

2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo Credit: MD Duran/Unsplash

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Equity and inclusion make our communities stronger. By valuing all young people's unique attributes and perspectives, we can more effectively address the issues facing our communities and celebrate our collective and individual strengths and contributions. Supporting the vital role youth who have been in BC government care or in the care of a Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) play in our province's future as they pursue post-secondary studies is the work of the Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF).

The fund, established collaboratively by Coast Capital, The Province of British Columbia, and the Office of the Representative of Children and Youth in 2014, offers low-barrier support toward living expenses for young adults who have been in government or DAA 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 Vancouver Foundation, and administered by United Way of the Lower Mainland.

Through the generous support of our donors, including a \$350,000 investment by United Way of the Lower Mainland, on behalf of its donors, 430 students pursued their educational dreams in 2019/20 with Indigenous student participation in the program increasing to 30%. Women make up over 70% of fund recipients. To date, 14% of students participating in the program have completed their studies and are sharing their talents and skills.

These achievements are reason to celebrate as COVID-19 has disproportionately affected former youth in care, who are facing precarious employment and housing due to the pandemic. While approximately 92% of BC parents with children under 30 help them financially – this critical support is not often available for former youth in care. In the Spring of 2020, the fund added an additional \$50,000 in emergency support to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 from interruptions to school programs to inability finding summer jobs to ultimately keep youth in school.

The Youth Futures Education Fund helps ensure everyone has equal access to education. Continuing this important work can only happen with support from our donors. We encourage you to make a donation today, so we can help more bright, determined youth and build a fairer, most just and vibrant future for all.



Maureen Young
CHAIR, YOUTH FUTURES EDUCATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

"I want to become a social worker. I want to make an impression on the kids who are in care now. I want them to see you can have dreams and you can attain them with hard work and determination with reaching out for supports."

CAROLINE
TSESHAHT NATION MEMBER, VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY STUDENT AND FUND RECIPIENT

"The Youth Futures Education Fund and the provincially-funded Tuition Waiver Program create access to an education that can change lives for former youth in care. We are committed to making life more affordable for everyone, and these programs are an integral part of removing financial barriers to post-secondary education and skills training. For the former youth in care who have benefited from these programs, these opportunities can be the difference between surviving and thriving."

MINISTER ANNE KANG
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING

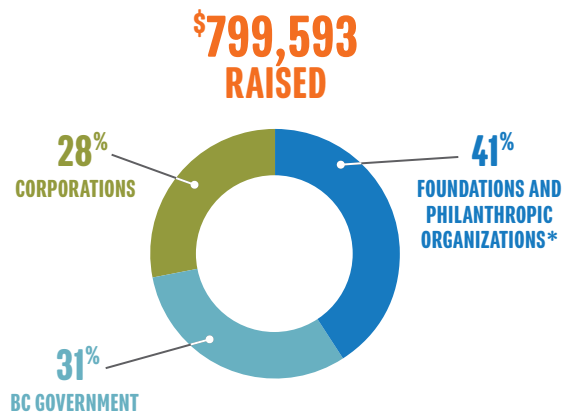
2019/2020

BY THE NUMBERS:

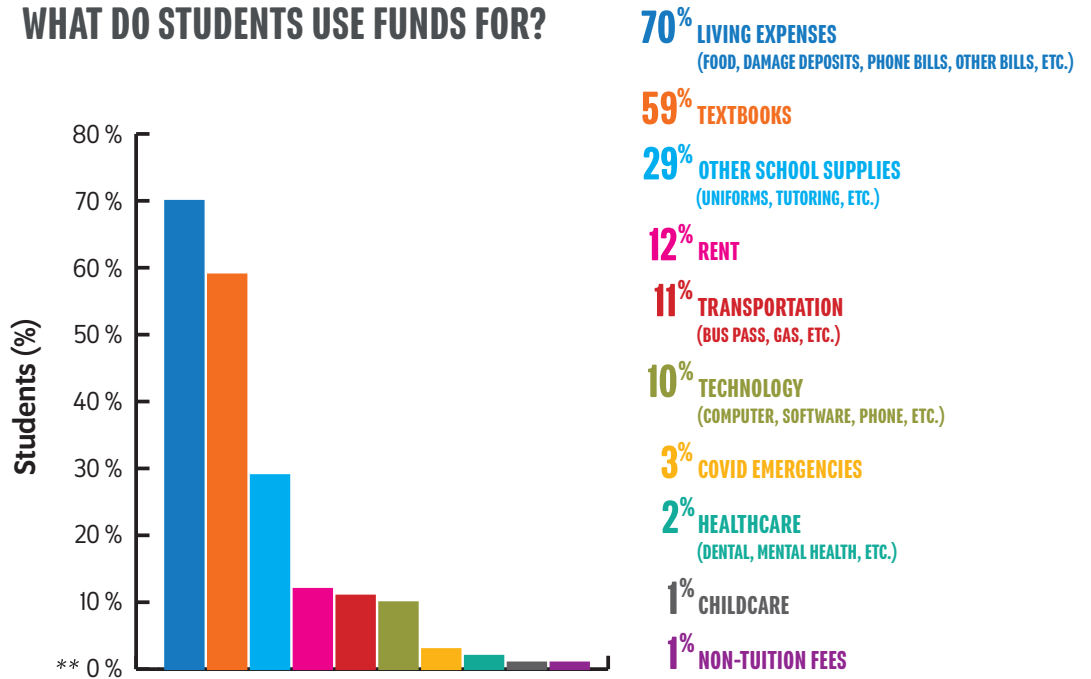
\$502,004
DISTRIBUTED TO
430
STUDENTS

\$11,500
LARGEST
ALLOCATION
PER STUDENT

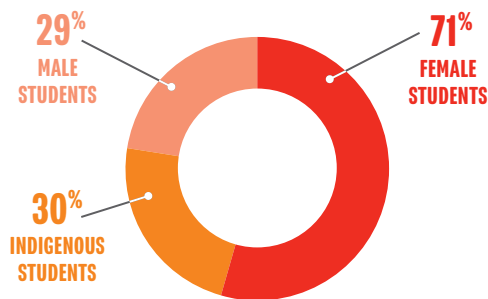
\$50
SMALLEST
ALLOCATION
PER STUDENT



WHAT DO STUDENTS USE FUNDS FOR?

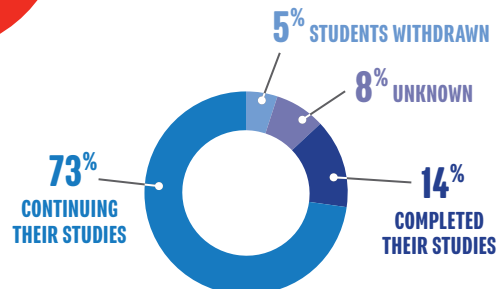


WHO DO WE SUPPORT?




30%
INDIGENOUS
STUDENTS

STUDENT STATUS:



*Includes 430 individual donors stewarded through United Way of the Lower Mainland.

**Representative of student fund usage.



A ROLE MODEL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Driving almost 170 kilometres round trip along the rugged inland highway between Port Alberni and Nanaimo on Vancouver Island three to four times a week to pursue a university degree while raising two young children is what determination to succeed and to be an example for others looks like.

"I am doing my best to break the cycle of the residential school legacy," says Caroline, member of the tseshaht Nation and a former youth in care.

Caroline's grandparents, her Dad and his siblings were placed into the residential school system, which operated across Canada for over 160 years. In that time, approximately 150,000 First Nation, Inuit and Métis children were removed from their communities and forced to attend the schools where they endured physical, emotional and other abuses. This system has had a devastating impact on Indigenous peoples.

Caroline started her post-secondary education in 2003 at Malaspina University-College (now Vancouver Island University), Cowichan campus, where she began the First Nations Child and Youth Care diploma program. She transferred to the Nanaimo campus for her third year, but the birth of her first child and a series of family tragedies interrupted her schooling. After a decade in the workforce, Caroline returned to Vancouver Island University to complete her Child and Youth Care degree in 2019 on a tuition waiver program.

"I want to become a social worker. I want to make an impression on the kids who are in care now," Caroline says. "I want them to see you can have dreams and you can attain them with hard work and determination with reaching out for supports."

Those supports include tuition waiver programs that help cover post-secondary tuition fees and the Youth Futures Education Fund, which help students like Caroline to cover living expenses like rent, books and food, which are almost \$20,000 annually on average. Thirty (30) percent of those who received Youth Futures Education funding in 2019/20 are Indigenous.

"I am very glad to participate in the Youth Futures Education Fund. They have helped me obtain school supplies and textbooks and to help with the fuel costs of going from Port Alberni to Nanaimo...that gets quite costly," Caroline says.

"This has helped me prepare for my future."

"The number of Indigenous youth in care is directly connected to the enduring effects of colonialism and ongoing racism in our society. But no matter how or why young people are placed in care, we need to do better for them. Vancouver Foundation is proud to be part of this effort to build better futures."

KEVIN MCCORT
PRESIDENT AND CEO
VANCOUVER FOUNDATION

"The young people benefiting from the Youth Futures Education Fund have worked through so many challenges to pursue a post-secondary education. Helping to eliminate financial hurdles so they can realize their ambitions is critical to creating a strong, vibrant community. By contributing to the fund, we are helping youth achieve their ambitions."

RYAN MALES
MANAGING DIRECTOR
HEAD OF CAPITAL MARKETS
TRADING VANCOUVER
CIBC WORLD MARKETS



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Photo Credit: Alexis Brown/Unsplash

The fund was collaboratively established by: Coast Capital, 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 Vancouver Foundation and is administered by United Way of the Lower Mainland.

FOUNDING PARTNERS

Coast Capital
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 at these funding levels.

\$250,000+

The Province of BC
United Way of the Lower Mainland*

(*includes 430 individual donors stewarded through United Way of the Lower Mainland.)

\$249,999 – \$100,000

Coast Capital

\$99,999 – \$25,000

Edwina and Paul Heller
Memorial Fund
Nicholas Campbell

\$24,999 – \$10,000

Fred Boyd Brown
Ryan Males

“Former youth in care have shown determination, resiliency and strength when it comes to pursuing post-secondary education. To help them share their knowledge, life experience and skills with our communities, they also need financial support. United Way is proud to be part of the Youth Futures Education Fund, a unique partnership working to ensure all young people have access to post-secondary education for a bright future for all.”

MICHAEL MCKNIGHT
PRESIDENT & CEO
UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

AMY BAYLIS

Ministry of Advanced Education,
Skills and Training

JULIE CZECK

Ministry of Children & Family
Development

CHAS DESJARLAIS

Vancouver Board of Education

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Public Guardian and Trustee

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Research Universities Council of BC

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Victoria Foundation

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KIM WINCHELL

United Way of the Lower Mainland

EMORY WOODS

Student Advisor

MAUREEN YOUNG

Coast Capital
Chair

**youth
futures**
EDUCATION FUND

@ info@youthfutures.ca

YOUTHFUTURES.CA

f Youth Futures Education Fund

@futures_youth

6351-0321

