



Photo Credit: FatCamera/i-Stock.com

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

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 British Columbia**	\$99,999 – \$25,000 Edwina and Paul Heller Memorial Fund	\$24,999 – \$10,000 Fred Boyd Fund Tait Family Fund
\$249,999 – \$100,000 Coast Capital***		

“When I decided to go back to school, I had to work extremely hard to do my upgrading to be accepted into my program...Without Youth Futures Education Fund support I would have struggled to further my education working towards establishing an impactful career and promising future.”

NATASHA
DOUGLAS COLLEGE STUDENT AND FUND RECIPIENT

*Representative of student fund usage
**Includes individual donors stewarded through United Way British Columbia
***Who provide \$100,000 to United Way British Columbia to fund the delivery of management services for Youth Futures, ensuring every dollar donated goes directly to students



YOUTH FUTURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

MEET OUR 2021/2022 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KELSEY BELLIVEAU
Youth Representative

RACHEL DICK
Coast Capital

REBECCA FOUNTAINE
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

RORY GREWAR
Victoria Foundation

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BCNET

DAN MALONE
Foster Parent Services Society

JIM MARTELL
Research Universities Council of BC

SABRINA MATERIE
University of British Columbia

JADYN MCLEAN
Youth Representative

ANGELA MENEGHETTI
Vancouver Island University

NAVI MUNDI
Youth Representative

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BC Foster Parent Association
Board of Directors

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ANNIE SMITH
McCreary Centre Society

CATHERINE TALBOTT
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SUNNY VIRK
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6774-0223



2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo Credit: Kara Gebhardt/istock.com

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

The first three years of the new decade have been challenging for everyone – the COVID-19 pandemic has affected health care, the economy and the social fabric of our communities. Now Canadians are experiencing the highest rates of inflation in almost 40 years. Many are struggling to stay afloat financially and emotionally. For youth formerly in government or Designated Aboriginal Agency care who are pursuing their post-secondary education, it is even more difficult as they have little to no family supports and basics like food, shelter and transportation cost more than ever. That’s where the Youth Futures Education Fund provides vital aid.

Through the Youth Futures Education Fund, youth enrolled in post-secondary education and participating in the BC Tuition Waiver Program are eligible for support toward basic living expenses like rent, food, technology and counselling. They can access the fund through any one of 26 B.C. public post-secondary institutions; the Native Education College or one of 10 approved trades training providers. In 2021/22, 492 students accessed the fund. Students sought 8% more support, on average, than the previous year with monies spent on rent and transportation increasing 8% and 10% respectively.

Last year, the Youth Futures Education Fund disbursed almost \$630,000 to students to help them complete their post-secondary education. Committed funders like the Province of British Columbia and United Way British Columbia – working with communities in BC’s Interior, Lower Mainland and Central & Northern Vancouver Island, through its donors, annually invest \$250,000 each. Continued support is critical.

This year, 839 youth formerly in care will participate in the tuition waiver program. As the impact of inflation is felt, many will need assistance. The positive news is that more youth than ever are seeking to fulfill their educational dreams and move into careers that will enrich all our communities. And they will have more opportunities to pursue their passions. In 2023, the fund will be open to students registered at union institutes or participating in the BC Tuition Waiver Program. Along with pursuing studies that will improve our society, these young people are giving back in a myriad of ways. This includes three new youth representatives serving on our Advisory Committee. Their experiences and insight will help guide our work through the coming year.

Since establishing the Youth Futures Education Fund in 2014, Coast Capital, the Province of British Columbia, and the Office of the Representative of Children and Youth have been essential to this work, as is our volunteer Advisory Committee and administrative partners the Vancouver Foundation and United Way British Columbia.

Supporting the resiliency and determination of youth means a brighter future and better world for all.

Maureen Young

Maureen Young
YOUTH FUTURES EDUCATION FUND CHAIR

“I have the Youth Futures Education Fund to thank for being able to learn a marketable skill that has been fantastic for building my future. I’ve gotten a lot of jobs and a lot of commissions because I was able to take the 3D Animation for Game, Film & Visual Effects Program, and I would not have been able to do that without the fund’s support.”

STAR
LANGARA COLLEGE
GRADUATE, FUND
RECIPIENT AND
ANIMATOR

“Education transforms lives. It’s one of the most important tools of social equality and equity that we have. With the right supports, it can be a huge step toward a more promising, meaningful, and prosperous career. All British Columbians deserve to access education and skills training, no matter their life circumstances. My ministry and this government are continuing to take action to remove barriers and open the doors more widely to our universities, colleges, and post-secondary institutes, and building a BC that leaves no British Columbian behind.”

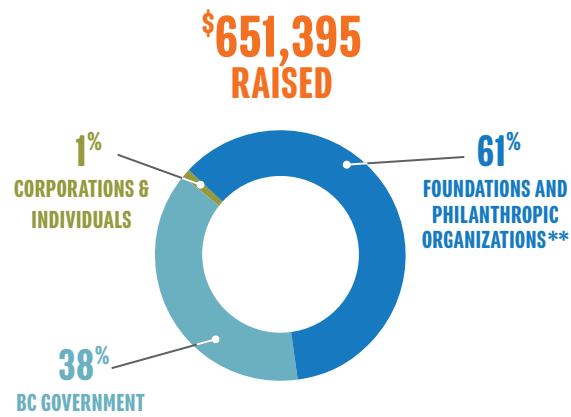
MINISTER SELINA ROBINSON
MINISTRY OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FUTURE SKILLS

2021/2022 BY THE NUMBERS:

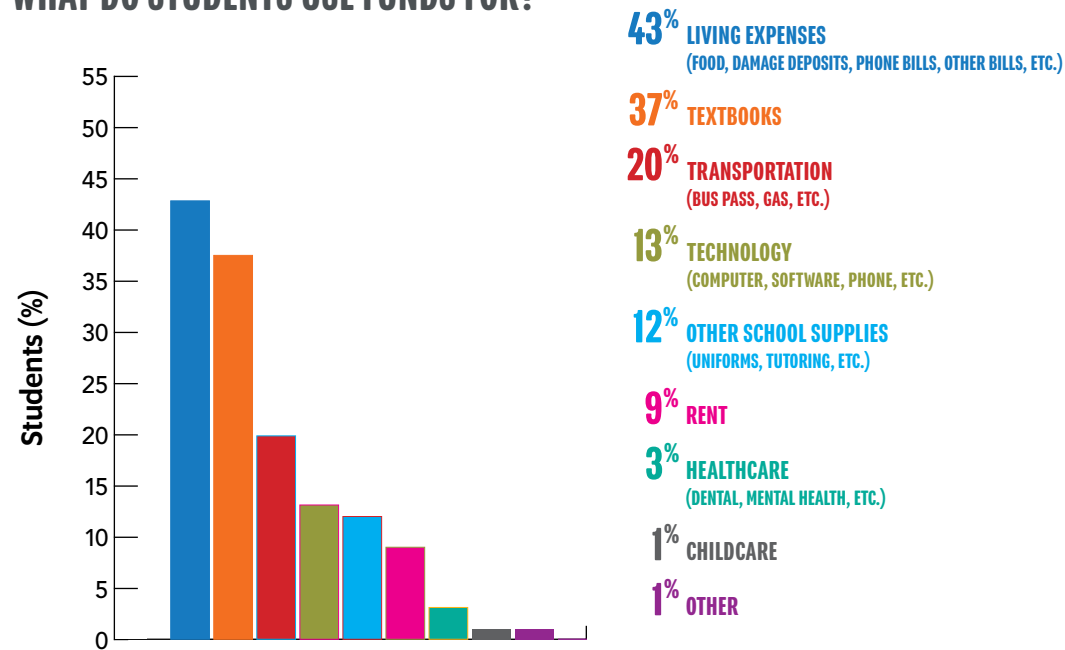
\$628,758
DISTRIBUTED TO
492
STUDENTS

\$6,500
LARGEST
ALLOCATION
PER STUDENT

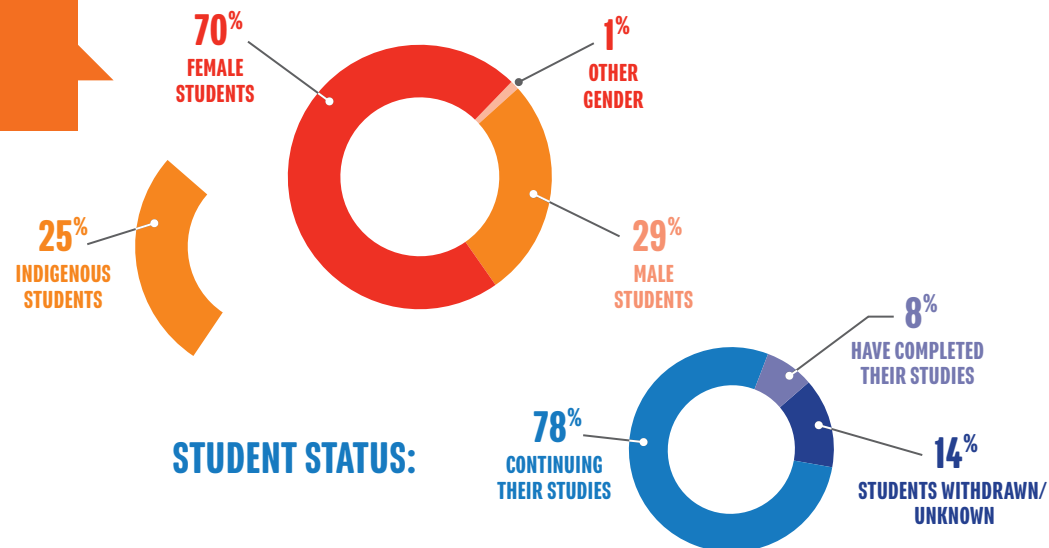
\$20
SMALLEST
ALLOCATION
PER STUDENT



WHAT DO STUDENTS USE FUNDS FOR?*



WHO DO WE SUPPORT?



*Representative of student fund usage
** Includes individual donors stewarded through United Way British Columbia

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO HELP CHANGE THE WORLD

Photo Credit: Green Chameleon on Unsplash

Prior to being accepted into Douglas College, Natasha's last completed level of education was grade 6. Today, the 29-year-old is in the Youth Justice program studying to become a youth worker who can support and make a difference in the lives of sexually exploited youth.

"When I decided to go back to school, I had to work extremely hard to do my upgrading to be accepted into my program," Natasha says. "This was stressful enough without adding a financial burden into the mix and wondering how I would go to school and get supplies like textbooks that I needed to be successful and pay some of my bills with absolutely no outside support in my life."

Support changes lives

Youth in care like Natasha 'age out' of the system at 19 and can experience a significant reduction in support from foster parents, social workers, and government programs. Other young people may have a family to fall back on, but former youth in care often have no one, making pursuing post-secondary education and future careers very challenging.

Thanks to her powerful determination, the Province of BC's Tuition Waiver Program and assistance from the Youth Futures Education Fund, which provides support for basic living expenses like rent, transportation and technology, Natasha has been able to focus solely on her education.

Quieting fears

"Without Youth Futures Education Fund support I would have struggled to further my education working towards establishing an impactful career and promising future. Funding from the fund helped to reduce the financial barriers I was facing as a full-time student," Natasha says. It also helped lay one of her biggest fears – homelessness – about pursuing post-secondary education to rest.

When Natasha aged out of government care at 19, she had no supports and experienced many hardships including being without a home. In fact, about 40% of BC's homeless population have been in government care at some point in their lives. Supporting students to pursue post-secondary education not only helps them to pursue their dreams, but also strengthens our community. Only 4% of students attending post-secondary institutions on a tuition waivers program and receiving Youth Futures funding withdraw from their studies.

"Everyone deserves equal access to education. So, when you donate the Youth Futures Education Fund, please know how helpful and life changing this resource may be to someone like me, who never thought they could make it this far in life and in my education."

"Thinking back to all the times I received [Youth Futures Education] funding I was in desperate need of something, whether that be clothes, food, school supplies or textbooks [and] safe transportation, this fund would come through and I was no longer trying to stretch things out to make ends meet or sacrificing important aspects like eating enough in a day. I hope to one day be in a position where I can help someone like me."

MELISSA
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
OKANAGAN STUDENT AND FUND RECIPIENT

"I'm so passionate about wanting to be a social worker and being in this program. I want to be able to give them my all, and not have to worry about these other things so I can be there for children and youth that might feel like no one is listening to them. I know what they may be going through."

ELANIS
THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY
STUDENT AND FUND RECIPIENT