

# 2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**OUR MISSION:** Creating equal educational opportunities for young adults who have been in government care.

**OUR VISION:** Make post-secondary education dreams achievable for young adults who have been in government care.

For many young people in British Columbia, the opportunity to attend post-secondary includes financial and other assistance from family members for necessary items such as books, groceries, free rent, living supplies and transportation. For youth who have been in BC government care and those in care of a Delegated Aboriginal Agency who lack these family supports, achieving a post-secondary education can be daunting.

Recognizing the vital role that these young people play in our communities, the Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF) was established collaboratively by Coast Capital Savings, The Province of British Columbia, and the Office of the Representative of Children and Youth to create low-barrier support toward living expenses for young adults who have been in government or agency care and are pursuing their post-secondary education on a BC Government Provincial Tuition Waiver or other post-secondary tuition waiver program. The fund is guided by an Advisory Committee, held at the Vancouver Foundation, and administered by United Way of the Lower Mainland.

Funding provided through YFEF helps students with their living expenses, supporting them to pay their rent on time, purchase groceries, pay for vital mental health care treatment, cover the cost of textbooks, school supplies, child care and other expenses. In many cases, these are life-saving funds which change the trajectory of many young peoples' lives.

Thanks to the 2017 expansion of the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program run through the BC Ministry of Advanced Education Skills and Training, and other post-secondary tuition waiver programs, we're seeing more former youth in care attend post-secondary than ever before, and the resultant need for help with living expenses also continues to grow. With the help of our donors the Youth Futures Education Fund is proud to have helped 464 young people pursue their educational dreams in 2018/19, up 24% from the previous year.

While these results are impressive, we know we have much more to do to secure the promise of a bright future for these young people. Living costs for students in British Columbia are estimated by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training at \$19,700 annually. In 2020 more than 800 former youth from care are attending school on a tuition waiver and hoping for support from the Youth Futures Education Fund. Please help more youth achieve an education by making a donation today. And please spread the word by sharing this opportunity with your networks. This is an investment in our collective future.



Maureen Young  
YOUTH FUTURES EDUCATION FUND INTERIM CHAIR

"I wanted to be a vision of success for my family. I always knew my mom would be happy to see me graduate [high school], but I didn't stop there. I wouldn't be where I am today without the Youth Futures Education Fund. I don't have to worry about my next meal, about being evicted, or student loans. Thanks to this fund my inner child is beaming with happiness."

JODI  
DOUGLAS COLLEGE STUDENT

"The Youth Futures Education Fund complements the provincially funded Tuition Waiver program we launched in September 2017. The fund empowers former youth in care to have thriving conditions as they transition into adulthood. Partnerships like this are vitally important to support former youth in care to dream big as they pursue their post-secondary ambitions. I believe in the potential of these young people and deploy other likeminded stakeholders to get involved with this important initiative. As the saying goes – a rising tide lifts all canoes."

MINISTER MELANIE MARK  
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING

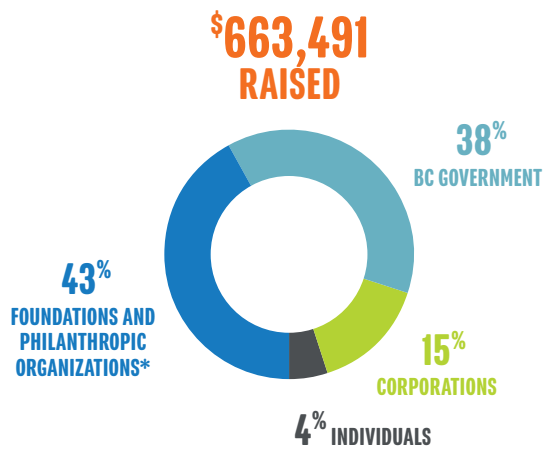
# 2018/2019

BY THE NUMBERS:

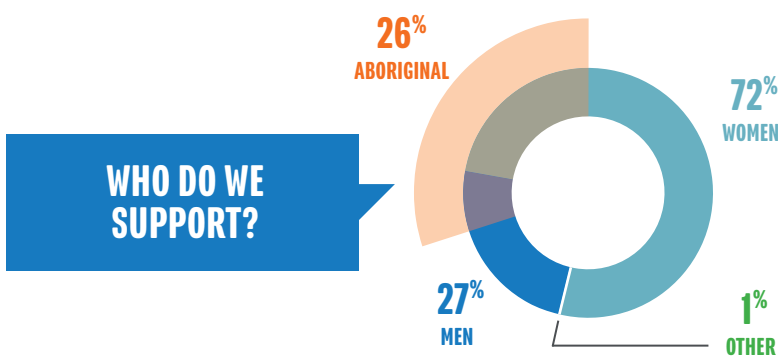
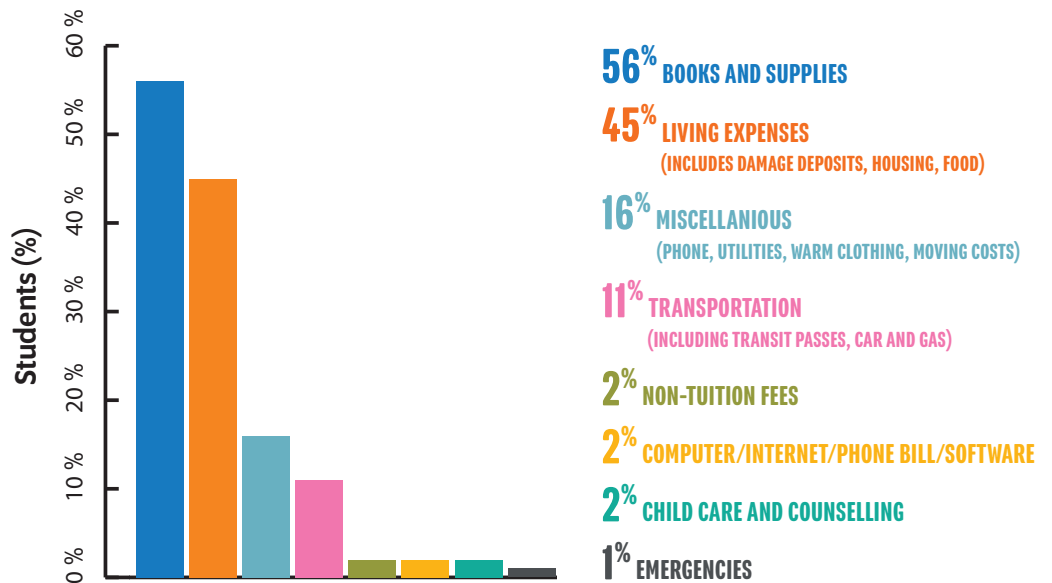
**\$432,288**  
DISTRIBUTED TO  
**464**  
STUDENTS

**\$4,500**  
LARGEST  
ALLOCATION  
PER STUDENT

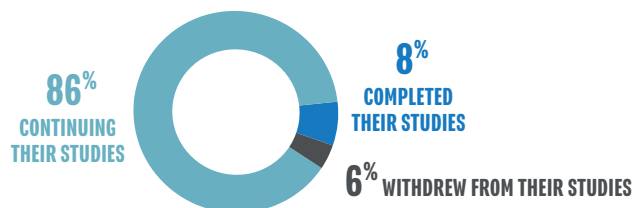
**\$51**  
SMALLEST  
ALLOCATION  
PER STUDENT



## WHAT DO STUDENTS USE FUNDS FOR?



## STUDENT STATUS:



\*Includes 646 individual donors stewarded through United Way of the Lower Mainland.

\*\*Representative of student fund usage.



# CHALLENGING CHILDHOOD, STRONG STUDENT

Opaskwayak Cree by heritage, Jodi grew up in B.C. She went into the foster care system at age 11. Despite the incredible adversity she faced, Jodi was resilient, and sought solace at school.

“When I went into foster care, school was the only stable piece of my life,” Jodi says. But she was determined to graduate – and more.

“I wanted to be a vision of success for my family,” Jodi says. “I always knew my mom would be happy to see me graduate [high school], but I didn’t stop there.”

She is currently taking general studies in the Aboriginal Stream at Douglas College. While she uses a Provincial Tuition Waiver to cover her tuition and school fees, these are by no means the only costs for BC students like Jodi.

Living expenses are estimated at \$19,700, annually on average. Over 80% of families in BC with kids ages 19-28 support them financially – supports often not available to former youth in care, or those formerly in care of a Delegated Aboriginal Agency.

For that reason, it doesn’t take long for former youth in care to struggle to make ends meet. Some students work multiple jobs while at school. Others hit pause on their education, withdrawing for a semester to work and save money, then returning when they can afford it.

The result? Many students take far longer to graduate. Or worse: some students burn out and withdraw altogether.

But the Youth Futures Education Fund helps mitigate these costs, levelling the playing field so former youth in care get a fair shot to succeed alongside their peers.

“I wouldn’t be here today [studying at Douglas College] if it wasn’t for the Youth Futures Education Fund,” says Jodi. “I don’t have to worry about my next meal, about being evicted, or student loans. Thanks to this fund my inner child is beaming with happiness.”

“Our research shows that more than 80% of families in BC with kids ages 19-28 provide financial and material support for their children. Young people from government care deserve the same support as everyone else, and the Youth Futures Education Fund is one way we can help make this happen.”

**KEVIN MCCORT**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
VANCOUVER FOUNDATION

“Coast Capital places youth at the centre of our community investment commitment. We recognize that access to post-secondary education is a critical foundation for career, entrepreneurial and financial success. The Youth Futures Education Fund bridges this gap and allows us to support young people faced with significant challenges to realize their educational dreams.”

**TRACEY ARNISH**  
CHIEF MEMBER EXPERIENCE OFFICER  
COAST CAPITAL SAVINGS



# PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The fund was collaboratively established by: Coast Capital Savings, The Province of British Columbia, and the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth. The Youth Futures Education Fund is guided by an Advisory Committee, held at the Vancouver Foundation and is administered by United Way of the Lower Mainland.

## FOUNDING PARTNERS

Coast Capital Savings  
The Province of BC  
Office of BC's Representative for Children and Youth

## ADMINISTRATIVE PARTNER AND FUND HOST

United Way of the Lower Mainland (Administrative Partner)  
Vancouver Foundation (Fund Host)

## HONORARY PATRON

Her Honour  
The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC  
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

## SUPPORTERS

The fund is made possible by generous contributions from the following organizations and many private sector individual donors.

### \$250,000+

The Province of BC

### \$249,999 – \$100,000

United Way of the Lower Mainland\*  
*(\*includes 646 individual donors stewarded through United Way of the Lower Mainland)*  
Coast Capital Savings

### \$99,999 – \$25,000

George Hutchison Family Foundation  
Edwina and Paul Heller Memorial Fund  
Nicholas Campbell

### \$24,999 – \$10,000

Fred Boyd Brown Fund

"The Youth Futures Education Fund helps former BC youth in care believe in themselves. United Way is proud to have invested an additional \$150,000 in this program this year, so even more youth can reach their full potential."

**KIM WINCHELL**  
DIRECTOR, SOCIAL IMPACT  
UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

### AMY BAYLIS

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Skills and Training

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Chemistry Consulting

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### MALLORY WOODS

Vancouver Island University  
(Student)

### MAUREEN YOUNG

Coast Capital Savings  
Interim Chair

**youth  
futures**  
EDUCATION FUND

@ info@youthfutures.ca

YOUTHFUTURES.CA

f Youth Futures Education Fund

tw @futures\_youth