported a number of projects working towards decolonization and reconciliation in our region. These initiatives challenge existing colonial frameworks, centre around Indigenous wisdom, and are grounded in relationships to the land.

A recent grant to the Stqee'ye' Learning Society is supporting cultural and ecological

restoration work at Xwaaqw'um, also known as Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park on Salt Spring Island. As land remains central to culture, ceremony, and community for many Indigenous people, reconciliation relies on the re-connection of people to their territories and traditional stewardship practices.

"The erasure of Indigenous peoples and their ways of life on their homelands continues — sometimes in less obvious ways," says Joe Akerman, General Manager of the Stqee'ye' Learning Society. "It's everyone's responsibility, living on Coast Salish land, to respect the laws of the land

and the ways of being here."

The Village of Xwaaqw'um has been home to the Quw'utsun people since time immemorial and is an important place for harvesting, as well as for cultural and ceremonial purposes. Living in relationship with the land and sea has been a vital component of the ecological integrity of the area.

The \$29,718 grant will help bring Quw'utsun elders and knowledge keepers together with residents to create an ecological restoration plan, as well as re-engage Indigenous youth in traditional cultural practices. The plan will serve as a

foundation for healing human relationships, revitalizing traditional food systems, and increasing ecological resilience at Xwaaqw'um.

"In many ways, we've all lost our connection to the land, whether we're Indigenous to this land or our roots are from somewhere else," says Akerman. "It's important to re-establish or strengthen those connections to the land, with leadership from local Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers."

The plan will serve as a foundation for healing human relationships, revitalizing traditional food systems, and increasing ecological resilience at Xwaaqw'um.

In an effort to bring truth to the forefront, the Victoria Foundation is also supporting a new initiative from the University of Victoria Libraries to decolonize the archive. A grant of \$30,000 aims to provide Indigenous communities with better access to the history of colonial settlement. The Colonial Despatches is an archive of historical records detailing correspondence between British authorities and the governors of Vancouver Island and B.C. from 1846 to 1871. It is the only digital archive of its type from the time period and contains many significant records; however, most documents are largely inaccessible.

A team of UVic researchers will work in collaboration with the First Peoples' Cultural Council and Union of BC Indian Chiefs to improve access to the Despatches by revising and enhancing search terms and developing a newly engineered search interface to make the data useful to Indigenous peoples. Researchers hope this will bring recognition to the impact colonization had on land and culture, as well as provide tools to support land claims and treaty negotiations.

"By addressing colonialism within these knowledge management systems, the grant from the Victoria Foundation helps UVic

and UVic Libraries in our efforts towards reconciliation," says Christine Walde, the Grants and Awards Librarian with UVic Libraries. "Historically, libraries have been colonizing forces that have collected, shaped, and preserved dominant cultural narratives. I am proud to have helped contribute towards this grant and to have helped empower our collaborators towards changing these knowledge systems."

This past year, a \$134,636 grant from the Foundation's Community Impact Fund also made possible the launch of the WSÁNEĆ Field School, a program created by a partnership between UVic's Faculty of Law and the WSÁNEĆ School Board. A matching gift from the Sisters of Saint Ann will support the program for a second year in 2020.

The course, which introduces law students to the re-emergence of WSÁNEĆ law, engaged 12 UVic law students, two law students from other Canadian universities, and WSÁNEĆ community learners in a four-month immersion course in WSÁNEĆ culture, beliefs, and laws. The course includes both class time and community-based learning to examine real-time issues, from family and child welfare to natural

resource projects and environmental rehabilitation. To complete the program, students take two field school courses towards a joint degree in Canadian and Indigenous law.

"This is a tangible example of reconciliation in action, from the number of partners involved to the conversations we saw happening," says UVic Law Professor John Borrows, who is Ojibway from Ontario. "We have, right under our noses, so much wisdom that we are not making use of. This has been an opportunity to highlight something that was there all along." ■



Right: The Pi'kwun Fire Celebration and salmon barbecue, held during the first launching of the Xwaaqw'um canoe.

Below: Tousilum (Ron George) and son Benny George attend the 2016 Welcome Pole Unveiling Ceremony at Xwaaqw'um.



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUPPORT ISOLATED SENIORS

2

A trend showed up in the Victoria Foundation's 2018 community grant applications: a growing number focused on supporting isolated seniors.

Applicants asked for help with a variety of efforts, emphasizing the critical link between social activity and health. As reported in the 2018 *Victoria's Vital Signs*, people who are less socially connected are at greater risk of premature death. In keeping with its vision to make our community stronger and our shared quality of life better, the Victoria Foundation responded by dedicating a number of grants to support isolated seniors.

The Capital City Volunteer Services Association received a \$15,000 grant for their Neighbour to Neighbour program, a self-sustaining volunteer network of older adult residents in four condominium buildings along Humboldt. The idea is to encourage senior residents to help each other in an ongoing effort to build connection.

"Helping your neighbour is really one of the oldest ideas out there, but we've lost that in our society, and we hope this initiative will bring it back," says Kaye Kennish, Executive Director of Capital City Volunteer Services.

Kennish says funds will allow the group to hire a consultant, train residents, and provide assessment of volunteer readiness. An overarching goal is to develop this as a model that could be replicated in other neighbourhoods.

"Isolation is a real challenge we see in our community with seniors, yes, but also with new moms or people who



Broadmead Care's Helping Seniors Remain Independent bus program is meeting a growing need for transportation for seniors to buy groceries, fill prescriptions, and shop, thereby, helping to address social isolation.

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Volunteers with the Galiano Community Food Program make and distribute meals to residents all over Galiano Island.

have mobility or other issues,” says Kennish. “This program is a chance for people to consider reviving their skills and realize they can still make a difference.”

The Mayne Island Assisted Living Society has also received a \$15,000 grant for their Seniors Lunch and Social program. Twice each month, seniors gather for healthy lunches, as well as educational talks, entertainment, outings, and opportunities for social connections.

“With a population of just over 1,000, our entire island is run by volunteers, and a majority of those are seniors,” says Jody Waldie, Board Chair for Mayne Island Assisted Living. “We don’t have the infrastructure of a larger city, but our food is sourced locally and subsidized heavily so everyone can feel welcome.”

Waldie says the lunches have an average of 35 or more attendees and have become something many rely on, especially those who experience little social interaction.

“This isn’t just a chance for people to eat but is also a chance to make friends and get to know their community,” says Waldie. “The attendees support one another, and everyone keeps watch for those who need extra support. We couldn’t do any of this without the help of the Victoria Foundation.”

The Victoria Foundation also extended a helping hand to the Broadmead Care Society: a \$19,089 grant for their Helping Seniors Remain Independent bus program. The program started in November 2017 as a pilot to meet growing demand for transportation so seniors could buy groceries, fill prescriptions, and shop. Broadmead Care provides the vehicle and



support staff, while its community partners provide volunteers and clients.

A \$20,000 grant was provided to the Capital Regional District for their Connect and Prepare program, which helps seniors become better prepared to meet challenges, stresses, and emergencies. Building Resilient Neighbourhoods, Victoria Ready, and Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC) partnered to deliver the program in multi-unit buildings and complexes. Neighbours get to know each

“Helping your neighbour is really one of the oldest ideas out there, but we’ve lost that in our society, and we hope this initiative will bring it back.”

other while learning about short-term acute emergencies, like earthquakes and flooding, and longer-term chronic stresses, like health challenges and climate change. Participants can also identify their unique assets and skills to create collective projects based on shared priorities.

The Galiano Club received a \$30,000 grant for their Building Community One Meal at a Time program. Since 2008, the Galiano Community Food Program has grown steadily to include an array of

programs, from games nights, activities, and a community greenhouse to lunches, dinners, and community-wide potlucks.

The funding also supports several new pilots, including a quiet games night, specialized recipes for people with chronic diseases, and reusable/returnable containers for soups and meals. Almost 60 per cent of Galiano Island residents use the program each year.

“The funding from Victoria Foundation has been critical to our success,” says Jane Wolverton, President of the Galiano Club. “The food program was established to address the food insecurity that was evident on the island at the time. This funding has ensured seniors have access to nutritious, low-cost meals and regular opportunities to socialize.”

While 28 per cent of the population is over age 70, Galiano Island has no assisted-living facility so many regularly rely on food-program meals, as well as social activities at the community hall — come rain or shine.

“This past winter, we held the scheduled Winter Solstice Potluck Dinner the day after the terrible storm. With no power, we had 160 people turn out for dinner in a hall lit by candles,” says Wolverton. “Our generators powered the kitchen and the choir used headlamps to read their music. People said we should do this every year!” ■

TRANSGENDER TIPPING POINT

Maisie was 11 years old when she told her family she wanted to be a girl. It was over dinner, and she remembers her parents telling her they would support her in any way they could. It wasn't the first time it had come up. From the time she was a small child, Maisie loved dressing in girl's clothing. In fact, classmates were as used to seeing her wearing dresses as anything else. But, it wasn't until Grade 5, when she heard about a famous athlete's experience, that Maisie knew transitioning was possible.

"I'd always wanted to be a girl, but I didn't know you could do that," says Maisie, now 14. "When I told my family, I guess they weren't very surprised. They just wanted to help me."

Maisie is quick to acknowledge her experience isn't always a common one. In fact, it's one of the reasons she's part of Transgender Tipping Point (TTP), a community project spearheaded by UVic, the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, and other community partners to support youth in the early stages of gender exploration and transition.

The project launched last year with 12 participants, ages 10-18, who focused on sharing their experiences through writing. The cohort published a soon-to-be released anthology of poetry and prose that broadens existing narratives of trans youth.

This year, the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association received a \$20,000 grant from the Victoria Foundation to host two weekend-long artistic retreats, empowering trans youth to learn, grow, and socialize within their own community. The program will culminate in an exhibition at the Legacy Art Gallery. The project provides trans youth with the opportunity to connect with trans peers

and mentors, build leadership skills, and express their creativity. Workshops offered at this year's retreats include sculpture, button making, drag make-up, and zine creation, among others.

UVic's Dr. Lindsay Herriot, Project Manager for TTP, helped launch the group and applied for the Victoria Foundation grant because of its proven track record of supporting vulnerable communities.

Maisie's mom, Katrina, says the group has given their family a great sense of support for the kids and the parents.

"I was inspired to launch the program through my PhD research with LGBTQ youth, which found a distinct lack of trans-specific programming and spaces," says Herriot, who notes that a crucial part of the program was ensuring it would be run and operated by leaders in the trans community. "Trans youth are such a small minority that they can be overshadowed in larger LGBTQ spaces. This program centres around trans youth explicitly."

The project addresses the gap in programs and services for trans youth, who experience some of the highest levels of marginalization and stigma, leading to higher rates of poverty, barriers to healthcare, and mental health challenges.

"The research shows that transgender youth who aren't supported don't survive to adulthood," says Kori Doty, an Adult Mentor and Camp Director with TTP. "It's important to realize that a lot of these youth are still discovering their relationship with their gender and, for some, there's an expectation it will only keep evolving.

This is a chance for them to take off their armour and take a deep breath."

Doty says TTP gives youth a chance to feel supported in a way they may not be at home. From a dozen participants in the first gathering to 35 participants in the second cohort, the numbers speak for themselves.

Maisie's mom, Katrina, says the group has given their family a great sense of support for the kids and the parents. The retreat includes a session for families of trans youth to learn and ask questions about trans healthcare and how to best support the trans youth in their lives.

"It is challenging to navigate this world as a young person. Then, to do that as a trans youth, well, it's all the more important to have a place to go where you can have supportive adults and role models around and meet people who aren't just doing 'all right' but are doing really well. It makes all the difference," says Katrina. "This helps us build strong kids who are confident and resilient. That makes them safer."

Katrina says she and her husband fiercely support Maisie, but it's a big learning curve. "All you can really do is be as affirming as possible, and that is what protects kids more than anything else you could do," says Katrina. "You won't always get it right, and sometimes you'll use the wrong pronoun, but if your child sees you're trying your best, and they see how much you love them, they feel it."

While Maisie says she's been fortunate to have a supportive class at school, she believes TTP is a place she will always belong. "TTP is where people can go to be who they are," she says. "I hope everyone knows you don't have to change yourself to fit inside some carbon cast the world has told you to belong in. The world should change for you." ■

3

Transgender Tipping Point is a community project that addresses the critical gap in programs and services for trans youth. Maisie describes it as a place "people can go to be who they are."



COMMUNITY GRANTS AT A GLANCE

In 2018, the Victoria Foundation approved **\$2,235,053** in annual Community Grants to 106 local non-profit organizations.



LITERACY PROGRAMS

DECODA LITERACY FOUNDATION

Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters

Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters (IPALS) is a training model for teachers, early childhood educators, and tutors, so they can help newcomer parents become literacy supporters for their children.

A \$12,360 grant will allow the Decoda Literacy Foundation to bring this province-wide training model to the capital region for community educators, settlement organizations, and other groups. IPALS also aims to connect educational and settlement organizations and individuals with common goals to collaboratively support space for learning and belonging for newcomers.

FRONTIER COLLEGE LITERACY CATALYST

With a \$20,000 grant, Frontier College is partnering with T'Sou-ke First Nation to mentor and train a local Community Literacy Catalyst. This worker will support literacy and learning by raising awareness, conducting outreach, and working directly with people and families. Where possible, the worker will help community-serving organizations and services build literacy support into program offerings. Immediate benefits to the T'Sou-ke community members will include greater learning engagement and confidence.

The project is designed for sustainability, with the long-term goal of increasing high school graduation rates and improving individual and community well-being.



FRIENDS OF THE DOMINION ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY SOCIETY

Touching the Stars: Science Education in the CRD

Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory Society's Touching the Stars initiative creates partnerships with schools to provide hands-on astronomy and science education to students throughout the capital region and develops special learning events for student populations under-represented in the sciences.

Supported by a \$14,976 grant, this project enriches the science curriculum

of area schools and seeks to spark student interest in careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), develop critical thinking skills, highlight local science resources and opportunities, and attract diverse individuals to science.



PACIFIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE BLIND SOCIETY

Blind People in Charge

A \$10,000 grant is supporting a three-days-a-week program in the capital region for blind, deafblind, and low-vision adults. Offered through the Pacific Training Centre for the Blind Society, blind instructors serve as role models, teaching the basics of independence and blindness-specific employment-readiness skills, such as Braille, adaptive technology, cane travel, transportation, cooking, and other skills. The program connects participants with community resources, such as housing and financial aid, and focuses on a positive approach to blindness to empower blind people to take charge of their own lives.



PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION Community Counselling Program

Pacific Centre Family Services Association's community-based Affordable Counselling Program provides low-cost clinical counselling to over 350 individuals, couples, and families annually. This strengths-based, inclusive approach provides high-quality counselling to people facing economic barriers and prepares them to obtain and sustain the education, jobs, health services, housing, and social networks they need to fully participate in their communities.

A \$40,000 grant will expand the clinical internship program for graduate students, which, in turn, will significantly increase the number of families it serves in the capital region.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61

Oaklands Totem/ Legacy Project

A \$26,000 grant will help engage Oaklands Elementary students, staff, parents, and community in a school-wide, minds-on, hands-on, multi-grade, collaborative, and cross-curricular project.

Project highlights include carving a totem under the guidance of renowned Kwagiulth/Coast Salish artist Carey Newman, the integration of First Nations culture across classwork and subject matter, and the documentation and assessment of the entire process. A documentary will be created to inspire other schools around the city and province to host similar initiatives.



ANGLICAN SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BC Refugees Involved in Community

The Anglican Diocese of BC provides humanitarian assistance to refugees by welcoming newcomers to the region, assisting them in integrating, and encouraging them to become self-sufficient. Volunteers orient the newcomers to language and settlement programs, health services, and the Canadian workplace, while emotionally and financially supporting them.

Currently, more than 625 volunteers work in the program and are privately sponsoring 268 refugees. Last year, the Diocese successfully settled 159 refugees. A grant of \$37,000 will allow program staff to coordinate volunteers and provide supports and services to refugee resettlement.



GEORGIA STRAIT ALLIANCE

Protecting Marine Species at Risk in Greater Victoria

The continued losses suffered by the Southern resident killer whale population, whose critical habitat includes the waters of Greater Victoria, necessitate urgent action by governments, communities, and citizens.

A \$20,000 grant is supporting Georgia Strait Alliance's advocacy and collaborative work on orca recovery, wild salmon, and marine protected areas, along with coordinated public education and mobilization. These efforts are essential for saving this species and its habitat and protecting all 118 marine species at risk in Greater Victoria. The organization has doubled the resources committed to this project to ensure its success.

SWOVA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH SOCIETY R.E.A.L. (Respectful, Equitable, Authentic, Life- long) Relationships Program

The R.E.A.L. Relationships Program aims to teach youth the personal and social skills and tools necessary to develop and maintain life-long, healthy, respectful, safe relationships. The program also engages students Grades 6-8 to think critically about issues of systemic violence, including sexual and/or physical violence.

A \$10,000 grant will support two adult facilitators (one male and one female) and up to two youth facilitators for 10 workshops per classroom at Salt Spring Island Middle School.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL GRANTS

ISLAND NETWORK IS STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES IN VICTORIA — AND BEYOND

The Victoria Foundation has supported the expansion of the Neighbourhood Small Grants program to support neighbourhood-level projects in a network of communities on Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands.

Arts projects, community gardens, intergenerational storytelling, block parties, kids' biking clinics, and even a canning workshop — the list goes on and on. These are just a few of the many projects that have brought communities together over recent years.

While the projects stand out for their uniqueness, a common thread connects them all. Each one was led by an individual or small group from within a community — and they all received a Neighbourhood Small Grant to launch their project.

The Neighbourhood Small Grants program was developed by the Vancouver Foundation in 1999. In 2015, the Victoria Foundation partnered with the Vancouver Foundation to launch the program in the Hillside-Quadra neighbourhood. The way it works is simple: grants of up to \$500 fund projects that connect and engage neighbours, share skills and knowledge, build a sense of community belonging, and respect and celebrate neighbourhood diversity. The program has grown, with three Victoria neighbourhoods — North Park,



One of the most successful recent projects for the Salt Spring Island Foundation is the Creative Collective, a series of free arts-and-crafts workshops.

Oaklands, and Burnside — added in 2017. It expanded again in 2018, but this time across Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands to form a regional network.

“Working together with Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, who have also had a program since 2015, we supported four new communities to launch programs this year: Parksville-Qualicum, Nanaimo, Salt Spring Island, and the Mt. Waddington area,” says Emily Wiesenthal, Community Initiatives

Specialist at the Victoria Foundation.

“We’re excited to see this small but powerful program expand to strengthen communities across the island.”

The goal of the new network is to increase belonging, neighbourhood connection, and resiliency across Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands, as well as foster connections among regional community foundations and other community partners.

“The programs in Nanaimo, Salt Spring

Find more information, including upcoming Vital Conversations, at victoriafoundation.bc.ca/category/vital-conversation/

CIVIL SOCIETY IMPACT REPORT

Shining a spotlight on the
region's robust civil sector

A little more than a year ago, University of Victoria researcher Dr. Crystal Tremblay and Victoria Foundation CEO Sandra Richardson had a conversation about the impact of charities in the local community. Wouldn't it be incredible, they both agreed, if there was a way to measure the work of civil society?

This sector, rooted in volunteering and gifts in kind, has been historically difficult to assess. Richardson's experience within the business community had been that, without evidence of measurable economic value, civil society was being dismissed as not having an economic impact. However, one thing the Victoria Foundation and UVic understood was that Victoria's civil society is a robust part of the community.

What started as a discussion soon became a partnership between the Foundation and the University. The result: the first Civil Society Impact Report, which examines the

social impact and economic activity of civil society, also referred to as the charitable or third sector, for the 2016 fiscal year.

The report, a first of its kind nationwide, was developed to help residents and stakeholders better understand what this sector brings to the community and to help strengthen its value. Those involved hoped to find a way to illustrate how the charitable sector is vital to the area's economy and the well-being of its citizens, whether people recognize it or not. As the report notes: "From sports groups to child care, seniors' services to beach clean-ups, and thousands of other initiatives, our interactions with civil society are as ubiquitous as any other sector."

"This report really shines a light on both the achievements and the necessity of the sector," says Richardson. "Since the report has come out, we've noticed an incredible curiosity about civil society, both locally and abroad. It makes people ask, 'What would the community do without this sector?'"

JEFFREY BOSDET/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING



CAPTURING THE IMPACT

Prior to this report, research at the regional, national, and international levels on the impact of civil society had been scattered and inconclusive. There was little consistency on what to measure or the scale with which it should be measured. Yet, as the region's largest non-government funder, the Victoria Foundation was keen to learn more about those it supported.

The report took eight months of surveys, data collection, and research, and it acknowledges a number of major

Researcher Dr. Crystal Tremblay led the University of Victoria partnership with the Victoria Foundation for the Civil Society Impact Report.



key findings, including the fact that the total direct economic activity of registered charitable organizations in the capital region is just over \$4 billion. That funding supports the equivalent of 63,000 jobs and over \$300 million in municipal taxes.

When considering the induced multiplier effect (a ripple effect in the economy), the economic activity of charities comes in at over \$6.8 billion, which creates the equivalent of 122,000 jobs and almost \$584 million in municipal taxes. And this is in a region where the gross domestic product

is roughly \$20 billion, up from the \$17.289 billion reported by Statistics Canada in 2013, the most recent available figures for the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area.

“I was surprised by the numbers,” says Tremblay, lead researcher on the report and an Assistant Professor in UVic’s Department of Geography. “We knew the impact would be big, qualitatively, but when we started pulling the data, we could see how much this sector fuels the economy in Victoria. It doesn’t get the attention of tech or tourism, but it’s huge. The report shows how generous

“This report really shines a light on both the achievements and the necessity of the sector.”

— SANDRA RICHARDSON,
VICTORIA FOUNDATION CEO

people in the CRD are and how deeply they care about our society.”

The report also looked at the social impact of the sector and examined its diversity in scope and breadth. Researchers received over 150 open-ended examples of impact recorded at the individual, community, or systems levels from organizations that ranged from those with almost no funding to those with multi-million-dollar budgets.

To start organizing the data, the report was drafted through the lens of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 goals created to transform the world by 2030. When viewed through this frame, the five most important areas of impact for Victoria’s civil society showed up in this order:

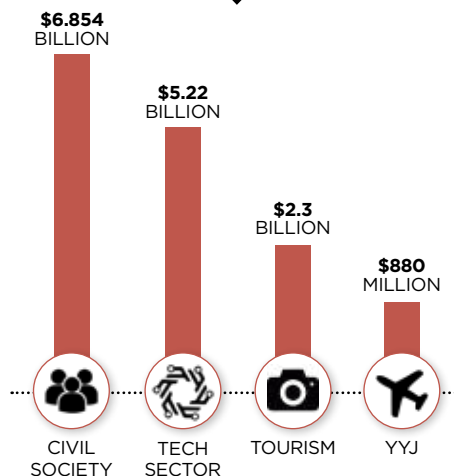
- ▶ **Goal 3** Good health and well-being
- ▶ **Goal 4** Quality education
- ▶ **Goal 16** Peace, justice, and strong institutions
- ▶ **Goal 5** Gender equality
- ▶ **Goal 11** Sustainable cities and communities

“There was a real question as to how we were going to be able to capture the data, and thinking globally seemed like the most important way we could move forward,” says Tremblay. “This was really a novel project in terms of looking not just at the economics, but also at the societal impact, which can be more challenging to quantify. It’s a real opportunity to get to know about each other, share resources, and build on what is happening collectively.”

LOCAL EFFORT TOWARDS GLOBAL GOALS

While the research data revealed significant impact from this sector across five SDGs, it also demonstrated impact in all 17 goals. Although the report reflects the unique values of the region, researchers note this is all part of a larger conversation. With approximately 86,000 registered charities nationwide, the sector currently accounts for \$251 billion in total annual revenue in Canada with a total in annual expenditures of \$240 billion. And donations reported by Canadian tax filers reached \$8.9 billion in 2016.

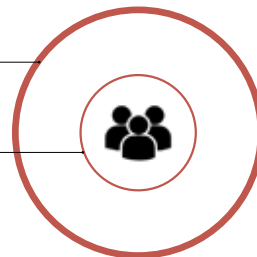
CIVIL SOCIETY COMPARED TO OTHER SECTORS



GDP CANADA (2017)
\$1.653 TRILLION USD

GDP VICTORIA (2013)
\$17.223 BILLION

CIVIL SOCIETY ECONOMIC IMPACT (2016)
\$6.854 BILLION



Richardson says the report offers a great deal of insight about Victoria as a community.

“The capital region is home to a strong and vibrant civil society that is broad in its scope, and it contributes significantly to the development and prosperity of the region,” she says. “It also marks a significant local contribution to a collective global agenda for sustainable development.”

Dr. Brock Smith, a Professor in UVic’s Faculty of Business, performed the report’s economic impact analysis and says using such broad data was crucial in developing a fuller idea of the sector’s impact.

“It’s important to assess different aspects of a community, because this serves as a barometer for how well these aspects are performing and provides a benchmark to

measure progress,” he says. “The approach we took was interesting because of the breadth of criteria utilized. Since then, we’ve received interest from other communities and other sectors in Greater Victoria to do similar work.”

As the report demonstrates the strength of the community, Tremblay believes organizations will be able to use it as an incentive to leverage additional funding, grants, or policy. Though each sector will have diverse needs, the national, provincial, and municipal governments, businesses, academic institutions, and charities themselves will be able to build on this work.

LEGITIMIZING THE SECTOR

Andy Telfer, Executive Director of the WITS Programs Foundation, says a report like this is groundbreaking.

“The public, in general, has limited knowledge of the impact of the charitable sector, and this helps to let people know about the importance of the work we do,” says Telfer, who also holds the position of Vice President with Volunteer BC. “This report legitimizes the efforts of non-profits in a way we haven’t seen before. We recognize social change is necessary, but many people in the CRD don’t realize that some of the greatest impact comes without monetary relevance.”

Many, like Telfer, understand this report will go a long way in giving charities like WITS and others the legitimacy they’ve been waiting for. In the meantime, the Victoria Foundation will continue to promote the passionate work for which Victoria’s robust charitable sector is known.

“This sector hasn’t always had a big voice, but it has a huge impact,” says Richardson. “There’s a need for understanding how we fit into the greater economy, as well as the social and environmental fabric of the community. No one else does what we do, and my guess is no one can do it with as much commitment and efficiency as this sector either.” ■

Sources

Tech sector: <https://www.viatec.ca/articles/economic-impact-of-the-technology-sector-in-greater-victoria>
 Tourism: https://www.tourismvictoria.com/sites/default/files/economic_impact_of_tourism_in_greater_victoria_may_2018.pdf
 YYJ: <http://www.victoriaairport.com/news/2018/victoria-international-airport-facilitates-economic-growth>
 Government of Canada:
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3610010301>
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3610046801>



Vital Charities

The best place to discover local organizations
that matter most to you



Vital Charities is an online resource that fosters connections to charities within our community. Whether you are an individual community member, business leader, educational institution, or non-profit organization, Vital Charities can assist you in discovering the causes that matter most to you and the ways you can provide support.

Using the Vital Charities website, you can:

- 1 SEARCH** hundreds of local organizations that have received grants from the Victoria Foundation or hold a Victoria Foundation endowment fund.
- 2 EXPLORE** your community and connect with programs and projects working in various areas of need.
- 3 DISCOVER** the innovative and effective solutions local organizations are undertaking to address issues raised in the *Victoria's Vital Signs®* report.
- 4 LEARN** about the ways you can help make a difference, whether you are an individual or family, charitable organization, business, or professional advisor.



Organization Name	Address	Phone	Website	Vital Signs	Endowment Fund
Arts & Culture Foundation	1000 ...	...	...	...	...
Arts & Culture Foundation	1000 ...	...	...	...	...
Arts & Culture Foundation	1000 ...	...	...	...	...
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Search by keyword to find the charities that interest you ...

... or by Vital Signs issue, for example. Toggle the arrow at the top of the column to sort.

Start your search here, at Vital Charities:
victoriafoundation.bc.ca/victorias-vital-charities

Women in Technology Scholarship

Recognizing those coding a trail into a brave new world

Emma Jackson is just completing her second year in the mechanical engineering program at the University of British Columbia. That in itself may not seem like a milestone — except that it is. At age 19, Jackson is one of only a dozen women in her program of 120 people.

Jackson, a North Saanich local, is gentle and soft spoken, though you can hear the sparks in her voice when she speaks about her plans to enter the world of robotics, or when she tells you about the sense of belonging she felt when she first joined the university's Thunderbots Robot Soccer Club.

From the time she was young, she was entranced by the way mechanical and electrical machines worked. When she discovered the world of mechatronics — where these two overlap and result in autonomous robots — she was transfixed. Even though her academics, aptitude, interest, and talent got her most of the way there, there was a glitch she wasn't expecting: gender stereotyping.

"In first-year general engineering, I was in a classroom of, maybe, one quarter girls. By second year, and the more specialized you get, that number lowers until, sometimes, you are the only girl in a class," says Jackson. "Unconsciously, you aren't treated equally. You have a disadvantage, and everything is just a little bit harder."

Stories like that are the reason Jackson and nine other young women were awarded \$10,000 each through the Women in Technology and Indigenous Women in Technology Scholarships program from the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society.

"This scholarship program was

created in response to the very real fact that young women are significantly under-represented in the tech sector," says Rory Grewar, Program Director for the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society and also Director of Special Funds at the Victoria Foundation.

While studies show women often graduate with higher marks in mathematics and computer science at the high school level, they often choose not to complete advanced education or pursue careers in these sectors. The fund that supports this award is part of the Victoria Foundation's commitment to support equality, diversity, and fair representation.

"A scholarship like this doesn't just help support the recipient financially, it also highlights her achievement and helps bring some prominence and notoriety to women who are pursuing education and careers in the technology sector," says Grewar.

The Women in Technology Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, as well as a demonstrated commitment to pursuing a career in computer science, engineering, or mathematics. That designation was created to reflect the fact that women see significant representation in bio and medical technologies — 59 per cent of graduates in these fields are women in the B.C. public post-secondary system. However, women are under-represented in computer science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with only 37 per cent graduating from post-secondary in these disciplines.

Despite these numbers, the tech sector in B.C. is one of the fastest growing divisions of the economy, generating about \$29 billion in revenue and supporting over 106,000 jobs. The province is home to more than 10,200

THE 2018 WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- ▶ **Emilie Boras** from Penticton – UBC, mechanical engineering
- ▶ **Alexandra Deane** from Nelson – UVic, computer science/math
- ▶ **Emma Jackson** from North Saanich – UBC, mechanical engineering
- ▶ **Natella Jafarova** from Victoria – UVic, statistics
- ▶ **Giulia Mattia** from Burnaby – UBC, computer science
- ▶ **Emily Medema** from Vernon – UBCO, computer science
- ▶ **Angelina Pinchbeck** from Kelowna – UBCO, mathematics/computer science
- ▶ **Marlie Russell** from Williams Lake – UBCO, computer science
- ▶ **Jobina Tamminga*** from Big Cedar – UBC, computer science
- ▶ **Amy Zhu** from Vancouver – UBC, computer science

** Jobina Tamminga is the recipient of the Indigenous Women in Technology Scholarship.*

Scholarship recipient Natella Jafarova is studying statistics at the University of Victoria and says the scholarship is a huge financial contribution and “a vote of confidence” that she is doing the right thing.

tech businesses. Supporters hope the award will inspire more women to consider these fields.

Natella Jafarova, another award recipient, is originally from Azerbaijan and immigrated to Canada 11 years ago to become a Victoria resident. She is studying statistics in her fourth year at the University of Victoria and has a deep interest in “big data” — large amounts of measurable information. One day, Jafarova hopes to use this system to influence the province’s medical system. She would like to see B.C. provide more comprehensive healthcare by allowing patients to keep all their data in one place.

“A scholarship like this is such a huge financial contribution, and it’s also a vote of confidence. It’s like someone saying, ‘Yes, you are doing the right thing.’ And that means a lot,” says Jafarova, who notes that while her parents have always been supportive of her pursuits, she has extended family in Turkey who ridicule her for her unconventional studies. “A lot of people where I’m from don’t understand why I’m not just married with kids. I know the world of math and tech is a place I can make a difference, and I hope other women see that, too.”

The Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society received over 110 applications for this latest round and anticipates higher numbers next round.

“The sheer number and exceptional calibre of not just the award recipients but of all applicants speaks volumes about the contributions made and the contributions that women will inevitably make to this province,” says Rajiv Gandhi, Chair of the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society. “The namesake of our society believed strongly in education as the basis for equality, progress, and personal and professional satisfaction. We are humbled to

steward this award and to play our part in encouraging the advancement of women in science.”

Students like Jackson and Jafarova express gratitude for the opportunities the scholarship brings but also hope it will support other women.

“I hope one day I can be a mentor to encourage other girls who are considering entering this industry,” Jackson says. “Stereotypes are real, but the more we recognize them, the more we can go out of our way to make sure everyone’s voice is heard.” ■

JEFFREY BOSDET/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING





**VICTORIA
FOUNDATION**

VICTORIA'S VITAL SIGNS

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

85%

WOULD DESCRIBE
THEMSELVES AS HAPPY



69%

rate their general sense of
physical well-being as high.

The Victoria Foundation takes an active role in addressing issues of concern in our community. *Victoria's Vital Signs* focuses on 12 of the key issues, including giving each a grade based on public opinion findings and presenting some of the ways the issues are being addressed.

QUALITY OF LIFE IN GREATER VICTORIA

Participants in the 2018 Vital Signs survey were generally very positive about their quality of life and feelings of connectedness to their community.



90% agree or strongly agree that it is every citizen's duty to vote.



66% agree or strongly agree that it is every citizen's duty to engage in activities that strengthen democracy.



64% feel Greater Victoria is welcoming to new Canadians.



57%

of transgender individuals report frequently feeling uncomfortable as a result of discrimination.

85%

FEEL SUPPORTED BY LOVING FAMILY, COMPANIONS, AND/OR FRIENDS.

2018 FEATURE STORY

GLOBAL GOALS,
LOCAL ACTION



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals help Victorians focus on ending poverty, fighting inequality, tackling climate change, and more.





Get your copy of VITAL SIGNS at VICTORIAFOUNDATION.CA or at #200-703 Broughton Street in Victoria.

QUOTES FROM SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

I have nothing against bike lanes, but they have to make sense. Slowing traffic that used to flow well, so cars are now sitting idling through three or four light changes before getting through some intersections when there used to be no backups is the very antithesis of "green."

Due to expensive housing, Victoria is virtually unaffordable. However, for those that have homes and decent incomes, the standard of living in Victoria is very good.

I'm a 62-year-old female and have lived here for 12 years. I've never felt unsafe in Victoria.

Increase social/cultural areas for adult newcomers (particularly those without children). It's common to find these people commenting on how lonely they are since they've moved to Victoria.

There are many spaces, indoors and outdoors, that have arts and culture festivities. It works well and there are plenty.

VITAL VICTORIA PODCASTS

EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO CREATE A TRULY VITAL VICTORIA



What does it mean to belong in a community? What are some of the ways people are tackling environmental sustainability challenges? And with high real estate costs, low vacancy rates, and homelessness issues, what kind of housing initiatives are being discussed?

Vital Victoria Podcasts take a deep dive into issues critical to our quality of life on the South Island. You'll hear on-location interviews with community thought leaders, such as Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps, Synergy Enterprises Founder Jill Doucette, Saanich Mayor Fred Haynes, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria CEO Jean McRae,

Victoria Chamber of Commerce CEO Catherine Holt, and many others.

Guided by hosts Robert Janus and Veronica Cooper, along with our field reporter Kyle Wells, each episode of Vital Victoria takes a closer look at one of the key issue areas explored in the annual *Victoria's Vital Signs* report.

You'll find them all at victoriafoundation.bc.ca, as well as on iTunes or wherever you find your favourite podcasts.

A LEGACY OF GIVING AND FAMILY VALUES

From professional advisors who help people plan their legacies, to families who make giving a generational practice, to those who create funds in the name of a loved one, the generosity of the Victoria community is unparalleled.

Once a year, the Davis family gathers for dinner to discuss which initiative will receive a grant from their Family Fund. See page 31.



JEFFREY BOSDET/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING

HEARTFELT GIFTS IN ALL SIZES

NATASHA BENN, Manager of Philanthropic Services for the Victoria Foundation, sees generosity in the making on a daily basis, especially when it comes to families.

“People want to create something that will last beyond their lifetime,” says Benn. “Some want to teach their children about the importance of philanthropy. Others want to create a fund to carry out a loved one’s legacy.”

Many people have ideas about which causes to support but not specific organizations. Benn helps donors learn more and helps them explore their

passions. One of the most popular ways she sees families working together is when donor advised funds are created with multiple generations.

“Naming your children as donor advisors speaks volumes in carrying out family values and ensuring those values are passed down,” she says. “This is a great example of continuing to honour a loved one while supporting the community at the same time.”

Benn has seen touching examples of funds created by families to support causes that are important to them. One young family established a fund to support

scientific research relating to an illness that inflicted their child. Another family holds an annual dinner to decide which organizations the fund will support. Yet another example: a donor had a great idea to create a fund for each of his nephews and nieces upon their graduation, so they could become stewards in philanthropy.

“I often hear that donors want to give back to the community that helped them and, in turn, helped raise their children,” says Benn. “They also recognize the value of leading by example.”

It’s a misconception that establishing a fund requires a significant amount of money. Options are flexible.

“If people have charitable intent and want to support a cause they feel passionate about long into the future, they can do that,” says Benn. “I always say, no gift is too small and any gift is meaningful, especially when it comes from the heart.”

GIFTS BY WILL LET DONORS LEAVE A LONG- LASTING LEGACY

The decisions you make about your legacy can be among the most challenging you will ever make; however, Christian Höy, owner and lawyer at Sitka Law Group, believes they are among the most crucial.

Höy helps clients understand where their assets will go when they're no longer here to enjoy them. While the process can seem daunting, especially for people preparing their first will, decisions bring relief.

"I find many of my clients want to give back to their communities, but they're not sure how to do so," says Höy. "They often want a portion of their estate to go to a certain charitable interest, like the environment, the arts, or animal welfare, but they're not sure which specific charity to provide the funds to."

Höy recommends clients review the Victoria Foundation website and get in touch with staff who can provide options that align with their interests.

"Clients are sometimes concerned about how much of their donation will actually be received by the end user or that the charity may no longer be in operation when they pass away," says Höy.

Working with the Foundation helps put those fears to rest because of its mandate to support local causes in many areas of interest.

"The Victoria Foundation supports so many local initiatives and does so much good in our community, including bringing awareness to many causes donors may not be aware of," says Höy. By working with the Foundation, donors can help many charities achieve their goals.

PUBLICLY LISTED SECURITIES OFFER DONORS ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE

Anna Nemeth is in the business of helping people make a difference. She also supports donors in discovering how many ways there are to do just that.

"It comes down to understanding what a client cares about and helping individuals focus on what they hope to accomplish," says Nemeth, Vice President and Senior Portfolio Manager with TD Wealth Private Investment Counsel.

"Is there a charity or a cause you are passionate about?" is a common question when Nemeth meets with clients.

Nemeth works with clients to ensure their investment wishes are carried out. Although donations of cash are often a popular way to make a gift, sometimes less-considered options can leave an even bigger mark. Gifts of publicly listed securities, like stocks and bonds, can have a lasting impact.

Donating public securities

not only offers another way to give funds to an organization, but it also helps donors and charities through tax savings, which can enhance the value of the gift and offer big savings for donors.

"People find giving cash harder than giving securities, because people are more emotionally attached to cash, versus giving a stock or bond, which may actually hold more value," says Nemeth. "But with the tax saved in

a gift of securities, you can ultimately have more to give."

Nemeth works with a number of charitable organizations, like the Victoria Foundation, to help donors find causes that speak to their hearts. When clients aren't sure which organizations to support, she encourages them to access resources and engage with

charities to find the best match.

"One of the misconceptions I hear is that people don't always think they can allocate their gift for a specific purpose within a charity. In fact, most organizations will work



NEMETH WORKS WITH A NUMBER OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS, LIKE THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION, TO HELP DONORS FIND CAUSES THAT SPEAK TO THEIR HEARTS.

very hard to make sure your wishes are carried out," Nemeth says. "Most charities rely on the good will of the public to do their work. When people realize they have more ways to make a difference, that can be exciting."

The contents of this article are not endorsed by TD Wealth Private Investment Counsel Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

FUND STORIES

SHOWCASING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT CARRY OUT CHARITABLE LEGACIES

MAYNE ISLAND FUNDS protect the needs of those living in the region

Environmental issues are never far from the minds of people who live on Mayne Island. It's the reason two organizations worked with the Foundation to support efforts in sustainability and those who rely on its resources.

Mayne Island Conservancy Society and Mayne Island Recycling Society both established hosted organization funds in 2018. These funds are managed by the Victoria Foundation and generate a stable source of income for charities. While a

minimum donation, usually of \$10,000, is required to create a fund, donations of any amount are welcome to an established fund. The principal grows in perpetuity, and only a portion of investment returns are used, giving organizations funding security and people incentive to participate.

"The funds allow Mayne Island Conservancy to uphold its perpetual responsibilities for protecting the natural values that conservation covenants require," says Michael Dunn, Executive Director of

Mayne Island Conservancy. "Having these funds ensures Mayne Island residents and the residents of the region will have these special places available and protected forever."

Kim Harris of Mayne Island Recycling Society says the example set by the conservancy encouraged the society to launch its own fund.

"The goal of the Mayne Island Recycling Society is to provide a comprehensive recycling service to the Mayne Island community," says Harris. "We do not have a landfill on the island, which means all household waste and recycling needs to be transported off island. The Recycling Society plays an integral role in that process."

"Donations to either of these funds will continue to support the organizations' good work and the region," adds Dunn.

Viveka Foundation Fund supports local non-profits in perpetuity

FOR SAMANTHA DICKIE, a Victoria-based ceramic artist and mother, "Viveka," or clear discernment, is a theme in her work and life. The Viveka Foundation Fund is more than an act of supporting her community — it's also her way to involve her family in giving.

"I've believed in philanthropy since I was a young teenager," says Dickie. "In our house, I expect my kids to save part of what they are given

from birthday parties and allowances in their giving jar. My son brought over \$200 to Our Place a couple of years ago and is ready to do it again. He was proud to contribute, which inspires the desire to continue to give."

Dickie's donor advised fund has helped a number of initiatives, from housing and food security, to women's shelters and arts programs for kids. With the flexibility to

evolve her mandate, Dickie says her main mission is relieving the fundraising pressures organizations face to keep their programs running.

"Working with a community foundation as well known as the Victoria Foundation provides assurance that my fund will be used well in perpetuity after I, or my children or their children, are no longer donor advisors," says Dickie. "I like knowing the fund

will contribute to a variety of organizations and essential services locally."

Dickie is also a Victoria Circle member, dedicating a future legacy gift to support organizations she cares about in perpetuity.

"I believe we have a responsibility to share our resources collectively and take care of each other," she says. "I hope this fund models this value to my kids."

VICTORIA CIRCLE



James Darke and Anna Tieman are members of Victoria Circle, our donor recognition program for individuals who have indicated their intention to make a future estate gift to the Victoria Foundation by way of a gift in a will, life insurance, RRSP or RRIF, tax-free savings account, charitable remainder trust, or other estate plan.

Donors join the Victoria Circle for various reasons — to bring about awareness of the lasting impact charitable giving can create, inspire

greater giving, fuel the dreams of future generations, engage families and friends in charitable giving, or thank a community that has enriched their lives.

To learn more about the Victoria Circle, contact Donor Services at 250.381.5532.



BELLE WHITE/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING

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

Sharon Kelly (August 11, 2018) and her late husband, David, shared interests based on their work and volunteer experience, including environmental causes, the preservation of parks and ecologically significant spaces, and early intervention programs for children. The Sharon and David Kelly Fund will continue to support these areas.

Don Ferns (November 5, 2018) and his late wife, Vel, established a donor advised fund during their lifetimes and supported the Community Grants program. Don's daughter, Catherine, will continue as the donor advisor to support the philanthropic priorities of her late parents, including support for single mothers and educational assistance to students at any study level.

Howard Petch (November 26, 2018) served as Board Chair of the Victoria Foundation from 1995 to 1998. Well known for his role as the 4th President of the University of Victoria, he left an incredible legacy

in our community. Howard and his wife, Linda, established a donor advised fund, which supports small and/or emerging arts organizations.

George Evans (December 14, 2018) and his late wife, Anne, established the George and Anne Evans Fund. The fund will continue to support the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Victoria, as well the Victoria Foundation's Community Grants program.

Marsha Hanen (April 13, 2019) established a donor advised fund and supported arts and culture in Victoria and community service to improve the quality of life for people

in need. The Marsha P. Hanen Fund will continue to support the Victoria Symphony Society.

OTHER DONORS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED US THROUGH THEIR ESTATE PLAN

Hilda Butterfield (April 17, 1987) established a life estate to provide annual income to a family member. On the passing of that family member in 2018, a fund was established to honour Hilda's ultimate philanthropic legacy to support education, in particular medical sciences, music, and fine arts.

THE KIRK AND MARLYN DAVIS FAMILY FUND

BUILDS A TRADITION OF GIVING

Kirk and Marlyn Davis have a long history of giving. From their parents and grandparents who set an example, to raising their own children and grandchildren with philanthropic values, supporting initiatives is a way of life.

Kirk began volunteering with the Victoria Foundation in the late 1990s. He participated in granting committees, then served two terms on the board. In 2018, he was named an Honorary Governor of the Foundation. The Kirk and Marlyn Davis Family Fund continues this philanthropic activity.

“We’ve enjoyed the good fortune of living and raising a family in the Victoria area and have long supported initiatives in learning, health and wellness, environmental sustainability, and musical arts,” says Kirk. “Our vision is to create an undertaking with our two daughters and their families. We hope this will produce plenty of discussion and debate, raising all of our awareness to the worthwhile initiatives in Victoria.”

The family has a formula for deciding annually which initiative from *Make it Happen!*, the Foundation’s community granting program, will receive a grant from the Family Fund. In the future, if the family no longer wishes to carry on as advisors,

the fund will roll into the Vital Victoria Fund to support charitable causes in perpetuity. While that stipulation brings peace of mind, Davis says the family is excited to take this on together.

“We expect the fund will draw us closer as a family, and it keeps us

mindful of our extreme good fortune to live in this extraordinary city and country,” he says. “In a world bombarded by bad news, it gives us an incomparable sense of gratitude to be in a position to help out and the pleasure of actually doing it.”

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES FOR FUNDHOLDERS



Bruce Somers (May 1, 2018) designated his RRSP to the Victoria Foundation and also provided a gift in his will. The estate gift was added to the Vital Victoria Fund, a permanent fund, which supports the Foundation's granting priorities.

Dorothy Krimmer (September 15, 2018) was a Victoria Circle member. She worked with the Foundation during her lifetime to establish the Krimmer Family Grants. This fund will provide annual grants to four charitable organizations that Dorothy wanted to support in perpetuity.

Stephanie Sue Williams (October 10, 2018) named the Victoria Foundation as a beneficiary in her will to provide support to five of her favourite charities. The Williams Fund will draw down after 10 years, thereby providing larger annual grants for a limited period of time.

William Lenfesty (November 15, 2018) was a Victoria Circle member and named the Victoria Foundation as owner and beneficiary of his life insurance policy. The fund will provide ongoing support to a local hospice to further its aims and objectives as they see fit.

Robert Durie (November 16, 2018) provided a gift in his will to establish the Durie Legacy Fund, which will support the arts in Greater Victoria. Robert and his late wife, Shirley Jo, were Victoria Circle members.

Adele Chanady (November 17, 2018) established two charitable remainder trusts during her lifetime to support six charitable organizations she held dear. Adele, who was a Victoria Circle member, also provided a gift through her estate to support the Community Grants program.

Joan Mary Bekius (December 7, 2018) named the Victoria Foundation as a beneficiary in her will, which will support the Vital Victoria Fund and other immediate initiatives, including the Community Grants program.

Mildred Marie Parikh (January 26, 2019) gave the discretion to her executors to support charitable causes and indicated the Victoria Foundation be one of her chosen charities. The estate gift will support the Vital Victoria Fund, Community Grants, and other initiatives.

The KiraGoodFund

A TRIBUTE TO A WOMAN DEDICATED TO HELPING OTHERS

People who knew Kira Goodwin say that everywhere she went, she didn't just make friends — she made family. A year after her death, more than 1,000 people still share memories on her Facebook page and show photos of their travels with the “Kira turtle” sticker to honour her. Around the world, over \$60,000

has been raised to support the KiraGoodFund.

“Kira knew how to make everyone around her feel special,” says Lori Goodwin, Kira's mom. “She was a remarkable person, and her family and friends needed this venue to keep her remarkableness going and to keep positive actions happening. Her legacy can go on forever.”

Kira died in January 2018 at age 32, the tragic result of an avalanche accident while back-country skiing in the Kootenays. As an organ donor, she saved or improved the lives of seven people. But her impact on the world started years before.

She was an avid outdoor enthusiast, passionate about travel, sports, and the environment. Friends say she brightened any room she entered, and she was deeply

respected as a nurse and mentor in neonatal intensive care and chemotherapy clinics.

The KiraGoodFund was created by Kira's family and friends to honour three streams reflecting her life and values. The first is an annual award for a female University of Victoria student who shows strong leadership qualities and studies in international relations, community development, and/or environmental stewardship. The second supports BC Search and Rescue, and the third supports a charitable organization reflecting Kira's priorities: early childhood well-being, youth sports, nursing excellence, international relations, and education and safety in back-country activities.

“We have been so happy and grateful that this funding opportunity was available,”



More than 1,000 people still share memories on her Facebook page and show photos of their travels with the “Kira turtle” sticker to honour her. Around the world, over \$60,000 has been raised to support the KiraGoodFund.

says Goodwin. “Ironically, Kira was the humblest person and would be embarrassed so much fuss is being made of her. But it's heartwarming to be able to continue the good Kira brought to this world.”

VITAL VICTORIA FUND

The Vital Victoria Fund responds to applications for project funding by local charities across a broad range of interests, including arts, culture and heritage, community service, education, environment, 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 establish a named fund through your bequest gift.



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

Coast Capital Savings Stand Tall Award gives young artists a chance

When Coast Capital Savings relocated their Victoria administration office, they discovered they had excess art work purchased from the community. They had a decision to make: redistribute the art or make an even bigger impact.

They chose to make an impact and held an art auction with all proceeds used to establish the Coast Capital Savings Stand Tall Award for Youth in the Arts Fund. The new fund carries on a legacy that stretches back to the 1980s, when renovated branches were decorated with local art. The new fund supports scholarships for students in their third and fourth year at Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

“The Victoria Foundation was a perfect place to set up the fund so the money would continue helping the local art community in perpetuity,”

says Kathy Bakony, Senior Manager, Real Estate and Construction with Coast Capital. “It's great to know we can help students in their pursuit of an art career by helping to fund their education.”

Last year, Coast Capital gave \$5.6 million to projects and organizations. However, Bakony says this fund feels special, because it carries on a tradition of making a difference in the local arts community. It's also a model for other organizations.

“People might feel intimidated about setting up a fund or think they need a lot of money to do so,” says Bakony, noting Coast Capital launched the fund with \$10,000 and has been adding to it. “Even small amounts help. I just won an employee contest that came with a \$200 donation to the charity of my choice. I chose the art fund, so it continues to grow, bit by bit.”

ELIZABETH BUCKLEY SCHOOL LEGACY FUND lives on to support students with diverse needs



Victoria's Elizabeth Buckley School opened in 1986 as an independent elementary school for the deaf and hard of hearing. It later transitioned to a STEaM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) school for children from kindergarten through Grade 8. After 30 years, the school closed its doors.

While the school didn't survive, the Elizabeth Buckley School Legacy Fund continues to support its community. Annual grants will be distributed to School District 61, Camosun College, and the University of Victoria to support students with a mental or physical disability who are continuing their education in either a STEaM program or a program supporting people with similar struggles.

"Even though the school could not continue, through this fund the spirit of the school can," says Melissa Phillips, who was President of the school's Board of Directors. "We were sad that the school had to close but glad to know we might be able to help students in the future through this bursary to further their education."

The school was founded by Nancy Bourey, a teacher and speech and language pathologist, who named the school after her grandmother.

"To be able to create a fund like this is to help future generations not forget schools like Elizabeth Buckley, that truly were hidden gems," says Phillips. "We were grateful for the time we had together as a school and happy to share with those students who need support in the future."

2018

MAY

VITAL CONVERSATION

Part of the BC2030 citizen engagement series, this event held at UVic saw more than 70 community stakeholders discuss local action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

STAFF CHANGES

Serkan Altay joined the foundation in his new role as Director of Investments, Melody Burns took over as Office Administrator, and Emily Wiesenthal took on a term position while Jayna Brulotte is on leave.

JULY

STAFF CHANGES

After seven years with the foundation, Director of Finance Rita Lord resigned and the position was filled by Gord Griffiths.

AUGUST

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION

Foundation board member Carey Newman was announced as one of this year's recipients of the Order of BC, the highest form of recognition the province can extend to its citizens.



JEFFREY BOSDET/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING

MILESTONES

A YEAR OF IMPORTANT CHANGES, EVENTS,
AND ACTIVITIES AT THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION

OCTOBER

VICTORIA'S VITAL SIGNS

The 13th edition of our popular report on the vitality of the region focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

NOVEMBER



RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY & GIVING TUESDAY

Back by popular demand, these two days celebrated giving back to our community.

CIVIL SOCIETY IMPACT

The Victoria Foundation and the University of Victoria released a new study looking at the economic and social impact of registered charities – also known as civil society – that revealed the sector generated almost \$7 billion in local economic activity in 2016.

DECEMBER

GRANTS ANNOUNCED

\$2.2 million in community grants were awarded to 106 local non-profit organizations, bringing the total amount awarded in 2018 to a record \$23 million and over \$222 million since the Victoria Foundation began in 1936.

17,000 BUS TRIPS

A grant of nearly \$23,000 went to support agencies around Greater Victoria to provide more than 17,000 free bus trips to people struggling to make ends meet.

NEW STAFF

Kate Donahue joined the foundation as Philanthropic Services Associate.

2019

JANUARY

BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF CHANGES

John van Cuylenborg joined the board, replacing Mia Maki after her six-year term, while former Chair Rasool Rayani became the new President of the Honorary Governors and past Chair Patrick Kelly was appointed Indigenous Cultural Advisor. Stephanie Andrew, Lucy Edwards, and Rob Gareau also joined the Investment Committee.

On the staff side, Carol Hall shifted into a new role as Director of Strategic Initiatives, Rudi Wallace was named Grants Manager, and Brin Morgan was promoted to Manager, Executive Operations. Melanie Porter also took on the new role of Communication and Project Coordinator.

APRIL

VITAL CONVERSATION

The Victoria Foundation partnered with Coast Capital Savings to bring together 70 people to celebrate and explore youth volunteerism.



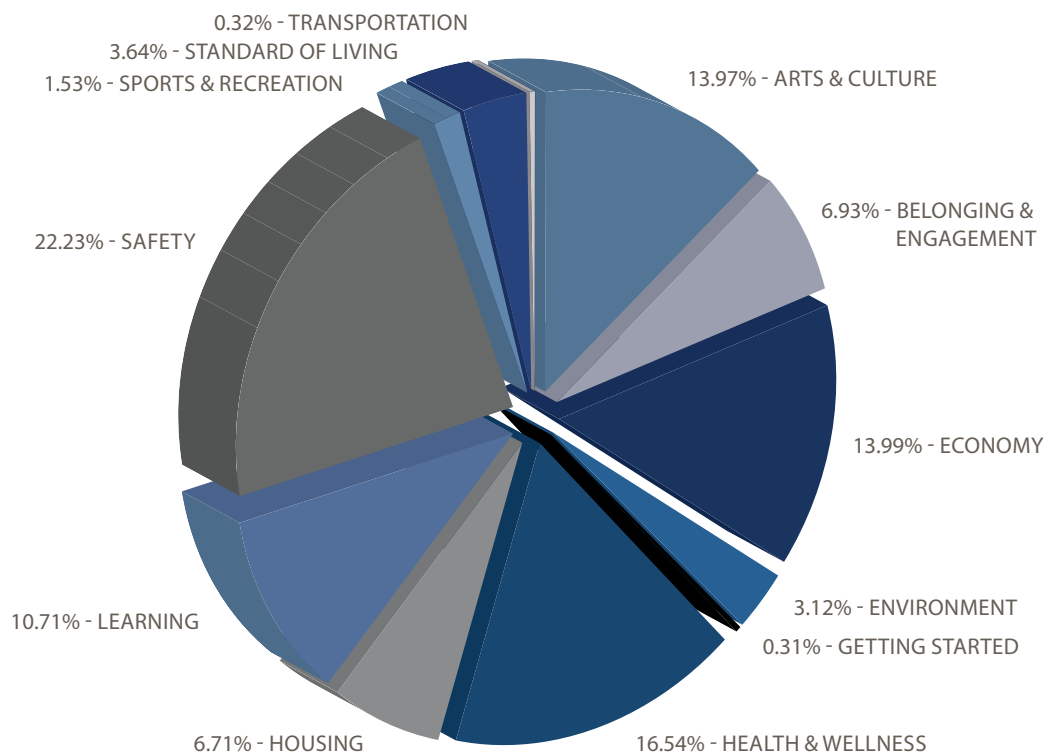
VITAL YOUTH

Students from nine area high schools wrapped up another successful year, granting \$22,500 to local charities.

2018 VICTORIA FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS

WE HAD AN EXCITING YEAR OF GROWTH, NEW INITIATIVES AND EXPANSION. IN 2018, WE APPROVED OVER \$2 MILLION IN ANNUAL COMMUNITY GRANTS TO 106 LOCAL NON-PROFITS. INDIVIDUAL DONORS AND FUND HOLDERS ALSO CONTRIBUTED, THIS YEAR PROVIDING ALMOST \$775,000. FOR MORE 2018 HIGHLIGHTS, OR TO VIEW OUR COMPLETE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PLEASE VISIT VICTORIAFOUNDATION.CA

2018 GRANTS BY VITAL SIGNS INDICATOR AREA



**OVER \$23 MILLION
IN GRANTS DISBURSED**

\$9M ENDOWED GRANTS
\$14M NON-ENDOWED GRANTS



**SUPPORTED 464
ORGANIZATIONS**

143 OF THESE HAVE AN
ENDOWMENT FUND WITH US

1,227 GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

INCLUDING 104
FOR COMMUNITY
GRANTS



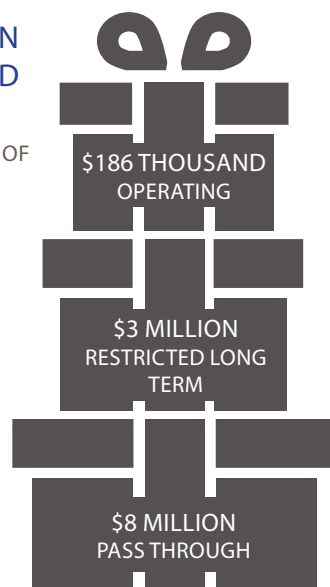
TOTAL ASSETS UNDER ADMINISTRATION OVER \$343 MILLION

INCLUDING 53
NEW FUNDS



OVER \$23 MILLION IN GIFTS RECEIVED

INCLUDING BEQUESTS,
DONATIONS AND GIFTS OF
SECURITIES



INVESTMENT RETURNS

TEN-YEAR ANNUALIZED
INVESTMENT RETURNS
OF 8.82%





THE IRVING K. BARBER

British Columbia Scholarship Society

ADMINISTERED BY THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION



WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

Recognizing Women Conquering Technology

Women in Technology & Indigenous Women in Technology are two scholarships awarded annually by the Irving K Barber BC Scholarship Society to acknowledge women and Indigenous women who are excelling in the study of engineering, mathematics, or computer/data science.

www.ikbbc.ca

INTRODUCING

Heart@Home

Heart@Home is the next generation of caring for our clients.

Every day one of our Registered Care Aides will visit you to check in and help with taking your medications. If anything comes up we can help by coordinating with your family or physician.

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Congratulations to one of our pharmacist rock stars, Andrea Silver, for winning the BCPhA Pharmacy Excellence Award!

Andrea won this award for excellence in Patient Care - showcasing what the entire Heart Pharmacy team holds most dear!



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