



ABBOTSFORD
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Media - For Immediate Release

Abbotsford Community Foundation Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary!

Abbotsford, BC January 28, 2019

Lead: The Abbotsford Community Foundation (ACF) celebrates 40 years of giving in Abbotsford!

The Abbotsford Community Foundation is celebrating 40 years of giving in Abbotsford this year. Since 1979, the Abbotsford Community Foundation has been committed to inspiring philanthropy and developing partnerships in Abbotsford by investing in people, projects, and programs to strengthen our community.

The ACF provides a unique opportunity for local businesses and individuals to support and encourage positive change in the community they love. Donors generally view giving as a way to give back in recognition of how much they have received in life. Many give to ensure their community is supported with greater opportunities. Some have a deep personal connection to a cause or an issue needing solutions. Most donate simply to make a difference. The Foundation offers inspiring and impactful giving options for local investment so that donors' values, interests and intentions are supported and carried out for years to come, creating lasting impact that will inspire future generations. "I love the diversity and generosity of Abbotsford's citizens. It is our honor to partner with individuals and local organizations to help them invest in our community to make it even stronger," says Wendy Neufeld, ACF's Executive Director.

The ACF was conceived by a series of events that started with a substantial donation by Alan & Vivian Trethewey to the Matsqui Parks and Recreation Commission in 1978. The Directors of the Commission at that time felt that the donation could have a much longer effect on the community if it was invested in perpetuity and revenues from the investment spent annually and so the Matsqui-Abbotsford Parks and Recreation Foundation Society was formed in December of 1979.

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Following three years of operation, the new Directors determined that the organization would be more accepted and have a greater growth potential if it was independent of Council. As a result, a special resolution was adopted that changed the existing Foundation to the Matsqui-Abbotsford Foundation Society. When Matsqui and Abbotsford amalgamated municipalities in 1994, a further amendment was made to the constitution that changed the name of the Foundation to the Abbotsford Foundation. In 2002, the name was revised to “Abbotsford Community Foundation”.

The ACF has experienced steady asset growth over the years, increasing the scope and number of granting opportunities substantially. Since inception, the Foundation has distributed over **\$10.5 million** in grants and student awards. These grants have been made to many charitable organizations for programs and projects in Abbotsford related to education, arts and culture, sports, agriculture, animal welfare, and social issues like homelessness and poverty. In recent years, some of the granting focus has especially been on programs that benefit Abbotsford children and families at risk. Over 5,000 graduating Abbotsford students have received scholarships from the ACF's Student Awards program to help fulfil their post secondary education dreams.

The ACF is honored to have been entrusted with the gifts of so many local businesses and individuals. The Foundation's long history, expertise and community connections ensure that they are a reliable, transparent and accountable steward of the funds in their care. When asked about why she continues to support the Foundation over 40 years after her and her husband Alan's initial gift, Vivian Trethewey said simply this: “I continue to give to the Foundation because I believe in what they do, and they do it well.”

If you would like to ask about options to help you invest in your community, creating a lasting impact that will inspire future generations, please contact the Abbotsford Community Foundation by phone at 604-850-3755 or email at info@abbotsfordcf.org.

For media interviews, please contact:
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The ACF 2017 Annual Report is available at <https://abbotsfordcf.org/about/annual-reports/>
The publications on our site are used year-round by the Foundation to build local knowledge, set strategic priorities, inform granting and engage in community leadership activities.

Abbotsford Community Foundation is one of 191 community foundations across Canada. For more information about *Community Foundations of Canada*, visit www.communityfoundations.ca.

About Abbotsford Community Foundation

Vision

Together, we will build a stronger, more caring community.

Mission

Inspire philanthropy and develop partnerships by investing in people, projects, and programs to strengthen our community.

Definition of Success

Abbotsford Community Foundation is an outstanding community leader and capacity builder in the not-for-profit sector. Abbotsford Community Foundation has 20 million dollars in endowment funds by 2020.

Strategic Priorities

- Fund Development
- Promotion
- Impactful Granting

Values

Caring, engaged, responsible, trustworthy, accountable

Funds

- 12- Endowment Funds
- 18 - Agency Funds
- 14 - Donor Advised Funds
- 13 - Donor Designated Funds
- 79 - Student Award Endowment Funds
- 85 – Student Award flow thru Funds

Click [here](#) for ways to give.

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