

# 2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo Credit: Priscilla Du Preez/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

For youth formerly in care aging into community and pursuing post-secondary education, the last two years have been a particularly challenging time. With schools moving online and many students lacking the necessary technology, coupled with the job losses that affected front line workers, many youth from care experienced significant isolation and stress. Without a family to return to or to support them financially as they work towards their dreams, these young people have also struggled with the impact on their mental wellbeing. Support from Youth Futures Education Fund, which provides for basic living expenses like rent, food, technology, counselling, and mental health support while students study, means former youth in care have been better able to cope.

In 2020-21, 519 students who had been in government or Designated Aboriginal Agency care and attended a post-secondary institution through a government or post-secondary tuition waiver program accessed support from Youth Futures Education Fund. This represents a 17% increase over the previous year. Thanks to our generous supporters, students have been able to access vital support.

Investments of \$250,000 each into the fund by the Province of British Columbia and United Way British Columbia – working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland and Central & Northern Vancouver Island, along with support from many other donors are helping ensure youth formerly in care not only have equal access to education but also the necessary assistance to be and do their best. This includes mental health support. Over 90% of students accessing the fund are continuing or have completed their educations – a testament to the courage, strength, and resiliency of youth formerly in care.

The fund, which was established collaboratively by Coast Capital, the Province of British Columbia, and the Office of the Representative of Children and Youth in 2014, is making a difference for youth aging into community and pursuing post-secondary studies. To date, we have supported over 1,700 students and distributed more than \$2.4 million in support. Our Advisory Committee, and partners the Vancouver Foundation and United Way British Columbia, are dedicated to helping more youth succeed, but there is more to do.

By donating, you are helping youth build a solid foundation to approach their education and their futures.



Maureen Young  
YOUTH FUTURES EDUCATION FUND CHAIR

"The [Youth Futures Education Fund] has given me the opportunities to pursue goals and passions I didn't think would ever be able to explore. I can look into the future instead of just looking at my current circumstances and situation."

SAGE  
SELKIRK COLLEGE STUDENT AND FUND RECIPIENT

"Removing financial barriers to education can be life-changing, especially for former youth in care. The Youth Futures Education Fund and the provincially funded Tuition Waiver Program open doors for people to explore their potential and achieve their dreams. We are committed to creating these opportunities for young people to live their best lives."

MINISTER ANNE KANG  
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

# 2020/2021

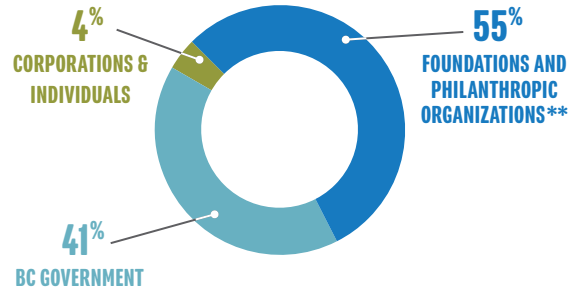
BY THE NUMBERS:

**\$550,239**  
DISTRIBUTED TO  
**519**  
STUDENTS

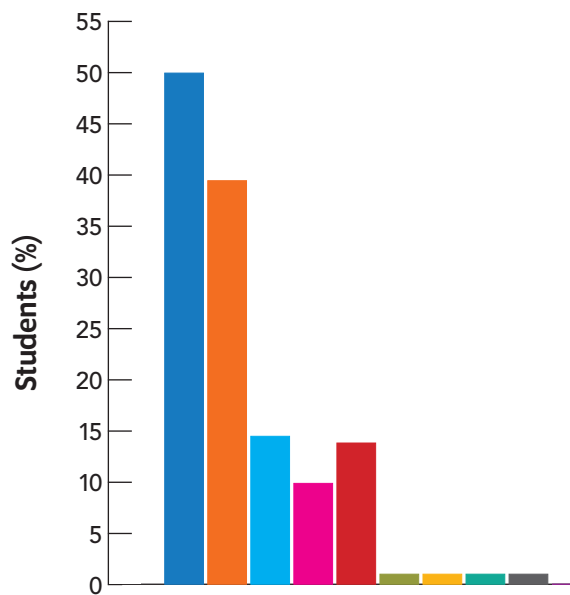
**\$5,800**  
LARGEST  
ALLOCATION  
PER STUDENT

**\$34**  
SMALLEST  
ALLOCATION  
PER STUDENT

**\$617,494**  
RAISED



## WHAT DO STUDENTS USE FUNDS FOR?\*



**50%** LIVING EXPENSES  
(FOOD, DAMAGE DEPOSITS, PHONE BILLS, OTHER BILLS, ETC.)

**40%** TEXTBOOKS

**15%** OTHER SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
(UNIFORMS, TUTORING, ETC.)

**10%** TRANSPORTATION  
(BUS PASS, GAS, ETC.)

**14%** TECHNOLOGY  
(COMPUTER, SOFTWARE, PHONE, ETC.)

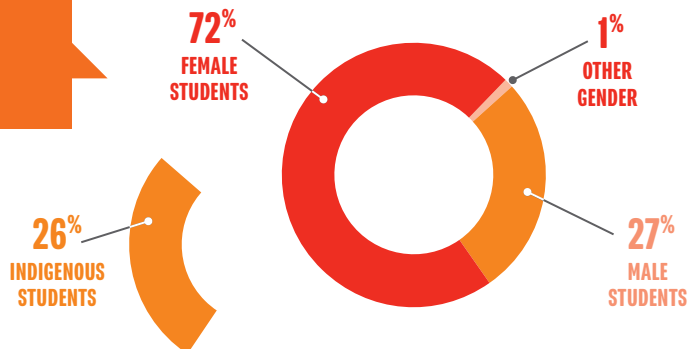
**1%** RENT

**1%** HEALTHCARE  
(DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH, ETC.)

**1%** CHILDCARE

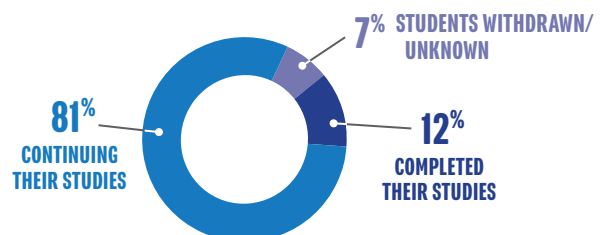
**1%** OTHER

## WHO DO WE SUPPORT?




**26%**  
INDIGENOUS  
STUDENTS

## STUDENT STATUS:



\*Representative of student fund usage.

\*\* Includes individual donors stewarded through United Way British Columbia.



# COURAGEOUS YOUTH AIMS TO UPLIFT OTHERS

21-year-old Simranjit, Sim, has her sights set on a degree in Psychology. Thanks to her courage, high school guidance counsellors, and the Youth Futures Education Fund—a fund that helps with basic living expenses—Sim is on her way to success.

“Psychology sparked my interest because I have a great passion for learning and understanding why people think the way they do,” Sim says. “It helps me understand myself better, having gone through a tremendous amount of trauma in my life.”

## **Persistence pays off**

Sim’s road to post-secondary education has been a long one, including attending high school while living in her 2003 Honda Civic, alternative education, and finally completing her GED (High School Equivalency Certificate). Although Sim was not sure if she could afford it, she applied to Langara College and was accepted.

Sim completed her high school while on a BC Government Youth Agreement and was then able to move into an Adult Youth Agreement Program (AYA) to pursue her post-secondary studies, which helps cover the cost of things like housing, tuition and health care while attending school or job training. Sim says while the supplement helps cover rent there was not much left over to cover other necessities in a month.

“I was excited to learn of the Youth Futures Education Fund from the Langara Financial Aid advisor. Thanks to the fund, my world has shifted for the better.”

## **A bright future**

Sim is now in her second year at Langara College and plans to take several more semesters before transferring to University of British Columbia in pursuit of her Psychology or Behavioural Neuroscience degree.

“I am beyond grateful for being given a chance to pursue my education in full force without struggling financially to survive,” Sim says.

“Thanks to donors like you, I got to thrive educationally and emotionally. You’re helping young students like me get the support they need to realize their potential.”

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**SIMRANJIT**  
LANGARA COLLEGE STUDENT  
AND FUND RECIPIENT

“I do not have the stress of paying for my education and that makes my learning so much easier...I am so grateful to have this opportunity to not only make my life better but so that I may help someone else in the future when I start my career as a social worker.”

**MICHELLE\***  
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA DISTANCE  
LEARNING STUDENT AND FUND  
RECIPIENT

*\* Name changed to protect identity*



Photo Credit: Brook Cagle/Unsplash

# PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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 British Columbia – working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island.

## FOUNDING PARTNERS

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE PARTNER AND FUND HOST

United Way British Columbia – working with communities in BC's Interior,  
Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island (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. Additionally, Coast Capital provides \$100,00 annually to support administration of the Youth Futures Education Fund ensuring every dollar donated to the fund goes directly to students.

### \$250,000+

The Province of BC  
United Way British Columbia  
(Includes individual donors stewarded through United Way British Columbia)

### \$249,999 – \$100,000

Coast Capital  
\$99,999 – \$25,000  
Edwina and Paul Heller  
Memorial Fund\*

### \$24,999 – \$10,000

Fred Boyd Brown Fund\*  
Christine Macdonald\*  
Tait Family Fund\*  
Trevor Linden Foundation\*

"I'm really proud of myself for not giving up. Once I have a few years of work experience under my belt, I would love to go back to school to pursue a Master's degree. My ultimate goal would be to end up influencing policy in child welfare."

**ASHLEY**  
DOUGLAS COLLEGE GRADUATE, FUND RECIPIENT AND  
MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORKER

\*Held at Vancouver Foundation

**youth  
futures**  
EDUCATION FUND

## YOUTH FUTURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

### AMY BAYLIS

Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

### JULIE CZECK

Ministry of Children and Family Development

### PHILIP DAVIDSON

Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

### CHAS DESJARLAIS

Vancouver School Board

### RACHEL DICK

Coast Capital

### WILLIAM LITCHFIELD

Vancouver Island University

### RYAN MALES

CIBC World Markets

### JIM MARTELL

Research Universities Council of BC

### SABRINA MATRIE

University of British Columbia

### ALISON MCCLUSKY

Victoria Foundation

### ANGELA MENEGETTI

Vancouver Island University

### TONY NELSON

Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

### LANA QUINN

Trevor Linden Foundation

### CHRIS RAMBARAN

University of British Columbia

### BRYNNE REDFORD

Public Guardian and Trustee

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### CATHERINE TALBOTT

Ministry of Children and Family Development

### JAYNE WILSON

BC Federation of Foster Parents Associations

### KIM WINCHELL

United Way British Columbia

### MALLORY WOODS

Vancouver Island University (Student)

### MAUREEN YOUNG (CHAIR)

Coast Capital

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