

SEVEN DECADES... OF RESPONSIVE AND ENGAGED PHILANTHROPY

LIDLAW FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

LIDLAW
FOUNDATION





OUR MISSION >

Laidlaw Foundation supports young people impacted by the justice, education, and child-welfare systems to become healthy and engaged by investing in innovative ideas, convening interested parties, advocating for systems change, and sharing learning across the sector.

OUR VISION >

A society in which all young people have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

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Staff

Jehad Aliweiwi - **Executive Director**
Tamer Ibrahim - **Youth CI Program Manager**
Veanna Octive - **Grants Manager**
Saeed Selvam - **Public Policy Manager**
Gohar Topchyan - **Administrative and Communications Coordinator**
Orville Wallace - **Director, Programs and Strategic Initiatives *** (joined September 2019)
Foundation House's shared employees:
Nayan Biswas - **Receptionist and Office Assistant *** (joined July 2019)
Maryam Haghjoo - **Receptionist and Office Assistant *** (left April 2019)
Jonathan Hutchinson - **IT and Data Coordinator**
Nila Khan - **Receptionist and Office Assistant *** (left June 2019)

Committees of Laidlaw Board

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Paul Fensom (Vice-Chair)

EXTERNAL ADVISORS

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Heather Brubacher
Tiffany Chang
Paul Nagpal
Sandra Kagango

GRANTING

May Wong (Chair)
Tara Farahani (Vice-Chair)

Lyon Smith

Janine Manning

Jamie Laidlaw

Cameron Laidlaw

EXTERNAL ADVISOR

Irwin Elman

INVESTMENT

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May Wong

EXTERNAL ADVISORS

Heather Hunter
Hanifa Kassam
Derek Ballantyne
Ewa Townsend
Randy Steuart
Kristina Inrig

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Bridget Sinclair, Vice-President
Gave Lindo, Chair of Governance Committee
Andre Lewis, Chair of Finance & Audit Committee
May Wong, Chair of Granting Committee

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Bridget Sinclair
Rebecca Darwent
Jehad Aliweiwi
Tamer Ibrahim
Veanna Octive
Gohar Topchyan

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Bridget Sinclair (Vice-Chair)
Andre Lewis
Cameron Laidlaw
Jamie Laidlaw
Tara Farahani

EXTERNAL ADVISOR

Hanifa Kassam

FAMILY FUND COMMITTEE

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Lyon Smith (Vice-Chair)
Bob Smith
Jamie Laidlaw
Paul Fensom
Rebecca Darwent
External Advisor
Jessica Hammell
Caitlin Laidlaw

INDIGENOUS YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FUTURES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jessica Bolduc
Max FineDay
Jerica Fraser
Erin Hayward
Sarah Nelson
Jacob Parcher
Tunchai Redvers
Lacey Biedermann



A Message from the President and the Executive Director : A tradition of proactive philanthropy

2019 was a very special year for the Laidlaw Foundation. During the year, we adopted a new five-year strategic plan, celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the Foundation, provided funding to a range of initiatives supporting youth impacted by systems that continue to fail them and their communities. We also added a new staff person to lead and manage the Foundation's expanded and renewed granting portfolios. Added to all of that, the Foundation was recognized for its philanthropic work and partnership with Indigenous youth.

During the year, the Foundation's Board and Staff spent considerable energy and resources to adopt and then begin to set in motion a strategic plan for the next five years. Through the new 2019-2024 strategic directions, we are taking the next steps on the path of youth well-being. Over the next five years, the main focus of the Foundation's effort will be on building the capacity of, engaging with, and advocating for youth in Ontario who are impacted by the criminal justice, education and child welfare systems.

To that effect, we streamlined our granting programs and created the Youth Action Fund to be the vehicle through which we were able to provide funding to a dozen initiatives from across the province. In this report, you will find a profile of the projects funded under our new strategic plan.

With the development of a new strategy and focus, the Foundation recognized the need to build its programing and grant-making capacity. With that in mind, we were fortunate to recruit Orville Wallace, an experienced programing and grant-making professional. Orville

brings well-established credentials in philanthropy, deep community connections, and recognized expertise in youth justice reform, grassroots activism, and anti-oppression work. The administration, communications, and Gala planning roles were ably led by Gohar Topchyan who joined the Foundation in January 2019.

The year 2019 marked the 70th Anniversary of the Foundation. We commemorated this significant event with a wonderful Gala Dinner, a Legacy Gift, and a Publication that captured seven decades of exceptional philanthropy.

Our 70th Anniversary also provided a wonderful chance for reflection. What stands out are the countless opportunities our team of remarkable grantees have made over the years. Laidlaw chose to further mark this Anniversary through a meaningful one-time \$100,000 Legacy contribution to a cause whose work and mission inspires us and reminds us of the philanthropic vision and spirit of its founders. By selecting Feathers of Hope in Thunder bay, Ontario, a youth-driven movement dedicated to the empowerment of First Nations youth, to be the recipient

of the Legacy Grant, we wanted to bring attention to an urgent problem that has significant impact on the lives of young people today. In the following pages you will read about why the work and mission of Fathers of Hope inspires us.

Our website includes a virtual timeline with milestones that span the seventy years that the Foundation has left its imprint on an exceptionally broad range of Canadian sectors from social policy debates, to the arts, academe, conservation, youth and event philanthropic case law. We invite you to go through it to see the depth and breadth of activities the Foundation has invested in since its establishment.

One of the year's highlights was the 2019 Outstanding Foundation Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Toronto Chapter. Laidlaw was nominated by Ryerson University in recognition of our work with Indigenous youth. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with institutions like Ryerson University to maintain our relevance to the well-being of youth.

For 70 years, the Laidlaw Foundation has reimagined how to best remain relevant to the public interest. We will continue to do that moving forward. We strive for an Ontario in which all youth are thriving, engaged and included, and we pledge to move the mark in the next five years and beyond so that the next 70 years are better for all of us.

The accomplishments of the Foundation are due to the dedicated leadership of an engaged Board, committed Family, and a talented Staff team. Our sincere thanks to all your efforts and hard work that made the activities covered in this document a celebrated reality.

We invite you to read the 2019 report that showcases the work of our grantees, highlights the new strategy and provides reflections on the 70th Anniversary of the Foundation. We welcome any considered comments and feedback on Laidlaw's activities, focus and funded initiatives.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Smith,
President

Bob Smith

Jehad Aliweiwi,
Executive Director

Jehad Aliweiwi

70th anniversary of the Laidlaw Foundation

In 2019, the Laidlaw Foundation marked its 70th Anniversary providing a milestone for the Foundation to celebrate their progressive philanthropic legacy that includes supporting more than 2100 projects with \$44.4 million worth of grants to improve the lives of young people.

Laidlaw is proud to be a leader of youth-centred round tables and collective impact work by working alongside partners committed to positive systems change. This work has made strong commitments to elevate Indigenous Youth interests, building on strategies that Indigenous youth and Indigenous communities identify as meaningful.

Through the Foundation's strategic work, it has become an exemplar philanthropic leader. The Foundation's granting structure reflects our inclusive approach to prioritizing Black youth-led projects, and Indigenous youth-led initiatives, supporting young people to have agency over their work.

Laidlaw will continue to be a leader in both the philanthropic and youth-serving sectors. By partnering with practitioners, academics and those with lived experience – the Foundation has a greater capacity to collect robust data to use to maximize impact through granting and advocacy efforts.

Heading boldly into 2020, Laidlaw is elevating the priorities and voices of youth with lived experience in the justice, education and child welfare systems to achieve their full potential by putting their aspirations at the forefront of its grant-making and leadership activities. To celebrate the milestone of 70th Anniversary, Laidlaw awarded Feathers of Hope, a not-for-profit led by First Nations youth, with a legacy gift of \$100,000.



AFP Association of Fundraising Professionals Philanthropy Awards 2019 : Recipient of the 2019 AFP Philanthropy Award for Outstanding Foundation

Laidlaw Foundation was among seven of 2019 honourees for AFP Philanthropy Awards 2019. The 2019 recipients were honoured at Philanthropy Awards Luncheon on November 27th, 2019 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This year's recipients were recognised for their philanthropy, volunteerism and vision, which has improved the quality

of life for millions of Canadians. The AFP Greater Toronto Chapter has honoured leadership in philanthropy through its annual awards program since 1995. Laidlaw Foundation is proud to join a group of extraordinary recipients who set new benchmarks of excellence in the acts of giving and volunteering.

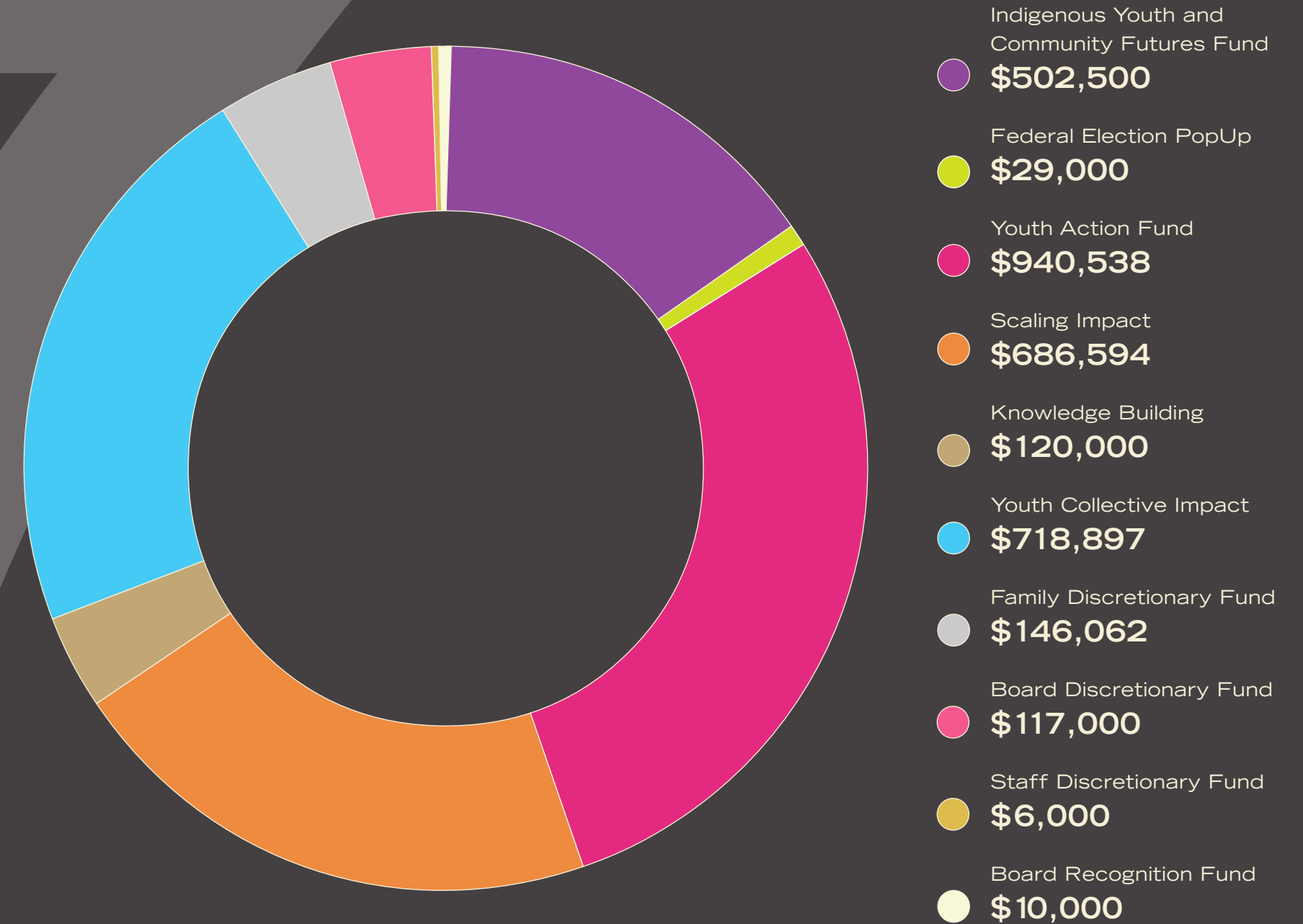


Granting at a Glance

TOTALS

139
initiatives funded in 2019

\$3,276,591
amount awarded in 2019



Indigenous Youth and Community Futures Fund

Through the Indigenous Youth and Community Futures Fund (IYCFF), Laidlaw invested in opportunities for Indigenous youth to develop and lead projects where they were immersed in their lands, languages and cultures; participate in everyday acts of resurgence, reclamation and well-being; build relationships within and across Indigenous communities; and learned about and define for themselves what reconciliation means.

15
projects funded
\$502,500
awarded

INDIGENOUS YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FUTURES FUND - \$502,500		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Nimkii Aazhibikong Eshkiniijig (Youth of the Thunder Mountain Camp/Anishinaabe Aadizowin)	\$30,000	Elliot Lake
Fort Severn First Nation/Bridging the Generations through Reintroducing Dog Sledding to Fort Severn	\$30,000	Fort Severn
Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC)/Endaayaang Youth Culture Camp	\$7,500	Hamilton
Ratinenhayen:thos Youth Council / From Seed to Seed	\$29,982	Tyendinaga
Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle / Indigenous Youth Advisory Circle / Indigenous Youth Regalia Making	\$30,000	Durham Region
Maamiwi Gibeshiwin Indigenous Cultural Training	\$30,000	Sudbury
Cultural Algoma Secondary Schools – Northern Indigenous Youth Council/National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations – Central Algoma	\$7,560	Central Algoma
Youth of Pikwakanagan / Pikwakanagan Youth Culture and Connections	\$24,040	Golden Lake
Indigenous Women and LGBTQ2S + Sustenance Reclamation Network / Sustenance Reclamation Gathering	\$30,000	Hamilton
CatalystsX / To Teach Each Other	\$30,000	Toronto
Weave and Mend / Weave and Mend Collective	\$30,000	Toronto
Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG)	\$58,905	Garden River
Tungasuvvingat Inuit	\$59,513	Ottawa
Waaseyaakosing Language Nest	\$55,000	Brentwood Bay, BC
Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre	\$50,000	Ottawa

Indigenous Youth and Community Futures Fund Highlight : **Weave and Mend Collective**

“The Weave and Mend Collective is a group of mixed Indigenous youth artists, Candy “Otsikhéta” Blair, Kaya Joan, Ashley King and Bert Whitecrow, residing in T’karonto, Dish With One Spoon Treaty territory. Each member diversifies the collective by bringing their own artistic abilities and vision to the table. Weave and Mend Collective explores ways of building sustainable relationships within BIPOC communities through art, facilitated conversation and permaculture. Their knowledge focuses on Indigenous methodologies of art making, cultural practices, cultural revitalization, food sovereignty and land sovereignty.

The group came together when a call was put forth by SKETCH Working Arts, for femme, non-binary, and 2-spirited Indigenous artists, to design a space that promotes peace-building with community relations through land-based work, workshops, performance, and storytelling.

Through the 2019 IYCF grant, they were able to visit Six Nations reserve in order to access traditional Iroquois white corn and craft supplies. All of which was used to facilitate a quill and beading workshop, as well as a food sovereignty workshop hosted virtually in May 2020. The collective has also began collecting medicinal plant seeds from their garden with the hopes of starting a seed bank for the BIPOC community of T’karonto. Despite COVID-19 restriction, Weave and Mend has decided to organize a virtual art show, exhibiting their work and that of other BIPOC artist of Turtle Island with the theme of “Care” and the effects of this quarantine.”



PopUp : Federal Election PopUp

For the October 21st, 2019

Federal Election, Laidlaw Foundation offered grants of up to \$1,000 to support youth-led projects that made it easier for young people to be seen and heard during the elections. Through these grants, the Foundation wanted to make sure the issues and priorities most pressing to young people and their communities were on the radars of people running for office and looking to represent them in government. The grant was also focused on making the elections process more accessible to young people, whether or not, they are old enough to vote.



FEDERAL ELECTION POPUP: \$29,000		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Dinner and Politics	\$1,000	Toronto
AYEDI/Afghan-Canadian Youth 2019 Get-Out-The-Vote Project	\$1,000	Toronto
Youth2Youth Hastings and Prince Edward/Youth2Youth Summit - Understanding Your Voice in the Vote	\$1,000	Prince Edward / Hastings
En'tyce Mentoring and Community Services/Platforum	\$1,000	Ottawa
Skills for Change/Jane Finch Youth Town Hall: A Political Carnival	\$1,000	Toronto
Youth 2 Kingston	\$1,000	Kingston
Youth Nation Alliance Group/Preach It: A chance for your voice to be heard!	\$1,000	York Region
Helping Hands/It's the Youth Stage Now!	\$1,000	Ottawa
Niagara Falls Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee/City of Niagara/ Niagara Falls Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Youth Politics Participation	\$1,000	Niagara Falls
Neighbourhood Watch/Community Conversations	\$1,000	Ottawa
Youth Council Coalition of Canada/Essex Youth Take on Federal Election	\$1,000	Windsor / Essex
Vision Brampton/Young Brampton Votes	\$1,000	Brampton
Pinoys on Parliament/Pinoys on Parliament Post Election Hackathon Youth Roundtable	\$1,000	Ottawa
Indigenous and Muslim Futures Project/Our Presence, Our Future - Civic Participation of Indigenous and Muslim Youth Change Makers	\$1,000	Toronto
Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)/ CASSA Youth Civic Engagement Project	\$1,000	Toronto
Trinity Theatre Toronto/Greenwood Town Hall for Youth and Newcomer Youth	\$1,000	Toronto
Urban Alliance on Race Relations/ Muslim Youth First Time Voter Campaign by Muslim Youth Fellowship	\$1,000	Toronto
Centre of Equality Rights in Accommodation - Youth Advisory Committee/Youth Voice Matters	\$1,000	Toronto
Boys and Girls Club - Hamilton/ Youth Elect	\$1,000	Hamilton
Canadian Arab Institute/Engaging Canadian Arab Youth in the 2019 Federal Elections	\$1,000	Toronto

22

popups funded

\$29,000

awarded

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Btchcoin News/Show Me the Money: Talking to Canada's Next Finance Minister	\$1,000	Toronto
Tamils in Public Service/#WeVote 2019	\$1,000	Toronto
Youth Troopers for Global Awareness/Studio.89/ Critical Conversations: A Letter to the 24th	\$1,000	Mississauga
Vote Savvy/"In the Voting Booth with Aryan and Malaika": A Podcast by Youth for Youth	\$1,000	Guelph
Pollenize/Pollenize Canada 2019	\$1,000	Ottawa
Natural Kids Movement/Delta Family Resource Centre	\$1,000	Toronto
Advocates for a Student Culture of Consent (ASSC)/Future Votes	\$1,000	Brantford
Disability Justice Network/#CripTheVote / Talk The Vote	\$1,000	Vancouver, BC
The Windsor Essex Regional Youth Council/ Youth Federal Election Roundtable	\$1,000	Windsor / Essex

PopUp : Afghan Youth Vote Engagment

The Afghan-Canadian Youth Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) Project was designed to engage Afghan youth in the civic and political process. It was built on the feedback and positive responses Afghan Youth Engagement Develop Initiative (AYEDI) received from their October 2018 Laidlaw-supported GOTV project. This project aimed to increase democratic engagement by directly giving Afghan youth an opportunity to contribute to their communities clinically. It involved a workshop that engaged Afghan youth

aged 14-29 years old on voting & its importance and the technical steps involved in voting. There was an “action” activity where Afghan youth directly mobilize other Afghan youth to get out & vote on election day. The Afghan youth involved in this project then interacted and communicated with other Afghan households in their native tongues to encourage them to participate in democracy and vote. This project was documented and amplified via social media.



Youth Action Fund

The Youth Action Fund offers grants to grassroots initiatives working with youth who are underserved by the education system and overrepresented in the justice and child welfare systems. The development of this fund was guided by a series of consultations with experts and advocates in the field.

OBJECTIVES:

- Elevate the voices of young people with lived experiences in the justice, education, and child welfare systems
- Support initiatives working on or advocating for early intervention
- Promote equitable and accountable institutions and systems
- Support initiatives working on or advocating for evidence-based policy
- Support initiatives that are informed by youth, families and communities



11

projects funded

\$940,538

awarded

YOUTH ACTION FUND: \$940,538

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
FEAT for Children	\$49,116	Toronto
FYOU: The Forgiveness Project C/o Remix	\$100,000	Toronto
Young Voices C/o Sketch	\$99,896	Toronto
IMPACT 'n Communities C/o Boys & Girls Club of East Scarborough	\$100,000	Toronto
Think Twice C/o Delta Family Resource Centre	\$69,966	GTA
Near North Mobile Media Lab	\$79,395	North Bay
Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples	\$98,570	Toronto
FreedomSchool - Toronto C/o Children's Peace Theatre	\$100,000	GTA
For Youth Initiative	\$43,655	Toronto
HairStory: ROOTED	\$100,000	Toronto / Sarnia
Pathfinders C/o Turning Point Youth Services	\$99,940	Toronto

Youth Action Fund Highlight : **Pathfinders**

The Pathfinder project is a collaborative of youth-serving programs at the Ontario Court of Justice at 311 Jarvis. Led by Turning Point Youth Services, Pathfinder has been operating under separate grant funding since June 2019. In their first nine months of operation they have matched over 100 justice-involved youth with service providers. Phase II of the project is ramping up as they transition to the Laidlaw Youth Action Fund grant. In 2020, Pathfinder is looking forward to exciting milestones with its community partners. In partnership with Regent Park School of Music, Pathfinder will begin recruiting youth for their leadership project.

The project evaluation being conducted by the partners at University of Toronto is moving into the data analysis stage. They will also start planning for the integration of Pathfinder in the new Toronto courthouse, scheduled to open in 2022. Along with the exciting opportunities to come in the year ahead, Pathfinder will be working to adapt its operations to better serve its clients during the COVID-19 crisis. 2020 promises to be an exciting year for the project.



Youth Action Fund Highlight : Think 2wice Youth Theatre Project

THINK 2wice expanded a prevention/intervention, and a rehabilitation/reintegration initiative called the “Dying To Live” project. This project serves as an expansion of their existing federal prison theatre project to provincial jails and the community. Dying To Live is a culturally sensitive, trauma-informed initiative that uses the arts (drama, music, story sharing) and open dialogue to address gun violence among youth and young adults. The project’s main goal is to address negative mindsets while assisting youth to “think twice” before acting on emotions (ie retaliation) and ultimately divert them from criminal activity, gun violence and gang involvement. Dying To Live provides positive coping strategies to trauma and grief, to young people from Neighbourhood Improvement Areas in

Toronto through the development and presentation of a play, video and post workshops. This initiative aims to connect both participants and audience members to relevant supports that will help them deal with unresolved grief and trauma.

STORYLINE SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

A casualty of a neighborhood gang war two innocent youth were gunned down. This story shows the journey that a grieving brother takes while facing PTSD and the end result that retaliation leads him to.

“Both intergenerational trauma and trauma endured by community / gun/gang violence is in fact induced by systemic oppression. Many people of colour are carrying around unresolved trauma and grief. In the streets, our therapy is a blunt...a bottle ..and retaliation”

“Where I’m from the graveyards are expanding and prison is life as we know it”



Scaling Impact

Through the Scaling Impact grants, the Laidlaw Foundation deepened its investments in grassroots, youth-led projects by providing longer-term funding to youth-led groups to expand their model and increase their influence.

Scaling Impact can be seen as the next step for grassroots youth-led groups that have an established model primed to scale.

SI GRANTEES: GRASSROOTS
ADVOCACY + PROGRAMMING

- Offers programs that concretely improve the lives of young people that are falling through system's cracks
- Are credible and powerful advocates for policy and institutional change in order to address the root causes of inequities



8

projects funded

\$686,594

awarded

SCALING IMPACT: \$686,5949		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Youth Leaps	\$37,402	Toronto
Success Beyond Limits	\$100,000	Toronto
Literal Change	\$99,250	Toronto
Amadeusz C/o Albion Neighbourhood Services	\$100,000	Toronto
Bad Subject C/o Leave Out Violence	\$99,942	Toronto
Canadian Roots Exchange	\$100,000	Toronto
Citizen Empowerment Project C/o York University	\$50,000	Toronto
Y.A.A.C.E. C/o Black Creek Community Health Centre	\$100,000	Toronto

Scaling Impact Highlight : **Y.A.A.A.C.E**

Founded in 2007, the Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education (Y.A.A.A.C.E) is a community organization that seeks to engage children and youth from all communities – particularly those from marginalized and poor under-resourced communities through participation in year round comprehensive programming and activities (academics, athletics, recreation, technology and the arts). Y.A.A.A.C.E's mandate is twofold: to build capacity in all children and youth thus enhancing their capacity to become twenty first century learners and global citizens. The organization is based in Jane and Finch, Toronto and reaches 500+ students per year. This grant supports Y.A.A.A.C.E to deepen its wrap-around supports and implement a longitudinal evaluation in partnership with York University.

The Y.A.A.A.C.E Community School Initiative (CSI) and our Supplemental Education Program (SEP) is predicated on the overwhelming need to edify and build the capacity of children and youth from marginalized and racialized communities in West Toronto. Eventually, Y.A.A.A.C.E aims to create an evidenced based model that can be replicated nationally across Canada as an alternative to traditional educational attainment models. Y.A.A.A.C.E's academic intervention strategies includes the following: The Weekend Academy, March Break Camp, Summer Institute, A Plus Project and the Virtual School Project.



Scaling Impact Highlight : The Weekend Academy

The Y.A.A.A.C.E. “Weekend Academy” is a proactive academic strategy tasked with closing the achievement/opportunity gap. It also seeks to accommodate students in the elementary panel (grades 1-8) and those who perennially struggle academically, in particular our most volatile cohort of students; those diagnosed with a learning exceptionality or

concurrent disorders, those dealing with an absentee parent or absentee parents, those dealing with issues around bereavement, those dealing with exposure to violence or trauma, those from the city’s poor and under-resourced communities and for any other variable that would facilitate students’ under-achievement and subsequent disengagement.

Scaling Impact Highlight : Intervening Through Supplemental Education Program - Evidence from Toronto’s Jane and Finch Community

During summer 2019, the research nonprofit Road Home Research & Analysis and Humber College partnered with the Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education (Y.A.A.A.C.E) to study how Supplement Education Program (SEPs) can better close student achievement gaps. Following a 7-week small group leveled learning

intervention involving a sample size of 101 elementary and middle school students, this research documented a 13% improvement in their average literacy scores. In math, problem-solving and computational skills went up a grade level for 61% and 59% of the students, respectively.



Scaling Impact Highlight : The Summer Institute

The Y.A.A.C.E. “Summer Institute” (Y.S.I), represents Y.A.A.C.E.’s continued commitment to actively engage children and youth by providing them with a rich educational, athletic and social experiences. The mandate of the Summer Institute is twofold: to enhance the literacy and numeracy capacity of our students and to provide our students with rich expanded opportunities (technology, science, athletics, the arts etc). The seven-week Summer Institute was integral in mitigating the gaps in academic achievement and providing access to rich social and academic experiences. The 2019 installment of the Summer Institute accommodated 450 participants employed 60 youth from the local

community. Of significance was the evidenced based research project we participated in. The research nonprofit Road Home Research & Analysis and Humber College partnered with the Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education (Y.A.A.C.E) to study how Supplement Education Program (SEPs) can better close student achievement gaps. Following a 7-week small group leveled learning intervention involving a sample size of 101 elementary and middle school students, this research documented a 13% improvement in their average literacy scores. In math, problem- solving and computational skills went up a grade level for 61% and 59% of the students, respectively.



Knowledge Building

The Knowledge Building

program invested in research, policy-advocacy and communications strategies to enhance youth wellbeing and inclusion.

THROUGH THIS GRANT, THE FOUNDATION HAS SUPPORTED:

- Knowledge building projects including exploratory and community-based research and other empirical studies that fill knowledge gaps and/or developed evidence-based policies and advocacy tools to promote youth inclusion and wellbeing
- Knowledge sharing activities including convenings, workshops, dissemination activities and cultural productions that will increase public understanding of specific norms, structures and practices that act as barriers to youth inclusion and wellbeing in order to support changes in practice and policies.



4

projects funded

\$120,000

awarded

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING: \$120,000		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Yellow Head Institute (Ryerson)	\$100,000	Toronto
CET	\$10,000	Toronto
The Apathy is Boring Project	\$5,000	Montreal, QC
A Way Home Canada	\$5,000	Toronto

Youth Collective Impact

Youth CI is celebrating 5 years of supporting youth-led and youth-serving collaboratives in Ontario that are tackling systemic issues in their communities. To date, the program has reached every corner of the province from Thunder Bay, Moosonee, Toronto and Sudbury. Through its unique combination of workshops, coaching and funding, Youth CI has directly contributed to action around a variety of outcomes related to the wellbeing of young people, such as the reduction of youth homelessness, the increase of high school graduation rates, employment, social inclusion and safety in communities.

Thanks to the support of our program partners at the McConnell Foundation and Innoweave, as well as the dynamic coaches at Social Impact Advisors, Youth CI will continue to build on the strengths of the program model to better support truly meaningful community collaboration. This starts with strengthening the ecosystem of

collective impact by engaging and investing directly in young people who are closest to the issues that are being addressed.

While this approach to collective impact may be aspirational and challenging, Laidlaw and McConnell have rich legacies in disrupting the culture of inequity. For the last decade, Laidlaw has been elevating the voices of young people addressing systems that disadvantage them. Today, Laidlaw is carrying that work forward by providing grants to youth with lived experiences in the justice, education and child welfare systems. Similarly, McConnell looks for ways to convene people with diverse interests to come together with social innovators, funders, investors and policymakers to co-create new solutions that respond to complex challenges. Together, the partners are prioritizing and preserving meaningful cross sectoral collaboration, and giving voice to those that are left behind.



22

projects funded

\$718,897

awarded

LAUNCH GRANT: \$120,000		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Niagara Children's Planning Council	\$60,000	Niagara
West Elgin Youth Task Team	\$60,000	West Elgin

PLANNING COACHING & DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION		
ORGANIZATION NAME	TYPE	LOCATION
Halton Granters' Roundtable	Planning Coaching	Halton
Prince Edward County Youth Collective Impact	Developmental Evaluation	Prince Edward County

EXECUTION GRANT: \$521,897		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Positive Space Network	\$55,000	Halton
Hastings Youth Collective Impact	\$250,000	Hastings
Brantford Youth Collective Impact Committee	\$70,000	Brantford
YouthCAN	\$146,897	Hamilton

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & TRAINING: \$4,000		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Pawan Kumar Mukthavaram	\$2,000	Toronto
Maggie Huang	\$2,000	Toronto

EXPLORATION GRANT: \$70,000		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Rural Youth Mental Health	*\$10,000	Osgoode
Education CI	*\$10,000	Toronto
Mushkegowuk Youth	*\$10,000	Mushkegowuk Territory
Ryerson Student Feeding Exchange	*\$10,000	Toronto
New Six Soccer Collective	*\$10,000	Toronto
Jane and Finch: Bridging Education to Employment	*\$10,000	Toronto
Youth Empowering Youth	\$10,000	Toronto

CONVERSATION STARTER GRANT: \$3,000		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Sisters in Solidarity	\$1,000	Durham
Millennial Arts Collective	\$1,000	Toronto
Peel Youth Leading	\$1,000	Peel

CONVERSATION STARTER GRANT: \$3,000		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Sisters in Solidarity	\$1,000	Durham
Millennial Arts Collective	\$1,000	Toronto
Peel Youth Leading	\$1,000	Peel

*With Development Coaching

Youth Collective Impact Highlight : Helping Hastings County Youth Obtain Their High School Diploma

The Hastings County Youth Collective Impact, one of Youth CI's largest collaboratives, is aimed at increasing high school graduation rates for youth aged 12-18 and 18-30 in order to reach parity with the provincial average by 2026.

It all began in 2016, when Debbie Woods from the John Howard Society of Belleville discovered the Youth Collective Impact program and felt the issue of low high school graduation rates in Hastings County, which her organization was already addressing through a program called Quantum, could undoubtedly benefit from a greater community effort. Three years later, the project has united over 10 organizations in Hastings, including the 5 core group members, to develop a much-needed initiative that addresses system barriers faced by young people who are not on track to graduate or have left high school.

Reflecting on the needs of their community, the collective found that the graduation rate in Hastings County is lower than the provincial rate. Through the work of the collective, it was identified that high school graduation rates for the following three groups were below the Hastings County average: youth in care (Children's Aid Society), Indigenous youth and youth living in rural areas, specifically North Hastings. The Hastings County Youth CI will implement strategies to increase high school graduation rates for youth in these target groups.

The collective became aware that as many as 350 youth may be in group home care in Hastings County. Many of the youth may not be on track to achieve their high school diploma and could be particularly at risk of

getting involved with the justice system. "It is all interconnected," Debbie noted. "If you do not complete your grade 12, you are more at risk of getting involved with the justice system".

In January 2019, the collective launched a peer mentorship program as part of their campaign to increase awareness to young people in Hastings about support available. There are currently three peer mentors in Belleville, who, as Debbie assures, have developed a solid work plan and are already doing a wonderful job of engaging youth to stay or get connected back to school, as well as teaching them about alternative routes to complete their diploma. In the North, the collective consists of a backbone team, youth embedded roles, Indigenous roles and a systems navigator is working with community partners to develop a Youth Centre to meet the needs of youth in the North. The peer mentor in the North assists youth in accessing much-needed community resources.

According to Debbie, it is important to take into account the special barriers that youth face on a daily basis and to create opportunities for them to voice their opinions. To find out about the specific needs of youth, the collaborative hosted several youth engagement consultations through LEGO Serious Play (LSP) workshops.

The unique and interactive method of LSP workshops allowed youth to express their ideas and plans by creating models from LEGO bricks. LSP was especially useful in conveying more complex thoughts that could not be otherwise easily communicated. One key participant group in LSP workshops was CAS youth with lived experience of

the justice system. The second participant group was from North Hastings. The workshops helped to pinpoint specific issue areas and to learn about what prevented youth from achieving their high school graduation diploma. LSP workshops were also used by peer mentors to construct their work plan.

Through research and data collection, the collective has determined that approximately 55 % of CAS youth are able to obtain their high school diploma, which is significantly below the provincial and local average. As part of the project, the Hastings County Youth CI initiative will perform an environmental scan of the 350 youth currently in group home care in Hastings County to determine the high school completion percentage specific to youth in group home care. Next year, the collective will do the same for the other target groups.

What makes the project unique is the fact that all of the work is directed by and completed with and for youth in the community. Youth themselves have designed the project and are leading the collective, focusing on issues and challenges that are meaningful to them and working together to improve outcomes for youth. Their work is trauma-informed. They recognize the importance of graduation because not earning a high school diploma often puts youth at risk for a number of challenges.

As for next steps, the Hastings County Youth CI initiative would like to expand its peer-mentorship program and to start removing some of the systemic issues that are contributing to the issue of low high school graduation rates.



Front Row Left to Right: Melissa Wyatt (United Way Hastings Prince Edward), Theresa Bailey Dostaler (Synergy), Krista Ray (Algonquin and Lakeshore District School Board), Debbie Woods (John Howard Society), Marg Thompson (Hastings Prince Edward District School Board), Jessica Anderson (North Hastings Children's Services). **Back Row Left to Right:** Liam Smith (Peer Mentor, John Howard Society), Liz Bosma-Donovan (John Howard Society), Summer Betrand (Hastings Prince Edward District School Board)

Family Discretionary Fund

21 projects funded \$146,062 awarded

*Family Discretionary Fund Totals - \$146,062 (\$140,500 Grants + \$5,562 Grant Expenses)

FAMILY DISCRETIONARY FUND: \$146,062		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Glenn Gould Foundation	\$3,000.00	Toronto
Christ Church Anglican, Roches Point (Cayley Hall)	\$2,000.00	Roches Point
Camp Quality Canada	\$3,000.00	Toronto
United Way of Greater Toronto / The Ben LeFevre Mental Health Impact Fund	\$5,000.00	Toronto
Massey College	\$1,000.00	Toronto
Ontario Water Centre / The ClearWater Farm	\$1,000.00	Georgina
Boston Presbyterian Church	\$2,000.00	Milton
Canadian Rugby Union / Iroquois Roots Rugby Inc	\$10,000.00	Toronto
Abbey Gardens	\$41,000.00	Algonquin Highlands
Music Gallery	\$10,000.00	Toronto
LetsStopAids	\$1,000.00	Toronto
Arts Canada Institute	\$2,000.00	Ottawa
Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation / Steve Simmering Conservation Lands Endowment Fund	\$25,000.00	Ottawa
Christie Lake Kids	\$2,000.00	Ottawa
A2A Collaborative	\$2,000.00	Thousand Islands
Massey College	\$2,000.00	Toronto
Partners in Mission Food Bank	\$4,000.00	Kingston
Ontario Water Centre	\$8,000.00	Georgina
Christ Church Anglican, Roches Point	\$5,000.00	Roches Point
PAL Toronto	\$10,000.00	Toronto
Community Foundation for Kingston and Area	\$1,500.00	Klngston

Board Discretionary Fund

25 projects funded \$117,000 awarded

BOARD DISCRETIONARY FUND: \$117,000		
ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Trails Youth Initiatives	\$4,000	Whitchurch-Stouffville
Quetico Foundation	\$2,000	Toronto
SickKids Foundation	\$10,000	Toronto
Toronto Foundation	\$5,000	Toronto
Distress Centres of Greater Toronto	\$2,000	Toronto
Nagpal Vir Family Foundation (Vision 2020) C/o Toronto Foundation	\$2,000	Toronto
Feathers of Hope C/o Blue Sky Community Healing Centre	\$10,000	Thunder Bay
Distress Centres of Greater Toronto	\$3,000	Toronto
Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society Inc.	\$6,000	Toronto
Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society Inc.	\$5,000	Toronto
David Suzuki Foundation	\$10,000	Ottawa
Mosaic Institute	\$2,000	Toronto
93.7 Faith FM	\$3,000	Kitchener
Harbourfront Centre	\$2,000	Toronto
Rotman School of Management	\$10,000	Toronto
Variety - The Children's Charity (Ontario)	\$2,000	Toronto
WoodGreen Foundation	\$2,000	Toronto
Trust 15	\$2,000	Toronto
Canadian Music Centre	\$2,000	Toronto
St. Stephen's Community House / Nikki Knows	\$10,000	Toronto
Portage Ontario Foundation Office	\$6,000	Toronto
Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society Inc.	\$4,000	Toronto
The Canadian International Council	\$2,000	Toronto
All Saints Church Kingsway	\$1,000	Toronto
The Riverwood Conservancy	\$10,000	Mississauga

Staff Discretionary Fund

6

projects funded

\$6,000

awarded

STAFF DISCRETIONARY FUND: \$6,000

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Assembly of Seven Generations	\$1,000	Ottawa
St. Stephen's Community House Nikki Knows/Project Lucid	\$1,000	Toronto
Autism in Mind	\$1,000	Markham
FCJ Refugee Centre	\$1,000	Toronto
Trust 15	\$1,000	Toronto
Holiday Helpers Canada	\$1,000	Toronto



Board Recognition Fund

5

projects funded

\$10,000

awarded

BOARD RECOGNITION FUND: \$10,000

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation / Dan Offord Centre	\$2,000	Hamilton
Friends of CAMH Archives	\$2,000	Toronto
Imagine Canada	\$2,000	Ottawa
FCJ Refugee Centre	\$2,000	Toronto
National Theatre School	\$2,000	Ottawa



70th Anniversary Legacy Grant : Feathers of Hope

“In January 2019, Feathers of Hope became a federally incorporated non-profit organization. We are working to ensure that we will:

- Continue to be a youth-led, champion supported and culturally anchored body, focused on youth participation and youth voice
- Amplify the voices of First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth and carry on their work
- A source of hope for First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth. That together, we can be part of a healing journey that is anchored in community building.

We would like to honour the commitment and vision of Laura Arndt and the Community Development Team, at the former Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, and the Indigenous Champions. They all came together with young people to create the vision, framework and model that remains the foundation of Feathers of Hope. They believed in, supported and championed the call for young people to be the heart

and soul of a mobilizing change in their communities. Feathers of Hope is a First Nations approach anchored in Community, Culture, Identity and Belonging. A model supported, mentored and championed by Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults.

The vision for Feathers of Hope was for it to be led by young people and now that we are a federally, incorporated non-profit, we are there. Now we continue our journey, one that is now in our hands, the hands of young people. Our mandate continues to be anchored in the power, possibility, and role hope plays in making change real. Together we are, and will continue to be, Feathers of Hope, an organization committed to mobilizing the energies and hopes of Indigenous young people for safer, healthy First Nations people and communities.”

Miigwetch,
Feathers of Hope Team





Policy And Convening

LAIDLAW & JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY YOUTH BAIL FORUM

The John Howard Society of Ontario (JHSO) approached Laidlaw in Q4 of 2019 due to our mutual interest in youth justice reform. JHSO aims to conduct rigorous research on current challenges existing within the youth bail system, an issue which aligns directly with the Foundation's new strategic plan as it focuses on systemic barriers that Indigenous and Black youth face across all three systems.

Following a meeting with JHSO, Laidlaw, alongside The Law Foundation of Ontario, proudly co-convened a Youth Bail 'Think Tank Day' on February 11th, 2020. The event was unique as it included Crown Prosecutors, academics, researchers and front-line service providers along with one of our grantees with lived experience, Nikki Browne, all in the same room. The event will be followed up with youth consultations province-wide where young people with lived experience will be able to directly speak to and inform the report that JHSO is putting together which will serve as a guiding advocacy document for policy reform within the youth justice system.

CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION (CCLA) AND LAIDLAW

The CCLA approached the Foundation in Q4 of last year regarding a grant they were funded in 2016. They were delayed in delivering upon their proposed activities due to barriers in access to certain correctional institutions by the provincial government. They were exploring ways of rectifying this and approached Laidlaw for support. The Foundation managed to bridge the gap between CCLA and the government which, after much negotiation and persistence, resulted in granting access for their work.

JOINT LETTER TO ELECTIONS CANADA

We have officially signed on to a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada alongside many other Foundations, NGOs and the Democratic Engagement Exchange calling for specific policy changes and reforms that will make Canada's next federal election more accessible, equitable and less intimidating to civil society organizations, youth and communities often ignored/penalized in political discourse.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We continue to be humbled by requests for participation on high-profile panels/interviews, allowing us to share our learnings in public policy and philanthropy with the broader public. This enables us to spread the brand and reputation of the Foundation, creating new opportunities for engaging youth across the province and securing more partnerships with relevant stakeholders

YOUTH IN CARE ROUNDTABLE

Laidlaw continues to direct the Youth In Care Roundtable. The Table aims to identify one issue from a series of issues within the Child Welfare System that it can begin to resource and advocate for.

ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Our government relations and advocacy work have begun to kick into high gear as grantees begin to form more solid policy positions. These meetings are quite significant as much of the sector has not or is not able to conduct meetings with political staffers for various reasons, we are extremely grateful for the opportunity to not only meet but be in a position to hold decision-makers accountable.

YOUTH ACTION FUND POLICY MEETINGS

We are excited to welcome the first cohort of the Youth Action Fund grantees to discuss their initiative's policy needs, aspirations and the systemic challenges they are facing.



Impact Investing

The Foundation continues to explore ways to utilize its assets to better serve its mission and purpose. To that effect, the Investment Committee and the Board approved investments in two funds that, in addition to expectation of returns, demonstrate clear social benefit and outcome.

RAVEN INDIGENOUS CAPITAL PARTNERS

Raven is a purpose-driven venture capital firm that invests in innovative, scalable Indigenous-led and owned enterprises. Raven takes an active, hands-on approach that leverages entrepreneurial and stage expertise. Raven partners with entrepreneurs to increase their chance of success by applying our extensive operational knowledge and providing capacity building and market access support through our extensive domestic and global networks. The combined effects of increased government spending, legal settlements, revised procurement policies, Indigenous sovereignty over land and resources, and favourable demography will deliver non-correlated and superior returns in the Indigenous enterprise space over the next decade. Reconciliation is the responsibility of all Canadians.

COMMUNITY FORWARD FUND

Based in Toronto, Community Forward Fund (CFF or the Fund) is an evergreen loan fund that provides flexible debt financing to charities, non-profit organizations and social enterprises committed to creating impact in their local communities. CFF also provides financial capacity building services to its borrowers. CFF currently manages a \$10.2 million loan portfolio.

The portfolio's current gross yield is 5.7% with cumulative write-offs of less than 1% of cumulative loans deployed to date. Since inception, CFF has deployed a cumulative \$19 million in loans to over 46 organizations across seven sectors and eight provinces and territories. CFF provides loans exclusively to non-profit organizations, charities and social enterprises committed to serving their communities. CFF seeks to tailor its loan offering to the needs of the individual borrower and, as such, CFF's products range from fully amortizing to interest-only loans and from second mortgages to shorter bridge loans.

ARTSCAPE LAUNCHPAD COMMUNITY FUNDS

Laidlaw's \$500,000 investment in Toronto Artscape's Launchpad Community Bonds was funded on November 1, 2018. Proceeds from the bonds were used to finance the development and construction of its Artscape Daniels Launchpad Project, an entrepreneurship centre for arts and design professionals within the City of the Arts development on Toronto's waterfront. Founded in 1986, Toronto Artscape Inc. (Artscape) is a non-profit urban development organization that makes space for creativity and transforms communities. The new Launchpad space opened on November 1, 2018. The centre provides arts and design professionals with tools, training, resources and mentorship to build successful careers; fills a gap in entrepreneurship development for creative professionals in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area; strengthens the business incubation ecosystem in Canada; and supports the revitalization of Toronto's central waterfront, enhancing the cultural richness and vibrancy of the city. Artscape is working to create a new impact reporting tool aimed at testing if, by virtue of access to the supports offered at Launchpad, Artscape's members achieve measurable improvements in their financial empowerment; access to professional opportunities; and satisfaction in their practice/artistic fulfillment. This new tool, the Thriving Artist Index, will be fully embedded in the membership intake and follow up process for Launchpad. The creation of the Thriving Artist Index reflects Artscape's belief that the impacts of supporting creativity and creative enterprises and access to arts and culture infrastructure are not currently well-captured in existing standardized tools.

COPOWER GREEN BONDS

Laidlaw's \$350,000 investment in CoPower's 4-year, 4.0% compounding green bonds was completed with an effective issue date of December 1, 2018. Proceeds from the bonds were used to refinance loans made to clean energy projects which have been warehoused by CoPower's credit facility. This refinancing replenishes the capital available within the credit facility to invest in additional distributed renewable energy and energy efficiency projects – such as solar photovoltaic (PV), LED lighting, energy storage, geo-exchange, building retrofit and waste-to-energy projects – in North America. Through January 2019, CoPower invested over \$21 million in a residential geo-exchange project in Quebec; three operational rooftop and ground-mounted community solar projects in Hamilton; a portfolio of LED lighting retrofits in over 300 condo buildings in BC, AB and ON; a community solar project in Ontario; a portfolio of 658 geothermal projects in British Columbia; and a geothermal installation in a Toronto townhouse complex. Geothermal systems operate at 250-380% efficiency – for every unit of electricity used, 2-3 units of heating energy is provided by the system. This latest geothermal project in ON will result in 82 tonnes of carbon pollution avoided each year and 55 homes saving energy and money. As of December 31, 2018, Laidlaw's investment in CoPower's green bonds had resulted in the avoidance of 10,655 kgs of greenhouse gas emissions; generated 78,453 kWh of clean energy; and delivered \$9,869 in energy savings.

Weatherby Assets Management continue to manage our impact portfolio and assist the foundation in sourcing opportunities that fits with our investment philosophy.

Family Committee

In 2017 the Board approved a Fund of \$150,000 per year, initially for a three-year term, to encourage Laidlaw family members to actively engage with philanthropy and to increase their long-term involvement with and support for the Foundation. All descendants of the Foundation's Founder, Mr. R.A. Laidlaw, 18 years of age and older, are eligible to make applications to the Fund on behalf of a recognized Canadian charitable organization, to a maximum of \$10,000 per year, per family member.

Applications may be in the form of one grant in the amount of \$10,000 or a series of smaller microgrants. Family members are encouraged to consider the Mission of the Foundation when submitting their applications, and to collaborate with other family members on co-funding applications involving grants from two or more Family members. The Family Committee oversees the administration of the Fund and is comprised of four Family members on the Board, two other family members and two other Board Members. In the past year, 15 family members supported 21 initiatives for a total of \$140,500. The majority of these initiatives were funded by more than one family member.

Marking the 70th anniversary of the Foundation, in 2019 there was an increased effort to revive and revisit the family's legacy. In June 2019, 48 family members (including partners/ significant others and children) participated in a Family BBQ. This event was a great success and brought together many familiar and unfamiliar faces, exposed new family members to the work of the Foundation, and set the stage for greater family involvement in the Fund and the Foundation going forward. These efforts will continue in 2020, including continued outreach about the Family Discretionary Fund among the family and events planned by the Family Committee to celebrate the legacy of the Foundation from the lens of family members.



Family Committee Grant : Glenn Gould Foundation (Toronto, ON)

Honouring the young students involved in the Jessye Norman School and La Sistema school to attend the Glenn Gould Foundation Gala. This year's gala celebrated the incomparable Jessye Norman who has assisted children from economically deprived backgrounds to have a first class education to help them realize their potential.

Family Committee Grant : Iroquois Roots Rugby Inc c/o Rugby Canada

This fund supported an Indigenous-led program that promotes the sport of rugby to First Nations youth. This fund helped the organization purchase uniforms and insurance for their players.



Family Committee Grant : Abbey Gardens (Haliburton, ON)

To assist the organization in becoming self-sustaining. The funds will contribute to a Grocer farming system. This will allow Abbey Gardens to provide fresh and local produce to their community year-round and will offer increased sustainability for the organization in the form of a steady revenue stream.

Family Committee Grant : The Ben LeFevre Mental Health Impact Fund (Toronto, ON)

This fund allocated gifts to 79 high impact health programs and services that cover various aspects of support including: coping techniques, suicide prevention, research in mental health, and advocacy work to drive systems change.





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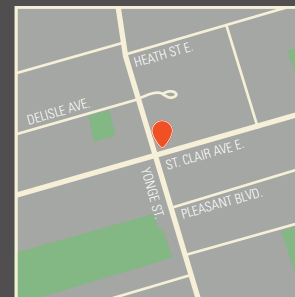


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