

## EQUATION FOR A BETTER PROVINCE

**A small group of people + a good idea + a little financial encouragement = a big difference.**

**A**lthough the Vancouver Foundation is the province's largest philanthropy and the second largest foundation in Canada, it has a knack for finding small things that make a big difference. Since it was established over 60 years ago, it has poured tens of millions of dollars into community projects throughout the province. In the majority of these cases the Foundation follows a simple formula. A small group of people with a good idea, receiving a little financial encouragement, can make a big difference.

A sampling of some of their funding projects over the past year demonstrates this theory in action. The Foundation funded a group called the Critter Care Wildlife Society in Langley. This Society provides care to orphaned or injured native mammal species. Last year it admitted 13 black bear cubs. Further north the Foundation funded the Get Bear Smart Society in Whistler. The Society

engaged in public information programs to cut down conflicts between humans and bears.

In Vancouver, poor aboriginal kids coming into the city face a stack of challenges. Among these, simply being able to afford a bus ticket is often out of reach. A grant from the Vancouver Foundation to the Urban Native Youth Centre in

Vancouver was created to address this problem.

In another program

aimed at aboriginal youth, the Foundation funded a summer institute for aboriginal teens at the Emily Carr Institute of Art. The program

allowed youth to explore their expressive abilities in native art by removing financial obstacles to study.

Good ideas plus a little encouragement make a big difference. It is

a philosophy that has made the Vancouver Foundation a leading force for positive change for six decades. Long before Google™ was operating under the corporate slogan of "do no evil", the Vancouver Foundation was

operating under the unofficial slogan of "do a lot of good." It still does.

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