

2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo Credit: Courtney Hale/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.

“When my grandparents died, we lost so much knowledge. I lost my chance to learn from my grandparents, and that’s why it was so important to me continue my education...Sixteen years ago, this wasn’t possible. There wasn’t any support for former youth in care. Literally you turned 19, got on welfare, and were left with nothing. No home, no future, no hope...To know there are funds like [YFEF] and there is support for us is such a huge change..”

**JONATHAN
NICOLA VALLEY
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE AND
PAST FUND RECIPIENT**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This past year has been an exciting one in the post-secondary space with improved funding and access giving former youth in care of all ages more confidence and opportunity to pursue their education. In August 2023, the BC government removed an existing age restriction for the BC’s Provincial Tuition Waiver program, giving those who turn or have turned 19 in the care of the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development or an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency the opportunity to access education through a tuition waiver regardless of age or time spent in care. Many students are eager to get their education started and year over year, the number of students on a tuition waiver has grown by 28%, with an 11% increase in Indigenous student enrollment and an 8% increase in those over 25, including a 74-year-old (!). Along with this expansion, a new \$3,500 annual Learning for Future Grant to support educational costs, such as books, computers and supplies, was also introduced. But the need for support with basic living expenses like rent, food and transportation remains, as does the need to address unexpected emergencies like car repairs to get to university, a new laptop or unforeseen medical expenses, which students can’t possibly plan or budget for.

With more support available to former youth in care of all ages, the Youth Futures Education Fund continues to provide barrier-free access to funds for basic living expenses like rent, food, transportation and childcare, and for the emergencies that happen in everyone’s lives from time to time. By addressing gaps students may encounter in a time of high cost of living and inflation, we can help ensure everyone wanting to pursue an education can do so.

Last year, the Youth Futures Education Fund disbursed over \$550,000 to 537 students, 36% of whom were Indigenous. Eighty-nine percent of students receiving fund support continued or completed their studies during this period. Funders like United Way British Columbia – working with communities in BC’s North, Interior, Lower Mainland and Central & Northern Vancouver Island, through its donors, make this possible. In 2022/23, United Way invested \$380,000. With more students looking to make post-secondary education a part of their story, we are ready to meet the needs of students entering and continuing their post-secondary education. But continued support is crucial.

With 2023 ending, it also marks the closure of my time as chair of the Youth Futures Education Fund Advisory Committee. The advisory committee that stewards this fund is a truly remarkable model of collaboration among community organizations, philanthropists, the private sector, public agencies (including BC government ministries), and private citizens, committed to changing outcomes for youth in and from government care. It has been an honour to work with each member of this committee and the organizations who stand behind them, and to know that through our collective efforts, so many deserving young people have not only had the financial support to achieve their post-secondary aspirations, but perhaps more importantly, the knowledge that their community is rooting for their success. Serving on this committee has been a tremendously meaningful experience for me personally and I would like to thank my fellow committee members, the terrific staff teams at United Way BC and Vancouver Foundation, and to express my gratitude at having the opportunity to serve. I look forward to continuing as a member of the committee through this next year in the capacity of past-chair.

As we look forward to the year ahead, I want to give a warm welcome to the incoming Advisory Committee Chair, Jim Martell, building on his outstanding contributions over the past many years both as a member and more recently as Vice-Chair. Jim’s talent and commitment will continue serving the Fund very well as our Advisory Committee and the Fund’s many dedicated donors provide vital support for brighter futures.

Maureen Young

**Maureen Young
YOUTH FUTURES EDUCATION FUND CHAIR**

2022/2023

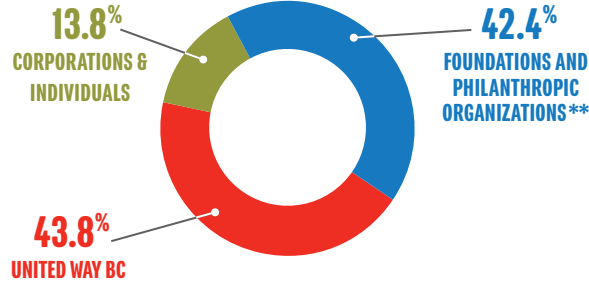
BY THE NUMBERS:

\$552,000
DISTRIBUTED TO
537
STUDENTS

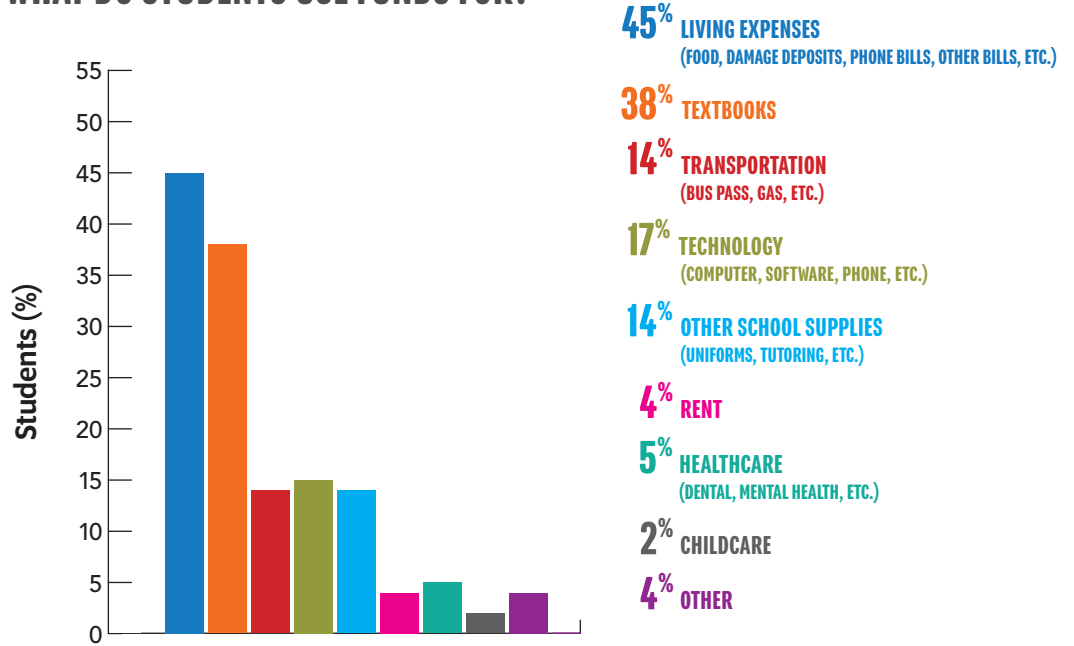
\$5,350
LARGEST
ALLOCATION
PER STUDENT

\$36
SMALLEST
ALLOCATION
PER STUDENT

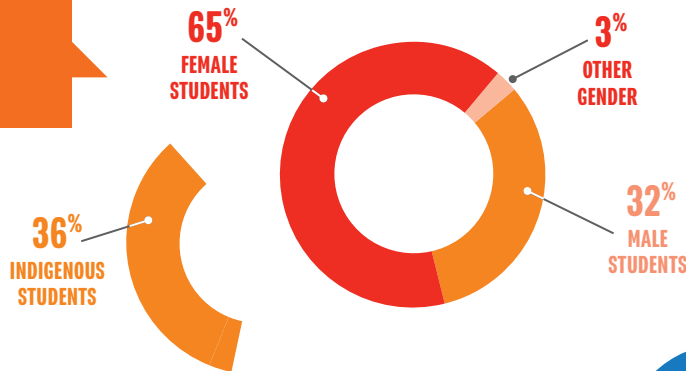
\$659,315
RAISED



WHAT DO STUDENTS USE FUNDS FOR?*

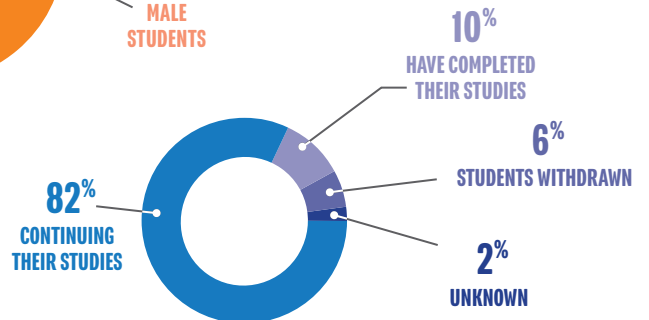


WHO DO WE SUPPORT?



36%
INDIGENOUS
STUDENTS

STUDENT STATUS:



* Representative of student fund usage

** Includes individual donors stewarded through United Way British Columbia



A VITAL SUPPORT FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES

As a former youth in care aging into community, Yanna could overcome financial challenges while pursuing her diploma thanks to the Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF), which provides support for basic living expenses like rent, food, and technology, for students who were previously in government care. “Once I got into full-time school, I couldn’t work as much, and I didn’t have enough money to buy food,” says Yanna. “My nails were getting brittle and thin, and my hair was falling out. Receiving this fund was vital for me to keep studying, but also take care of my health.”

The essential basics

On top of tuition, there is almost \$26,400 a year required for necessities such as rent, transportation, and textbooks. YFEF partners with 27 academic institutions across BC to offer financial support to cover these expenses and ensure that former youth in care can pursue their post-secondary dreams.

In 2023, YFEF invested over \$550,000 to support 537 students across British Columbia. “The funds are allocated on a needs basis, and in 2022/23, amounts allocated ranged from as large as \$5,350 to as small as \$36. With this important support, only 6% of students attending post-secondary institutions on a tuition waivers program and receiving Youth Futures funding withdrew from their studies – a testament to the crucial role YFEF is playing in their academic success,” says Maureen Young, Vice-President, Social Purpose at Coast Capital and Chair of the Youth Futures Education Fund.

Immeasurable support

Being placed in care is challenging, but no matter how resilient they are, former youth in care shouldn’t have to navigate these challenges alone. “For me, YFEF means safety. Not having a family is not only about lacking emotional support but also the financial bounce back, which is decisive when we’re trying to build our life from scratch,” says Yanna. “I plan to have my Master’s and work with children with special needs or disabilities. I want to help people and make a difference. YFEF helped me continue my dream so I can live a fulfilled life.”



Scan the QR Code, or click the link below to watch a short video about [Yanna's story](#)

“When my dad passed away, I was on the verge of leaving school. Being on the YFEF Advisory Committee helped me learn the resources available to me. I applied for the Provincial Tuition Waiver and the Learning for Futures grant, which allowed me to prioritize my education. I didn’t feel the pressures of financial strain. Being on this committee has made me a better advocate as I can understand and speak on addressing the gaps in funding systems for our Indigenous urbanized youth who are aging out of care.”

JADYN
LANGARA COLLEGE STUDENT
AND FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

“Post secondary education provides people with the opportunity to develop the skills they need to seize opportunities, build meaningful lives and reach their full potential. By expanding the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program to all former youth in care, regardless of age, our government is removing financial barriers and making post-secondary education more accessible. Together with the Youth Futures Education, we are helping former youth in care be their best selves.”

MINISTER GRACE LORE
MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND
FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Youth Futures Education Fund thanks the Government of British Columbia for being a trusted partner in helping ensure all former youth in care can pursue a post-secondary education.



Photo Credit: David Schaffer/i-Stock.com

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Youth Futures Education Fund was collaboratively established by: Coast Capital, The Province of British Columbia, and the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth. The 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 North, 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 North, 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.

\$249,999 – \$100,000

Coast Capital***
Houston Family Foundation
Rudy and Patricia North

\$99,999 – \$25,000

Edwina and Paul Heller
Memorial Fund
Fred Boyd Foundation
Morris & Helen Belkin
Foundation

\$24,999 – \$10,000

Tait Family Fund

Lives, and even generations, can be changed through one act of selflessness. Between 2016 and 2023, the Edwina & Paul Heller Memorial Fund has generously provided \$345,000 to the Youth Futures Education Fund to support youth formerly in government care as they pursue post-secondary education. Their commitment to and respect for young people means Fund recipients can reach their financial and personal goals. Sometimes all a young person needs is someone who believes in them. Youth Futures Education Fund is honoured to recognize such committed and caring philanthropists who believe that every person’s future matters.



YOUTH FUTURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

MEET OUR 2022/2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KELSEY BELLIVEAU

Youth Representative

JULIE CZECK

Ministry of Children and Family Development

FEDERICA DI STEFANO

Ministry of Children and Family Development

REBECCA FONTAINE

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

RORY GREWAR

Victoria Foundation

DEVON KEYS

BCNET

RAQUEL LEISIEUR

BC Foster Parent Association Board of Directors

SARA LEMARRE

Vancouver Island University

DAN MALONE

Foster Parent Services Society

JIM MARTELL

Research Universities Council of BC

SABRINA MATERIE

University of British Columbia

JADYN MCLEAN

Youth Representative

KELLY ROWLANDS

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

ANNIE SMITH

McCreary Centre Society

CATHERINE TALBOTT

Ministry of Children and Family Development

SUNNY VIRK

Public Guardian and Trustee

CLARE WHELAN

Ministry of Children and Family Development

KIM WINCHELL

United Way British Columbia

MALLORY WOODS

Youth Representative

MAUREEN YOUNG (CHAIR)

Coast Capital

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YOUTHFUTURES.CA

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[youthfutures_ca](https://www.instagram.com/youthfutures_ca)

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***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