

**MOVING STORIES»»
MOVING FORWARD**



Vancity Community Foundation



WE MEASURE OURSELVES BY THE IMPACT OF THOSE WE WORK WITH.

WE ARE VANCITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Vancity Community Foundation is a charitable foundation connected to Vancity Credit Union. Simply put, we are people coming together to make the community where we live a better place. Our vision is one of redefining wealth, and we work toward thriving communities that are just and vibrant. A thriving community values cooperative principles, where social justice, financial inclusion and environmental sustainability are built into everything we do. At the end of the day, our stories aren't just our stories. They're yours as well.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN, AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Vancity Community Foundation is getting older and, dare we say, wiser. After a quarter century, we are taking this opportunity to pause, take stock, and reflect on where we've been. But even more importantly, to look ahead at where we're going and where we are most needed. Our history is really still a brief one – especially when set against the context of the Coast Salish people on whose traditional territory we currently operate. Back in 1989 when we started, the Berlin Wall fell, the Exxon Valdez oil spill occurred, the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement came into effect and Vancity established the Vancity Community Foundation with a \$1,000,000 gift.

“Innovate,” they said.

“Develop and invest in community,” they said.

“Build on the values and traditions of Vancity,” they said.

And we listened.

In these pages, you'll find the stories of people working collectively towards common purposes. Where challenges and solutions are interconnected. Where stories link with one another by way of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Our donors, like the depositors and members of a credit union, make all of this possible. Your contributions are truly the foundation of Vancity Community Foundation.

Above all else, within these pages,
you'll find an invitation to join us.




»»» HOW WE WORK IS WHO WE ARE

Vancity Community Foundation serves as a catalyst. Every contribution we receive is leveraged to advance a development process toward positive change. We directly invest our assets for impact. Through values based collaboration with other partners and the direct efforts of our passionate staff, we use grants, loans, and program support to strengthen community organizations that are making a difference.

As you'll come to see, our stories are interwoven around a set of focused themes related to asset building; including financial, social, ecological, cultural, and even political components. These themes are:

COMMUNITY-OWNED REAL ESTATE refers to land and property owned by and for the community. These are initiatives that house individuals and organizations. They directly strengthen the asset base of non-profit organizations, and build opportunities for shared spaces and accessible resources. It's an area of growing significance for us, given the challenges of affordability in our region and the disparity of asset ownership in our society. We also recognize the opportunity inherent through philanthropic gifts of appreciated real estate assets that could be used for a social purpose. In short, as a donor, a gift of your assets could be used to greatly better your community.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES are non-profit organizations engaged directly in earned income generation to help support their mission. In most instances, this is about much more than making money in order to give back. It's about supporting organizations that care about how the money is made in the first place. We have been leaders in contributing toward enterprises that create employment for marginalized individuals, deliver essential and accessible products and services, and reduce the ecological footprint of our activities. By helping social enterprises become more successful, we are furthering their potential impact.





IMPACT INVESTING recognizes that we care about how our money is made as well. We are not limited to grants made from the income earned investing our endowment, or just using the funds we receive to deliver programs. We apply our own investment-making capacity ourselves to create impact. This has been an important principle for Vancity Community Foundation since inception, and we are working towards having an increased proportion of our assets achieving a greater level of impact, without compromising the long-term sustainability of our model. The way we see it, including more donors who share this intent, and finding more partners with whom to co-invest is as important an objective to us as it is to our partner Vancity. This is precisely the essence behind Good Money™ and putting money to good.

ADDRESSING INJUSTICE in all its varied forms, is a true motivator; as well as a fourth theme you'll see within the book's stories. We want to be part of a group that offers solutions, while working hard to include those in our society who are excluded. We've come a long way together. But there is a sense of urgency to the work ahead that needs to be done. Community organizations are being asked to do more with less, climate change is a very real threat, basic sustainability continues to be at risk, and we're seeing growth in inequality characterized by a stark division between the haves and the have-nots in our communities.

DONORS ARE INVESTORS and are also our partners in creating a better world. A decision to support your community through Vancity Community Foundation will pay dividends for future generations. To get there, new models with more collaboration are required. Creative ways of working, both strategically and innovatively, are needed. In short, we must leverage all assets, collectively, to really make a difference.

This book is not merely a snapshot of the success of our communities. It is a roadmap for where we want to go together. And an invitation to participate.

Be inspired and join us, as we continue to turn good into better. And better. And better. And better.





Elsie and Owen Williams, Donor Investors

CODEVELOPMENT CANADA THANK YOU, ELSIE AND OWEN WILLIAMS

»»» SOCIAL CHANGE-MAKER CODEVELOPMENT CANADA IS NAMED BENEFICIARY IN PLANNED GIFT

CoDevelopment Canada (CoDev) is a Vancouver-based, non-governmental organization (NGO) that links labour and community groups working for social change. In particular, CoDev's role is to build solidarity between workers in Canada and in Latin America.

Years ago, a small Donor Advised Fund was established at Vancity Community Foundation to help support CoDev's operations. But this story became even more interesting through an unexpected act of giving. Thanks to the generosity of Owen Williams, the group's future was truly secured.

In the fall of 2009, CoDev received some bittersweet news. The organization learned that Owen, a quiet and humble supporter, had passed away, leaving a bequest to their endowment fund through his estate. CoDev staff were genuinely touched he had thought well enough of their work to consider them in his will. And they were surprised when they learned the magnitude of the gift, which was in excess of \$1,000,000.

Owen Williams will be remembered as being a gentle, kind man. He and his wife Elsie were inseparable. In the years after her passing, Owen became friends with his neighbour, Chris Shelton. A long-time supporter of CoDev, Chris passionately shared a few anecdotes and feel-good stories with Owen about CoDev's health and education projects. Those stories must have made an impression for Owen to later name CoDev as the major beneficiary of a planned gift. Owen's contribution meant CoDev could continue working with partners to create long-term, meaningful, sustainable social change, reducing dependence on traditional government funding sources. The gift also stimulated a more active strategy to further grow this endowment, including a deeper relationship between Vancity Community Foundation and CoDev, as well as with a number of subsequent donors.



CREAM, SUGAR AND A TOUCH OF HUMAN JUSTICE

When you support the fair-trade, organic richness of Café Ético coffee – a social enterprise started by none other than CoDev – you're supporting humankind.

Fifteen years ago, a start-up grant from the Enterprising Non-Profits program gave this passionate, coffee-bean loving group the means to eventually become one of the first fairly traded coffee companies to buy direct from Latin American farmer associations. As a social enterprise, it also generates additional funds to support CoDev's programs.

Fast forward a decade and a half and Café Ético continues to pay its suppliers 20% more than the fair trade minimum. Even more impressive, a staggering 100% of profits help support human rights in Latin America.



THE POTLUCK CAFÉ SOCIETY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

»»» NUTRITIOUS MEALS ARE JUST THE START AT POTLUCK CAFÉ SOCIETY AND POTLUCK CATERING

Vancouver's Potluck Café Society and Potluck Catering are a pioneering example of a successful social enterprise. By utilizing funds from the catering operation, the organization is able to provide education and meal programs to encourage proper nutrition within the community. If that weren't enough, Potluck also supports the employment of individuals who live in the city's Downtown Eastside.

For close to 15 years, Potluck has provided on-the-job training, mentorship, and life skills for neighbourhood residents. But their support goes even further by helping people navigate challenges outside of the work realm, by connecting them with housing opportunities and mental health services, and by providing nutritious meals as well.

At Vancity Community Foundation, we've provided a range of financial support over the years, as well as technical assistance. And we always look forward to their delicious catering services at our meetings.

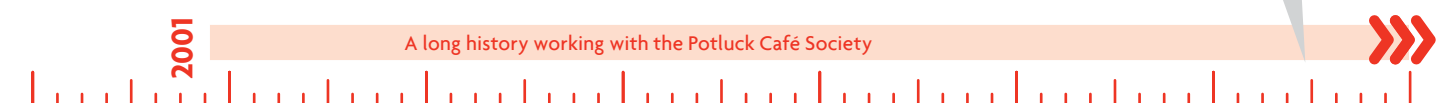
MORE THAN A PINCH OF CARING

As a result of the expertise developed at Potluck, the Recipes for Success (Recipes) program grew to offer practical guidance for businesses of all kinds. Supported by multiple funders, Recipes provides business owners, managers, and staff with proven best practices to provide pro-active, preventative, cost-effective opportunities in the workplace to support staff facing barriers. Since its inception, Recipes has supported 32 different businesses employ an impressive 93 individuals that likely may not have been working otherwise. The Recipes magic ingredient? Caring, caring, and a dash of more caring.



THE TIP JAR

In **2014**, Potluck's community staff worked a combined 11,465 hours, which translated into **\$147,481.60** in earned wages for employees facing barriers.





THE PET TREAT BAKERY SIT. ROLL-OVER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

»»» THE PET TREAT BAKERY MEANS QUALITY SNACKS AND QUALITY JOBS

Exceeding expectations is all the rage at Comox Valley's Pet Treat Bakery. Not only do dogs get treated to a great assortment of locally sourced snacks, but the more snacks that Pet Treat Bakery produces, the more paid work is created for individuals with disabilities.

This successful bakery, owned by the Beaufort Association for the Mentally Handicapped, now supplies a number of local pet food retailers and vet clinics. But this is only the beginning. In fact, on Vancouver Island alone, over 130 potential new customers have been identified. And as Pet Treat Bakery's Susan Bunn puts it: "We anticipate that with the addition of 11 new retailers on board, our sales will reach \$250,000 by 2017, creating an additional eight jobs in the process."



PET TREAT BAKERY COMPETES IN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HEROES

Inspired by the CBC hit TV show Dragon's Den, which aims to recognize and support Canadian entrepreneurs, Social Enterprise Heroes is an annual celebration hosted by the Enterprising Non-Profits program. Pet Treat Bakery was approved for entry in 2014 when they identified the existence of a key challenge: they simply couldn't keep up with the demand for their product.

Susan was coached by Vancity Community Foundation team members leading up to the big event. Our support helped boost the company's confidence, especially when it came to overall business acumen. "We found Susan already had a lot of answers in her head," said her Vancity Community Foundation staff coach. "She just needed a bit of advice and support to be able to focus on where her business was going."

The eight hours in business consulting paid off. And Pet Treat Bakery's presentation was awarded \$15,000 in grant funding; a boost that has been put to good use given the organization's need for machinery that will better help them keep up with that overwhelming customer demand.





LUCILLE HARKNESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND IT'S ABOUT EQUALITY

»»» LUCILLE HARKNESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND MAKES AN APPROPRIATE WEDDING GIFT

When Lyle Truden and Jeff Rios were preparing to celebrate their wedding in 2013, they knew they didn't need a bread maker, blender, or more towels. Instead, they recognized they were faced with the chance to do some real good. And so it was, they created the Lucille Harkness Memorial Scholarship Fund, providing wedding guests with the opportunity to assist young adults who have helped, as they put it, "promote or create a positive environment in their community." In particular, as outlined by the scholarship's mandate, "The youth should have a strong understanding that all people are equal, and work to eliminate bullying and hate from their communities."

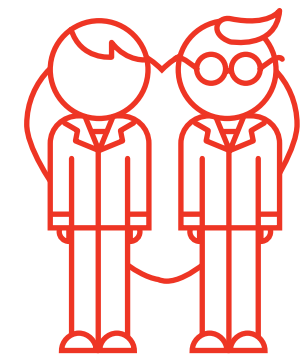
This important scholarship – and unforgettable wedding gift – was formed in Lyle's grandmother's honour. Which, as far as Lyle was concerned, made perfect sense. After all, Lucille Harkness was consistently involved in helping her community and was instrumental in funding her grandchildren's education. So it was fitting for them to create a lasting legacy in her memory.

Intent on giving back to the community by way of supporting equality for LGBTQ rights, Lyle puts it this way: "Generations of men and women fought for our right to get married, and although that fight in Canada is over, there is always work to be done promoting equality."



Lucille Harkness

««« One project that speaks heavily to us is creating more social housing for LGBTQ youth in Vancouver. Having volunteered at QMUNITY, you often see children that have been thrown out by parents who simply do not understand. We have learned that there is a greater chance for LGBTQ youth to become homeless, and, to that end, we will likely dedicate our next project to helping alleviate this problem. »»»



LYLE TRUDEN AND JEFF RIOS,
Fund Creators

To learn more about QMUNITY see page 25.



KUTERRA, 'NAMGIS FIRST NATION SWIMMING UPSTREAM

Social
Enterprise,
Impact
Investing

»»» WHEN IT COMES TO FARMED SALMON, KUTERRA GOES AGAINST THE CURRENT

They said it couldn't be done. After all, who knew that salmon could be farmed in a way that is environmentally friendly, as well as antibiotic-, and hormone-free – completely outside the ocean environment?

Located in the Nimpkish Valley near Port McNeill, KUTERRA was founded to grow Atlantic salmon using sustainable recirculating aquaculture system technology in closed containers.

The 'Namgis First Nation chose to pursue the idea of sustainable fish farming, seeking a way to address their concerns about open net-pen aquaculture, as well as new means for economic development and sustainable natural resource management. But they needed help in bringing their vision to life. That's when Vancity Community Foundation entered the picture.

After a feasibility study supported by the Enterprising Non-Profits program was conducted, the 'Namgis First Nation were provided with an early-stage planning grant. By leveraging additional contributions from government and other funders, the 'Namgis were able to develop a new state-of-the-art facility, but required a bridge loan to purchase initial supplies. Vancity Community Foundation stepped up with the flexible loan financing necessary to eventually launch KUTERRA Land Raised™ Salmon, now available at their exclusive Canadian retailer, Safeway, and in select locations across western Canada and the US.

Fully owned by the 'Namgis First Nation, KUTERRA is the first company of its kind in North America. It has successfully created jobs, revenues, and is a food source that's as sustainable as can be.

««« I love cooking with KUTERRA salmon. Its consistency, flavour and quality are second to none. Land-based aquaculture is the future of feeding the planet with sustainable seafood. »»»

NED BELL,
Executive Chef at Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver and founder of Chefs for Oceans

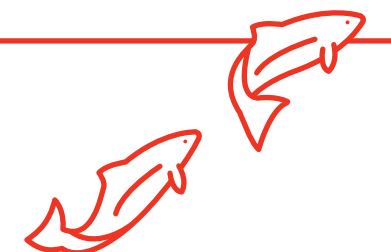


NOTHING FISHY ABOUT IT

KUTERRA has achieved the top Best Choice sustainability ranking by SeaChoice, and Seafood Watch, and is designated Ocean Wise – a first for farmed Atlantic salmon.

WHAT IS IMPACT INVESTING?

Impact investing refers to investments made into companies, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate a measurable, beneficial social or environmental impact alongside a financial return. At Vancity Community Foundation, we are proud to make impact investments to innovative businesses like KUTERRA.





««« We want to grow the next generation of ecological farmers in BC. Our ideal future would be that new and young farmers are able to thrive, and that people everywhere –from all socio-economic backgrounds – are able to access healthy foods. We want good, ecologically grown food to become the heart of our culture and the way by which we protect and steward our environments. »»»

SARA DENT,
Young Agrarians Coordinator

FARM FOLK/CITY FOLK AND YOUNG AGRARIANS

THE CREAM OF THE CROP

Social Enterprise, Impact Investing, Donor Investor

»»» FARM FOLK/CITY FOLK AND YOUNG AGRARIANS PROVE THE FUTURE IS RIPE WITH POSSIBILITY

Founded in the early 1990s, Farm Folk/City Folk (FFCF) works to protect farmland, support farmers and producers, and to connect both farm and city in the cultivation of a local sustainable food system. In partnership with FFCF, Young Agrarians is a grassroots initiative that works to grow the next generation of farmers in BC. This group of movers and shakers is made up of young agriculturalists, farmers, market and community gardeners, food activists, academics, and organizations that want to rebuild, promote and inspire agriculture in Canada.

1931
1 in 3 Canadians lived on a farm



2006
1 in 46 Canadians lived on a farm



PLANTING SEEDS FOR GROWTH

In 2006 and 2008, FFCF started working with Vancity Community Foundation to establish two Donor Advised Funds to support their long-term vision and goals. These funds not only support FFCF's work, but they also include a provision to invest the capital assets toward agricultural land purchases.



FOUR REASONS WHY WE NEED YOUNG AGRARIANS

- Canada's farming population is shrinking. While one in three Canadians used to live on a farm in 1931, by 2006 that number had plummeted to one in 46.
- The average age of a farmer today is 56-years-old.
- The average net loss for a Canadian farmer today is \$20,000/annually.
- 1 in every 2 farmers under the age of 55 report that off-farm employment is their main source of income.



THE YOUNG AGRARIANS CALL TO ACTION

- Recognize everywhere that our homes are on Indigenous lands and food sheds. (Acknowledge that whenever possible.)
- Get to know who grows your food.
- Find out who the local, new and young farmers are in your area and support them.
- Try farming for a season – you may just love it!
- Grow food wherever possible.
- Share food with your neighbours.
- Be that kind of society – socially progressive and rooted in the earth that we live on.



MOM2MOM CHILD POVERTY INITIATIVE SOCIETY MOM'S THE WORD

»»» MOM2MOM PAIRS MENTOR MOMS WITH THOSE IN NEED OF A BIT OF SUPPORT

The work of Mom2Mom (M2M) Child Poverty Initiative Society is based on research in child development and neuroscience, which has shown that enriching children's environments by lowering levels of family stress, and connecting mothers to their child's school and to community, leads to positive changes in children's learning and development. When these things are in place, children are happier, better adjusted and more likely to succeed in school. Mothers are better able to nurture and attach to children when they aren't struggling every day to meet basic needs. In this way, the cycle of poverty and adversity can be broken and children can look forward to improved life chances.

To that end, M2M pairs moms and their children living in poverty with volunteer mentors – who are also moms. These mentors, in turn, provide respectful, practical, and non-judgmental support.

M2M started in 2011 and was soon in the enviable position of having people want to support them financially. But they lacked charitable status or the infrastructure to receive donations. A Donor Advised Fund was set up at Vancity Community Foundation to receive donations in this start-up phase, and to help develop a longer-term strategy for planned giving. With the support of Vancity Community Foundation, M2M has been able to further engage their network of volunteers and support them in grassroots fundraising. With charitable status now in place, we can move dollars more directly to the organization. As Mom2Mom continues to grow, the organization looks forward to a future that enables moms to be the best parents they can be.



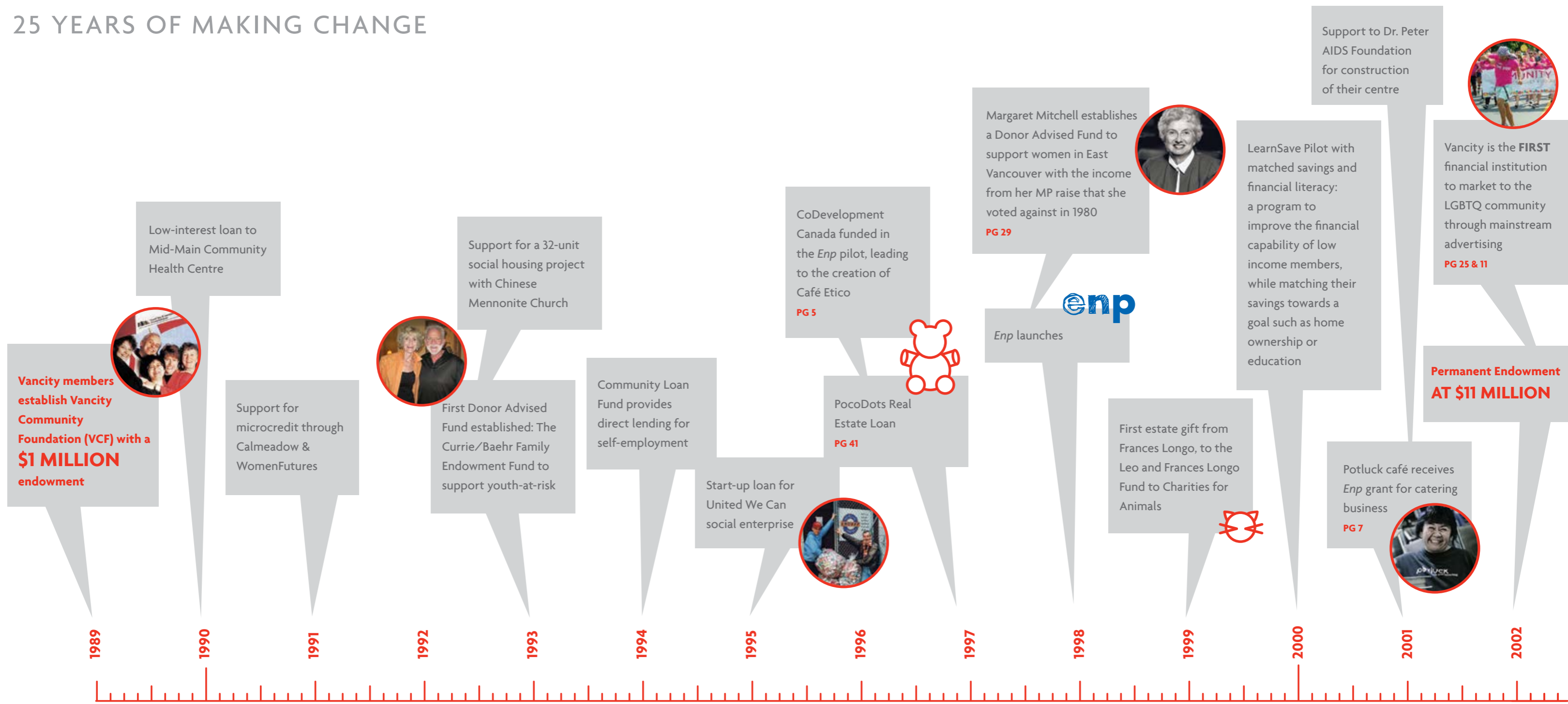
Social Justice,
Donor Investor

««« To achieve equality, social justice and well-being for all people in our communities, we need to understand and address poverty at its root causes. Creating an alternative future calls for deeper engagement and a shift toward seeing opportunity rather than despair. We believe that we're all better off when we're closer connected. »»»

MELINDA MARKEY,
Executive Director, Mom2Mom

MOVING STORIES »» MOVING FORWARD

25 YEARS OF MAKING CHANGE



2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015



52 Donor Advised Funds

Cumulative loans to non-profits reaches \$2 million

The first edition of the Canadian Social Enterprise Guide published

Pioneering impact measurement in Demonstrating Value project - partnership with VCF and others to support impact reporting for social enterprises
PG 15

enp
Enp goes national

Enp celebrates 15 years

Planning grant to KUTERRA, 'Namgis First Nation
PG 13

Social enterprise purchasing toolkit launches, blending business and social values

Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund launches with \$9 million donation from City of Surrey
PG 37



Grant to Westcoast Genesis Society for development plan for Maria Keary project to house chronically homeless men and federal offenders on conditional release
PG 31



Demonstrating Value project starts - a partnership with VCF and others to support impact reporting for social enterprises



Total permanent endowment surpasses \$20 MILLION

City of Vancouver joins as full partner with Social Enterprise Portfolio

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition and the Living Wage Campaign join VCF
PG 27



VCF at \$54 MILLION in endowment

VCF surpasses 20% of assets in impact investing

VCF selected, in collaboration with Metro Vancouver and the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, to deliver more than \$24 million in support under the Homelessness Partnership Strategy



VCF surpasses 10% of assets in impact investments
PG 13

Atira unveils Canada's first shipping container social housing



Vancity becomes the largest organization in Canada to adopt a Living Wage policy
PG 27



Vancity Humanitarian Fund established in response to the Syrian refugee crisis

5-year renewal of Homelessness Partnering Strategy



BROOKE FORBES LEGACY FUND A STORY WORTH TELLING

»»» THE BROOKE FORBES LEGACY FUND CELEBRATES EXPRESSION AND EQUALITY

The mandate of the Brooke Forbes Legacy Fund is to teach audio production skills to minority youth who want to tell their stories through the medium. Set up to honour long-time radio producer Brooke Forbes, the fund was inspired by the Radio Camps she ran at CBC Radio in the 1990's for youth underrepresented in the media, especially those from visible minority backgrounds. She invited select high school students to spend a week at CBC. These students got turned on to the possibility of radio as a career, while gaining an understanding about the power of the medium, and the power of storytelling. With Brooke, they learned that their stories mattered.

To that end, the Brooke Forbes Legacy Fund aims to carry on her commitment to equality. Brooke believed wholeheartedly in the power of radio, not only to educate listeners about the need for social change, but also to transform lives. We're pretty sure Brooke would think this was an important story to tell.

««« We are inspired by Brooke's commitment to social justice. The Radio Camp she ran for minority youth was her way of working towards ensuring that all young people – no matter where they're from or what their economic circumstances – have equal access to a broad range of opportunities. »»»

JOAN ANDERSEN,
friend of Brooke and fund creator

Social Justice,
Donor Investor



Since 2005, friends of Brooke's host an annual garage sale and have raised thousands of dollars for the fund.





QMUNITY ABOUT QMUNITY

»»» QMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE THERE FOR BC'S LGBTQ POPULATION

As the only queer and trans resource centre in the province, QMUNITY launched nearly four decades ago. Since that time they have been at the forefront of supporting and advocating for the queer and trans community - be it through peer support, public education or simply making connections that help build true equality and belonging.

Although QMUNITY has seen its share of progress through the years, challenges remain. For instance, when QMUNITY Aging Out project staff contacted long term care facilities to offer training to health care workers so they could better support LGBTQ seniors in their care, some responded with: "No thank you, we don't have anyone like that living here." A response that's becoming known as "polite homophobia." More starkly, queer and trans youth still attempt suicide at shockingly high rates compared to youth in general. Still much work is left to be done.

Social Justice, Community-Owned Real Estate

««« Developing a new space is a tipping point in the history of the organization. The building itself is a symbol of the evolution of queer and trans communities. The community is more visible now and we want our space to be visible and proud too. We don't want to be hidden away. »»»

DARA PARKER,
Executive Director, QMUNITY

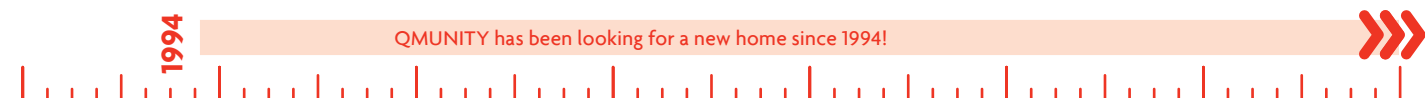


THEIR HOME IS WHERE THE PRIDE IS

SUPPORTING THE QUEST FOR NEW DIGS

For almost four decades QMUNITY has been a vibrant haven for the queer and trans community. But their space is crowded and meeting rooms are frequently overbooked. The second floor location is inaccessible to many and the building leaks. For reasons like these, the long-time home has outlived its usefulness. First broached as early as 1994 – no, that's not a typo – getting a better space has been a long-term priority. However, as a grassroots organization, QMUNITY never had the resources to fully develop or explore their ideas.

The idea of a new space received overwhelming community support through the West End Community Planning process. In December 2013 the City of Vancouver provided a \$7,000,000 Community Amenity Contribution grant, which leverages contributions made when property developers receive development rights through rezoning. Additional resources of up to \$3,000,000 have also been committed in the municipal budget. On the strength of this opportunity Vancity Community Foundation provided a grant to help support some of the necessary planning work to translate this capital contribution into a QMUNITY asset.





FIRST CALL: BC CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY COALITION LET'S CLAW BACK THE CLAWBACK

»»» FIRST CALL STEPS UP FOR THE VULNERABLE

A non-partisan coalition that supports BC children, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition has a lot to be proud of when it comes to stepping up for this province's most vulnerable. In addition to overseeing the annual BC Child Poverty Report Card and Living Wage for Families campaign efforts, the coalition ensures a regular media presence in order to speak up for those who need a voice most. Yet perhaps at no time has this dedication been more apparent than in their never-give-up approach to putting an end to government clawbacks as they pertained to single parents who receive child support payments.

BUT WHAT'S A CLAWBACK?

The BC government had a policy in place which meant when a single parent would receive child support payments, the government would deduct or "clawback" that amount from their income assistance benefits. As of September 2015, however, with changes to the provincial budget, First Call was among the many celebrators who bid adieu to this archaic set-up. Over 5,400 children will benefit from this policy change.

Social Justice,
Donor Investor

TODAY, WE ARE ROOMMATES

In 2014, the offices of Vancity Community Foundation became home to the charitable work associated with First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition. We couldn't be more proud to have so much good under one roof.

OUR GLASS IS HALF-FULL



Unfortunately, the government still employs a clawback when funds received by an individual on income assistance are to pursue an education. At Vancity Community Foundation, we are working to address these challenges with our community partners and donors by supporting important changes to public policy. We share in the optimism of those affiliated with the Jane Taylor Legacy Fund, in that each woman receiving support will move closer to achieving well-paid employment.

THE JANE TYLER LEGACY FUND

JANE TYLER'S LEGACY WILL MEAN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SINGLE WOMEN ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Like the name implies, the Jane Tyler Legacy Fund was created in memory of the great Jane Tyler. Born in Ireland and given up by birth parents too poor to care for her, Jane was raised by a couple who had 14 children of their own. All told, Jane was no stranger to poverty.



She arrived in Canada at age 17 and found employment in service to the wealthy of Vancouver. By 38, Jane found herself divorced with two daughters. Having no recent work experience she did not know how she might earn a living. Without funds to pursue an education, friends offered to pay for courses that gave her a Diploma in Early Childhood Education. This act of generosity altered the trajectory of Jane's life. She worked as a preschool teacher until her retirement at the age of 70.

Recognizing the role that the mutually-symbiotic act of giving and receiving played in her mother's life, Jane's daughter, Gale, established the Jane Tyler Legacy Fund to provide bursaries to single mothers on social assistance, who want to pursue post-secondary education. And, furthermore, Gale works hard to have the government eliminate the policies that deny people on social assistance the right to enrol in school without suffering the clawback of any bursary beyond the money received on social assistance. We think your mom would be pretty proud, Gale.



MARGARET MITCHELL FUND FOR WOMEN ADVENTURE, ACTIVISM AND POLITICS

»»» MARGARET MITCHELL: A LIFE RICH IN CONTRIBUTION

There are many reasons why you might be familiar with the name Margaret Mitchell. Margaret got her start as a local activist and leader in community development in Vancouver neighbourhoods like Riley Park, Hastings-Sunrise, Grandview, and Strathcona. She helped organize public housing, opportunities for people on welfare, and coalitions to fight freeways and build cooperative housing.

Community activism led to politics, and in 1979, Margaret was elected to serve as the NDP Member of Parliament for Vancouver East. She was re-elected four times and was the critic for Immigration and Housing, Status of Women and Multiculturalism and Citizenship.

A strong advocate for women's equality, her demands in 1982 for government action to stop domestic violence became a national concern when male MPs laughed as she addressed the issue in Parliament, to which she furiously replied: "This is no laughing matter." And thousands of Canadians agreed, calling for immediate action in the fight to end violence against women.

Margaret pressed to decriminalize abortion, worked with First Nations women for reinstatement under the Indian Act, and supported a national childcare program. On top of all this, when she retired, she created the Margaret Mitchell Fund for Women, to support programs and initiatives that promote economic and social justice for women in Vancouver East. And from 1999 to 2002, she took things a step further when she sat as a member of our very own Board of Directors.

SHE GOT A RAISE, AND PAID IT FORWARD

After retiring in 1998, Margaret created the Margaret Mitchell Fund for Women at Vancity Community Foundation. She strategically used the money she saved and invested from the very pay raises she had publicly opposed during her time as a Member of Parliament. **But her giving didn't stop there.**

In 1999, Margaret donated her Salt Spring Island waterfront property to Vancity Community Foundation. We were able to sell it for an impressive sum of \$220,000 with the money being added to the Margaret Mitchell Fund for Women.

And in 2014, Margaret donated a portion of her investment portfolio through Vancity Community Foundation to support other various initiatives. These included Simon Fraser University's Rosemary Brown Bursary, Pacific Immigrant Resources Society, and West Coast LEAF's Jane Doe Project.



WEST COAST LEAF – THE JANE DOE PROJECT

In 2014, West Coast LEAF took on the responsibility of operating the Jane Doe Project, an initiative that has been active since 2008. While the Jane Doe Network empowers advocates to support women in keeping themselves and their children safe, the Jane Doe Legal Advice Clinic provides legal services to women fleeing violence who are navigating the justice system. Through the generous support of the Margaret Mitchell Fund for Women, West Coast LEAF is able to provide educational opportunities on family law to service providers across BC, which, in turn, empowers and improves safety outcomes for women.

Social Justice,
Donor Investor

««« The rights of women must be seen and accepted as fundamental to creating a peaceful and just society. »»»

PATSY GEORGE,
friend of Margaret and member
of the Margaret Mitchell Fund
Committee



WESTCOAST GENESIS A COTTAGE LEGACY

»»» THE WESTCOAST GENESIS SOCIETY OPENS ITS DOORS TO MEN IN NEED

The Westcoast Genesis Society is a non-profit organization and registered charity that formed in April 2000. From the onset, its mission was to actively promote the physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual well-being of persons who are socially marginalized in the community. This led to supportive housing and programs for adult male offenders and the chronically homeless.

For Vancity Community Foundation, building assets and creating inclusive spaces within our communities has always been dear to us. As such, we embrace the society's mission wholeheartedly. And it's been this way since 2004, when we began supporting the early plans for the society's Maria Keary Cottage, a heritage restoration and social housing project that facilitates programs for residents and includes 35 beds and residential programs. This initial support – which included a business development grant from the Enterprising Non-Profits program – made it possible for Westcoast Genesis to bring on other experts and funders, so they could roll out a project that was once merely the kernel of an idea.

Maria Keary Cottage opened in 2010, and our modest grants helped propel Westcoast Genesis along a development path and leverage more than \$6,000,000 to make this idea a reality.

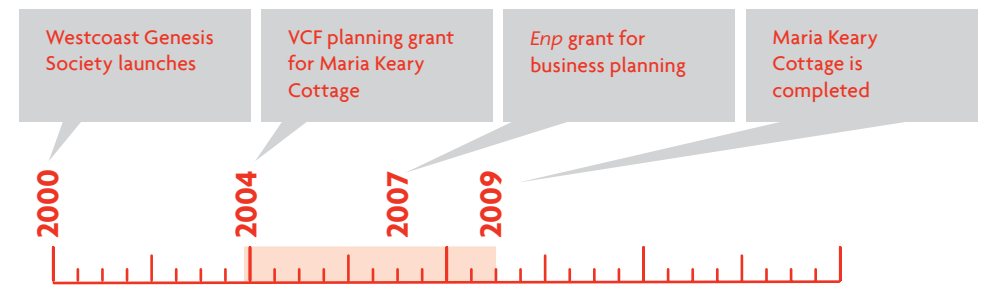


These matching cottages were built in 1887 by Maria Keary to be used as affordable rental housing when the CPR arrived in bustling New Westminster. In 2009 Westcoast Genesis rehabilitated these twin 1887 houses with full community support, and opened the Maria Keary Cottage, a 35-bed supportive housing facility. The houses are now the oldest surviving buildings by noted BC architect, Samuel Maclure.

Community-Owned Real Estate

««« Maria Keary Cottage is the result of a collaborative effort, in the true spirit of togetherness. Neighbours and residents spoke in support of our application to the City for zoning changes and permission to build 35 units for ex-offenders and individuals still battling substance abuse. This overwhelming show of support can largely be attributed to the depth of our relationships within the community, the confidence that we had a good grasp on the task at hand, as well as a sophisticated and shared understanding of what the real risks and benefits are, among all shareholders. »»»

The late **ANDREW BOYD**,
Founder and Executive Director,
Westcoast Genesis Society





COMMON THREAD COOPERATIVE PART OF THE SOCIAL FABRIC

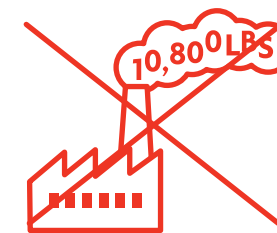
»»» COMMON THREAD COOPERATIVE WEAVES SKILLS AND SELF-ESTEEM

Common Thread is a cooperative social enterprise based in Vancouver. The co-op provides practical and flexible training and employment in industrial sewing for women who are newcomers to Canada, who are living with mental health challenges, or who are experiencing other employment barriers. These women are able to thrive and learn in a supportive environment, acquiring new skills and taking on more responsibility at their own pace.

BUT IT GETS EVEN BETTER

Common Thread has an environmental mission, too. Ever wondered what happens to those flashy banners that hang proudly – but temporarily – on posts city-wide, advertising events, festivals, and other noteworthy happenings? The co-op reclaims these street banners – as well as other retired fabrics – transforming them into colourful and durable products, like bags for example, thereby diverting them from the landfill.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



Up to 10,800 lbs. of CO2 emissions are avoided with Common Thread Bags
[Eco-credit calculation courtesy of Ian McSorley at design HQ Inc.]



For every 1,000 Common Thread bags made, a staggering 276 lbs. of waste is diverted from the landfill



Presently using 98% of every banner upcycled, incorporating them into totes and other products

CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH 

The BGH Community Fund, Purple Papillon Fund, Mowat Family Fund and the Cooperative Commonwealth Fund have all contributed to Common Thread through grants from their Donor Advised Funds held at Vancity Community Foundation.

Social Enterprise 

»»» Our members are working as many hours as they choose. And our training program is providing them with new skills, along with the confidence to move into employment elsewhere, if they so choose. Since we started in 2009, over 45 people have attended our sewing courses. »»»

MELANIE CONN,
Marketing Manager and Director,
Common Thread Cooperative



«« I have so many favourite moments on our farms. Watching children walk their parents through the garlic field to point out the exact bulb they planted last fall with their class. Watching our volunteer interns transform over the season from slightly tentative visitors to obvious stewards of this land, in the way they walk, talk, and move across the farm. The amazing transformation of the land over five short years to a rich sweet soil, able to produce more and more every year. And watching our customers revel in each week's offerings. »»

EMILY JUBENVILL,
Manager, North Shore Neighbourhood House

LOUTET FARM A PASSION FOR FOOD

»» FROM PLANT TO PLATE IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD

Loutet Farm came to fruition in a unique partnership between the North Shore Neighbourhood House, the City of North Vancouver, and the University of British Columbia. Designed to give locals a better understanding of food production, Loutet Farm also means greater access to locally grown produce. Support for the Edible Garden Project at Loutet Farm began in 2013 when they participated in Social Enterprise Heroes, an annual celebration hosted by the Enterprising Non-Profits program. Vancity Community Foundation then provided further financial and strategic planning support through the Social Enterprise Portfolio program.

Like a well-watered seed, the project sprouted. So much so that the initial goal of developing a successful urban farm on public land swiftly seemed liked small potatoes, to put it lightly. Instead, the Loutet Farm vision became more of a local food movement; a coming together of the passion for growing, tasting, sharing, and loving food. This ultimately created valuable green-collar jobs for North Shore residents, spearheading a range of workshops and hands-on learning opportunities focused on sustainable food production for both adults and children.

Social Enterprise

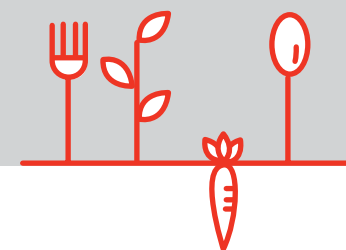
Today Loutet Farm is a great first step toward a local plant-to-plate food system – a facilitator of social, environmental, economic, and educational benefits for the community. In five years time, the hope is to have two additional farm sites, to be even more integrated into day-to-day classes of host schools, and to train up to five new farmers annually. And ideally, to make everyone on the North Shore aware of the sustainable farms that are available to them right in their backyards.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Thanks to a new toolkit developed by Vancity Community Foundation, farmers' markets are now better equipped to track and demonstrate the impact of their markets. Developed in partnership with Vancity Credit Union and the B.C. Association of Farmers' Markets, the toolkit builds on our experience leading the Demonstrating Value Initiative, a non-profit organization dedicated to making impact measurement more accessible and useful. Since 2007, this collaborative, community-based initiative has offered resources, workshops, and technical support to assist non-profits and social enterprises when it comes to using information and data more effectively to make good decisions, plan for the future, and show their value.

The Farmers' Market toolkit gives market managers the means to track and manage their own operations, as well as to collect, analyze, and communicate the value that their markets bring to their respective communities and their impact on food security, sustainable agriculture practices, community building, and the local economy.

In 2015, we began sharing our expertise below the 49th parallel as well. In developing the toolkit with the Farmers Market Coalition and the University of Wisconsin, we are advising them on ways to be able to measure the impact of farmers' markets in the United States.





THE PHOENIX RISING SUN VILLAS PROJECT FROM RECOVERY TO SELF-DISCOVERY

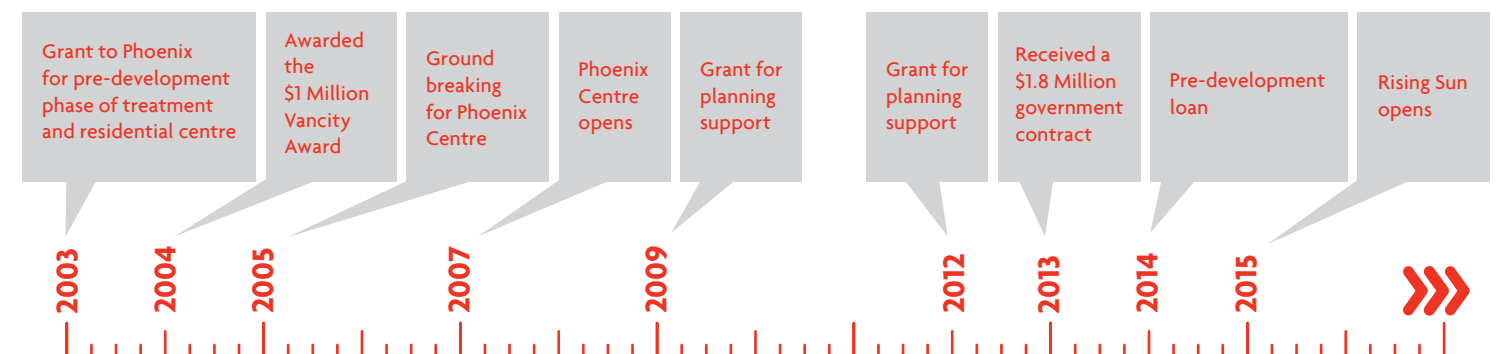
»»» THE PHOENIX DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY SOCIETY FACILITATES INDEPENDENCE

In 2004, Phoenix Drug and Alcohol Recovery Society received the \$1 Million Vancity Award through the Vancity grant program – as voted on by Vancity members – to finish its flagship 34,000 square-foot centre. At the time, it was one of the first projects to integrate addiction services, transitional housing, employment, and education services under one roof. The Centre proved to be a tremendous success.

The Phoenix Centre assists individuals in achieving a greater degree of control over their lives, without reliance on drugs, alcohol, or criminal lifestyle. Here, the mission is not only to house, but to encourage and assist residents to achieve the utmost in personal, family, and community health.

In 2013, Phoenix was awarded a \$1.8 million contract under the federal government’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy (administered jointly by Vancity Community Foundation and our partner Metro Vancouver) for the Rising Sun Villas project, an innovative social housing development in Surrey. So when the time came to expand on this winning model of recovery, Phoenix again reached out to Vancity Credit Union and Vancity Community Foundation. This time, we looked beyond traditional supports and reached into our toolbox for innovative ways to bring the Centre’s important work to fruition. We helped leverage an affordable home ownership option through Vancity. Vancity’s support created the first ever shared equity model in the province, whereby 23 units were set aside specifically for affordable home ownership. Further, when an owner sells, a portion of the equity is set to stay with the unit, meaning that future owners would also benefit.

Community-
Owned Real
Estate





ATIRA WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY/ ATIRA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC. INNOVATION AT ITS FINEST

»»» ATIRA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC. MEANS A LOT OF GOOD FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE

Atira Women's Resource Society is a non-profit organization committed to ending violence against women. They do this through direct service, education, and increasing awareness about the impact violence against women and children has on our communities. Atira operates 12 transition and long-term housing sites in the Lower Mainland. Of note, this includes the first housing development in Canada created from recycled shipping containers.

In 2002, the organization founded Atira Property Management Inc. (APMI), an innovative social enterprise that provides property management services to strata councils, housing co-operatives, non-profits, and developers. APMI proudly employs over 280 individuals facing employment barriers as onsite staff, making it one of the largest employers of significantly barriered individuals in Canada. All of APMI's profits return to Atira to support the organization's important programs.

Early support from Vancity Community Foundation and Vancity Capital Corporation helped in the launching of APMI. "Early support from the Enterprising Non-Profits program to help develop our business plan was very helpful," says Janice Abbott, CEO of Atira Women's Resource Society and AMPI. "But without the loan from Vancity Capital Corp, it is unlikely that APMI would have gotten off the ground. Not many lenders would have been willing to take the risk Vancity took on Atira."

"We have enough scale to grow 25% in the next few years in terms of the property we manage and people we employ. We will continue to employ folks from the community and create advancement opportunities – both within APMI and externally," Janice continues. "We want to see our people advance into senior roles, and we want to see strata councils and large companies include community impact in their procurement services and include APMI as an alternative to traditional companies."

Social Enterprise,
Community-
Owned Real
Estate, Social
Justice

»»» ATIRA PROUDLY EMPLOYS 280
INDIVIDUALS WITH BARRIERS





PROGRAM RELATED INVESTMENTS HOME SWEET HOME

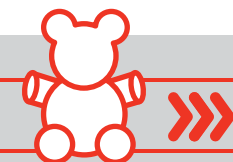
»» PROGRAM RELATED INVESTMENTS ALLOW ORGANIZATIONS TO OWN REAL ESTATE

For the last quarter century, Vancity Community Foundation has been creating impact in a number of forward-thinking ways. One such example is by making Program Related Investments, whereby we provide direct loans to organizations investing in real estate. As a result, every month, these organizations get closer to owning their buildings outright, and we see returns on these crucial investments as we get the original capital back, which in turn allows us to continue doing the work we do.

Loans of this nature have helped kick-start important community-owned real estate projects within our communities. We have supported organizations such as PocoDots Child Care Centre, the Chrysalis Society for women recovering from substance abuse, and the Central City Foundation site for Aunt Leah's Place, a home for young moms and youth in the foster care system.

We have also provided "pre-development loans" for organizations involved in construction projects where land has been secured and additional planning work is necessary.

POCODOTS



A safe, nurturing place to grow and learn is part of the fundamental building blocks of a child's development. For over 20 years, PoCo Dots Child Care Centre has been offering such a place in the Port Coquitlam community, a lower-income neighbourhood with few daycare options. PoCo Dots provides affordable child care for children ranging from 30 months to 12 years, including out-of-school care for special-needs children.

Impact Investing

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