

Annual Report 2022

Reach and Impact



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Message from the Chair

Reach and Impact

At Aqueduct Foundation, our mission is to serve as a charitable bridge to flow funds to registered charities across Canada. We are a cause neutral foundation with donor-advised funds working with donors to facilitate significant personal philanthropy.

More than \$100 million granted in 2022

While we are now the 13th largest foundation in Canada by assets, our proudest achievement is this: we granted more than \$100 million to various charities in 2022. That's a lot of positive change.

Hearing from charities across Canada

In this report, you'll learn how that contribution is making a big impact for a diverse range of charities across Canada. In particular, you'll hear directly from many of the charities themselves about the work they do to advance various causes in communities across Canada and beyond.

Terri-Lynn Brown

Chair, Aqueduct Foundation

2022 Highlights

We are proud to bring you some financial highlights from 2022, which was our second-best year to date. Our donors made a record-number of grants to charities across Canada and we were proud to help them achieve their philanthropic goals.

Here are some key numbers we would like to share from the past year:

\$100 million

granted to charities in 2022

\$184 million

in new donations in 2022

\$663 million

granted since inception

677 total funds

including 53 new funds in 2022

\$931 million

in total assets

Making Change Through Diverse Collaborative Granting

For philanthropists, making a transformative lifetime gift can be complicated. To simplify this process, Aqueduct provides professional and confidential counsel, serving as the bridge between donors and the charities they wish to support.

When a donor approaches us with a giving idea, these are the steps we follow:

1. Discuss the donor's philanthropic interests and estate plans
2. Conduct research to find charities that might fit with their goals
3. Connect with relevant charities to understand what giving options are available
4. Discuss giving ideas, and their possible impact
5. Provide granting expertise and documentation of all expectations, terms and conditions

Our Mission

Our mission is simple—to facilitate significant personal philanthropy. Aqueduct is a registered charity with donor-advised funds, established through lifetime or legacy donations. We make grants to registered charities and qualified donors across Canada, at the recommendation of our donors.

Reach and Impact: One Charity at a Time

Working with our donors, we make grants to different charities across Canada. Each grant is made at the recommendation of each individual fund, and while much of our work involves larger charities, we also direct support to a number of smaller organizations. These are often introduced to Aqueduct by our donors, and are chosen for the positive work they do in the communities they serve, across the country.

Empowering Indigenous Youth

Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA)

Aqueduct Fund: C.L. and Lilly Choi Foundation Fund

UNYA's focus since its inception in 1988 has been to provide meaningful opportunities for Indigenous youth (Aboriginal, Metis, Inuit, First Nations, Status, Non-Status) in the urban setting. They provide over 20 wrap-around programs supporting health and wellness, education, housing and transitioning, and community connectivity.

By partnering with the Aqueduct Fund: C.L. and Lilly Choi Foundation Fund, UNYA receives pantry staples, fresh food, snacks, school supplies and clothing for their inter-agency school programs, Cedar Walk and Aries (individuals under 19). Additionally, the fund provided UNYA with the ability to host cultural activities such as ribbon skirt making, a field trip to Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre and Elders who provided language teaching. The Cedar Walk and Aries programs work in partnership with MCFD and VSB to provide alternative education program for Indigenous youth ages 13 to 19

whose needs are not being met in traditional school programs. They work to support youth in a way that considers all aspects of their well-being: physical, emotional, social, economic, and spiritual, at school, at home, and in the community. Indigenous teachings, knowledge, and perspectives are an important part of learning at Cedar Walk. They provide tools and create space for the youth to experience and explore traditional Indigenous practices and teachings, and to share their own cultural knowledge.

"Receiving the Ms. Choi scholarship has been one of my biggest accomplishments so far. This accomplishment has given me confidence, pride, and built self-esteem higher. My class attendance has improved which gives me the chance to get better grades. Receiving food each month has given me food security which relieves stress at home." – Aries Student.

UNYA's impact goes far beyond providing these programs, and its team has made great strides in delivering a diverse continuum of advocacy, preventative and support services that respond to the communities immediate needs. To learn more about their work, please visit their website unya.bc.ca



Donor Support Keeps an Organization Cooking

Union Gospel Mission

It's impossible to overstate the importance of the kitchen at Union Gospel Mission, which plays a vital role in serving the community. When an Aqueduct donor learned that UGM was working with a set of aging ovens, they recognized the urgent need and stepped in to make a grant from their donor-advised fund to finance the purchase of new equipment.

UGM shares their perspective on how this grant made an impact for their organization:

- For many UGM community members, many with lived experiences of poverty, homelessness, and addiction—it was a warm meal that first welcomed them into belonging, and served as an invitation into further support.
- Since 1940, UGM has been transforming communities by offering outreach, emergency shelter, recovery programming, affordable housing, and career development for people in Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. But without the right equipment, UGM's talented chefs can't deliver the nourishing, delicious meals their communities depend on.
- Until an Aqueduct donor gifted four new ovens (two last year, two this year), UGM chefs were getting by as best they could. "The problem with the older ovens was that they were unreliable," explains Kitchen Manager Randy Spark. "When you're serving 700 or 800 meals a day, you have to have a good stove. If you're cooking a chicken leg, for example, and it's not cooked at the proper temperature, then it's not food safe."
- Randy sees the new ovens as integral to reminding UGM community members that they are seen and valued. "Community members have let me know how much the meals mean to them," he says.
- Thanks to their four new ovens and the foresight of the Aqueduct donor, Randy and the rest of the kitchen staff can put their focus back on executing appetizing meals that lift their community. "At the end of the day, it's because of donors and gifts like this that we are able to do what we do," says Randy. "I don't know how to put it into words how much it's appreciated."

Stories like this exemplify the transformative impact that grants can have on a charity's operational capacity. By proactively consulting with UGM about their needs, the donor's contribution effectively supports the organization, enabling them to continue their essential work.



Improving the Quality of Life for Older Adults

Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA)

The Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA) tackles the biggest issues facing an aging population through research in nutrition, mobility, dementia, technology, and more. The RIA's unique approach to innovation bridges the gap between research and impact. Research questions are shaped by essential partners—older adults, care partners, health professionals, educators and industry—and then used to develop resources and education that can be applied to inform practice and policy.

The growing team of 11 Research Chairs, plus specialists and scientists, have made significant breakthroughs that are changing the future of aging. Richard Hughson, Schlegel Research Chair in Vascular Aging & Brain Health and Royal Society of Canada Fellow, was the first to discover that the cardiovascular systems of astronauts on the International Space Station can age the equivalent of 10–20 years. Hughson is now applying the knowledge gained from his research to preventing unexplained falls in older adults and to inform strategies to support longer stays in space.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, such as the RBJ Schlegel Family Foundation, the RIA discovers solutions that truly work and shares them to benefit older adults everywhere.



A Camp for Children

Peace Arch Hospice Society

Peace Arch Hospice Society is a volunteer-based non-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting all who are facing the end-of-life journey and those who are grieving, as well as educating the community on dying and grieving.

They provide professional grief and palliative support programs and services, free of charge, to residents of South Surrey and White Rock who are grieving or at the end-of-life. This includes counselling sessions with a Registered Clinical Counsellor, children's grief support camps, grief groups, vigils, mindfulness meditation, relaxation sessions, and more.

One Youth's Story of Loss and How She Found Healing by Helping Others

When Elyse was 11 years old, the unthinkable happened, she received the devastating news that her father died in a car accident. The days that followed were filled with intense, emotional pain. "I just wanted to feel normal again," reflects Elyse, now sixteen years old. "I found myself being pulled in two different directions. Feeling numb, seeing my mom in pain, seeing photos, hearing voice recordings...it all made me cry."

After some time had passed, Elyse attended Peace Arch Hospice Society's 2-day Children's Grief Support Camp. "Being with other children who were also grieving really helped me," Elyse recalls.

Elyse remembers the first day of camp being more fun than she expected. She and the other children enjoyed

playing games, going on a treasure hunt, making art, and Zumba dancing. She remembers seeing many emotions being expressed during the camp, especially during the sharing circles when the participants talked about the special people in their lives who died. Her heart ached hearing their stories as she so easily empathized with them.

"I didn't think it was going to be fun, but it actually was. In a weird way it felt comforting knowing that others were experiencing the same thing as me. I wasn't alone."

Five years after her loss, Elyse heard about the Good Grief education program for teens at Peace Arch Hospice Society. She had reached a point in her grieving where she now wanted to help others and this program offered the opportunity to provide her with the training to do so.

When the facilitator asked if any of the adolescent participants would be interested in volunteering at the next children's grief support camp, she was the first to raise her hand.

"I knew it was something I just had to do."

Since then, Elyse has volunteered at three camps, helping children in a very special way that only someone who has experienced the loss of a loved one at a young age can understand.

Elyse's story is inspiring. As a child, she found the care and support that she needed at Peace Arch Hospice Society. Now as she enters young adulthood, she is sharing her deep understanding and compassion with children who have also experienced what no child should ever have to endure, and she does so with sincerity and a generosity of spirit that is an example to everyone.

Training Doctors in their Home Country

Bethany Kids, Relief and Rehabilitation

In many regions of Africa, medical specialists are in short supply. Aqueduct donor Dr. David Reich worked with Canadian charity Bethany Kids, Relief and Rehabilitation to raise funds to support a young African doctor in her medical education. Bethany Kids trains and supports pediatric specialists with the hope that they remain in their home communities to provide medical expertise where it is needed most.

“Aqueduct allows small participants like me, to financially contribute more to individual projects of their choosing than would be otherwise possible.” – Dr. David Reich

To learn more about this story and the work of Bethany Kids, read “Small Donation. Big Impact” on page 12.

Women Escaping Domestic Abuse

Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Society

Thanks to a \$5,000 donation, the Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Society received new mattresses for the women and children in crisis who find shelter there—a substantial investment for a charity that operates on only a \$1.3 million budget annually.

The society also offers support by helping women find housing, financial aid and childcare.

Music for All

New Brunswick Youth Orchestra

When an anonymous donor came forward to support the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra in Moncton, it was music to everyone's ears. The donation supports the NBYO's mission to inspire children and youth, and is being directed to Sistema, NB, a free after-school orchestral music instruction program.

Dignified Support for Veterans

The Last Post Fund

Aqueduct Fund: MacDuff Family Foundation

Lives of service deserve lasting tributes. Thanks to donations from the MacDuff Foundation at Aqueduct, The Last Post Fund—a Montreal charity honouring the MacDuff family's military heritage, ensures a military funeral and gravestone whenever a veteran in need passes. The charity owns and manages its own military cemetery, and supports other initiatives designed to pay tribute to the memory of Canadian and Allied Veterans.

A smiling woman in Uganda is carrying a large yellow water container on her head. She is wearing a grey shirt with large yellow polka dots and a blue and yellow plaid wrap around her waist. In the background, other people are visible, including a man in a brown shirt and another person in a colorful patterned wrap. The setting appears to be an outdoor water collection area with a blue sky and some greenery in the distance.

Clean Drinking Water Through Education

WaterSchool

When WaterSchool was started by two passionate, Canadian water engineers in 2007, the goal was simple: provide access to clean, safe water to thousands of people in Uganda through the proliferation of SODIS (solar disinfection) technology. As they've grown, they've supported over a million Ugandans to access clean water and have built a wrap-around model of community transformation.

In 2022, they partnered with 146 new communities to train over 13,000 households in SODIS, built 130 rainwater collection tanks, and accessed three new aquifers.

With the support of Aqueduct donors, WaterSchool is providing clean water, sanitation tools, and hygiene education in communities across Uganda.

"We used to drink water straight from a swamp down the way—it was our only option. Because of WaterSchool's methods, we no longer drink contaminated water. Our lives have changed so much—it is hard to believe!" – Patrick, Busia District, Uganda



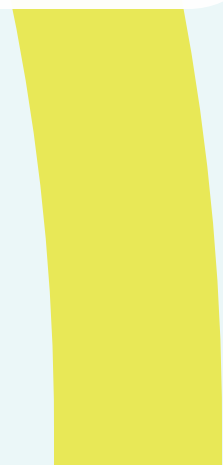
Tributes to Benefit Youth

University of New Brunswick

Aqueduct Fund: The Colin Noel Foundation

For many students, a university education isn't possible without financial support. For those with medical impairments or disabilities, even more so. Thanks to bursaries funded by the Colin Noel Foundation at Aqueduct—established in memory of a donor's son—those students can get the support they need. To-date, three exceptional students at the University of New Brunswick's Fredericton campus have received the bursary.

"Receiving this award means relief (for me). It means that I can focus on my classes, knowing that I have enough to cover expenses." – Bursary Recipient



Estate Planning and Charitable Purposes

Estate planning can feel like an exercise in time travel. What if the charities you would like to direct funds to do not exist when your estate is distributed? At Aqueduct Foundation, we offer an effective way to support one or more charitable causes through a legacy fund by naming charitable purposes.

Let's say your overall goal is to support animal welfare. Several charities do this work now but it is unclear if they will exist in the future or if new charities will take their place. By naming a charitable purpose, animals are the focus, not the individual charities that do work to help them. A purpose addresses the underlying goal. In many cases, purposes that are in place over many years can be carried out by different charities.

Thanks to our strong governance structure and dedicated board of directors, we've built Aqueduct to last for over 100 years. By naming charitable purposes rather than individual charities in your fund deed, you can rest assured that your legacy will continue to make an impact for just as long. At Aqueduct, we seek to build a relationship of trust with our donors. We have policies, expertise, and strong governance structures in place to ensure that we can effectively interpret your wishes in the future and fund charities on your behalf.

If you would like to discuss charitable purposes that matter to you, please let us know. Our expertise can help you bridge the gap between your intentions today, and community impact in the future.

Board of Directors

Terri-Lynn Brown

Chair & Director

Since 2013

Yves M. Bergeron

Director

Since 2013

Lee-Lynn Gan, CPA

Director & Treasurer

Since 2021

Clifford Lachmansingh

Director

Since 2021

Dr. Wendy Lai

Director

Since 2021

Ian Worland

Director & Secretary

Since 2017

Yuko Girard

Director

Since 2022

"I love the work that we've done as a Board on growing our capability of accepting private company share donations...we're empowering high net-worth individuals to give in a way that makes sense to them....how much better is the world going to be if Aqueduct can help them donate money into the community."

- Lee-Lynn Gan

Small Donation. Big Impact

How an Aqueduct grant changed a life in Kenya.

Sometimes, even small donations can have a big impact. So it was in the case of Angela*, an intern working at a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.

Angela had two small children at home and was struggling to make ends meet. Her parents were far away and had nothing to spare. Her husband was also away and could not help. Determined to keep her children with her and finish a demanding internship, she sewed clothes for the local markets to supplement the meagre intern salary.

At the same time, Aqueduct donor Dr. David Reich met Angela during a rotation at the teaching hospital where she worked and she began accompanying him in the laboratory when she could. Soon, Dr. Reich learned that Angela would soon complete her internship and was considered by the medical staff to be an excellent candidate for specialty training In Lab Medicine.

However, she did not have the funds to complete the training.

Dr. Reich connected with Canadian charity Bethany Kids, Relief and Rehabilitation, which trains and supports native African pediatric specialists with the hopes that they will remain in Africa to practice. The charity oversaw the process and donations from the donor and medical clinic colleagues.

With the funding in place, it was up to Angela to make change happen. The result? After years of study, Angela now works as a staff pathologist in the hospital where she started out as an intern.

To quote Angela, "Thank you all, with many blessings to you from my children as well! I am so excited and grateful that you have made my dream possible. I can't really believe it is true, you are all like angels to me".

The full story can be made available upon request. More information about Bethany Kids can be found here: bethanykids.org/

*Name has been changed to protect the individual's privacy.





Aqueduct Foundation encourages donors, prospective donors and their advisors to contact us directly.

aqueductfoundation.ca

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