

Envision Financial Community Endowment

2025 Grants

\$517,680 and 29 grants distributed through Impact, Capacity and SOAR grant streams

- \$363,000 in Impact grants awarded to 17 charities
- \$70,000 in Capacity grants awarded to five charities
- \$84,680 in SOAR grants awarded to four charities

Multi-year commitments:

The following organizations are multi-year commitments, entered in 2023 and 2024; all will conclude in 2025.



Delta Hospital and Community Foundation, Delta \$25,000

Building a state-of-the-art long-term care community, this new facility will replace the dated, 92 bed extended care residence at Delta Hospital built in 1977. A new 200 bed community will provide single rooms in *homes and neighbourhoods* with 12-13 residents in each *home unit*. A living room, dining room, den and kitchen space in each home unit will offer improved safety, privacy and greatly improve resident's quality of life.

EmotionsBC Health and Wellness, Surrey, \$25,000

The Essential Skills Program empowers individuals to navigate their mental health challenges. In 2024, EmotionsBC hosted 168 support skill sessions with 1,735 program participants, impacting 4,338 people through family relationships, and reaching people in 29 communities across BC. The grant will help pay wages for a supervisor, coordinator and facilitator and includes program operating expenses, and volunteer support.

Take a Hike Foundation, North Delta, \$25,000

Empowering vulnerable youth to believe in their potential and achieve success, Take a Hike supports youth with full-time mental health clinical counselling and well-being programs integrated into their school curriculum. Also included are outdoor wilderness trips and community engagement activities. Following completion of high school, an impressive 97% of youth plan to attend post-secondary education and 76% reported improved mental health and overall life satisfaction.



Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), Envision Region, \$5,000

Youth are disproportionately affected by impaired driving—in 2021, young drivers aged 16-24 accounted for 23% of all impaired driving incidents in Canada. The School Assembly Program keeps kids safe, empowering youth in grades 7-12 with a presentation that vividly illustrates the consequences of impaired driving. In 2023-2024, this program delivered 12 presentations across the Envision Financial region, reaching more than 9,500 students.

Impact Grant Recipients:

Impact Grants are unrestricted grants, investing in an organization's operations, programs, projects, or services. Eligibility criteria for Impact Grants include alignment to one of First West Foundation's six identified Sustainable Development Goals.



Nightshift Street Ministries, Surrey, \$25,000

Nightshift's programs include mobile nursing, counselling and outreach services, all operating 365 days a year. With over 400 active volunteers, their meal program serves over 47,000 meals annually in Surrey and Langley, with more than 9,000 visits in 2024 to the daily Welcome Centre Program for coffee, food and community. The Chillanthropy Kindness Cooler is essential to their food programs and will replace the existing outdated cooler.



L.I.N.C. (Long-term Inmates Now in the Community), Mission, \$25,000

Emma's Acres is a thriving sustainable agriculture system supporting local food security in the District of Mission. Proceeds from the farm are sold at farmers' markets in Mission, to local non-profits, stores and restaurants as well as being donated to local food programs and the food bank. LINC uses the principles of transformative justice, equity, community and diversity to assist offenders who are accountable for their actions, to safely reintegrate back into society after years of being inside prison. LINC gives individuals opportunities to give back to the community whereby prisoners travel to the farm on various forms of conditional release. Incarcerated participants receive employable skills, community, an opportunity to provide community service and receive hands-on learning experiences. Approximately 1,500 people are impacted by LINC every year.

Abbotsford Youth Commission (AYC), Abbotsford, \$25,000

The Youth Drop-In Centre offers a minimum of 27+ hours of direct service each week. In 2024, AYC welcomed 20,589 entrances to its programs. More than just a place to gather, AYC programs equip youth with the skills they need to care for themselves, build resilience, and work toward self-sufficiency. From leadership training to life skills workshops, youth are empowered to make healthy choices, develop confidence, and navigate life's challenges. The grant will go directly toward youth worker wages and program supplies.

BeMorr Society Mental Health and Suicide Awareness, Abbotsford, \$25,000

The Mental Wellness Program supports enhancing access to counselling services, first aid training sessions, and peer support groups. BeMorr Society supported over 750 counselling sessions in 2024. Funding will reduce wait times, improve access to services, and expand partnerships with more contracted counsellors in additional communities. It will also support program administration, marketing, and awareness efforts.

HeadsUp Guys, Envision Financial region, \$25,000

HeadsUpGuys supports men's mental health in a positive, inclusive, and mutually supportive way with and for people of all backgrounds, regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation. An online resource, the grant will support the ongoing maintenance and further development of the HeadsUpGuys Therapist Directory, the world's only therapist directory focused specifically on supporting the mental health care of men. In 2024, a total of 4,350 users in Envision Financial communities accessed the directory with 5,782 connections facilitated to HeadsUpGuys and therapists, thus emphasizing its unique role as a conduit for men to access life-saving professional help.

Heron Hospice Society, Delta, \$20,000

A provider of compassionate care and support to people with life-limiting illness and their families, the Society seeks to expand and strengthen community education efforts surrounding grief and bereavement. Serving approximately 2,450 individuals each year, the grant will be used to develop comprehensive educational sessions on death and loss, facilitate targeted support groups, and create accessible informational materials in both paper and digital formats.

Kitimat General Hospital Foundation, Kitimat, \$25,000

The addition of a CT scanner at the Kitimat General Hospital will significantly enhance the hospital's diagnostic capabilities, allowing for faster and more accurate treatment decisions. This addition will reduce the need for patients to travel to other cities for scans, making healthcare more accessible and convenient. Most importantly, it will improve accessibility for the most vulnerable citizens, ensuring they receive timely and comprehensive care without the added burden of travel.

Rick's Heart Foundation, Fraser Valley, \$20,000

The Heart for Music program equips seniors' care homes with complete music therapy programs. Studies highlight the "benefits of providing music therapy and music-based care for nursing home residents...including measured changes in well-being like levels of enjoyment, mood and engagement in the residents..." (Ray, October 2018).¹ In 2024, Rick's Heart Foundation supported 45 care homes, with 13,000 seniors impacted by 26,000 hours of outdoor music therapy. The grant will enable a permanent installation of outdoor therapy programs at three centres, impacting more than 300 seniors.

Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre, Maple Ridge, \$15,000

Providing no-cost, publicly funded early intervention services to children, youth, and families in Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and the Katzie First Nation community, RMCDC seeks to increase accessibility to its programs through reduced wait times and the increase of hours for their part-time administrative staff. RMCDC serves over 1,000 children and their families each year.

Spinal Cord Injury of BC – (SCI), Fraser Valley, \$5,000

There are approximately 12,000 individuals in BC who are living with an SCI with 500 new injuries seen each year. SCI-BC's peer support programs help individuals return to daily routines, participate in activities or hobbies that they might not have tried since their injury, and become active members of their communities again. Each year, approximately 2,900 peers (people living with SCI or related physical disabilities), plus family members and friends participate in peer support programs and associated events and activities in Envision Financial communities: Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Delta, Langley and Surrey.

Wagner Hills Farm Society, Langley, \$25,000

A unique men's, one-year recovery program on a 45-acre working farm, Wagner Hills encompasses a multi-pronged approach, the practical work of maintaining a thriving farm is used to develop skills, encourage teamwork and create purpose. Residents are empowered in recovery to make life sustaining decisions through established programs focused on counseling and nutrition. The Market at Wagner Hills sells artisan products created onsite by residents and volunteers. The Market is a not-for-profit entity, designed to equip Wagner Hills' residents with life and workplace skills.

BC Agriculture in the Classroom, Abbotsford, \$25,000

Classroom Growing Programs provide teachers K-12 the chance to make it easy to learn about agriculture. From "Spuds in Tubs" to "Common Ground: Strawberry Project with Indigenous Roots" as well as Harvest Bins, the program creates a positive learning environment to get growing. In 2024, the impact in agriculture and food education supported 396 classes, and 11,880 students in the Fraser Valley. BC Agriculture in the Classroom has partnered with Food Banks BC to deliver fresh, local produce to 1,477 schools, serving 8.5 million portions annually, generating \$3-\$10 in economic returns through increased lifetime earnings, job creation and healthcare savings.

Fraser Region Community Justice Initiatives (CJI), Langley, \$20,000

CJI's Restorative Action Program serves both students and staff across the Langley School District equipping them with effective conflict resolution skills. Fostering a restorative atmosphere, schools are becoming healthier and more productive places which benefits the whole community. Students develop strong self-esteem as they learn and grow without fear, take responsibility for their actions, and mature into responsible adults with a strong sense of values. In 2024, CJI's Action Plan supported 1,600 students in the Langley School District.



¹ The Use of Music and Music Therapy in Ameliorating Depression Symptoms and Improving Well-Being in Nursing Home Residents With Dementia
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Mission Literacy in Motion, Mission \$3,000

More than 1,000 persons benefit annually from the literacy programs delivered to children and adults. The Science of Reading program will be expanded helping children build foundational literacy skills, improve reading levels and provide adults with literacy assistance and language support. Programs are delivered to Deroche Elementary School, and extend to Dewdney, Lake Errock, Leq'a:mel, and Sq'ewlets First Nations.

Capacity Grant Recipients:

Capacity grants provide organizations with financial resources to pursue education, professional development, training, and infrastructure enhancements. Capacity grants are released as restricted funds. Grantees are not required to align with the Foundation's six Sustainable Development Goals.

Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Education, Hope, \$10,000

Hope Mountain Centre provides free programming to all school children from StrongStart to grade 6 in every school within SD78, serving approximately 24,000 individuals each year, with more than 100,000 persons indirectly benefiting from their work. The grant will support re-certification for staff and volunteers, ensuring safe delivery of programs. Recertification includes Wilderness First Responder, Remote First Aid, Leave No Trace Master Educator, chainsaw operation, Xwelítem Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building, and White-Water Rescue Technician courses.

Langley Animal Protection (LAPS), Langley, \$10,000

Leadership development, board training, and fundraising education will strengthen the organization's capacity to sustain and expand vital programs. By building a skilled and compassionate team, LAPS ensures they can continue to promote good health and well-being for both people and animals, fostering stronger, more connected communities. In 2024, LAPS partnered with 408 families, serving 858 animals in their shelter.

Langley Senior Resources Society, Langley \$10,000

Advancing its new Strategic Plan, a facilitator will conduct three sessions with the Leadership Team and Board of Directors to create a comprehensive implementation plan, including tactics, success measurements, resources needed, and timelines to meet their established goals. The sessions will also help identify operational investments needed, improve collaboration and develop a scorecard to track progress against the plan. LSRS delivers programs to approximately 5,700 seniors each year.

Lumara Grief and Bereavement Care Society, Envision Financial region, \$10,000

Developing a new website will include content development, building a new platform, developing accessibility compliance, donation functionality and interactive tools like a program finder and events calendar. More than 40% of the funding needed for this project has been secured. This grant will help support the fee of the web developer for the new site.

National Family Support and Restoration Society, Mission \$10,000

Providing safe stable housing for mothers in crisis, known as Cherub's Inn, NFSRS strives to create a supportive and safe atmosphere. In 2024, NFSRS opened its maternity house in Mission, serving 20-28 women and their children with comprehensive services (counselling, trauma informed care, and workforce training). A daycare centre which opened in 2022, provides childcare for women in residence and the wider community; the daycare contributes to the sustainability of the organization. Funding will support the creation of a strategic plan to develop clear and effective strategies to guide sustainable growth over the next three years positioning Cherub's Inn for long-term success.

Step Forward Health Society, Delta, \$10,000

A grassroots charity dedicated to removing financial barriers to mental health care in the Delta region, Step Forward Health Society's sustainability will be enhanced and supported with a capacity grant focusing on fundraising knowledge and operational efficiency. In 2024, the Foundation's impact grant of \$25,000 funded two group programs over a duration of 20 weeks, with 20% of the grant supporting administrative costs. For every woman receiving counselling, at least three persons are impacted.

Surrey Cares Community Foundation, Surrey, \$10,000

A vital philanthropic contributor in Surrey with annual funding to more than 300 charities over the past 30 years, this grant will help the Foundation hire an online content expert to review and update its website content to align with their Strategic Plan and Communication Strategy.

SOAR Grant Recipients:

SOAR launched in 2023 to support and partner with those committed to equity deserving organizations, and racialized groups, including and not limited to people who identify as Black, Brown, Indigenous and/or as a person of colour in communities served by First West Credit Union.

Big Sisters of the BC Lower Mainland, Surrey and Delta, \$25,000

The Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds program is a school-based group mentoring initiative for individuals identifying as girls and gender-diverse youth in grades 4-7. Facilitated by trained mentors, sessions include group discussions and educational activities that encourage self-reflection and positive conversations about healthy living in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment. Delivered throughout 2024, 41% and 22% of participants live in Surrey and Delta. Overall, in 2024, Big Sisters provided programs to 494 youth with 315 volunteers.

Reach Child and Youth Development Society, Delta, \$25,000

The Punjabi-speaking peer support group has grown in five years from four families to over 100. In 2025, REACH will expand the program to support more newcomer families with education on critical topics such as accessing funding, translation services, health care/mental health services, and provide online and in-person peer support networks. REACH serves approximately 1,300 individual families annually; and in most instances several family members are part of more than one program, and most are seen multiple times for services.

Technology for Living, Envision Financial region, \$25,000

TFL provides need-based assistive technology and innovative ideas that create or enhance social inclusion and belonging. Three signature programs help increase independence, the autonomy, and safety of people with physical disabilities: the Youth Assistive Technology (YAT) initiative, The Open-Door Program, and The Simon Cox Student Design Competition from Technology for Living (TFL). First launched as a pilot program, TFL is expanding YAT; the Open-Door Program uses technology to remove barriers and adapts entrances to rooms; and the Simon Cox Student Design Competition partners University students with a person with a disability to provide innovative solutions for everyday problems. In 2024, TFL served 1,959 individuals, including over 1,400 home visits.



The Centre for Epilepsy and Seizure Education in BC, Abbotsford \$9,680

Growing organizational capacity through education, volunteer engagement and fundraising, this grant will support these three key areas as identified in the Centre's 2024 strategic planning process. The Centre will build its cultural competency to develop practical skills and tools to successfully collaborate with BC First Nations, as well as other Indigenous groups and communities. They will grow volunteer capacity with effective training programs and management systems; and enhance fundraising capacity with long-term plans and a case for support. In 2024, approximately 1,800 persons in BC accessed programming, with website resources attracting almost 10,000 visits monthly.