



**The Counselling
Foundation of Canada**

2020

ACTIVITY REPORT

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Letter from the Board Chair and President

We started the new decade in 2020 filled with hope and aspiration, armed with our recently updated strategic plan. However, as with all the best laid plans, reality in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic intervened, forcing the Foundation to quickly change course. By mid-March, the doors of Foundation House were closed and our staff had been sent home along with most of the people of Toronto and beyond.

As we found ourselves in a new and uncertain world, we were fortunate in that technology allowed us to carry on the work of the Foundation remotely. For our staff team, we made sure that everyone knew they had support and, through weekly virtual check-ins, were able to have some semblance of camaraderie in the isolation.

By the end of March, we had begun to shift into how the Foundation could provide emergency support to organizations and communities outside of our usual decision-making framework. This meant, like many foundations, we removed restrictions on how our grant dollars were used and postponed most reporting requirements. We reached out to our grant recipients so we could hear from them about the challenges they, and their communities, were facing and reaffirmed our commitment to them. The Board agreed to hold more frequent meetings so we could react faster and make decisions more quickly, and we approved additional funding beyond what we had initially anticipated at the start of the year.

From the outset of the pandemic, it was clear that many charities were facing a difficult double hit: decreasing revenues from donations and earned income, but increasing demand for services, particularly social and health services. Employees and volunteers alike were being dramatically affected by school closures, the need to work from home, lack of childcare, and the need for protective equipment in delivering services.

The Foundation Board made the decision to focus our response on current and recent grant recipients, including CERIC; those in the career development and employment sector; and, in accordance with our commitment to reconciliation and recognizing that they would most likely be amongst the most vulnerable, Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led/serving organizations.

In partnership with a group of Indigenous philanthropic knowledge holders, including Foundation Director Victoria Grant, as well as several other funders, the Foundation staff helped to create a new fund to support Indigenous communities from coast to coast to coast. The idea of such a fund had been discussed at the time of the creation of the Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action, which was presented at the closing event of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission in 2015, but it took the pandemic to accelerate

the discussion. Within ten weeks, the Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund (IPRF) was launched almost five years to the day after the presentation of the Declaration of Action. The IPRF, which started with \$1.4 million in seed funding, is governed by an entirely Indigenous Advisory Council whose members come from the four directions in Canada. By the year's end, the IPRF had grown to over \$10 million and had already distributed more than \$2 million to nearly 100 Indigenous communities and initiatives from coast to coast to coast.

While we look forward to a time when COVID-19 is no longer a global public health emergency, we recognize that 2021 and the after-effects of the pandemic will continue to present challenges and change how we approach our work in ways we may not yet fully appreciate.

We want to express our gratitude to the sector networks and umbrella organizations who have been enormously effective in advocating for the charitable and non-profit sectors to be recognized and treated as part of the essential fabric of our society. We also want to thank all those in our network who have changed their practices and provided services and supports to their clients and students through these challenging times.

Everyone at the Foundation remains committed to doing all that we reasonably can to be supportive to all those that we serve and touch as we continue our mission to support the career development and aspirations of young people in Canada from coast to coast to coast.

And finally, to those on the frontlines, be they health care workers, grocery store clerks, truck drivers and delivery services, first responders, warehouse distribution and postal workers, and teachers: we thank you for your selfless service to the community during these tough times. Words are not enough to thank you for your strength, courage, and dedication. You deserve our applause, our thanks, and our respect.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas F. Lawson

Douglas F. Lawson
Chair of the Board

Bruce G. Lawson

Bruce G. Lawson
President

Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund



In the face of the pandemic, a small team came together to create the Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund ([IPRF](#)) on the expectation that COVID-19 would disproportionately affect rural and remote communities due to their lack of access to capital and networks. This spurred on the conversation between funders and Indigenous philanthropic

knowledge holders about how to quickly deploy philanthropic support for Indigenous communities and shaped the current setup of the IPRF as an Indigenous-led multi-funder, countrywide endeavour.

The purpose of the IPRF is to provide resources that will build community resilience, which provides a broad enough scope as to allow most funders to see a fit with their mandate. It also provides a strategic direction for the IPRF as it highlights a long-term goal beyond the current health crisis to focus on issues related to education, food security, employment, housing, physical and mental health, connectivity, and justice. Geographically, it targets the needs of Indigenous Peoples across Canada and is not limited to specific groups or regions.

The IPRF is governed by an [Indigenous Advisory Council](#) that approves all funding decisions (“bundles”), communications and fund-raising strategies, and recommendations related to the work of fulfilling the purpose of the initiative. The IPRF places resources in the hands of Indigenous philanthropic leaders for them to direct their redistribution.



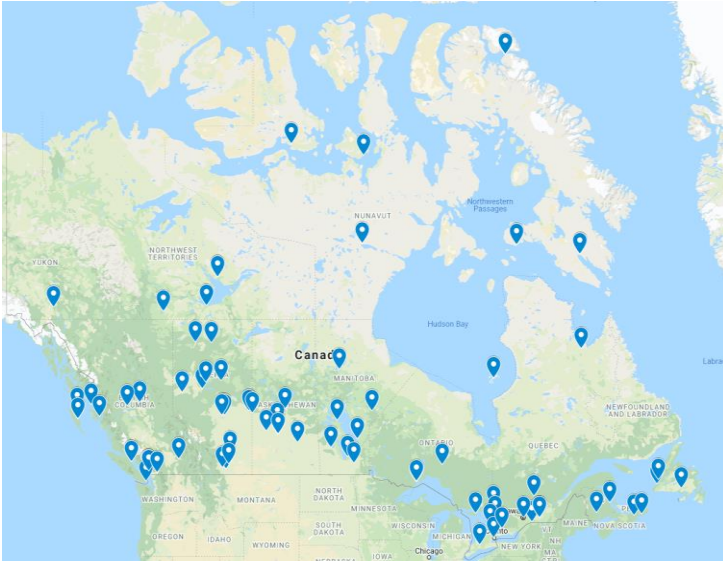
Victoria Grant

The Counselling Foundation of Canada was part of early discussions to help set up, provide seed funding and fundraise for the IPRF. It is a testament to all involved and the leadership of **Victoria Grant**, Teme-Augama Anishnabai Kway (Woman of the Deep Water People) and **Wanda Brascoupé**, Kanien’keha, Skarù re’, Anishinabeg, that the IPRF has thrived and generated much interest and support from the philanthropic community.



Wanda Brascoupé

The development process was swift. From the first draft of a framework, the IPRF quickly took shape. Consultations were held with Indigenous philanthropic knowledge holders and a backbone organization, Community Foundations of Canada, was contracted to be the fiscal trustee, while the IPRF pursues charitable status. The official launch of the IPRF was June 14, 2020, a mere 10 weeks after inception.



At the time of the launch, the IPRF had received commitments from five funders totaling \$1.4 million. By the end of the year, many more funders had pledged funding and the IPRF had spent \$2.6 million to support 109 projects from coast to coast to coast. (The map to the left, while not inclusive of all 109 projects, provides a good sense of the geographic reach of the IPRF in its first year of operation.)

The IPRF is a natural next step in the ongoing dialogue between philanthropic organizations and Indigenous leaders that can be traced back over decades of work and relationship building. These conversations were also vitally important at the time of the development of The Philanthropic Community’s Declaration of Action, which was presented at the closing event of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission in 2015. In fact, several of the foundations that participated in these earlier conversations around establishing the IPRF were involved in writing the Declaration and early signatories.

The necessity of a fund focused on Indigenous needs existed long before the pandemic. COVID-19 simply exposed and exacerbated the vast challenges already present in Indigenous communities, thereby magnifying the sense of urgency. Indeed, most Indigenous-led organizations operate as part of the nonprofit sector, including essential amenities such as education, healthcare, and other community services. An Indigenous-led fund is therefore better equipped to identify and raise various issues faced by Indigenous peoples.

Another important feature of the IPRF is the ability to provide funding to both qualified and non-qualified donees. While working within the current regulatory framework, the fund introduces additional application and reporting requirements to ensure that non-qualified donees are eligible to access funding. This represents a crucial step forward in enabling more grassroots organizations and community nonprofits to benefit from the IPRF support.

The IPRF is a rare opportunity to create impact that will have life beyond the present crisis, as it was envisioned with a long-term mandate.

Toronto Workforce Funder Collaborative



This past year was an eventful one for the [Toronto Workforce Funder Collaborative](#).



In March, the Collaborative welcomed Surabhi Jain (pictured) as its first Executive Director. Surabhi joined the Collaborative with over 15 years of experience in designing and implementing workforce development and adult education programs in the U.S.

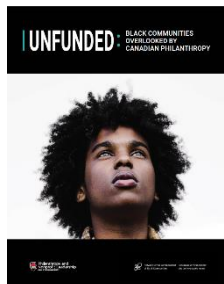
Over the summer and fall months, Surabhi, with support from the Collaborative's Management Committee, got to work building the Collaborative's capacity. This included developing a set of bylaws to govern the work of the Collaborative, hiring evaluation consultants to help develop an evaluation framework for the work to come, and putting some thought to the ways in which the Collaborative can offer support through granting to build a stronger, more resilient workforce.

In December, the Collaborative announced its first three grant recipients after an open call for proposals. The three grant recipients were:

- POV, \$125,000 over 2 years
- East Scarborough Storefront - \$123,529 over 18 months
- Raising the Roof, \$125,000 over 2 years

In addition to receiving grant dollars, the organizations will also benefit from some peer learning opportunities and strategic support from Surabhi to help them achieve their goals.

Unfunded: Black Communities Overlooked By Canadian Philanthropy Report



The Foundation was pleased to support a new report by the Foundation for Black Communities called [Unfunded: Black Communities Overlooked By Canadian Philanthropy](#). "This research report provides the first systematic, empirical examination of the extent to which Canadian philanthropy has responded to the unique and intersectional challenges facing Black communities. In establishing the social context and lived experience of Black community members, the report makes apparent that the needs of Black people in Canada are both specific and urgent." Of the 40 foundations reviewed in this report, only 6 funded Black-serving organizations over the 2017 and 2018

fiscal years and only two funded Black-led organizations. The Foundation for Black Communities is a new organization formed in 2020.

Changes at the Foundation and CERIC

Lorraine Lawson retires from the Foundation Board



In the spring of 2020, Lorraine Lawson retired from the Board after serving 36 years as a Board Member, including serving as Vice Chair of the Board from 1998 to 2014.

At the time she joined the Board, the Foundation was in a period of dramatic change. What had previously been a flow-through for the philanthropy of her father-in-law, Frank Lawson, became an endowed foundation by a significant bequest upon his death. As a result, the Foundation had a much larger disbursement quota. In addition, post-secondary career centres had largely been built by then, so the Foundation augmented scope to reflect some of the emerging needs of the day, including professional development of career and employment practitioners, youth unemployment, students with learning disabilities, people with disabilities in the workplace, and healthy child development.

Lorraine came to the Foundation board having honed her leadership skills at the Big Sister Association of Metropolitan Toronto. From 1977 to 1983 she served in various capacities on the Board, including as President from 1981 to 1983. During her tenure, the Big Sisters steadily expanded its scope to work with a cross section of inner-city youth under the name Huntley Youth Services (now “Youthlink”) and subsequently extended its reach eastwards and opened a new agency, Scarborough Youth Services, with Lorraine serving as the inaugural Board President. Lorraine has also been active in the United Church of Canada.

Over the years, Lorraine, along with her husband Donald, who served as Board Chair, often attended conferences related to the Foundation’s work and visited with grant recipients to learn more about their work. What was always paramount was to shine the spotlight on the work of the Foundation’s grantees, not on themselves.

At the time of her retirement, Foundation directors saluted her dedication & commitment to the work of the Foundation, wise counsel and compassionate approach. In recognition of her many contributions, the Foundation has appointed Lorraine as an Honourary Director. She was also the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Anne E. Lawson joins the Foundation Board



The Foundation welcomed Anne Lawson to the Foundation Board this past year. Anne is a 4th generation family member and will bring a fresh perspective to the Board. Since graduating from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Management (Major — Entrepreneurship & Innovation), Anne has advanced steadily in her career.

Anne's first job after graduation was with North American Fur Auctions where she rapidly advanced to the position of Communications Coordinator and was responsible for overseeing the Company's corporate marketing and communication functions, social media presence, web content updates and website development activities.

In 2017, Anne was hired by the Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment ("MLSE") Foundation to be its Development Coordinator after completing the Sports Philanthropy Executive Certificate Program offered by George Washington University in Washington, D.C. In this role at MLSE, Anne is currently responsible for managing the sales and service of the Foundation's signature fundraising event portfolio.

Outside of work, apart from being a Director of the Counselling Foundation of Canada, Anne is also a Director of the Iron City Fishing Club on Georgian Bay, Ontario.

Marilyn van Norman retires from CERIC



Marilyn Van Norman retired from her role as Director of Research Initiatives at CERIC in the spring of 2020. Marilyn's relationship with the Foundation pre-dated the creation of CERIC. In 1987, the University of Toronto Career Center, led by Marilyn, entered into a partnership with The Counselling Foundation of Canada and the federal government to produce NATCON, a national bilingual conference for career and employment practitioners. That partnership ended in 2002, when the federal government's priorities changed and they stepped away.

Marilyn first entered into CERIC's orbit when she served on the Board of Directors of ContactPoint, the predecessor of CERIC's CareerWise website, which was then a separate nonprofit entity.

Marilyn was instrumental in the formative stages of CERIC as a Board member from 2004 to 2008 when so much of its existing structures and processes were first envisioned and developed. During this time, Marilyn also served on their Governance/Nominations Committee helping to shape its committee and board structures.

In January 2008, after Marilyn retired from her role at the University of Toronto, she joined CERIC as a part-time staff member. Months later, she wrote the "From My Perspective" set of books, one of CERIC's early forays into self-publishing. Marilyn's contributions since then have been ever-present, supporting the shaping of CERIC's research and learning agendas, and the creation and development of the Graduate Student Engagement Program. In 2007, at the inaugural Cannexus conference, she became the first recipient of the *Etta St. John Wileman Award* for Lifetime Achievement in Career Development in Canada.

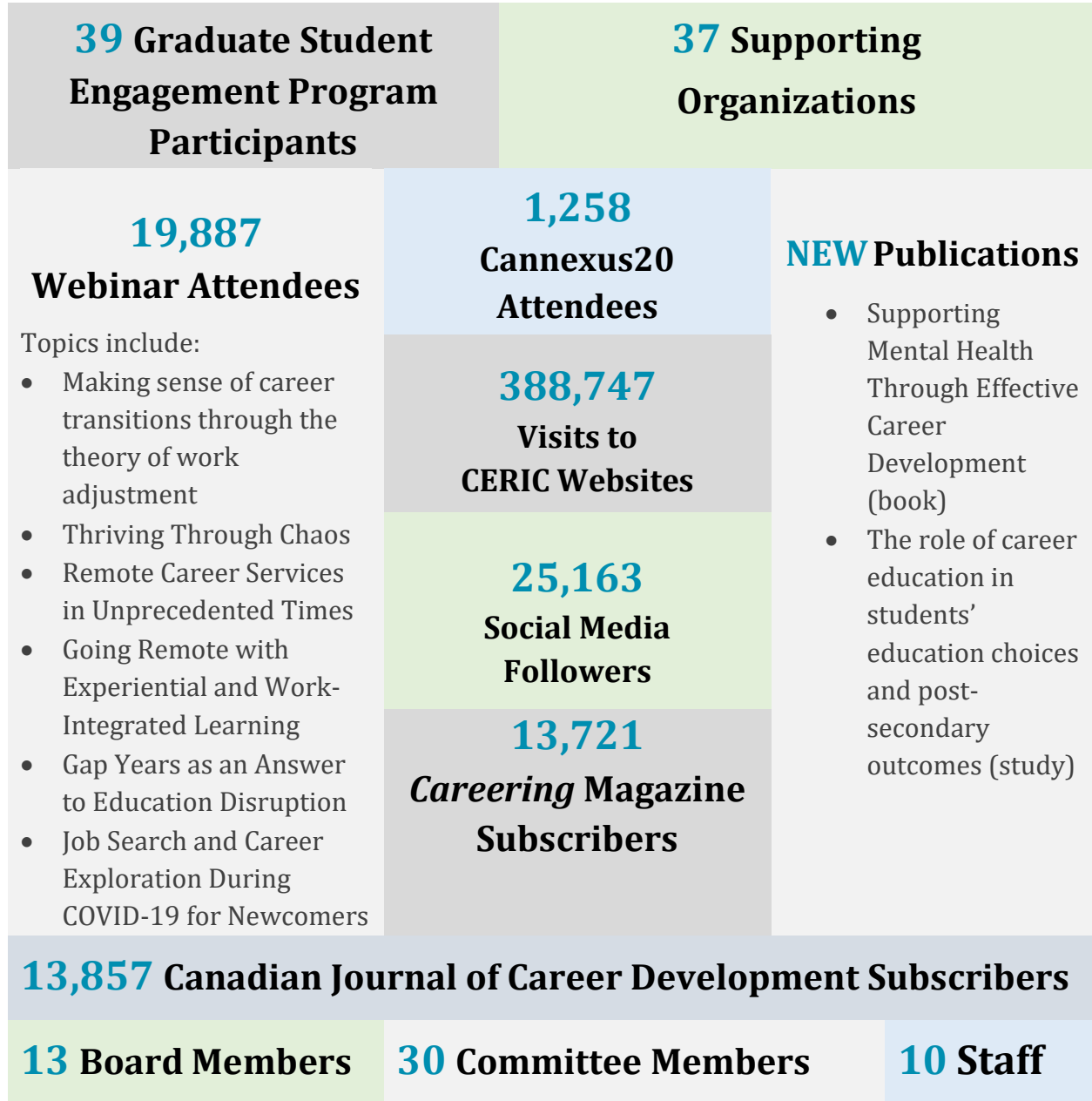
In recognition of her many contributions to CERIC, the Foundation, and the field of career development, the Foundation created the Marilyn Van Norman Bursary to support career development and employment practitioners to attend the Cannexus conference each year.

CERIC

The Foundation launched CERIC in 2004 to support and advance education and research in career counselling and career development in Canada and ever since has engaged an expansive network of career professionals across Canada. CERIC is an integral part of the Foundation's commitment to these professionals.

As with other organizations, the pandemic created enormous upheaval with CERIC. We were fortunate to have held a successful Cannexus in January 2020 with record-breaking attendance before the pandemic hit. It provided a long enough runway for the staff to negotiate exits from hotel and conference center contracts for 2021, as well as investigate online platforms to hold a virtual Cannexus. In addition, recognizing the pandemic was straining budgets of charities and nonprofits, CERIC offered most of its 2020 webinar programs free of charge. These changes were heartily endorsed by the Foundation and CERIC boards in spite of the significant costs involved.

Here is a snapshot of the success and achievements CERIC had in 2020. We would like to acknowledge the dedication of CERIC's Board, Committee Members, volunteers, and staff.



Advisory Committee on the Charitable Sector (ACCS)

In August 2019, Bruce Lawson was appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Charitable Sector (ACCS). The ACCS was established as a new consultative forum for promoting meaningful dialogue between the charitable sector and the Government of Canada, in particular the Canada Revenue Agency (the CRA) and the Department of Finance. The objectives of the ACCS are to advance emerging issues relating to charities, and to ensure that the regulatory environment supports the important work that charities do.

The ACCS met in person for the first time in December 2019, with a follow up scheduled for March 2020. However, that follow up meeting became a virtual one and the conditions facing the charitable and the broader nonprofit sector, changed radically with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ACCS turned its attention immediately to the urgent and challenging ways in which the crisis was affecting charities. The ACCS held two meetings in April and May of 2020 to discuss the impact of the health emergency and the ways in which charities and the Canadians and communities that they serve were being affected.

The pandemic put a spotlight on the consequences of the financial fragility of many charities, including lack of reserve funds, insufficient investments in technology and digital infrastructure, dependence on older volunteers, and a lack of data capacity. Charities serving vulnerable populations such as marginalized youth, victims of domestic violence, Indigenous communities, and racialized communities are being particularly hard-hit. This is a gendered crisis. The workforce of the charitable sector is up to 80 percent female. Women have been particularly disadvantaged by the pandemic through lack of childcare, school closures, and layoffs of contract or part-time workers.

The ACCS would meet as a whole seven times during 2020, as well as break into 5 smaller working groups, most of which would hold consultations with organizations in the sector from coast to coast to help inform their work. Bruce joined two of these working groups: the Purposes & Activities Working Group; and the Indigenous Peoples Working Group. Their respective mandates are:

Purposes & Activities Working Group: examining the regulatory approach to charitable purposes and activities, including its impact on charities working with non-qualified donees, and charities engaging in revenue-earning activities (4 meetings);

Indigenous Peoples Working Group: exploring charity-related regulatory and legislative issues faced by Indigenous Peoples and organizations (8 meetings);

In early December, the ACCS met to go through the first report to the Minister, including the first set of recommendations; this first report would be published in February 2021

(<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/programs/about-canada-revenue-agency-cra/corporate-reports-information/advisory-committee-charitable-sector/report-advisory-committee-charitable-sector-february-2021.html>) and a second report published in April 2020 (<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/programs/about-canada-revenue-agency-cra/corporate-reports-information/advisory-committee-charitable-sector/report-advisory-committee-charitable-sector-april-2021.html>).

Foundation House Highlights

[Foundation House](#), the Toronto home to the Counselling, Laidlaw and Lawson Foundations, as well as CERIC and seven other organizations was largely shuttered in 2020 from March onward as per public health guidance. However, the spirit of Foundation House lived on. Leaders of the 11 co-located organizations have kept in touch through a weekly Zoom call, offering opportunities to share perspectives on how each organization was adapting, as well as sharing sector intelligence and providing mutual support. The Foundation House Slack channel remained active with staff across organizations sharing news and updates. In addition, several games and social Zoom calls were organized through the year for all staff to catch up with one another and have some fun. And, despite being closed for the majority of the year, Foundation House welcomed two new organizations into its fold: The [Toronto Workforce Funder Collaborative](#) and the [Century Initiative](#).

Resident organizations remain committed to Foundation House and look forward to being able to meet and gather again in person in 2021.



In Memoriam — Pegi Dover

The Foundation House community was deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend and colleague Pegi Dover, former Executive Director of the Environment Funders Canada. Our deepest condolences to Pegi's husband, daughter and extended family.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theglobeandmail/obituary.aspx?n=pegi-dover&pid=198578024>

Spotlight on Grant Recipient Projects

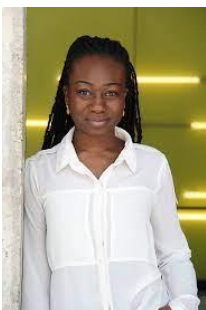
Visions of Science Network for Learning: STEM Leaders Career Development Initiative



The STEM Community Leaders (SCL) program was established in 2017 with inaugural seed support from the Counselling Foundation of Canada. The program provides youth (grades 8 to 12) from low-income and marginalized communities with access to immersive STEM-based experiential learning opportunities, leadership development, and community engagement. Programming includes: critical competency development and tracking; career development workshops; job application and interview preparation; access to paid work placements; training opportunities; and networking. Participants come from across the Greater Toronto Area from Brampton to Scarborough.

When the pandemic hit, they began to implement virtual career exploration workshops where STEM professionals shared details about their work and their journey into their career. One of their main objectives was to also have professionals share the impact that COVID-19 has had on their work. Youth were able to gain important insight into the unpredictable and dynamic nature of the labour market and understand how various STEM professionals managed to stay adaptable and relevant in the face of uncertainty and large-scale disruption. 330 youth participated in emergency virtual programming in 2020.

The organization also utilized peer support and mentoring to help youth flourish. Recently, they used older, more experienced youth to guide and mentor younger youth participants and it was a huge success for both parties. The peer mentors organized discussion questions, kept their groups on task, and met with each other weekly to debrief and plan the previous and following weeks.



The Foundation would also like to congratulate Dr. Eugenia Duodu Addy, CEO of Visions of Science, who was recognized as a finalist for the RBC Women of Influence, Social Change Award.

Water First: Internship Program



Since 2009, Water First has partnered with 35 First Nations on a variety of water education and training projects. They focus on building skills locally to enable First Nations communities to address water challenges independently and sustainably. They have extensive experience developing and delivering water education programs in First Nations communities in Ontario & Quebec.

The Water First Internship is a 15-month training program providing water treatment technical skills training, delivered by qualified Water First staff, with on the job, hands-on experience and oversight in water treatment plants, by qualified operators. Traditional knowledge and local water resource management is woven throughout the program.

Interns are coached in presentation and interview skills to increase employability, and also offered networking and external workshop opportunities. After completing the program, interns will be supported as they transition into full-time work or pursue further education.

The Water First Internship increases investment in youth employment, job creation and technical skills training among Indigenous Peoples in the fields of water treatment and environmental water science. After completing the program, interns will become certified to work within a water plant or the environmental water field — strongly increasing their near and long-term employability.

This past winter, interns were recruited and the Bimose Tribal Council internship was launched in February 2020. Over the course of the year, interns have received 825 hours of hands-on training and tutorials, along with over 8,600 hours of experience in water operating plants.

In the fall of 2020, the Water First interns wrote their Entry Level Course and Small Water Systems Operator Certification. In late November, the interns then challenged the Operator in Training (OIT) exams with 11 of 13 being successful to date. The OIT is prepared and administered by the Ontario Water Wastewater Certification Office. Passing this exam is the key step for the interns to become provincially certified as Operators in Training at a Water Treatment Plant.

Grantmaking in 2020

Grants Approved & Renewed in 2020

Access Community Capital Fund (Emergency Response Grant)	\$2,500
Epilepsy Toronto (Emergency Response Grant)	\$5,000
Fusion Jeunesse/Youth Fusion (Emergency Response Grant)	\$55,000
Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund (Emergency Response Grant)	\$200,000
Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project (OIYPP) (Renewal)	\$120,000 over 3 years
Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project (OIYPP) (Emergency Response Grant)	\$10,000
Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) (Renewal)	\$80,000 over 2 years
People for Education (Renewal)	\$120,000 over 2 years
YMCA of Greater Toronto (Emergency Response Grant)	\$100,000

- Total Funding Awarded: \$692,500
- Number of New Grants Awarded: 9
- Number of Active Grants 2020: 20

Grant Project Descriptions



Fusion Jeunesse/Youth Fusion

Montréal, QC

\$55,000 over 1 year (Emergency Response Grant)

This grant provides emergency support to Fusion Jeunesse/Youth Fusion to adapt and deliver services to youth, especially those in rural and remote Indigenous communities.



Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project

Ottawa, ON

\$120,000 over 3 years (Renewal) +

\$10,000 over 1 year (Emergency Response Grant)

This grant will allow the Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project (OIYPP) to be more effective in the support of youth and youth led projects and provide OIYPP the ability to dive deeper in sharing the learnings and model with the broader granting and philanthropic sector.

In addition, a further \$10,000 was provided to OIYPP to help allow them to respond to the increased demand they were receiving from Indigenous youth.



Ottawa Network for Education

Ottawa, ON

\$80,000 over 2 years (Renewal)

World of Choices offers students virtual group discussions with local employers. Students hear about a “day in the life” of individuals working in jobs they may not have considered as a career pathway and learn about the necessary requirements to work in local industry. Students leave informed and excited about their future; and better equipped to take next steps. JA Company offers grade 9-12 students an experiential learning opportunity in a team environment, coached by mentors. Students gain valuable employment skills and learn about entrepreneurship as they prepare to launch and run a small enterprise. This program is being transformed into a virtual model. High school

student entrepreneurs will be able to create digital products, digital services, virtual events and even drop shipped products. This virtual program will launch in February 2021.



People for Education

Toronto, ON

\$120,000 over 2 years (Renewal)

The “Future of Public Education” initiative will support change in public education so that students will graduate with the skills and competencies they need whatever path they choose. A key component of this work will be to develop a framework for a Continuum of Learning from early childhood education (ECE) through to work and life. Over the next three years, People for Education will convene a working table of key stakeholders across ECE, K-12, post-secondary education, and the labour market. The goal of the Continuum of Learning project will be to synthesize evidence to understand the policies and practices required to support a continuum of quality learning that will equitably prepare students to thrive and engage in their futures, and what is needed to support educators so that they can lead and respond to changes in the education system that relate to cross-continuum skills development.



YMCA of Greater Toronto

Toronto, ON

\$100,000 over 1 year (Emergency Response Grant)

This grant provides support to the YMCA of Greater Toronto’s top up program for employees who were laid off due to the pandemic.

Grant Amounts Disbursed in 2020

Academos cybermentorat	Montreal, QC	\$125,000
Access Community Capital Fund	Toronto, ON	\$2,500
CERIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating grant • Partnership grants • Canadian Journal of Career Development (in partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland) • OrientAction (in partnership with société GRICS) 	Toronto, ON St John's, NL Montreal, QC	\$966,477 \$146,482 \$56,400 \$84,350
Epilepsy Toronto	Toronto, ON	\$5,000
For Youth Initiative	Toronto, ON	\$100,000
Hospitality Workers Training Centre (c/o Jane-Finch Community and Family Centre)	Toronto, ON	\$100,000
Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund (IPRF) (c/o Community Foundations Canada)	Ottawa, ON	\$200,000
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Ottawa, ON	\$250,000
Momentum Community Economic Development Society	Calgary, AB	\$25,000
Mowat NFP (c/o Public Policy Forum)	Ottawa, ON	\$15,000
New Circles Community Services	Toronto, ON	\$60,000
Northern Youth Abroad	Ottawa, ON	\$75,000
Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)	Toronto, ON	\$100,000
Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project (c/o Make Way)	Ottawa, ON	\$50,000
Ottawa Network for Education	Ottawa, ON	\$50,000
People for Education	Toronto, ON	\$20,000
The WoodGreen Foundation	Toronto, ON	\$50,000
Toronto Workforce Funder Collaborative (c/o Community Foundations Canada)	Toronto, ON	\$125,000
Visions for Science Network for Learning	Toronto, ON	\$50,000
Water First Education and Training	Creemore, ON	\$50,000
Windmill Microlending	Calgary, AB	\$40,000
YMCA of Greater Toronto	Toronto, ON	\$151,000
Youth Fusion/Fusion Jeunesse	Montreal, QC	\$105,000

Sector-Based Supports & Memberships

The Circle on Philanthropy & Aboriginal Peoples	Ottawa, ON	\$12,000
Imagine Canada	Toronto, ON	\$5,000
Ontario Nonprofit Network	Toronto, ON	\$5,000
Philanthropic Foundations Canada	Montreal, QC	\$12,500

Honouraria & Sponsorships

Canadian Council for Youth Prosperity (c/o Vibrant Healthcare Alliance)	Toronto, ON	\$5,000
Foundation for Black Communities (c/o of TAIBU Community Health Centre)	Toronto, ON	\$6,000
Future Worx Society	Truro, NS	\$10,000
La Maison des Collines	Wakefield, QC	\$250
Ontario Nonprofit Network	Toronto, ON	\$10,000
She's the First	Tanzania	USD\$250

TOTAL GRANTING	\$3,067,959
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Foundation Valuation

Market Value of Foundation Assets (on December 31, 2020)	\$58,418,621
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Future Grant Commitments

	2021	2022	2023
Future Grant Commitments	\$2,568,393	\$1,830,883	\$975,883

Funding Criteria & Guidelines

The Foundation has an online funding request form to receive requests for support that can be accessed through our website. We use a two-step process for funding: a Letter of Intent followed by a Grant Application.

Grant seekers are encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent if they believe that their project or proposal aligns with our strategic focus of learning, career development, and career exploration. Staff regularly review Letters of Intent, and when it is determined there is potential fit, will reach out to the organization to discuss the opportunity. At that point, staff may invite the organization to submit a Grant Application.

Each year the Foundation receives more funding requests than our resources can accommodate. The Foundation can only make grants for charitable purposes, and to organizations which have been issued a registered charity number by the Canada Revenue Agency or are recognized as Qualified Donees under the Income Tax Act of Canada.

The Board of Directors typically reviews Grant Applications quarterly — generally in March, May, September and December — and the approval of funding requests remains the purview of the Board. Directors consider several factors when reviewing proposals and reaching their decisions, including the innovative nature of the program/project request; the ability to replicate the program/project in other settings; the ability of the organization to sustain the program/project at the end of the granting period; and the potential intellectual legacy of a grant. Being asked to submit a formal Grant Application by staff or provide additional information does not guarantee approval by the Board of Directors.

Grants are not made for research projects, building funds, emergency funds, deficit financing, endowments funds, equipment funds, mass fundraising appeals, long-term funding, capital funds, awards fellowships, bursaries, or to individuals.

Foundation staff welcome questions and are available to support grant seekers throughout the funding request process. Additional information is available at www.counselling.foundation.

Foundation Board and Staff

The Counselling Foundation of Canada is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of a combination of descendants of its founder, Frank Lawson, and non-family members. The Foundation is administered by a staff team, led by the President & CEO.

2020 Board of Directors

Douglas Lawson, Chair
George Rodger, Vice-Chair
Barbara Mason, Secretary & Treasurer
Donald Lawson, Chair Emeritus
Jan Dymond, Director
Victoria Grant, Director
Jaime Hugessen, Director
Lorraine Lawson, Director*
Annie Lawson, Director*
Yvonne Lawson, Director
Carole MacFarlane, Director
Dr. Robert Shea, Director

Foundation Staff

Bruce Lawson, President & CEO
Diana Castano, Executive Assistant & Office Administrator
Ben Liadsky, Program Manager

Shared Foundation House Staff

Jonathan Hutchinson*, Systems Administrator
Nayan Biswas*, Receptionist & Office Assistant
*Jointly with the Lawson and Laidlaw Foundations

* Lorraine Lawson was a Director until her retirement in June 2020; Annie Lawson was elected to the Board in June 2020.

The Foundation also acknowledges the many contributions of the CERIC team, led by Riz Ibrahim, Executive Director, and Sharon Ferriss, Senior Director, Marketing and Communications.