

# PULSE



**NEW PROVINCIAL FUND  
IMPROVES ACCESS TO  
FOOD ACROSS BC**

**EMERGENCY  
SERVICE BRINGS  
VITAL SIGNS  
TO LIFE**

**SUPPORTING  
TSARTLIP  
FIRST NATION  
ARTISTS AND  
ENTREPRENEURS**

## **Victoria Steps Up in a Time of Crisis**

**Rapid Relief Fund  
and Gadsden Initiative  
show the strength of  
philanthropy**



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**Cover Image:** Alison picks up food at Reynolds School, part of School District 61's food distribution project, funded in part by the Rapid Relief Fund. The program helped to feed over 1,000 families during the COVID-19 pandemic.  
Photo by Jeffrey Bosdet/Page One Publishing

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## 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 \$245 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.



## AND GADSDEN INITIATIVE

Two programs that reflect the strength of philanthropy in our community and the spirit that launched the Victoria Foundation

**V**ictoria resident Burges James Gadsden was a man of principle who believed people would choose to support each other if given the opportunity. Eighty-four years ago, at the height of the Great Depression, a time referred to as the hungry '30s, Gadsden had been running Victoria's first soup kitchen, the Sunshine Inn on Pandora Avenue. A man of modest means but bold ambitions, his work helped him to see that an organization with a solid source of funds would be able to support charities like his and more, in both good times and bad. It was this inspiration that led him to create Canada's second oldest community foundation, the Victoria Foundation, in 1936. His mother, Fanny, was his first donor, writing him a cheque for \$20. Enclosed with the money was a note that read: "With the

wish that I could afford \$100 to so fine an undertaking."

Decades after his death, Gadsden's mission lives on in the continuing work of the region's community foundation, which has invested more than \$245 million in people, projects, and charitable organizations in BC and across Canada. This past year, the Victoria Foundation launched two new programs that have reignited Gadsden's original spark to encourage all community members to get involved in providing immediate support when it is needed most.

### **The Rapid Relief Fund: Meeting the COVID-19 crisis head on**

Fast forward over eight decades, and much like during the Depression, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on vulnerable Greater Victorians who have been less prepared to deal with the health,

### **COMMUNITY RELIEF SUPPORT YOU CAN STILL HELP**

The Rapid Relief Fund has been a huge success, but some of our community's toughest days are still ahead. You can still support charities at the frontline, helping those most vulnerable in our community. The Victoria Foundation's Vital Victoria Fund will support our community's recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and build resilience for the future of our local charities. To donate or to learn more, call 250.381.5532 or visit <http://victoriafoundation.bc.ca/vitalvictoriafund/>



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## The Gadsden Initiative: A new generation of legacies

The other new program launched in the past year aims at making philanthropy accessible to a broader community by connecting a new generation of global citizens looking to make a lasting difference. The Gadsden Initiative is composed of GenXers and Millennials who have each created permanent endowment funds to support the community through grant-making. The first cohort has been meeting and learning together since September 2019 and includes 20 funds from 31 members who will participate for 18 months. During that time, the cohort will embark on a journey to learn about the issues that matter most to this community.

Stacey Lund is a member of this first cohort. She had been involved with the Foundation through her work as the business development manager with PISE (Pacific Institute for Sports Excellence). When she heard about the Gadsden Initiative, she was excited to get involved and even recruited her brother and their family's organization.

"A program like this allows people to start small, so we can get a glimpse of how high the need is in Victoria and the impact we can all make," says Lund. "You can invest, even in a small way, and it

social, and economic effects of the crisis. And once again, it's creating a greater need for community-based social supports.

Enter the Rapid Relief Fund. Created by the Jawl Foundation, the Times Colonist, and the Victoria Foundation, the fund was launched on March 21, 2020 to quickly disburse grants to federally registered local charities and qualified donees that provide frontline services to vulnerable populations. Funding priorities have been aimed at meeting the most pressing needs, including preventing homelessness, providing access to food and health supports, and helping people navigate government or other financial assistance.

Despite an initial goal by the partners to raise \$1 million in a month, the first \$1 million was reached after just 36 hours, with the second and third millions reached over the following 10 days. In the end,

\$6 million was donated from more than 15,000 individual donors in 52 days.

All of these funds have now been disbursed to local charities via 105 grants. As the Rapid Relief Fund was coming to a close, other funding programs have come online to support charities and the populations they serve, but the Victoria Foundation continues to provide local citizens with opportunities to create lasting change in their communities.



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▲ The Rapid Relief Fund website connected more than 15,000 donors to local COVID-19 relief efforts.

▶ Zaman Velji and Rishma Thomas joined the Gadsden Initiative cohort as a way to get to know like-minded people in the community who want to contribute to civil society.

gives you a foot into the world of philanthropy. It feels great to be the next generation to take that on as a legacy for our families.”

Creating a donor-advised fund is more achievable than some may think. Fund members contribute \$5,000 over two years, which is then matched by the initiative for a \$10,000 permanent fund. The principal is held in perpetuity, but a portion of the annual investment returns is granted out to causes members are passionate about. The balance of the investment returns is added back into the permanent fund, which allows the fund to grow over time, increasing the ability to grant funding to charities later on. As with any donor-advised fund, anyone can donate at any time to increase the impact.

“It’s great to be part of a group of young professionals giving back to the community,” says Trevor McCall, president of McCall Gardens and Lund’s brother. “Our family, over its generations, has always believed in giving back to the community, and that was instilled in us growing up. Having a permanent fund is the right way to do it — you can direct support to the organizations you care about long into the future.”

McCall’s passion is supporting the Victoria Hospice and, as a sea-focused family, salmon enhancement initiatives are also close to his and Lund’s hearts.

“It feels great to be a part of the community this way and to have a real impact on the people around you,” he says.

Zaman Velji and his wife Rishma Thomas joined the cohort as a team this year. Velji is the Victoria Foundation Board Chair and welcomed the opportunity to get to know like-minded people in a similar phase of life.

“It’s a great opportunity to get to know people who are wanting to contribute to civil society and make Victoria a better place,” says Velji. “We are getting exposure to the wonderful initiatives of



Stacy Lund (right) was so excited about the Gadsden Initiative she brought her brother, Trevor McCall (left), into the first cohort as a way to continue their family’s tradition of giving back to the community.

Gadsden program has been an opportunity to work together to collectively grant \$100,000 of the Victoria Foundation’s available granting dollars. In a twist of fate, the new cohort was in the process of determining what cause areas and charitable organizations were in greatest need in the community in March when the COVID-19 pandemic reached Vancouver Island.

The group met and quickly pivoted, turning their sights to address the health and societal challenges the pandemic had brought to our community, particularly our most vulnerable residents.

They decided to offer the \$100,000 as a challenge grant to the Rapid Relief Fund, using the monies to inspire others to donate an additional \$100,000 during CHEK TV’s Rock for Relief concert on April 17.

Summarizing the experience of the cohort, Gadsden Initiative member Chanda Pacholuk noted that, “The impact of the virus will vary greatly throughout the various segments of our population and will be particularly impactful for our vulnerable populations. The Rapid Relief Fund recognizes this fact and, for us, answers the question: How can we best help the people who need it now?”

Burges James Gadsden could not have foreseen the events of the last year, but he did have the vision to see the power of people working together.

As the community bands together to support causes that matter most to them, these new programs have proven, once again, that Gadsden was correct in believing the community would choose to offer support if given the opportunity. ■

our community, some, we may not have known about otherwise. When you bring well-meaning, good-minded people together, good things happen.”

Velji says this group is particularly special because, while some cohort members are still in the process of raising young families or developing their businesses or careers, the mission is in cultivating the spirit of philanthropy.

“To be able to engage in discussions about community and philanthropy and bring those conversations home to share with our children and families builds that mentality into children’s lives as they grow up, too,” says Velji. “This is one way we can continue to make sure the Foundation is relevant for generations to come.”

Velji and Thomas met working in international development, and both are passionate about early childhood education. “Climate change is another issue pervasive throughout the members of the Gadsden Initiative,” Velji says. “Here we have the opportunity to ask ourselves: what is our role in mitigating this today? How do we help?”

An additional unique aspect of the



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# Claremont Secondary is the newest Vital Youth team to support community need

Falling through the cracks. It's a theme students at Claremont Secondary have been battling head on. This year, they've gone a step further to assist two community organizations that make it their business to help people who struggle to receive support.

Claremont Secondary is the newest school to become part of the Victoria Foundation's Vital Youth Program — a program that invites students in school leadership classes to engage in the world of philanthropy. The Foundation allocates each team \$2,500 annually to distribute to federally registered charities on southern Vancouver Island. Students learn about critical issues in their community, conduct interviews and on-site visits with potential charities, then ultimately decide as a team how to allocate the funds.

Faith Rompain is one Grade 11 student at the core of the program. Rompain is a member of Youth for Change and Inclusion (YCI) at Claremont — a group she and two friends started when they returned from a leadership camp hosted by the local police department. While it started as a group of three, more students soon joined.

Rompain says, until becoming a part of the Vital Youth Program, the group focused on raising awareness in support of mental wellness and inclusion and hosted events like clothing drives. The opportunity to recommend grants was an exciting development, and they spent February and March working hard to learn about vulnerabilities in their community.

"The easy part was finding charities we were interested in. Everyone put in suggestions, and we spent time learning about what each one does," says Rompain, who said they had to narrow down 10 organizations to two. "We spent a lot of the time asking the charities what this funding could mean for them, and we were surprised to learn that some don't receive any government funding at all, even though they do such important work."

**"There are so many things that get overlooked and that people don't really know about. When we focused on the areas most in need, the worst one was housing."**

The team selected the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre to receive a \$2,000 grant to go towards the counselling program and outreach line. They also dedicated \$500 to the Threshold Housing Society to support gift cards for youth in transitional housing.

"Both organizations work with very stigmatized topics that are not talked about often but affect so many people. Because the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre doesn't receive government funding, we wanted the majority of our grant to go to them," says Rompain. "With Threshold, we realized \$500 might not do a lot, but

it can support gift cards for things all youth need, like clothing or shoes, that aren't in their budget."

In addition to the funding for charities, the Foundation provides an annual grant of \$500 to an endowment fund for each participating school. As the endowment funds grow, they can eventually generate returns large enough to ensure a sustainable source of grant funds indefinitely.

Elena Beristain, the teacher sponsor at Claremont Secondary, informed the students of the opportunity and says she wished a program like this existed when she was in school.

"I think there is a desire for our kids to get involved and see beyond their own lives, and a program like this really supports that," says Beristain. "Many of the students at Claremont are fortunate, but not everyone is in the same situation. This program allows the students to take action in areas they feel passionate about, with a little more funding to work with. This is an important part of learning and being socially conscious."

Beristain acknowledges the benefits of participating in the Vital Youth Program go beyond the experience to give students an appreciation of supporting their community and entering the world of philanthropy. The program itself aims to inspire participants to practise giving

BELLE WHITE/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING



throughout their lives.

Sierra Edwards, also in Grade 11, is another core member of the YCI group. She says the experience has helped her learn just how much the charities in Victoria do for the community.

"There are so many things that get overlooked and that people don't really know about," says Edwards. "When we focused on the areas most in need, the worst one was housing. I was surprised by the number of people who are affected by the lack of youth housing alone. It's interesting to realize how bad a situation can be, and how we can contribute to raising awareness so that people can help."

Jordan Vearer is another Grade 11 student and member of the YCI group. She says the experience of being involved has had a huge impact on her personally.

"When I got involved in YCI, something just clicked for me. I always wanted to

do something like this but didn't know it existed. It was really cool to hear about the Vital Youth Program, because our club has struggled with fundraising, so getting this opportunity was huge," says Vearer. "Our real question was: what areas of Victoria most need improvement? There were some very clear answers."

The group used the Foundation's *Victoria's Vital Signs* report as a tool to learn about the most pressing issues in Victoria. As it was within their school, mental health and housing were big issues in the report, and the students looked at how counselling and resources for youth could be incorporated into their funding mission.

"We were very analytical with our questions," says Vearer of the charities they considered as grant recipients. "How many people do you reach? Where do you receive funding? Where do you struggle

▲ L to R: Faith, Sierra, and Jordan are three members of Claremont Secondary's Vital Youth Program team.

in your organization? Where would this money go? What is the impact?"

Vearer says, once they had their answers, the group was decisive, given that the selected organizations provided services to a traditionally underserved population. She is hopeful the team will do this again next year, and that other students will carry it on for years to come.

"I think being able to provide this grant funding has a really positive impact," Vearer says. "These are essential services, and there are human necessities that just fall through the cracks. That's the impact we hope we can have — to make sure people can access the resources they need when they need them." ■



## Victoria Foundation activates the UN Sustainable Development Goals by celebrating three local organizations

Since the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into force in 2015, the Victoria Foundation has been aligning its work around all 17 goals to support local and global community needs.

As the lead partner in the 2020 NewCities Conference, Leading by Example: Implementing the SDGs in Canada, the Foundation awarded three \$3,500 “SDG Activation Grants” to local organizations who are leading the way and embodying the spirit of the goals locally. Three goals were highlighted for the awards: ensuring access to safe and affordable housing (SDG #11), ensuring access to food (SDG #2), and combating

the impacts of climate change (SDG #13).

Each grant recipient uses a “whole city” approach, working in partnership with governments, private sector, civil society, and individuals, to meet the long-term global goals at a local level and contribute to the resiliency of our community.

The first SDG Activation Grant was awarded to the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society to celebrate its work to provide culturally supportive housing and services to end Indigenous homelessness on Vancouver Island.

“The Victoria Foundation has been our lifeline, and this culture of sharing is what connects us,” says Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi, executive director of the Coalition. “The funds help us to meet our

goals to influence policy change, address structural barriers, and build capacity in order to effectively improve the systems that Indigenous people experiencing homelessness need to navigate day to day, particularly during this time.”

Hunt-Jinnouchi says that, at the street level, the financial support allows the Coalition to build relationships, create safe spaces, and develop housing models rooted in Indigenous culture — all functions of SDG #11.

“Grants like this give me hope,” she says. “Sometimes, as a small non-profit, it’s easiest to focus on the big hill that needs to be climbed yet again; then there is a ray of sunshine. You realize you are not alone and you are standing on the top of that

The 2020 NewCities Conference, Leading by Example: Implementing the SDGs in Canada, was held at the Victoria Conference Centre in March 2020.



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were put into place to decrease the spread of COVID-19,” says Sonja Yli-Kahila, coordinator of the Network. “Additional coordination has been needed to support agencies distributing food to vulnerable populations.”

Different populations need different things. “It’s not just as easy as connecting people to a food source; they need to be able to know how to use it,” she says. “We’re always looking at where we should focus our attention. Where could we be having the most important impact today?”

Yli-Kahila says, “In addition to meeting short-term needs, the coordination efforts that are underway will also have a positive

long-term impact in regards to food access and distribution to vulnerable populations in the region, as there is increased knowledge sharing and collaboration between various organizations and partners at this time.”

The Network includes more than 70 partner organizations — from food banks and community centres, to schools, individuals, Indigenous partners, and seniors facilities. Yet, because it’s not a registered charity, LifeCycles Project Society acted as the charitable host organization for this grant. Joan Stonehocker, executive director of LifeCycles, says the Food Share Network is central to their work.

“We all have a vested interest in making sure people have access to healthy, nutritious food,” says Stonehocker. “With what we’re going through with COVID-19, it’s very easy to realize how important it is for everyone in our community to have food. These funds are one way we can support that.”

The third SDG Activation Grant was awarded to Habitat Acquisition Trust for their work on climate action (SDG #13) and life below water (SDG #14). It was awarded for the Trust’s ability to manage and protect coastal ecosystems while improving education and adaptive capacity.

Katie Blake, executive director of the Trust, says it’s an honour to receive this recognition for the work they’re doing to realize these goals.

“We’re happy to win for climate action and life below water, and we also focus on SDG #15: life on land, so we characterize our work through those three goals,” says Blake. “For us, this funding will support our work and the development of our new strategic plan.”

The Trust covers the boundary of the Capital Regional District and the southern Gulf Islands and is focused on addressing habitat loss and degradation. Protecting the coastal forest ecological realm, including rare species like the Garry Oak, Arbutus, camas fields, and wildflowers, creates a great deal of pressure, says Blake.

“We’re in a warm, beautiful climate, where plants and people like to live, too. This is a rare ecosystem, but 98 per cent of our ecological community is in peril from development and invasive species,” she says. “Our work is to encourage people to steward the land. It’s time for us to have a really good look at how we can be the most effective in this place, at this time.” ■

hill, cheering, giving thanks, and ready to climb it again because you know there are people — some you may not have ever met — carrying you.”

When it comes to overcoming hills, the Food Share Network has been working tirelessly to support partner organizations, coordinating the collection and redistribution of food and resources. They were the second recipient of the SDG Activation Grant for SDG #2: increasing food access and sustainability. The grant could not have come at a better time.

The Network has used the grant to support food security efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The need for food in the region has grown since measures

While the Foundation focuses on all the goals (SDGs), three were chosen to highlight at the conference: ensuring access to safe and affordable housing (SDG #11), ensuring access to food (SDG #2), and combating the impacts of climate change (SDG #13).



## Green Shield Canada creates a new model of giving to offer support across the country

When Green Shield Canada celebrated its 60th anniversary, they did so by launching its Six 4 Six campaign to donate \$6 million to six Canadian communities. Those communities would then distribute funds to organizations at the helm of mental and oral health work. With Victoria chosen as one community, the Victoria Foundation was allocated \$700,000 to help address the gaps, using its local community knowledge and partnerships to ensure the funds have a lasting impact.

“Green Shield has always had a history of giving back to communities,” says Sherry Peister, chair of the board of directors with Green Shield Canada. “Every project tears at your heart strings, but we wanted this initiative to focus on mental and oral health care because these areas are often underfunded, and supporting this was part of our strategic plan. When we considered who would be the best to do this, we wanted this to be in the hands of the communities.”

Sandra Richardson, Victoria Foundation CEO, says the impact of a gift like this can be remarkable. “This speaks to the importance of partnership and collaborating in a way that recognizes the needs of a community, while accessing the work of mental and oral health research,” says Richardson. “When corporations step up like this, it shows huge corporate responsibility and, together, we are able to achieve great things.”

Foundations across the country were

invited to collaborate with community partners at grassroots levels. While some funding could be dedicated to infrastructure, other grants were to be aimed at programming and contributed to endowment funds for perpetual giving.

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“Every project tears at your heart strings, but we wanted this initiative to focus on mental and oral health care because these areas are often underfunded, and supporting this was part of our strategic plan.”

This past fall, the Victoria Foundation announced funding for projects within the capital region totalling an initial \$188,508. For improving access to oral health, grants were dedicated to the Victoria Cool Aid Society, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, Garth Homer Society, and Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society. Grants to improve mental health were gifted to Island Community Mental Health, Island Health, and the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre.

The Garth Homer Society in Saanich was awarded a grant to support the development of an accessible dental clinic to provide special care services for

hard-to-serve community members, such as people experiencing disabilities or dementia. The clinic is to be built within Garth Homer’s new building and could serve as a base for mobile dentistry units.

“Oral health issues can create great problems, and we know this to be especially true for hard-to-serve clientele,” says Mitchell Temkin, CEO of the Garth Homer Society. “The end result is that they may be served under anesthesia if they receive service at all. We want to create an environment that changes this, staffed with people who have the expertise to work with this particular client base.”

While the project is still in its earliest design stages, the team is seeking to consult with experts from around the world on creating a safe, community-based operating model. Temkin says this funding helps with a key step in designing the new facility.

“People who suffer from severe anxiety about dental care need care that is highly specialized,” he says. “For many people, the barriers are huge and the consequences of not getting that care are tremendous.”

Rebecca George is using one of the mental health grants. She is the project coordinator of the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Collaboration’s Social Gathering Pilot Project — an initiative undertaken by a partnership of seven mental health agencies and people with lived experience in the Greater Victoria Area. The project aims to answer this question: how can people get their life back after experiencing a severe mental health issue? The result was a permanent

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“People who suffer from severe anxiety about dental care need care that is highly specialized. For many people, the barriers are huge and the consequences of not getting that care are tremendous.”

collaboration of mental health resources amongst the agencies, from the Island Community Mental Health Association to the Victoria Cool Aid Society, Island Health and others.

The grant, awarded to Island Community Mental Health Association, allows George to aid the agencies in evolving their collaborative vision, as well as launch a low-barrier social gathering place for people with lived experience.

“Many people experiencing mental health challenges tend to isolate, and one of the things we heard from community members is the need for a place where people could easily go and meet one another in a safe and non-stigmatizing manner, like a coffee shop,” says George.

This grant will contribute to the development of this new gathering place, designed to provide social engagement, peer support, and navigation to recovery-oriented rehabilitation services and health-and-wellness programming.

“We know there is a real need for people to meet new friends and acquaintances, who understand mental illnesses so they can simply create genuine connections,” says George. “Grants like this are so important. We want to assist people to have meaningful social connection opportunities, know about and access services, and funding like this will give us the resources to make this happen.” ■

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Mitchell Temkin is CEO of the Garth Homer Society, which received a grant to support the development of an accessible dental clinic for hard-to-serve community members.

## Spirit Grant Initiative supports Tsartlip First Nation artists and entrepreneurs



JEFFREY BOSDET/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING

When Mary Hayes was asked to consider how grants could support her community, she had a vision for something new. Hayes wanted to see funding earmarked for a group of people who often fall between the lines of need and support, especially in Indigenous communities: artists and

entrepreneurs. Hayes knew many people in her community who faced financial constraints that prevented them from turning their business into something more sustainable. While many were bringing the work of important cultural practices to life, they needed resources to make it viable.

“Small business and traditional handicraft work are at the heart of this

community,” says Hayes. “We have people carving, making prints, knitting, weaving, and creating reusable wax wraps to reduce the impact to the earth.”

This vision birthed the Tsartlip First Nation Arts and Entrepreneurship Spirit Grant Initiative — a grant created in partnership with the Victoria Foundation, Horner Foundation, and Tsartlip First Nation. The initiative uses a trust-based



Mary Hayes says the grant to the Tsartlip First Nation Arts and Entrepreneurship Spirit Grant Initiative will help artists and entrepreneurs move forward in ways they couldn't before.

philanthropy model to provide low-barrier support to organizations who are working directly with individuals in the community.

"These grants really do mean a lot. It makes it possible for our entrepreneurs and artists to take the step they couldn't on their own," says Hayes. "Being able to buy \$1,000 worth of equipment is huge. One man was able to purchase a fifth-

wheel so he could have an indoor space to work, year-round. With this help, they are able to move forward in ways they couldn't before."

Individuals of the Tsartlip First Nation can apply for grants between \$500 and \$1,000 in support of their craft. Applicants respond to a series of questions about the potential impact. Hayes emphasizes that, while the grants are modest, this funding can make all the difference. One woman used a grant to repair her equipment so she could teach young people to card and spin wool, while another applied so she could afford beading supplies and the fee for a craft fair. Another bought power tools for his business. So far, 18 community members have received funding.

"For so many of the grant recipients, even this small amount of funding has provided important 'turning points' for individual community members to be able to make something of their idea or business," Hayes says.

Hayes is a big believer in allowing people to do things for themselves, and she notes that grants like these build confidence.

"This allows people to grow and steer in their own direction. It's a very empowering process," she says. "We are very grateful."

The Victoria Foundation has run the successful Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) Initiative for the past five years, empowering residents to lead their own community-based projects. Building on the grassroots granting principles of NSG, they worked with the Horner Foundation and approached the Tsartlip First Nation. "We took a more relational approach to grant-making," says Carol Hall from the Victoria Foundation, bringing forward the idea of piloting a small-grants program in the Indigenous community. "This has given us the opportunity to learn more about grassroots granting approaches as part of our shift towards more trust-based philanthropy."

Hall says Hayes articulated her vision for supporting artists, small business

owners, and other talented individuals, who, in many cases, just needed a small amount of seed money to get started or to take their idea to the next level. It was very important that this program allowed people living in community to make decisions about grants for individuals in their community.

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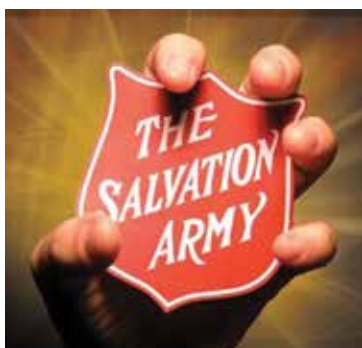
"For so many of the grant recipients, even this small amount of funding has provided important 'turning points' for individual community members to be able to make something of their idea or business."

"Mary took the initiative and ran with it! The Victoria Foundation and Horner Foundation both provided funding, and the Tsartlip First Nation provided in-kind administrative support directly to the project, making this a three-way partnership and ensuring every dollar goes directly to the community," says Tracy Cullen of the Horner Foundation.

Cullen says this funding model reflects a change that's more responsive to the genuine needs of a community. She believes adapting to trust-based philanthropy emphasizes the values of supporting relationships and responding for the long term. She also sees it as a more respectful way to participate in funding.

"In many ways, this is a pilot for us and for the Victoria Foundation, and we've been very inspired by how it has turned out," says Cullen. "We've heard Mary say that this can really empower community members to invest in their work and know they have support behind them. Small businesses are the lifeblood of any community, and that little bit of funding can make a big difference." ■

In 2019, the Victoria Foundation approved **\$2,815,287** in annual community grants to 109 charities in the capital region.



## SALVATION ARMY VICTORIA ADDICTIONS AND REHABILITATION CENTRE

### The Salvation Army Dormitory Renovation Proposal for Additional Housing

Addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness and issues related to addiction is one of the highest priority areas identified in the 2019 Vital Signs survey. A \$40,000 grant supports the renovation of underutilized space at Salvation Army Victoria Addictions and Rehabilitation Centre to provide comfortable accommodation for an additional 12 beds, which adds up to 4,380 sleeps per year.



## ABORIGINAL COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS SOCIETY

### Building, Aligning, Transforming: Systems and Services for Indigenous Homeless

A disproportionate number of Indigenous people experience homelessness in the capital region, and the experiences and cultural needs of that demographic are distinctive from non-Indigenous people who experience homelessness. This project, supported by a \$78,793 grant, will result in an Indigenous-Specific Systems Improvement Map. The process includes cultural assets mapping and research regarding Indigenous housing models, as well as identifying services, programs, and resources that assist Indigenous people.

## BC CANCER FOUNDATION Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) at BC Cancer-Victoria

Radiation therapy is a primary treatment pillar for people living with cancer and Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy is at the forefront of science. Described as surgery without a knife and requiring fewer doses and visits, this therapy is highly effective in both curative and palliative treatments. A \$37,000 grant allows the purchase of an immobilization board to ensure patients are securely immobilized so their tumour can be clearly seen and better targeted with fewer side effects to skin and organs.

## VICTORIA COOL AID SOCIETY Belonging & Engagement: Enhancement of Urban Indigenous Home & Health

Cool Aid learned the value of cultural programming for Indigenous clients during a two-year pilot project in collaboration with the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness wherein nearly 20 Indigenous tenants who had been chronically homeless were successfully housed, in large part thanks to cultural activities. With a \$40,000 grant, Cool Aid will build on this success using the advice of a recently hired Indigenous Cultural Advisor and expand Indigenous cultural activities for over 500 Indigenous clients.

## SEACHANGE MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Environmental organizations are working hard to alleviate some of the biggest challenges our world faces, and they have been hit hard by COVID-19. Three Vital Youth grants from three secondary schools, totaling \$5,000, are welcomed by SeaChange. These funds will allow the organization to further replenish the shore in Todd Inlet, SNIDCEŁ — sngeet kwith or Place of the Blue Grouse.

## DAWSON HEIGHTS HOUSING Hearing Loop System

Dawson Heights is a non-profit housing complex, where over 60 per cent of residents experience hearing loss, a main barrier to residents engaging with the community. A grant of \$5,500 will enable the purchase of a Hearing Loop System that allows for the transmission of sound directly into the hearing aid, cutting out background noises and reverberation and increasing the effectiveness of the transmitted signal.

## ■ SOOKE FAMILY RESOURCE SOCIETY

### Prenatal Education and Outreach Program

Supported by a \$15,000 grant, this program provides pregnancy education, prenatal and postnatal support, and outreach for Sooke to Port Renfrew through accessible group and individual services, with an overall goal of supporting the health and well-being of new babies and their families. Program participants gain knowledge and confidence, increase protective factors for themselves and their babies, increase awareness of community resources, and develop a shared sense of community.

## LIFE CYCLES PROJECT SOCIETY

### Growing the Food Share Network within the CRD

A \$16,000 grant is helping build food security in the capital region by supporting the Food Share Network (FSN), in collaboration with the Community Social Planning Council, to create an evaluation tool that measures the successes and gaps of the network. The evaluation tool amalgamates and summarizes the data, helping to identify goals, set targets, and identify best practices. The data then provides the FSN with valuable information on how to optimize the use of limited resources.



## CRIDGE CENTRE FOR THE FAMILY: BATTERED BRAINS

### Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury

The Cridge Centre has led Victoria for 146 years in supporting vulnerable populations, with 27 years of service to brain injury survivors and women impacted by intimate partner violence. Recent research has revealed the intersection of these populations: up to 90 per cent of women impacted by intimate partner violence also sustain brain injuries, commonly resulting in addiction, homelessness, incarceration, and children placed in foster care. A \$15,000 grant is supporting the first services for this population in this region.

## VICTORIA COMMUNITY FOOD HUB SOCIETY

### Good Food Collective Impact Strategy



The Good Food Network works towards a vision of healthy local food for everyone in the capital region. Fruits of collaboration to date include increasing food literacy with gardens and farm programs in schools, supporting the Food Share Network to increase food access, and building capacity with local farms and food providers. A \$50,000 grant will allow the Good Food Network to strengthen coordinated leadership of efforts, formalize a measurement framework, and develop collaboration priorities from the 2018 Collaboration Outcomes Map, including an integrated food hub, farmland access policy, and the Indigenous food sovereignty *SW,ØENENITEL* initiative.

## ■ COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA

### We Live Here — A Seniors-Led Community-Based Research Project

The We Live Here program is engaging local seniors in housing issues, starting with a pilot project in the James Bay neighbourhood. With a \$15,000 grant, this project will engage seniors to reach out to each other using a peer mentorship model through a variety of focus groups for advocacy training. The engagement will help to identify and address how seniors are vulnerable to the housing crisis and develop solutions for supporting housing stability and ageing-in-place. The engagement and leadership will increase connectedness and resilience for seniors while supporting broader policy.

## READY-TO-RENT BC ASSOCIATION

### Increasing Access to Housing through the RentSmart Guarantee

With critically low rental vacancy in the region, many low-income people struggle to find and compete for decent and affordable housing. A \$15,047 grant is supporting the RentSmart Guarantee, an evidence-based initiative combining tenant education with a financial guarantee to increase private market rental housing access for those leaving transitional housing. Building on recent widespread use in the US, the pilot is a collaboration of four local housing partners with a goal to cover 45 tenancies for vulnerable youth/families, increase access to transitional housing spaces, and increase knowledge of this approach for wider use in Canada.

# Transfer Scholarship alumni first to donate back to future students

**S**han Siddiqui made a pledge to himself a decade ago: as soon as he was in a position to do so, he would help others the way someone had once helped him.

In 2010, Siddiqui was the recipient of an Ike Barber Transfer Scholarship. The \$5,000 award helped Siddiqui transfer from Douglas College to the University of British Columbia to complete his studies in social science. Since that time, repayment of the Transfer Scholarship was a quiet goal Siddiqui held close to his heart, knowing it would be an important milestone for him to achieve.

Barely 10 years later, Siddiqui fulfilled his promise. Last fall, he donated the entirety of his award back to the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society, which is a partner of the Victoria Foundation.

“Being a previous recipient puts me in a special place,” says Siddiqui, now the community education program facilitator for the City of Richmond. “It gives me a good perspective as to what it means to be a scholarship applicant and recipient.”

It wasn’t just significant to Siddiqui — this move represented the first time a scholarship recipient has donated the value of an award back into the fund.

“It’s exceptionally rare to see a scholarship recipient giving back in this way, and it’s something we’ve never seen before,” says Rory Grewar, director of special funds at the Victoria Foundation and program director for the Society. “What’s incredible is that philanthropists tend to emerge in the sunset of their careers, but this young man is stepping up at the beginning of his career and making good on a promise he made himself to make a difference by giving back to others.”

The Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society was created in 2004 to help British Columbia students complete their post-secondary studies. Philanthropist Irving K. (Ike) Barber, the Society’s namesake, was a Canadian forest industrialist and founded Slocan Forest Products Ltd. Barber himself

dropped out of school in Grade 11 to pursue the trades and to sign up for military service. After his service, he was given one free month of university education for every month served during the Second World War. He attended the University of British Columbia, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1950. Historians say Barber credited the impact of his “second chance at education” as the reason for his support for various educational programs in BC.

“Ike spent a lot of his time and efforts in the small forestry communities around BC, and he was interested in the plight of rural students getting a higher education,” says Grewar.

“He had a great passion for education and felt rural students were at a disadvantage in accessing post-secondary education — he believed they could use a leg up.”

The Ike Barber Transfer Scholarship responds to this need. Students who are transferring between two public BC post-secondary institutions in order to continue their education can apply for one of the scholarships. In 2019, the Society allocated over \$3.5 million in post-secondary awards — \$800,000 for Transfer Scholarships. Grewar says in the 15-year history of the Society, which has seen over \$23 million granted to BC students through a variety of programs, Shan Siddiqui is the first to donate back the value of his original award.

“The Transfer Scholarship was created to facilitate the movement of students,” says Grewar. “It is merit based, and Shan won it because he was an exceptional student. Part of his exceptional nature is ensuring that

“Helping others in this way is very meaningful to me. There have been many people who supported me, and I care a lot about contributing back to the community. We can have an impact on each other.”



Shan Siddiqui, a recipient of the Ike Barber Transfer Scholarship in 2010, fulfilled his promise to himself to pay back the award and make a difference in the future of other students.

this money goes right back to another student who will need it, too.”

Since his studies, Siddiqui has continued to be an active volunteer in a number of communities and has acted as a broad-based admissions reader for UBC. He facilitates hand drumming and dance in Richmond and dedicates his time for a number of sporting events in the city. He also participates in blood drives, food security action, and cultural support for newcomers. As someone at the helm of community work, Siddiqui sees the challenges people face when met with life or school changes.

“Even though it’s been about 10 years since I was a recipient, this [scholarship] had a huge impact for me, and now I’ve been able to come full circle,” says Siddiqui. “Helping others in this way is very meaningful to me. There have been many people who supported me, and I care a lot about contributing back to the community. We can have an impact on each other.”

Grewar hopes Siddiqui’s decision may inspire others to reflect on how people have helped them — no matter how far out of school they may be — and to consider the privilege of doing the same.

“We associate scholarships with our success, but it’s worth remembering that success is usually achieved because others have helped us along the way,” says Grewar. “Someone giving back a scholarship recognizes that, when they needed help, others were there to lend a hand. Giving back to another generation is a powerful choice.”

Siddiqui says scholarships offer an added validation to encourage people to pursue their goals.

“Awards like this are really a way to say, ‘What you’ve been doing is worthwhile. Keep going,’” says Siddiqui. “You can see yourself reflected in the recipients — they are a previous version of you and, one day, they may be the next generation of donors.” ■

NEW PROVINCIAL FUND PROMOTES

# FOOD SECURITY

## ACROSS VANCOUVER ISLAND AND BC

From finding support for locally grown resources to bridging access for those in need, food security has been a discussion point for Vancouver Islanders throughout the region's history. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue has only become more important.

Last year, the Victoria Foundation received \$3 million in funding for food security initiatives across the province. The new fund, issued from the BC government, allows the Victoria Foundation to support improved access to fresh, nutritious, affordable food for thousands of people who regularly experience food insecurity.

With funding in place, the Foundation created the new Food Security Provincial Initiatives Fund, giving the Foundation the ability to work with community-based non-profits throughout BC to identify community-specific needs and create food security projects that support health and wellness.

"In our conversations with the province, it was clear to all of us that food security was a big issue," says Rudi Wallace, grants manager at the Victoria Foundation. "We wanted to find out how we could provide funding for jurisdictions around the province to build food security. Part of that work was consulting with groups to

understand where the biggest needs and gaps were."

Food insecurity happens when people do not have reliable access to healthy, culturally appropriate, affordable food. In the Capital Regional District alone, this affects the health of approximately 50,000 people. Province-wide, those numbers are closer to half a million, and observations suggest that they are much higher as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, with large increases of people accessing food banks and meal programs for the first time.

**"We're rescuing 4,000 pounds of food a day, including fresh produce, meats, and dairy, and after it's cleaned and sorted, it serves 70 organizations and about 45,000 individuals each month."**

— JANIENE BOICE, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF THE MUSTARD SEED

An initial grant of nearly \$2 million was awarded to the Mustard Seed Food Bank for the purchase of its Food Security Distribution Centre in Esquimalt, which acts as a hub to redistribute food across southern Vancouver Island, and is also



JEFFREY BOSDET/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING

home to the Food Rescue Project operated by the Mustard Seed in partnership with the Food Share Network. While the building had been leased since 2017, the purchase provided long-term stability for the program.

"We're rescuing 4,000 pounds of food a day, including fresh produce, meats, and dairy, and after it's cleaned and sorted, it serves 70 organizations and about 45,000 individuals each month," says Janiene Boice, senior director of the Mustard Seed. "When you rent a building, there is no guarantee you'll be able to keep that space,



and this gives us that security and helps us keep our costs down.”

She adds that, since the purchase, the organization has also been able to buy essential equipment for its operations it couldn’t afford before: a new lift, bins and tongs for washing food, as well as stainless steel shelves for storage.

“No one person or agency could impact 45,000 lives at once. It takes a real collaborative effort between people and organizations to make this a reality, and we’re very grateful to the Victoria Foundation for its role,” says Boice.

The remaining grant funds have provided support to organizations across BC for food security projects

that can help low-income individuals and families. These grants have supported the development of food access, including food-recovery programs, food-based social enterprises, food-production initiatives, and employment and training programs. Seven organizations have received funding so far.

“Food security is central to the well-being of people, which makes it a priority for our region and the province,” says Sandra Richardson, CEO of the Victoria Foundation. “The Food Security Provincial Initiatives Fund will help us build and support other programs like the Food Rescue Project, because better food creates healthier individuals, families, and communities.”

Detlev and Renate at the Mustard Seed Food Security Distribution Centre, which acts as a hub to redistribute food across Southern Vancouver Island and is also home to the Food Rescue Project.



Salmon being readied for delivery from Upper Fraser Indigenous Sustainable Harvester warehouse.

The fund gave special consideration for rural and Indigenous communities as well, with a focus on creating resilience in home communities and supporting these communities in their own resource development.

“Food security across the province is an ongoing issue felt by both urban and rural communities,” says Wallace. “The funding landscape can be quite complicated in this arena, though — there are organizations providing funding for urban centres, but rural communities don’t necessarily have access to as many opportunities.”

To address this, the Foundation distributed some grants to support rural food economies. One grant, for \$28,170, was provided to the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society of BC (FNESS) in response to the emergency situation created by the Big Bar Landslide. Due to the land obstructions, the salmon migrating upstream were unable to swim beyond the slide, and 15 local First Nations communities experienced extreme challenges to their food security as a result.

With the grant, FNESS partnered with a number of First Nations communities and contracted River Select to catch nearly 9,000 pink salmon, which were

then distributed to the First Nations communities out of the Upper Fraser Indigenous Sustainable Harvester’s warehouse at Sugarcane, via the Williams Lake Indian Band.

**“Since time immemorial, salmon have had an important role in our culture, ceremony, and community. Without this grant, it would have been the first time some communities would not have had any salmon.”**

— DIANNE GARNER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER FOR FNESS

“Without the funding from the Victoria Foundation, we would not have been able to support the Tsilhqot’in National Government, Carrier Sekani, and Northern Shuswap Tribal Councils to provide the 8,828 salmon caught by the Sts’ailes and Sq̓̓w̓̓lets on the Fraser River,” says Dianne Garner, emergency management officer for FNESS. “Since time immemorial, salmon have had an important role in our culture, ceremony, and community. Without this grant, it would have been the first time some communities would not have had any salmon.”

Part of what made the effort so remarkable was the limited timeline available for the catch — only a few days — as acknowledging “Unified Command” with three levels of government that had to come together to lead the Big Bar response operations. This team included scientists and engineers, First Nations fishing crews and archaeological monitors, field and support staff from the BC Wildfire Service, biologists, rock scalers, hydrologists, FNESS, and many others.

“We had the communities saying, ‘we need salmon,’ we had the Nations saying they could give their time to catch the salmon; we had the Nation giving permission to fish on their land. We had everything in place except funding to support it,” says Garner.

The grant from the Food Security Provincial Initiatives Fund provided that needed funding and serves as an example of how rapid and responsive granting can be to address emergency situations and acute needs. Even with the grant, the First Nations who worked together absorbed much of the cost.

Garner says that monumental efforts are ongoing to reduce the impact of the landslide on future salmon stocks.

“Our objective with this fund was to fill the gaps and support opportunities others couldn’t — whether that was creating community gardens, green houses, hatcheries, or initiatives like this one, where these Nations were all affected in very remote areas,” says Wallace, who was able to visit Williams Lake for the distribution of the salmon. “What I saw was Nations coming together to support one another. I saw communities coming together to address need and traditional practices. I saw people coming together to offer their help in an emergency.” ■

INTRODUCING

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JEFFREY BOSDET/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING

# Emergency service helps bring Victoria's **Vital Signs** to life

**G**ord Horth has dedicated his life's mission to keeping communities resilient. In his work in public service and emergency management, he has focused his efforts on giving people the tools they need to deliver the best results. And for the last decade, that dedication has included supporting *Victoria's Vital Signs*.

Horth is the general manager for Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) Inc., a major sponsor for *Victoria's Vital Signs*, the Victoria Foundation's annual community check-up that measures the vitality of the region, identifies concerns, and supports action on issues that are critical to quality of life. The Foundation has produced the report annually since 2006 to connect

philanthropy to community needs and opportunities. For the last 10 years, the report wouldn't have been possible without the support of sponsors like Horth and CREST.

"Initially, we wanted to get involved with the Victoria Foundation because there is such an alignment between what the Foundation does and the way it represents a broad section of the

◀ Gord Horth is general manager for Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) Inc., a major sponsor for *Victoria's Vital Signs*.

community and the work that CREST does to also serve its broad community," says Horth, who has been with CREST for 14 years. "I think we make each other stronger together."

Sandra Richardson, Victoria Foundation CEO, agrees.

"Gord cares deeply about this community and the work that happens here, so this partnership has been a natural match for us," says Richardson. "We're so proud to be partnered with CREST and this collaboration really demonstrates great care for the community. *Victoria's Vital Signs* informs all of the work we do — it weaves its way through everything, and it has really become the heartbeat of the community."

When it comes to heartbeats, that's the very thing CREST structures its work around. The company provides emergency telecommunications services for first responders throughout the Capital Regional District. While Horth says the company was lesser known to the public in its early days, CREST supports health and emergency management throughout the CRD, with about 3,000 radio devices securing a direct network of communication between the region's fire, police, victim services, hazmat, airport authorities, ambulance services, BC Transit, Island Health, and others.

"Not everyone realizes the infrastructure it takes to make sure our first responders are able to reach their colleagues the moment they have to. In fact, there is an amazing amount of technology, planning, and support necessary to make that happen properly and effectively whenever it is needed," says Horth. "In reality, public safety is on everyone's minds, and making our communities more resilient is our job."

Because CREST provides first responders with their own private network that is running and monitored

24/7, the cellular system cannot become overloaded or crash, even when there is a large "network" crowd — for example, in downtown Victoria during a Canada Day event. This ensures first responders can get their messages to the people who need them immediately and, ultimately, keeps the community safe.

CREST fields more than eight million calls through their network systems annually. Likewise, in the 14 years it has been running, *Victoria's Vital Signs* gives the region a unique opportunity to check the pulse of the Greater Victoria area and its 13 municipalities. The research behind the annual publication provides an in-depth look at the services and issues that are most relevant to quality of life for the region's residents and illuminates where there may be opportunity for change.

"We are getting ready to celebrate the 15th year of *Victoria's Vital Signs*, and our product and ability to reach the community have improved every year,"

says Richardson. "Gord was willing to step up with a sponsorship in its early days and — along with being one of the nicest gentlemen you'll ever meet — he's never missed a Vital Signs launch. He's always there, ready to help and eager to be involved."

Horth says it's important publications like *Victoria's Vital Signs* exist as a way to unite the region's communities in the broader context. He sees the report as a noble endeavour the Victoria Foundation produces each year, and he is proud to be part of providing people with the information they need to make informed decisions that support local communities.

"We've always seen the link with *Victoria's Vital Signs* in this way. Both the publication and our organization interact with citizens in an effort to build a better, more resilient community," says Horth. "Adding our voice to the number of incredible groups that work with the Foundation is one way we can help." ■

## Vital Conversations

### Engaging the community on issues that matter

A Vital Conversation is a community discussion that aims to foster open dialogue about issues that matter to people in our region. Hosted by the Victoria Foundation, these gatherings bring together community leaders, representatives from local government, and members of the public who want to learn more and share their perspectives.

Topics are connected to issues and trends identified in *Victoria's Vital Signs*, our community's annual check-up that measures the vitality of our region, identifies concerns, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life.

**Find more information, including upcoming Vital Conversations, at [victoriafoundation.bc.ca/category/vital-conversation/](http://victoriafoundation.bc.ca/category/vital-conversation/)**

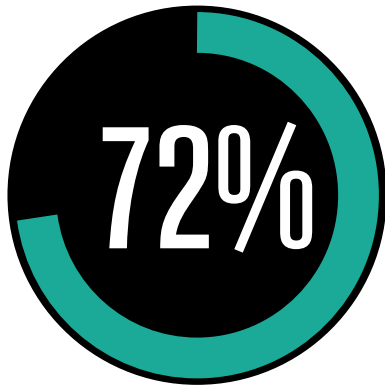


#### Past Vital Conversation topics include:

- Greater Victoria BC2030
- Youth Volunteerism: Barriers and Breakthroughs
- Hey Victoria, let's talk about your drinking...
- Youth Mental Health
- Living With Disabilities in Greater Victoria

# VICTORIA'S VITAL SIGNS

Measuring wellbeing. Creating change.



FEEL IT IS LIKELY OR VERY LIKELY THEY WILL BE LIVING AND WORKING IN GREATER VICTORIA IN 10 YEARS

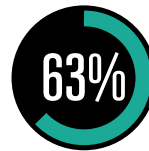
The Victoria Foundation takes an active role in addressing the issues of concern in our community. *Victoria's Vital Signs* focuses on 12 of the key issues, including giving each a grade based on public opinion findings and presenting some of the ways issues are addressed.

## QUALITY OF LIFE IN GREATER VICTORIA

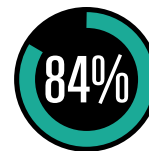
Participants in the 2019 Vital Signs survey were generally very positive about their quality of life and feelings of connectedness to their community.



would describe themselves as happy



are satisfied with work and home life balance



feel supported by loving family, companions, and/or friends

75%

feel somewhat or very connected to their community

52%

actively participate in their community of interest

59%

feel they have the opportunity to make a difference in their community or city

25% FEEL HIGH OR OVERWHELMING STRESS ASSOCIATED WITH PERSONAL FINANCES

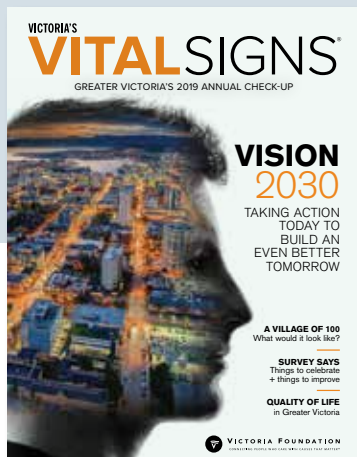
84% FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE AT LEAST SOMETIMES AS A RESULT OF DISCRIMINATION

## 2019 FEATURE STORY VISION 2030

What challenges will citizens be facing a decade from now? What steps do we need to take to make Victoria, our province, and our country an even better place to live in the future?

Local leaders Dave Obee, Catherine Holt, and Jill Doucette weigh in on their visions for the future.





Get your copy of **VITAL SIGNS** at **VICTORIAFOUNDATION.BC.CA** or call **250.381.5532**.

## QUOTES FROM SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

*The police forces and first responders in the region are very committed and dedicated to their roles.*

*I am most concerned by the lack of family physicians and access to mental health services. It seems that in the Greater Victoria area, we are seriously lacking in these areas.*

*Food security has improved tremendously in recent years. Keep up the good work.*

*I believe most people in Victoria welcome newcomers. However, many of the people are coming with degrees and education and are not able to do a quick transition into these jobs here. Nurses are working as childcare supports because the training from the country they have come from isn't recognized.*

*Clearly there are plenty of minimum wage jobs available, but not enough jobs that pay a living wage.*

*I think Greater Victoria is doing well with encouraging alternative, environmentally friendly transportation.*

# MILESTONES

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

### 2019

#### MAY

**\$3 MILLION GRANT TO FOOD SECURITY**  
Funding from the Province of BC allowed for up to \$2 million dollars to purchase the Food Rescue Distribution Centre in Esquimalt, with the remaining funds use to offer BC-wide food security grants.

#### JUNE

**ALL IN**  
The Victoria Foundation hosted the Community Foundations of Canada national conference.

#### JULY

**STAFF CHANGES**  
After 13 years with the Foundation, Louise MacDonald retired from her role as Director, Governance and Executive Operations. Brin Morgan was promoted to replace her. And Anna Glenn was promoted to Community Initiatives Coordinator.

#### SEPTEMBER

**STAFF CHANGES**  
Jessica Bell joined the Foundation in the new position of Manager Strategic Partnerships.

#### OCTOBER

**VICTORIA'S VITAL SIGNS**  
The 14th edition of our popular report on the vitality of the region focused on changes taking place in the region over the next 10 years.

#### NOVEMBER

**RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY & GIVING TUESDAY**  
Back by popular demand,

these two days celebrated giving back to our community.



**NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY**  
The Victoria Foundation sponsored Generosity of Spirit Awards to the Sisters of St. Ann and Patty Pitts.

#### DECEMBER

**GRANTS ANNOUNCED**  
\$2.8 million in community grants were awarded to 109 local non-profit organizations, bringing the total amount awarded in 2019 to \$18 million and over \$245 million since the Foundation began in 1936.

### 2020

#### JANUARY

**BOARD AND STAFF CHANGES**  
Zaman Velji took over for outgoing Board Chair, Grace Wong Sneddon, while new board members included Rob Gareau, Marilyn Sing, Brad Clark and Rajiv Gandhi. Wendy Lum also joined the board back in June.

On the staff side, there were changes in the Foundation's finance department, with Cindy Dunphy joining as Finance Analyst, while Nathan Lapointe was promoted to Finance Manager. Zahura Ahmed also joined the Foundation as Grants and Youth Programs Associate.

**INVESTMENT READINESS PROGRAM**  
Funding call launched,

providing grants up to \$100,000 for social enterprise.

**GENDER EQUITY FUND**  
The Victoria Foundation distributed \$50,000 in partnership with the Community Foundations of Canada and the Government of Canada.

#### FEBRUARY

**ISLAND FOOD CARING**  
Fundraising campaign raises \$32,112 to support Food Rescue Program.

#### MARCH

**LEADING BY EXAMPLE**  
As lead sponsor, the Victoria Foundation brings this conference on implementing the SDGs in Canada to Victoria.

**OFFICES CLOSE**  
Victoria Foundation offices close to the public in response to COVID-19.



**RAPID RELIEF FUND**  
In partnership with the Jawl Foundation, and the Times Colonist, this community fundraiser raised \$1 million in 36 hours and a total of \$6 million in 52 days to support over a hundred local charities helping those hit hardest by the pandemic in our community.

#### MAY

**EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND**  
New federal funding program offers \$1.6 million in grants to local charities supporting COVID-19 response.

# PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES

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 inspiring.



Jocelynn Evans is one of the recipients of the Thomas John Ferris Memorial Scholarship.

JEFFREY BOSDET/PAGE ONE PUBLISHING

## Fund for education and hospitality honours owner of Ferris' Oyster Bar

**W**HEN PAULA FERRIS talks about her dad, Tom, it's clear how much he valued his customers — and the power of an education.

"We had one young customer recently who said he'd come back to Victoria and to Ferris' Oyster Bar just to tell Tom how his studies were going and how he was

doing in school," says Ferris. "That's how much of an impact he had."

Thomas John Ferris, owner of Ferris' Oyster Bar, passed away in August 2019. It was a sudden and difficult time for the family and those at the restaurant, but in an act of community, those closest to Tom made a decision to honour him in a way that would mean the most: by creating the Thomas John Ferris

Memorial Scholarship Fund with the Victoria Foundation to support college students in the hospitality industry. With a successful online campaign to kickstart the effort, the community rallied for Tom's legacy of dedication to the hospitality industry and higher learning.

"My dad believed that everyone should get an education," says Ferris. "A classic Tom-ism was 'It's not rocket science —

people should be able to go to school if they want to.”

Tom earned his own degree in history at the University of Toronto while working at Chateau Lake Louise and Jasper Park Lodge. He worked his way from pot washer to captain waiter. After founding Ferris’ in Victoria in 1991, his passion for his work, staff, customers, and family was a gift to the community. True to form, while Tom considered himself

an introvert, his belief in education would commonly have him striking up lively conversations with customers of every age to hear about what they were learning.

The fund will support scholarships to enable hospitality and culinary workers to pursue their post-secondary goals. The first awards have been established at Camosun College: the Thomas John Ferris Memorial Award for Culinary

Arts (\$1,500) and the Thomas John Ferris Memorial Award for Hospitality Management (\$1,500). Paula says the fund is a way to keep her father’s dedication alive.

“Tom was a lot of things to a lot of people,” says Paula. “He loved his puzzles, history, sports, his pugs, travel, and he also had this way of making everyone around him feel important. He really cared.”

## HOSTED ORGANIZATION FUNDHOLDER

# The Land Conservancy gives donors choice in preserving special places

**T**he Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) is in the business of protecting communities. Since 1997, TLC has been on the frontlines of preserving habitats for plants, animals, and the natural world in BC. It also safeguards properties with historical, cultural, scientific, or scenic value.

On Vancouver Island, TLC is lauded for diverse work, ranging from protecting zones of the Southern Gulf Islands to its stewardship of cultural locales, like the Abkhazi Garden. But while the charity’s work is far reaching, it doesn’t happen without support. That’s why, in 2003, TLC partnered with the Victoria Foundation to create what would become the first of five separate funds to ensure TLC’s work could continue long into the future.

“We’re so proud to partner with the Victoria Foundation, because it means we have the financial stability to know we’ll be able to keep doing this work,” says Cathy Armstrong, executive director of TLC. “With that community credibility, we can also get our message out to more people.”

Armstrong says TLC’s funds support different initiatives within the charity. The Land Conservancy of BC Endowment Fund supports work the organization does throughout the province – from acquisition to maintenance and public awareness. This fund is also critical to the survival of the properties TLC cares for and the ones they’re fighting to protect. TLC’s Ours Forever Endowment Fund was specifically created to support TLC’s work in the capital region to save special places under threat from development on southern Vancouver Island.

Special project funds invite donors to hand-select the causes that matter most to them. TLC’s Jack Eldridge Memorial Fund for Abkhazi Garden commemorates the legacy of one passionate TLC member dedicated to the survival of the garden.

The Briony Penn Endowment Fund is a new TLC initiative to support naturalist education. To recognize Penn for more than 20 years of contributions,



Briony Penn shares her expertise with a young naturalist in the Clearwater River Valley, where last year’s first Deertrails Naturalist Program (TLC) was held.

TLC’s Board created the fund to support educational programming for youth.

The Ruffed Grouse Endowment Fund is another individual fund that supports the preservation of Ruffed Grouse Ridge — a four-hectare area located on Salt Spring Island with ecological significance (the wetland is home to cutthroat and the endangered red-legged frog.)

Armstrong says partnering with the Foundation isn’t just about fundraising. It also allows donors to access resources, like educational programming, and to network with others who are passionate about supporting the community.

“Having multiple funds really comes down to the donor’s experience — this gives people confidence that they know where their money is going,” says Armstrong. “In this way, people know they can help protect their favourite special place for years to come.”

## INDIVIDUALS

### **Peter Golden Social Justice Fund** honours legacy of human rights support

Peter Golden was a tireless advocate for social justice. He was known throughout the community as someone who cared deeply, both in his capacity as a lawyer and as a longtime Victoria resident.

Golden made it his mission to support immigrants and refugees and victims of family violence and poverty. He was proud of his Jewish heritage and unafraid to challenge policies that impacted human rights.

“Peter’s fundamental goal in life was pursuing justice and human rights, especially for the least advantaged in society,” says Charlotte Bell, Golden’s wife. “He defended labour rights, fought international exploitation, and worked to defend the poor and women. Many of these overarching issues crystallize in the struggles faced by new Canadians.”

In-memoriam gifts were used to launch the Peter Golden Social Justice Fund with the Victoria Foundation — a fund intended to further Golden’s contributions and encourage others to work for social justice. Bell says the fund will assist new Canadians and people dealing with human rights abuses by supporting organizations working on these issues. A portion of the fund also supports projects that align with Peter’s values through the Foundation’s community grants program.

### **Elders and Youth Tribal Governance Fund** highlights Indigenous voices

When Nigel Atkin founded the Elders and Youth Tribal Governance Fund, he wanted his art to do more for the community. Thanks to the success of his carvings, an initial contribution of \$5,000 a decade ago grew through contributions and investments, allowing Atkin to recommend more grants each year.

“Transformation is an important value of Indigenous cultures,” says Atkin, an artist and instructor at the University of Victoria, specializing in public relations with governmental bodies and First Nations. “I was fortunate to do well with my artwork, and it’s never ‘wasting’ time if you’re carving and it’s going to something good.”

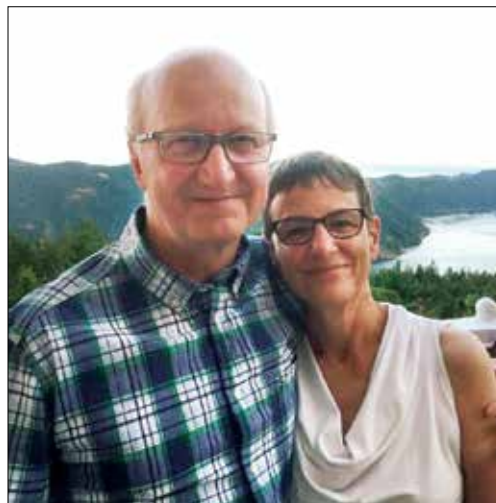
The fund provides community grants to promote and preserve Indigenous cultural practices in four key areas: services for Elders,



traditional sports, arts and crafts, and First Nations governance. The grants have provided bursaries for Indigenous women graduating from joinery programs, travel and accommodation for those attending an annual Elders Gathering in BC, and sponsorship to Indigenous carvers for an annual festival in Tofino.

“It’s not a lot of money, but it’s a lot when you don’t have it,” says Atkin. “I’ve hoped to contribute to making some room for Indigenous voices, and maybe that’s a part of reconciliation.”

## VICTORIA CIRCLE



**Keith and Jenny MacLeod** 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 bequest, 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.**

# Gail O’Riordan Memorial Fund

supports music and performance in Victoria

Gail O’Riordan was a consummate musician. It wasn’t just her 30-year role in the Victoria Symphony, or the accolades she received as a cellist and pianist, or the success of her cello studio, teaching students aged five to 75. Gail was as passionate about sharing her love of music as she was about enjoying it herself.

“One of my teachers used to say: ‘There are only two reasons people go into music: they either can’t do anything else or can’t imagine doing anything else.’ The only thing Gail wanted was to be a musician and music teacher,” says Jon O’Riordan, Gail’s husband.

When Gail learned she had cancer in 2018, she and Jon spoke about a fund. When she passed in September of that year, Jon and close colleagues created the Gail O’Riordan Memorial Fund for Music and Performing Arts, held at the Victoria Foundation. Support is earmarked for programming that advances youth education or develops work that wouldn’t otherwise be possible.

Professional and community groups can apply, from ballet to opera, chamber music to performing arts.

“It would put a smile on her face to know these programs are being supported,” says Jon. “Gail made enormous contributions to this community, and she had a legacy she wanted to see through.”

## 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

**Damaris Burchett** (July 3, 2019) and her late husband, Peter, established the Raven Fund during their lifetimes and the Peter Burchett Endowment Trust was established through an estate gift upon Peter’s passing. Both funds support the Victoria Foundation’s community grants program.

**Frank Cappello** (July 19, 2019) and his late wife, Betty, gave considerable thought to establishing a fund that would be held in perpetuity as a lasting legacy to their family. The Frank J., Betty-June, Carl Edward, and Frank Anthony Cappello Family Fund supports a number of health-related charities.

**Johannes Van Wees** (September 12, 2019) established the VanHall Fund for the Arts to support his passion in music and the performing arts and the VanHall Fund, which provides scholarships and bursaries to students training in skilled labour and trades.

**Amar Sethi** (November 3, 2019) established the Christine A. Sethi – Van Impe Foundation dedicated to his beloved wife. For succession planning, the Christine A. Sethi – Van Impe Foundation was migrated to the Victoria Foundation so his wife’s international missions will continue to be supported in perpetuity.

**Michael Tyler** (December 20, 2019) was a member of the Victoria Foundation’s finance committee, chair of the arts and heritage committee and an Honorary Governor. Michael and his late wife, Anne, established the Michael and Anne Tyler Fund which will continue to support arts and the Foundation’s community granting program.

**Robert Harman** (December 21, 2019) and his wife, Sara, established the Harman Family Fund, a donor-advised fund to

support their favourite charities and areas of interest. Sara will continue as the donor advisor to support their philanthropic priorities.

**Gerald McGeough** (December 29, 2019) and his wife, Marion, established the Magoo Fund, a pass-through fund. The fund has granted over \$1.8 million to charitable organizations that they felt passionate about and provided support to our community grants program through *Make it Happen!*

**James (Robbie) Robinson** (January 9, 2020) and his late wife, Mary, established the Robinson Family Fund to support their philanthropic interests both locally and internationally. The fund will now become part of the Vital Victoria Fund to support the Foundation’s community grants program.

**Edward (Ted) Hughes** (January 10, 2020) and Helen Hughes established the Ted and Helen Hughes Fund at the book launch of *The Mighty Hughes: From Prairie Lawyer to Western Canada’s Moral Compass*. The fund supports entrance scholarships at UVic’s Faculty of Law, particularly for Indigenous students.

**Eric Charman** (March 6, 2020) was a former Honorary Governor. The Victoria Conservatory of Music established the Eric and Shirley Charman Young Musicians Bursary Fund in honour of the Charmans to reflect their lifelong commitment to music and devotion to supporting emerging young musicians.

**Marion Spillette** (March 19, 2020) established the Peter Spillette Memorial Fund in memory of her late son who died in 2008. The fund supports the Boys and Girls Club in Greater Victoria, which was an organization that Peter was passionate about.

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

**Chantal Bérard** (April 9, 2019) was a Victoria Circle member and established the Le Fonds Chantal-Bérard, which will support nine charitable organizations. These organizations have a focus on animal welfare, cancer research, music, and the environment, causes that were close to Chantal’s heart.

**Robert Lowe** (August 2, 2019) named the Victoria Foundation as a beneficiary in his Will. The gift will be used to establish the Robert Lowe Fund to support the BC SPCA and, in particular, cat welfare.

**Constance Hoyte** (December 3, 2019) named the Victoria Foundation as one of the residual beneficiaries of her estate. This gift will be used to support the community grants program and will allow the Foundation to proactively respond to vital issues in the community.

**Barbara Longworth** (January 24, 2020) named the Victoria Foundation as a beneficiary in her Will to receive an unrestricted cash legacy. This gift will allow the Foundation to proactively respond to vital issues in the community and provide ongoing support of our community grants program.

**Doreen Paulsen** (March 2, 2020) was a Victoria Circle member and established the B and D Paulsen Fund by designating the Victoria Foundation as a beneficiary of a mutual fund account. The fund will provide ongoing support to two charities that Doreen and her late husband, Birger (Bob), cared about.

**Olga Yakomovich** (March 16, 2020) left the Victoria Foundation a cash legacy in her Will with direction that the gift be made using publicly listed securities. A fund will be established to support bursaries and scholarships at colleges and universities in British Columbia.

### FlagStone Fund supports the common good of all

David Spence and Donna Otto live by the principle of giving back to the community. Spence has been a minister in the United Church of Canada for nearly 50 years, and his wife has been a music educator most of her life. Spence is also the president of the Royal Commonwealth Society Vancouver Island, an organization committed to improving lives across the world. Focusing on the needs of others is something they plan to keep doing.

To support this, they created the FlagStone Fund, which they transferred from a commercial institution to the Victoria Foundation. This donor-advised fund will allow Spence and Otto to continue their work supporting education, the environment, human rights, and more.

"We wanted to establish the fund with the Victoria Foundation because it's a community-focused organization that has a deep sense of the needs of the community and the opportunities a fund like this can provide," says Spence.

Spence and Otto have contributed to a variety of organizations, and Spence hopes this fund will help them support others long into the future.

## Collector honours two lives with funds to support music and trades



When Johannes Van Wees arrived in Canada, he came with a dedication for work. "John," as most called him, immigrated from the Netherlands to Canada with his partner, Johannes Halee, and the two settled in Victoria in 1958. Van Wees became a pastry chef at the Dutch Bakery and, in 1964, opened Vanhall Antiques on Fort Street, which he ran with his partner until retirement nearly 30 years later.

"John was very proud of his life and his partner," says Sara Neely, director of philanthropic services with the Victoria Foundation.

"Both had mothers striving to see them excel. John's emphasized the importance of a trade, while Johannes' encouraged a love of music."

When Halee passed away in 2006, Van Wees wanted to ensure their passions lived on, so he established two funds. The VanHall Fund for the Arts offers scholarships to classical jazz and organ students at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. The VanHall Trades Entrance Bursary supports students at Camosun College and Vancouver Island University pursuing a career in the trades.

"John would say he came from a simple beginning, but he had tremendous curiosity and a passion for learning," says Neely. "He never stopped being interested in the world around him."

## FUND TYPES

### Focus on Discretionary Funds

#### Celebrating 20 years - Orion Fund

In January 2000, when Josephine died, few residents of Victoria were aware of her extraordinary philanthropic generosity. Josephine was a private donor, and many of her major gifts were made anonymously. In 1990, she established the Orion Foundation to make grants to her favourite charities without revealing her identity. Upon her death, the Orion Foundation, with assets of \$2.1 million, passed to the Victoria Foundation to continue supporting local charitable activities.

This year, the Orion Fund celebrates its 20th anniversary. Over \$1.5 million

has been granted to charitable organizations in our community and, given the discretionary nature of the Orion Fund, these grants have supported a wide range of charitable activity, including arts and culture, social services, environment, children and youth care, food security, and homelessness.

The Victoria Foundation is very grateful Josephine entrusted us with her legacy, and we ensure her support continues through the annual allocation of grants in the name of the Orion Fund.

## Different Fund Types Offer Flexibility

Most funds at the Victoria Foundation are permanent donor-advised funds, wherein the capital contribution is invested in perpetuity, and the annual distributable return is granted to registered charities on the donor's recommendations. The Foundation recognizes that donors may wish to have various 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 and allows donors to make a gift to the Victoria Foundation that will generate distributable returns and also use a portion



Do you value the local programs, services, and organizations that make our region special? Seniors care and amateur sports groups, beach cleanups and local theatre, music programs, cultural events, youth services and food banks — all of these and many more are run by local charitable organizations. The Vital Victoria Fund supports projects, programs, and services like these that are among the most important in our community. Many donors make their gifts to this fund, allowing the Foundation to respond to critical needs as they arise. For the next six to 18 months, depending on the continuing or new effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, this fund will provide grants through the lens of recovery and resilience for our local charities.

For more information, call 250.381.5532 or visit [victoriafoundation.bc.ca/vitalvictoriafund/](http://victoriafoundation.bc.ca/vitalvictoriafund/).

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 the 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 distributed to their chosen charities within a 12-month period of time.

#### ■ The Emerging Fund

This is a fund to 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.

## 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](http://victoriafoundation.bc.ca), as well as on iTunes or wherever you find your favourite podcasts.

## Leaving a legacy that reflects your values

For Margaret Sasges, Q.C., a solicitor with Clay & Company, estate and incapacity planning has comprised the majority of her practice, working



with clients to address legal and tax challenges and meet their goals. "Frequently, clients come to see me, knowing they should put an estate plan in place but uncertain about how to proceed."

Increasingly, she sees clients who have no immediate family for whom they need to provide, circumstances in which the Victoria Foundation can play a very significant role. Sasges says most clients have a general charitable intent but may not have a particular charity in mind. She recommends they consider a community foundation. "Having served on the board of a foundation in the past, I am familiar with the vetting processes foundations have in place and the protocols for verifying that the funds granted to any particular charity are used for the identified purpose."

Clients frequently have concerns about which charities are most appropriate or whether a charity will still exist when the time comes. Sasges assures them that the community foundation will do that homework. "For my clients who do choose to leave a gift to the Victoria Foundation in their Will, they are choosing the assurance that their estate will be used in the way they intend, without placing any additional burden on their executors."

Those assurances make the hard decisions easier. "Very frequently, by the time my clients have signed their Wills, they are relieved and pleased that they have a plan in place that reflects their values in life and the confidence that that plan will be implemented."

## Estate planning: ensuring your wishes are carried out

Kevin Jensen understands the peace of mind that comes from having a comprehensive, achievable, and effective plan in place for your financial future. He is a trust officer with Scotia Wealth Management.

"We work alongside our clients to help develop effective management plans and estate and trust solutions to ensure their wishes are carried out with dignity, professionalism, and thoughtful care," says Jensen.

Working with professional advisors ensures your legacy is realized without

unnecessary complications, delays, or additional costs usually associated with a lack of, or poor, planning.

"While most people do not relish the thought of considering their estate plans, having a plan in place can provide great comfort knowing that your loved ones and charities or causes you care most about are taken care of," says Jensen.

Jensen notes that with life's unpredictable nature, it is wise to complete your planning in a timely manner then regularly review to ensure that the plans in



place accurately reflect your wishes.

"We wish for our clients to think of us as their trusted partners through their life journey," he says. "Working with the professionals at the Victoria Foundation is always seamless given their desire, like ours, to do what is best for their donors in realizing their life goals."

## Tax savings from donated securities can enhance giving

Rick Wiegel, Vice-President, Portfolio Manager, with Blue Heron Advisory Group at CIBC/Wood Gundy, recalls a sailing adventure he took from Africa to South America. They knew their destination and approximately how long it would take but had to trim the sails or alter course slightly depending on winds and weather. "Planning and investing is somewhat the same," he says.

Changes in life requiring financial adjustments could be helping elderly parents transition to a care facility, choosing ways to contribute to charity, helping children purchase a home, or setting up an RESP. Every client's "financial fingerprint" is different.

"The more we know about a client's finances, family, lifestyle, hobbies, and interests, as well as

their charitable aspirations, the better we can do our job as financial advisors," he says.

Financial decisions might be to gift shares to charity versus sell shares and contribute cash.

"There can be definite tax benefits if there are capital gains on shares and if those shares are contributed to a charity like the Victoria Foundation. Likewise, contributing an RRSP or RRIF, which can be taxable to an estate, may be able to offset taxes by donating those proceeds to charity."

TFSA's may also be a good source to reduce taxes to the estate, and even insurance policies and annuities can be useful planning tools. "Several of our clients have

made the Victoria Foundation the irrevocable beneficiary of the proceeds of an insurance policy," says Wiegel. "The clients, in return, received tax benefits that offset capital gains they had in the year of the contribution."

Giving back is meaningful to Wiegel. "This is a great place to live and work. There are so many giving people in this community."



Rick Wiegel, Graham Isenegger and Neil Chappell are Investment Advisors with the Blue Heron Advisory Group of CIBC Wood Gundy. The views of Rick Wiegel do not necessarily reflect those of CIBC World Markets Inc. CIBC Wood Gundy is a division of CIBC World Markets Inc., a subsidiary of CIBC and a Member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.

# 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.



Search by keyword to find the charities that interest you ...

| Name                      | Address  | Phone     | Email                  | Website               | Sort |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Arts & Culture Foundation | 1000 ... | (604) ... | info@artsandculture.ca | www.artsandculture.ca | ...  |
| Arts & Culture Foundation | 1000 ... | (604) ... | info@artsandculture.ca | www.artsandculture.ca | ...  |
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... or by *Vital Signs* issue, for example. Toggle the arrow at the top of the column to sort.



**VICTORIA FOUNDATION**  
CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER®

# 2019

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

We had an exciting year of growth, new initiatives and expansion. In 2019 we approved over \$2.8M in Community Grants to 109 local non-profits. Individual donors and fund holders also contributed, this year providing almost \$767,000 of the total \$2.8M. For more 2019 highlights, or to view our complete audited financial statements, please visit [victoriafoundation.ca](http://victoriafoundation.ca).

**\$381<sup>+</sup>**  
million in  
assets

under administration,  
including 54 new funds

**8.2%**  
investment  
returns

ten-year annualized  
investment returns

**\$23<sup>+</sup>**  
million  
in gifts

including bequest donations  
and gifts of securities

- \$565 thousand unrestricted
- \$1M restricted long-term
- \$11M pass-through
- \$11M endowment

## GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

**1,372 distributions**

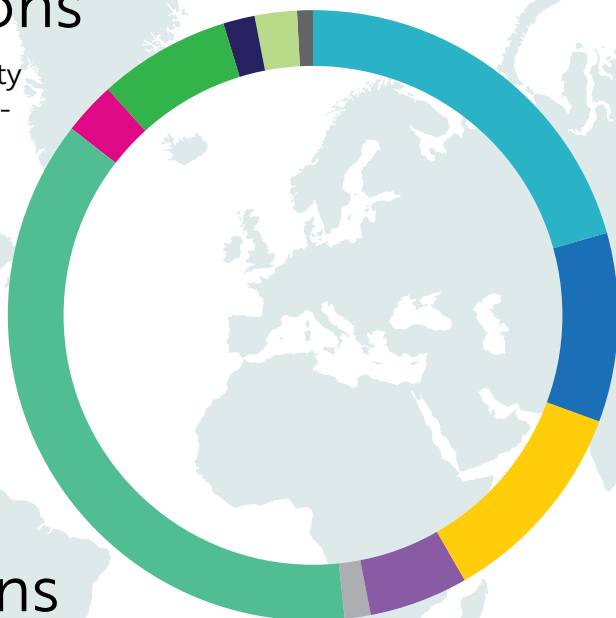
including 104 through Community  
Grants - all grants go to federally-  
registered charities or other  
qualified donees

**\$18<sup>+</sup> million**

- \$10M endowed grants
  - \$8M non-endowed grants
- includes \$2.8M granted  
through Community Grants

**513 organizations**

147 of these have established hosted  
endowment funds with us, creating a  
long-term source of revenue



**12 vital signs  
indicator areas**

- arts & culture, 20.79%
- belonging & engagement, 9.82%
- economy, 11.29%
- environment, 5.09%
- getting started, 1.48%
- health & wellness, 37.30%
- housing, 2.83%
- learning, 6.74%
- safety, 0.01%
- sports & recreation, 1.66%
- standard of living, 2.20%
- transportation, 0.79%



**THE IRVING K. BARBER**  
British Columbia Scholarship Society

ADMINISTERED BY THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION



**HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED**

# Awards and scholarships for BC post-secondary students

The Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society provides scholarships and awards in support of post-secondary education. Since its inception, the Society has granted over \$22 million to thousands of students across the province.

The Society's programs are administered by the Victoria Foundation.

[www.ikbbc.ca](http://www.ikbbc.ca)

**In 2019, our members  
helped us give:**

**\$6 million**

**to support youth  
financial well-being.**

**With your help, we're empowering youth.**

Together with our members, employees and community partners, Coast Capital gives a hand up to young Canadians by empowering them to achieve what's important in their lives and unleashing their potential as change makers.

Learn more at [\*\*coastcapitalsavings.com/community\*\*](https://coastcapitalsavings.com/community).

