“BeCause awareness and understanding of the natural world promotes sustainable living.”

Liz Wilson, FortWhyte Alive

“BeCause exploring, learning and connecting with nature is how we can create change in the world.”

Ian Barnett, FortWhyte Alive

FindyourBeCause.org
#FindyourBeCause
One thing you learn quickly about working in community is that everything is connected to everything else. We wrote our Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2021 after taking into account feedback from both the public (through Winnipeg’s Vital Signs® 2017) and from the charitable sector (as documented in Stressed, Stretched and Still Standing, released in 2018). As with any plan, the goal is to set priorities. In our case, two areas of focus seem increasingly connected to one another.

The Indigenous people of our country represent less than five per cent of the population, but are the primary occupants of enormous tracts of natural land. A traditional Indigenous lifestyle makes for minimal contributions to Canada’s carbon footprint. Any exposure at all to Indigenous culture teaches the importance of “mother earth” and environmental stewardship. It’s easy to understand these deeply rooted values. Indigenous people are one with the land and see themselves as part of the natural world. In contrast, western society has traditionally seen the land as something to develop and exploit. These views of how the world works are very different.

An important part of truth and reconciliation is giving voice to Indigenous people’s perspective. When it comes to the priorities of our society, Canadians must admit that Indigenous voices have rarely been heard in the conversation. With the threatened extinction of thousands of species due to climate change, it is becoming absolutely apparent that perspectives once described as primitive are in fact highly advanced. In this sense, The Foundation’s focus on environmental stewardship and reconciliation are closely aligned. Our challenge now is to listen to Indigenous-led charitable organizations that are pursuing an environmental stewardship mandate. While opinions may differ, we need to hear their voices and to heed their advice for the sake of our children.

Both reports referenced in this article are available on our website: wpgfdn.org.
Ribbon-cutters at the June 24, 2019 official opening of Saint-Boniface Belvédère (left to right); Spencer Duncanson, Chair, The Winnipeg Foundation’s Strategic Initiatives Committee; Rick Frost, CEO, The Winnipeg Foundation; Doneta Brotchie, Chair, The Winnipeg Foundation; Dan Vandal, MP; Saint-Boniface Saint Vital, Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman; Saint-Boniface City Councillor Matt Allard; Carol Phillips, Executive Director, Winnipeg Arts Council; Norm Gousseau, CEO, Entreprises Riel; Gerry Labossière, Board Member, The Winnipeg Foundation.
The Winnipeg Foundation is For Good. Forever.

We help people give back to our shared community by connecting generous donors with Causes they care about For Good. We are an endowment-based public foundation, so gifts are pooled and invested and the annual earnings are granted back to the community Forever.

We strive to be a catalyst for strengthening community well-being, now and for future generations, by promoting philanthropy, creating partnerships and supporting diverse charitable organizations. Formed in 1921, we are proud to be the first community foundation in Canada.

We are committed to working with everyone in our community toward a shared goal of truth and reconciliation. A copy of the Philanthropic Community’s Declaration of Action was signed in 2015 by the Foundation’s then Board Chair and its Chief Executive Officer, and helps guide our strategic direction.

The Winnipeg Foundation Board of Directors

Doneta Brotchie, Chair
Mayor Brian Bowman, Ex-officio
George Bass
Hazel Borys
Tom Bryk
Carolyn Duhamel
Spencer Duncanson
Albert El Tassi
Richard Frost
Nancy Mak
Jeremy Morantz
LuAnn Lovlin
Sonny Primolo
Carolina Stecher
Robert Zirk
And the entire Winnipeg Foundation Team!

Contributors

Editor: Stacy Cardigan Smith
Nolan Bicknell
Doneta Brotchie
Albert El Tassi
Richard Frost
Nancy Mak

Photography
Ian McCausland
David Lipnowski

Design: 23 Below

Working Together is published three times per year by The Winnipeg Foundation. In our ongoing efforts to connect with our many communities, we are always looking for ways to improve this publication. If you have comments, please email them to Stacy at ssmith@wpgfdn.org.

If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact us.

Registered charity number: 119300960RR0001

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40623039
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: The Winnipeg Foundation 1350-One Lombard Place Winnipeg, MB R3B 0X3

The Foundation recognizes Winnipeg is on Treaty 1 territory, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

On the cover: Balmoral Hall YIP alumnae (left to right) Katherine Campbell, Lisa Koss, and Madelaine Stefanik. Learn more about how YIP has impacted their lives on page 34.
7 REMAINING RESILIENT IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE
We must adapt behaviour and policy or risk our future, says environmental coalition

10 FIGHTING BACK AGAINST ‘FAKE NEWS’
CIVIX educates young people about the importance of democracy

12 LITERACY PROGRAM SHOWS YOUTH READING ISN’T SO ‘RUFF’
Innovative programs are one of the ways Winnipeg Humane Society is reinventing itself to serve community

17 SUPER SUMMER CAMPS
Camperships support hundreds of kids each year

24 A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY
Lawrie Pollard’s optimism allowed him to achieve much

26 SUPPORTING DESERVING STUDENTS
Barbados Association celebrates by giving back

32 YIP YIP HOORAY!
32. Celebrating 20 years of YIP
34. YIP alumnae reveal how the program changed their outlook
37. Pitching for a Cause
“We hope it gets ingrained in our children, to always take charity and helping into consideration throughout their entire lives. It’s going to improve their lives, it will improve hopefully other people’s lives, and it will just be part of the process of growing up.”

– Julie and Andrew Ross, Winnipeg Foundation donors –

COMMUNITY-MINDEDNESS IS LEARNED. TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT GIVING BACK.
When you work with The Winnipeg Foundation, you can support the Causes you care about in the way you want. Since gifts to The Foundation are endowed, your gift keeps giving For Good. Forever.

FindyourBeCause.org

#FindyourBeCause | 204.944.9474

Julie and Andrew, with sons James and William.
The Foundation’s vision is ‘a Winnipeg where community life flourishes for all.’ This commitment guides our work, and it’s reliant on one thing: having a community that is habitable. As the story on the facing page explains, it is becoming clearer we all need to adapt our behavior and take better care of our planet.

Today’s youth – who have never known a world where climate change hasn’t been a reality – are increasingly speaking out about our environment and participating through activism under the Climate Strikes initiative. This work, led by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg who, in 2018 at the age of 15, began Climate Strikes, is now a global movement of public demonstrations in support of the climate. Climate strikes are taking place across the world, including in Canada and here in Winnipeg; where an entire week of activities in September will culminate in a massive climate strike held in locations across the planet.

Young people know if climate change continues ‘status quo’ it’s their future at stake. That’s why participants in The Foundation’s Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) program – which last year introduced more than 300 high school-aged youth to philanthropy and the charitable sector – chose Environment and Animal Welfare as their overall theme for the year ahead. And it’s why this issue of Working Together is focused on Environment and Animal Welfare, one of six Causes you can support at The Winnipeg Foundation.

The Foundation has long recognized and supported the importance of green spaces in our community. Our recent investment in the Saint-Boniface Belvédère (see page 21) is part of our overall Green Spaces Strategy, designed to enhance public amenities in downtown Winnipeg. These also include investments in Old Market Square (including the Cube), support for the Upper Fort Garry historic site, and the redevelopment of Central Park, amongst others. This emphasis on investing in green spaces in our downtown is a policy position taken by our Board more than a decade ago, meant to ensure there are outdoor spaces for all to enjoy.

Through our granting programs, The Foundation supports many charities working in the areas of Environment and Animal Welfare in our community. Look for the Environment and Animal Welfare icon throughout this publication to learn more about some of this work.

We hope you’ll join us to learn more about the fight against climate change and watch for a fall 2019 Vital Conversation focused on its effects. As Greta Thunberg has said, “No one is too small to make a difference.”

Doneta Brotchie, Board Chair
The future of our planet is in jeopardy. Global warming and climate change have already had a significant impact on our planet. Winnipeg organizations have joined forces to educate citizens, business owners and policymakers about the importance of changing our behaviour.

“This is the biggest issue of our time,” says Tracy Hucul, Executive Director of Green Action Centre. “That’s why we’ve come together.”

The coalition calls itself Manitoba’s Climate Action Team and formed shortly after the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report in October 2018. The report states that according to scientific consensus, we have just over 12 years to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Manitoba has already seen increased droughts, flooding, and forest fires.

Since the IPCC report was made public and the coalition was formed, it has met on a bi-weekly basis to plan events, share ideas, coordinate resources, and talk about what needs to get done.

“All of our organizations have been doing this kind of work for years. But when the IPCC report came out last fall it was more of a wakeup call,” Hucul says. “We have less time than we thought. We always knew [climate change] was urgent and now we know what’s really urgent.”

The Climate Action Team is a nonpartisan group of partner organizations that includes Green Action Centre, Climate Change Connection, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Wilderness Committee, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, Prairie Climate Centre, Transition Winnipeg, University of Winnipeg’s Sustainability Office, and the Manitoba Eco-Network.
This level of collaboration on climate change is the first of its kind in Manitoba. The team aims to make climate change information available and understandable to everyday citizens, members of the business community and policymakers.

One of the Climate Action Team's projects is Road to Resilience, which aims to educate, report stories, and foster conversation about the climate crisis, with the goal of leading people to reduce their impact on climate change.

As part of Road to Resilience, the coalition hosted two events earlier this year. Climate Jam: Resilience on the Red took place in February at the University of Winnipeg and included presentations and workshops about sustainable food, shelter, transportation and communities.

In April, the group hosted Earth Day Eats, which took place on the corner of Portage and Main and featured climate conversations, local food, and music.

“We’re able to attract a pretty significant number of people to our events,” says Curt Hull, Project Director at Climate Change Connection. “That’s really been the strength of the collaboration and the success we’ve had so far.”

The coalition is hoping the energy generated from these events will inspire necessary change.

“[Change] is possible,” says Molly McCracken, Manitoba Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. “By working with different networks, bringing people together, creating some excitement and momentum, to really make the case to our political parties – of all stripes – ‘We can do this, and we will do this, through democratic action’.

The coalition believes democratic action is the key to the political piece of addressing the climate change crisis. Those who can affect systemic and policy change in a positive way must be on board, the group says.
Governments have had 30 years of warning about climate change,” says McCracken, “and we still aren’t seeing the action that’s necessary today.”

“Manitoba has an opportunity to be a true global leader on adapting to climate change and fighting the climate catastrophe,” says Eric Reder, Wilderness and Water Campaigner for Wilderness Committee. “Yes, we have lots to do, but it’s going to make a much better world for all of us.”

Despite the lengthy, multi-faceted challenge ahead, the Climate Action Team remains hopeful. The Road to Resilience project has already engaged citizens and informed businesses about best environmental practices. The more people who understand the crisis, the better our chances of solving it, the group believes.

“Everybody needs to be accountable,” Hucul says. “It’s going to take everybody at all different levels to do what we need to do. Everybody needs to be working together.”

For more information, go to GreenActionCentre.ca or follow @ClimateActionMB on Twitter
FIGHTING BACK AGAINST ‘FAKE NEWS’

With the federal election only months away, first-time voters may find themselves questioning whether their vote actually matters, and whether they should bother heading to the ballot box at all. Lindsay Mazzucco, Chief Operating Officer of CIVIX, is working to change that feeling.

“Research has shown the habits of voting or not voting are established at an early age,” Mazzucco says. “We believe it’s important to establish these habits early in life.”

CIVIX is a non-partisan, national charity dedicated to building the capacity and commitment of young Canadians to participate in democracy.

“We’ve been doing a lot of research and developing tools to help combat mis and dis-information, which is a growing threat worldwide,” Mazzucco says. “We’ve got a variety of tools to help students develop the skills to fact check information and teach them about the standards of journalism and the role of journalism in democracy – which are all key elements to growing informed and engaged citizens.”

The CIVIX team held a Democracy Bootcamp for Manitoba educators this past spring. The Bootcamp provided 120 educators with the opportunity to learn about current threats to democracy, as well as how to engage the next generation of voters – and their families. In a world full of ‘fake news,’ it’s important for all citizens to develop skills and habits to navigate information.

“The impact of the program goes beyond the classroom and really touches families as well,” Mazzucco says. “It gives them an opportunity to learn more about elections. Which is a great thing for democracy in general.”

During the Bootcamp, educators are also informed of CIVIX programming such as Student Vote, which gives youth an opportunity to learn about the democratic process, research political parties, and cast their ballot in a mock election.

CIVIX is preparing for the upcoming federal election later this fall, and anticipates its programs will reach about 9,000 schools from coast, to coast, to coast.

For more information on CIVIX and its programming, visit CIVIX.ca.

Photos courtesy of CIVIX.
“THE HABITS OF VOTING OR NOT VOTING ARE ESTABLISHED AT AN EARLY AGE.”

– Lindsay Mazzucco, CIVIX Chief Operating Officer
When you have a hard time reading, practicing aloud can be intimidating – unless your reading buddy is a fuzzy, four-legged friend.

The Winnipeg Humane Society’s (WHS) See Spot Read program pairs therapy dogs with kids who have difficulties reading, which allows young people to build confidence while in a safe, non-judgmental space.

“It’s one-on-one,” says Kat Ross, Director of Volunteer Services, Education and Outreach for WHS. “Some of the students end up developing such a great bond with their dog.”

In partnership with St. John Ambulance, See Spot Read runs during the fall, winter and spring. Each session takes six students through a 10-week program. Each hour-long class involves reading to the dogs and learning about animal welfare.

“It gives children the opportunity to truly understand... how to interact with an animal,” Ross says. “It also gives them the opportunity to see the care and compassion they can provide and also receive from an animal.”

Programs like See Spot Read go beyond what you might traditionally associate with WHS. But they’re par for the course for a charity that has adapted to community needs and societal expectations during its 125-year history.

Making sustainable choices – such as only serving humanely sourced meats or vegetarian options during events – is another way WHS is adjusting, says Javier Schwersensky, WHS’s CEO.

“There’s a connection between animal welfare, climate change and our diets,” Schwersensky says. “Reducing the consumption of processed meats and reducing the size of farms will have a positive impact on climate change and will improve the welfare of our animals.”

First established in 1894 as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Women, Children and Animals, today WHS focuses most of its programming on animal services while still addressing the well-being of humans, through interaction with animals.

Aside from adoptions, it has a busy veterinary and spay and neuter clinic, runs a gift shop, engages in advocacy work, offers school programming, kids camps, and animal training, and even hosts birthday parties.

Approximately 9,200 animals come through the WHS’s doors each year. While some are able to be put up for adoption quickly, others – like those surrendered or seized for humane reasons or welfare issues – require much more care; this is roughly 6,500 animals annually.

The average length of stay for an animal requiring additional care is 20 days, Schwersensky says. For each 20-day stay, it costs the charity an average of $772.32 per animal.

“You multiply that times 6,500 and you have millions of dollars going into caring for those animals,” Schwersensky says.

The care is only possible thanks to the generosity of WHS’s volunteers and donors.

“It’s humbling when you have more than 750 individuals choosing to give their time and their talents for free,” Schwersensky says.

To ensure it is able to continue to offer new and innovative programming, WHS recently moved a portion of its endowment fund to The Winnipeg Foundation. While it had been operating its endowment on its own, pooling resources with The Winnipeg Foundation means consistent returns and additional supports – and ultimately more funding for animals and programming.

“If a recession hits and our donors are not able to be as generous as they are, we will still have a place to go,” Schwersensky says. “Animals don’t understand or know if there’s a recession and our Agency Fund provides a stable source of funding to keep the shelter running.”

For more information about the Winnipeg Humane Society’s programs and services, and its 125th anniversary celebrations, head to WinnipegHumaneSociety.ca.
Recipient: Winnipeg Humane Society

Program: A variety of programs and campaigns, including See Spot Read

Grant: Multiple, including Community Grants; capital campaign support; annual payments from donors; and Youth in Philanthropy grants
WHAT’S AN AGENCY FUND?

An Agency Fund is a permanent endowment, which provides an annual source of revenue to be used at the discretion of the charity that established it.

An Agency Fund is a long-term strategy that should be integrated into a charity’s operations.

Agency Funds are part of The Foundation’s ongoing support for local charities; the capital is owned by The Winnipeg Foundation. The Foundation also provides stretch grants to help agencies build these funds.

“IT GIVES [KIDS] THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE CARE AND COMPASSION THEY CAN PROVIDE AND ALSO RECEIVE FROM AN ANIMAL.”

– Kat Ross, Winnipeg Humane Society’s Director of Volunteer Services, Education and Outreach, on the impact of See Spot Read
WHS kicked off its 125th anniversary celebrations in June at Paws in Motion, an annual event where people come together in Assiniboine Park to walk their pets. WHS will hold several other events throughout the year to celebrate its animals, staff, volunteers, and donors.

Winnipeg Humane Society ambassador dog Buddy, who is 10 years-old, was adopted from the Humane Society years ago.
A LESSON IN ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE

COMMUNITY LEARNING SESSIONS CONNECT DONORS TO CAUSES AND COMMUNITY

Community Learning Sessions provide donors with opportunities to learn about the local charities that help our community thrive. This spring, groups of donors visited the Winnipeg Humane Society and the city’s Eco-Centre. During the sessions, attendees had opportunities to learn how these two different organizations are doing their part to help ensure a sustainable future.

“Those that care about the environment are seeing people doing work on the ground – that’s important,” says Glen Koroluk, Executive Director of Manitoba Eco-Network. “I’m pleased that The Winnipeg Foundation has taken time to help organize this with the Green Action Centre, ourselves, and the other groups.”

A rewarding part of Community Learning Sessions for donors, is they not only learn about the programs they support, but they also help provide a sense of validation.

“A great characteristic of donors that always impresses me is they actually care,” says Jaret Olford, Office Coordinator of Green Action Centre, one of the organizations working out of the Eco-Centre.

**ECO-CENTRE**

The Eco-Centre is home to Green Action Centre, Trails Manitoba, Wilderness Committee, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and Manitoba Eco-Network, which administers the space. Located on the third floor of the Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) building on Portage Avenue, one of Canada’s greenest buildings, the space features in-house composting, a rooftop patio and garden, and a collaborative space for environmental non-profits.

**WINNIPEG HUMANE SOCIETY**

The Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS), established in 1894, is dedicated to the well-being of animals. WHS provides temporary shelter for domesticated animals, educational opportunities, adoption/foster services, and veterinarian services for thousands of animals annually. Learn more about WHS starting on page 12.

Top: Community Learning Session attendees learn about composting at the Eco-Centre.

Bottom: Winnipeg Foundation donors Iris Maurstad and Naomi Levine snuggle Jack, a two-year-old Yorkipoo, at the Humane Society.
Josh Ruth, Managing Director of Art City, was leading a youth workshop in the North End recently when a curious girl approached him and asked what they were doing.

“She came back with her sketchbook and started showing me all of her drawings,” Ruth says. “She said, ‘There’s no real art instruction on the reserve’ [where she was from].”

After speaking with her mother, Ruth invited the girl to check out Art City’s programming.

“At first she was shy, but by the end of the day she already made some friends and was smiling,” Ruth says. “She came back almost every day and when summer came to an end, she cried and talked about how she would miss everybody.”

Located in the West Broadway neighbourhood and offering programming in various locations throughout Winnipeg, Art City delivers free summer programming in the form of Green Art, a drop-in program focused on environmental engagement for young people aged six to 14, and ARTsquad, a registered program for participants aged 10 to 15.

“Kids are engaged from a very young age in positive ways of learning to express themselves,” Ruth says. “It teaches them tools that are transferable into so many areas of life.”
Why am I here reading? It’s the summertime, and it’s 8 a.m. in the morning.”

This is the sentiment of many students when starting summer programs at West Broadway Youth Outreach (WBYO), says the charity’s Assistant Director, Loana Valdez. But that changes as the summer goes on. “The same students kept coming back week after week looking for recommendations on a next book.”

WBYO offers free recreational and life skills summer programming every weekday. The program, which includes a literacy component, is focused on providing underserved inner-city youth with opportunities for diverse experiences outside their neighbourhoods, including trips to the zoo, Fun Mountain, museums, the Fringe Festival, art studios, camping, and more.

“These opportunities allow participants to network with other youth and to learn about different leadership activities and organizations,” Valdez says.
PROGRAM IN OPERATION FOR TEN YEARS

THE PILOT YEAR WAS INVITE-ONLY

TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED: $849,751

2019 REQUESTS

TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: 105
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: $849,751
TOTAL GRANTS APPROVED: 97
TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED: $544,205

OF THE $544,205 GRANTED IN 2019...

20% WENT TO DAY CAMPS
$106,500

26% WENT TO SLEEP AWAY CAMPS
$142,907

36% WENT TO DAY CARE
$197,923

18% WENT TO PROGRAMMING
$96,875

10 YEAR TOTALS

TOTAL GRANTS APPROVED: 626
TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: 706
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: $5,837,851
TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED: $3,627,550
Adams, Jaimie Isaac and Val Vint – with the help of project curator Dr. Julie Nagam – are bringing their unlocked creative visions to The Forks. They’re using public art to recognize the integral role truth and reconciliation plays in our cultural conversation.

Vint, whose piece is called *Education is the New Bison*, believes art plays a key role in the process of truth and reconciliation in our communities.

“Unless you understand what happened, unless you understand the history, it’s difficult to understand what is going on in our society right now. When we think about murdered and missing Indigenous women, or Indigenous people living in poverty, there’s a reason for that,” Vint says.

*Education is the New Bison* will look like a Bison, which is a significant animal to Indigenous cultures, and it will look as if it’s constructed from books.

“Bison, at one time, was the animal that provided everything: food, shelter and tools. Now education is what does that,” Vint says.

Adams, whose project is called *Friendship*, tackles the historical relationship between Indigenous communities and settlers.

“My piece will really be talking about the past. There were good moments, and there were definitely bad moments. It should get people thinking about that dialogue and relationship. It asks the question of ‘How do we move forward?’” Adams says.

Isaac, whose piece will be called *The Eighth and Final Fire*, hopes these three art pieces contribute to a larger societal change.

“Public art is really important in so many different ways. What I hope happens with this work is that people will learn a little bit about our history and think about their own responsibility and their own stake in the future,” Isaac says.

The $500,000 investment comes as part of The Winnipeg Foundation’s ongoing Green Spaces Strategy, which has seen the revitalization of parks and other public spaces throughout the downtown, including the Saint-Boniface Belvédère (see facing page). The three artists are the co-creators of Niimaamaa, which was also supported in part by The Foundation and is located at Niizhoziibean (formerly South Point) at The Forks.

The artist’s pieces are set to unveil at The Forks in 2020 and 2021.
SAINT-BONIFACE BELVÉDÈRE TAKES RED RIVER WALKWAY TO NEW HEIGHTS

REVAMPED SPACE CREATES MORE ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE CONNECTING ST. BONIFACE TO THE FORKS, UPPER FORT GARRY

The summer of 2019 kicked off with a ribbon cutting at the brand-new Saint-Boniface Belvédère — a vibrant addition to the Taché Promenade.

The Belvédère elevates Winnipeg's Red River walkway into even more of a destination. The project, which gives new life to the area between Provencher Boulevard and Despins Street, shored up the riverbank and widened the walkway, creating a more enjoyable visitor experience along the pathway connecting St. Boniface, The Forks, and Upper Fort Garry.

Winnipeg's skyline, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, and the Red River create a beautiful, scenic backdrop for walks or bike rides along the Belvédère. Jutting out over the riverbank, the Belvédère is home to a new art installation, Phare Ouest (Far West), by Winnipeg artist Marcel Gosselin.

The initiative, which started in 2012, is a partnership between the City of Winnipeg, The Winnipeg Foundation and the Government of Canada and a coalition of community groups lead by Entreprises Riel.

“Green spaces are critical to our City’s health and wellness,” says Winnipeg Foundation Board Chair Doneta Brotchie. “The Belvédère truly celebrates our community’s diversity and creates another destination in our downtown.”

The land that the Belvédère stands on is rich with local history. Our regional roots lay firmly beneath the riverbank’s soil.

The intersection of the Red and Assiniboine rivers has been a gathering place for Indigenous populations for more than 6,000 years. Later, the Coureurs des bois and the very first European settlers landed their canoes on the eastern banks of the Red River near this area. Bishop Provencher also welcomed the first four Grey Nuns there in 1844, more than 25 years before Manitoba was to become a province.

With construction completed earlier this year, the route enjoys a steady stream of visitors – from across the City and outside Winnipeg. This project is another key investment for The Winnipeg Foundation in a 2.5 km loop winding its way through Niizhoziibean (formerly South Point), The Forks Riverwalk and now the Taché Promenade and Saint-Boniface Belvédère.
## Promising projects

Donors’ generosity makes it possible for The Foundation to support a variety of projects in our community. The following grants were announced June 2019.

### INCREDIBLE IMPACT

### Manitoba Hindu Seniors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Meet, Eat and Greet</strong></th>
<th><strong>$9,000, drawn from the hundreds of Community Funds held at The Foundation, and from the Thistle Seniors Fund</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manitoba Hindu Seniors promotes and preserves Hindu culture, philosophy and traditions by hosting recreational, social, educational, cultural and spiritual activities, with its 400 members and the community at large.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NENETH BAÑAS, COMMUNITY GRANTS ASSOCIATE</strong></td>
<td>“Meet, Eat and Greet is a year-round event made up of monthly gatherings. Each month has a theme looking at East Indian culture, or Canadian culture, or sharing general information for seniors. The members come from a variety of East Indian cultures, regions and even countries. It’s great for Winnipeg because it’s a good opportunity for seniors to connect with each other and meet new people. It’s a perfect opportunity to share a meal, laughs, and a good time with one another.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IISD Experimental Lakes Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Interactive Climate Change Packages</strong></th>
<th><strong>$35,000, drawn from the hundreds of Community Funds held at The Foundation</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Headquartered in Winnipeg, the International Institute for Sustainable Development Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) facility provides a platform for technical training, capacity building and environmental research, through partnerships with government agencies, academic institutions, industry and the public. An area of 58 interconnected lakes and their watersheds in Northwestern Ontario, the ELA is a living laboratory for aquatic ecosystem science used for research for more than 50 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KERRY RYAN, COMMUNITY GRANTS ASSOCIATE</strong></td>
<td>“IISD has been recording climate information for a long time. Now they’re making it available to students so they can dig into the data, look at trends, study things that are changing in our climate, and make some predictions about what might happen next. Students will be able to learn about the climate crisis that we’re experiencing now and what they can do in their own lives to help mitigate some of the effects we’re already seeing.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Indigenous healing room at Winnipeg’s Children’s Hospital</strong></th>
<th><strong>$25,000, drawn from the Moffat Family Fund</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With the goal of improving the healthcare of babies and children, the Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons (CAPS) provides financial support for scholarships, clinical research and educational activities aimed at local efforts across the country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOAH ERENBERG, COMMUNITY GRANTS ASSOCIATE</strong></td>
<td>“Even though half the patients and families coming to Winnipeg’s Children’s Hospital are Indigenous, there’s very little, if anything, reflecting Indigenous cultures, beliefs or views. Indigenous patients can sometimes feel unsafe or unwelcomed, so this room will be a comfortable space with Indigenous materials that will allow Elders to come in and offer support that may not be offered elsewhere in the hospital.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HEALTH, WELLNESS AND RECREATION

### Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Meet, Eat and Greet</strong></th>
<th><strong>$9,000, drawn from the hundreds of Community Funds held at The Foundation, and from the Thistle Seniors Fund</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manitoba Hindu Seniors promotes and preserves Hindu culture, philosophy and traditions by hosting recreational, social, educational, cultural and spiritual activities, with its 400 members and the community at large.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NENETH BAÑAS, COMMUNITY GRANTS ASSOCIATE</strong></td>
<td>“Meet, Eat and Greet is a year-round event made up of monthly gatherings. Each month has a theme looking at East Indian culture, or Canadian culture, or sharing general information for seniors. The members come from a variety of East Indian cultures, regions and even countries. It’s great for Winnipeg because it’s a good opportunity for seniors to connect with each other and meet new people. It’s a perfect opportunity to share a meal, laughs, and a good time with one another.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Volunteer Manitoba
Resource Centre and Board Connect

$228,595 over three years, drawn from the hundreds of Community Funds held at The Foundation

Volunteer Manitoba provides professional development and training for non-profit organizations. The organization works to connect Manitobans with volunteer opportunities and promote volunteerism, which creates a stronger and healthier community.

Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet)

Workshops on financial sustainability for non-profit organizations and social enterprises

$225,000 over three years, drawn from the hundreds of Community Funds held at The Foundation

CCEDNet provides training and professional development to non-profit organizations. Its focus is on strengthening communities and creating economic opportunities that enhance social and environmental conditions.

MEGAN TATE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

“Organizations in the charitable sector are stretched and stressed. As a funder, we thought about ways we might be able to support non-profits in our community — and one of the ways we’re doing that is by providing funding to Volunteer Manitoba and CCEDNet. Both organizations are great resources; providing training and professional development in our community.”

NEXT GRANTING DEADLINE

The due date for One-Time Community Grants is Sept. 30. This is The Foundation’s main granting program, and it supports a wide range of community projects. It accepts requests for up to $100,000. For info: wpgfdn.org/grants
When Lawrie Pollard looked at the world, he saw opportunity. This led to a successful career in business, a large social network, enduring friendships, and a tireless commitment to community.

“He had this super optimism about what could be achieved,” says son John Pollard. “He was optimistic, and he was also enthusiastic. He was an enthusiastic participant and he didn’t just talk about doing things, he did things,” adds son Gordon Pollard.

This optimism led him to transform his family’s commercial printing business into what today is the second largest producer of instant lottery tickets in the world, employing more than 1,700 people.

But as Gordon and John note, Lawrie was a bit of a late bloomer. Raised in River Heights, Lawrence Oliver (Lawrie) Pollard attended United College, but he did not graduate from university.

“He was not a great student, but he was a really well read, well-rounded individual when it came to anything that had to do with news, world affairs or world events,” Gordon says.

What he lacked in formal education, he made up for in other ways. “My dad was a very charming, charismatic guy. I’m sure when he was 30 he was very charming, and he was still really charming when he was 90-years-old,” Gordon says.

That charm helped him win over Frances Struthers, to whom he was married for 61 years. The couple had five children: Gordon, John, Shelagh, Barbara and Douglas.

Lawrie joined his father at the family printing business, Saults and Pollard, in 1947. Lawrie became President at the age of 34 in 1962, when his father died.

Lawrie enjoyed being active in the community. He was President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and of the Canadian Graphic Arts Industries Association, and was an inaugural member of the Associates of the Asper School of Business.

He also served on countless not-for-profit boards including The Winnipeg Foundation, United Way, The Salvation Army, CancerCare Manitoba, Winnipeg Humane Society and the Children's Museum.

“It’s amazing how many different things he was able to do in his life in terms of the number of boards he was on... And the reason he was able to do that partly was because he did not sweat the small stuff,” John says.
“HE WAS AN ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANT AND HE DIDN’T JUST TALK ABOUT DOING THINGS, HE DID THINGS.”

– Gordon Pollard, Lawrie Pollard’s son

“He did not think he was the smartest guy in the room. He had strongly held opinions and ideas generally about what should be done, but he definitely felt there were lots of other smart people to figure out a lot of the details and actually get it done,” John adds.

Lawrie’s optimism and belief in others helped when he decided to take the family business in a new direction. In the 1980s, when he was in his mid-50s, he mortgaged the family house and assets to enter into the instant lottery market. John and Gordon remember it as a stressful transition, but the company soon thrived.

“What he did was create an opportunity for us, by going out on a limb, by borrowing the money, and transforming Saults & Pollard into Pollard Banknote... he stepped down as CEO to become Chairman not long after he got into the lottery business; what he really did was leave us an opportunity,” Gordon says.

For his work, Lawrie was honoured as Manitoba Entrepreneur of the Year in 1991, and inducted into the Manitoba Business Hall of Fame in 2014.

After stepping down as CEO, Lawrie had more time for golf and socializing, though he continued to enjoy coming into his office every day to keep up to date on the business and visit with staff. He also remained highly active and engaged in his community.

“He naturally saw the good side of people all the time. The kinds of people community service organizations are typically trying to help, are people that a lot of people in society could dismiss and look down on. And yet our father never talked that way,” John says.

Lawrie’s outlook and beliefs influenced the family, which continues to give back to the community that has supported them. John Pollard now serves on The Winnipeg Foundation’s Board of Directors, just as his father did.

“We have benefited from this community, from being fortunate to grow up in the city which has treated us so well in so many ways, and so you have to give back,” John says.

As a testament to Lawrie Pollard’s impact in Winnipeg, when he passed away earlier this year at the age of 91, 1,200 people attended his funeral. The family directed memorial gifts to The Foundation, and also notes Lawrie left a bequest to the organization.

Fund: Aleta and Wilbur Pollard Memorial, which Lawrie Pollard established in memory of his parents
Cause: Community
Supports: The changing needs and emerging opportunities in our community
For citizens of Bajan and Caribbean descent, celebrating shared culture and values is important. Through the Barbados Association of Winnipeg (BAW), they come together to socialize, to strengthen community, and to give back. A new scholarship is helping engage younger generations with the Association.

Following Barbados’ independence from Britain in 1966, many Bajan expats were already informally gathering and celebrating in Winnipeg.

“The independence of the country represented a major shift in Barbados; where we saw black prime ministers, we saw more black ownership of land,” says Antoinette Zloty, a Bajan-Canadian who immigrated in the late 1960s. “So, an annual Independence dinner [held locally in Winnipeg] was really important for celebrating,” Zloty says.

In 1977, Zloty – then in her early 20s – saw an opportunity to formalize the group, and Barbados Association of Winnipeg was born. Amongst BAW’s activities, the group works to promote and develop a sense of unity and community spirit among Bajans, Caribbean-Canadians and all other citizens. Its signature fundraising event – happening annually since 1979 – is Bajan night, which includes a Bajan dinner, live entertainment and dancing.

“It’s really nice to get together and socialize,” says BAW’s President Gregory Gaskin. “Every time we have a meeting, it goes on for hours after the meeting is over, with people socializing.”

When the group was looking for ways to recognize the 50th anniversary of Bajan independence, the 40th anniversary of BAW and the 150th birthday of Canada, as well as trying to reach younger audiences, BAW determined a scholarship was the way to go. It established the Barbados Association of Winnipeg Scholarship through The Winnipeg Foundation.

“I felt we should leave some sort of legacy for youth, to provide them with scholarships along the way,” Gaskin says. “If we keep building, the way it’s going, we are hoping further down the road it could be a greater financial support to young people.”

“BeCause literacy, education and employment empower individuals to achieve their goals and aspirations.”

– Gregory Gaskin, Barbados Association of Winnipeg

“BeCause literacy, education and employment enrich our lives through communication with, rejuvenation of, and contribution to our communities.”

– Antoinette Zloty, Barbados Association of Winnipeg
A requirement of the scholarship is involvement with the community in general, as well as with the Bajan community specifically.

“We are trying to teach [them] the importance of volunteerism, and then see if we can bring some of these students into the organization,” Gaskin says.

While education is highly prized in the Bajan community, visible minorities may not always actively apply for scholarships, Zloty says.

“I think we tend to be more shrinking violets in our communities.”

It will take some time for the first scholarship to be issued as BAW is building its Scholarship Fund through help from the community. The Government of Barbados has even supported the initiative by contributing a flight for the raffle at the annual Bajan Night fundraiser. Countless other individuals and organizations have also contributed, Zloty says.

BAW has enjoyed working with The Foundation, and especially appreciates the marketing and printing support provided, Zloty says.

“It’s been a really good experience working with The Foundation,” Zloty says. “Being treated in a decent way, in a professional manner, even though the Barbados Association’s annual budget is low, we were taken very seriously with regard to establishing the fund.”

Learn more about the Barbados Association of Winnipeg: bawpg.com
To make a gift to the Barbados Association of Winnipeg Scholarship, go to wpgfdn.org/give and search “BAW”

DID YOU KNOW?
You can establish a Scholarship Fund to support students.
Scholarship Funds can provide:
• Scholarships - based on academic achievement or other merit.
• Bursaries - based on financial need.
• Prizes - generally based on a specific accomplishment, such as highest standing in a single course or winner of a competition.

You work with The Foundation to determine the award’s criteria.
The selected school or organization accepts applications, selects award recipients and advises The Foundation of the selections.

The minimum amount required to establish a Scholarship Fund is $20,000, which can be built up over five years. A fund will grow from additional contributions as well as through investment growth.

You can also support Literacy, Education and Employment with a Cause Fund and a contribution of $2,500.

Want to learn more?
Contact Jennifer Lucas at 204-944-9474 ext. 259 or jlucas@wpgfdn.org.
NEW FUNDS AT THE FOUNDATION

Donors from all walks of life choose to support their favourite Causes, and their community, though The Foundation. While each fund established expresses a donor’s unique philanthropic goals and wishes, all share The Foundation’s vision of making, ‘a Winnipeg where community life flourishes for all.’

Thank you to all our generous donors!

These endowment funds were established between Feb. 1, and May 31, 2019.

**Arts, Culture and Heritage**
- Better Still Fund
- Heritage - Buhler Gallery Fund
- Heritage Resources Fund
- Heritage - Transcona Museum Fund
- Military Memorials Conservation Fund
- Eugene (Gene) Pyrz Performing Arts Fund

**Children, Youth and Families**
- Keep Paddling Fund
- Nor’West Co-Op Community Health Centre Fund

**Environment and Animal Welfare**
- GROW Trust Fund
- Daniel McFadyen Environment and Animal Welfare Fund

**Health, Wellness and Recreation**
- Roma Connor and Lauritz Jensen Memorial Fund
- Larry and Shelley McIntosh Fund

**Literacy, Education and Employment**
- Anonymous Fund No. 4192
- Higher Learning Foundation Scholarship Fund
- David James Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund

**Community**
- Haddington Bay Fund
- IDEA Fund
- In Celebration of Eddie and Gilbert’s 40th Wedding Anniversary Fund
- Alan and Shirley Kessler Fund
- Terry and Jodi Martin Fund
- The Mitchell Fund
- Alan Partridge Memorial Fund
- Tommy and Ruth Fund

---

**DANIEL MCFADYEN ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE FUND**

Daniel McFadyen, a seven-year-old who wants to be a zookeeper, created his fund as he passionately believes in the protection of animals, especially polar bears, pangolins and eagles. He hopes other kids follow his lead and create their own funds. Daniel plans to donate money from his birthday and part of his allowance to his fund. He is the son of a staff member at The Winnipeg Foundation. The annual amount available to spend will be paid to charities at the discretion of The Winnipeg Foundation for projects or programs in the Cause of Environment and Animal Welfare.

Daniel McFadyen (recovering from a recent surgery), with Foundation CEO Rick Frost.
FUND HIGHLIGHT

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AT THE FOUNDATION

Scholarships and bursaries reward hard work, recognize need and support dreams. Investing in students through a Scholarship or Bursary Fund can demonstrate your own passion for education or celebrate a loved one. When you establish a scholarship or bursary, you define the award criteria according to your own values and priorities. Contact us to learn more!

Thank you to all our generous donors!

The following Scholarship Funds were created during our fiscal 2018 year (Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018).

- John Gongos Bursary Fund
- Alexander Austin Worrell Bursary Fund
- Children of My Heart Fund
- Tina Fontaine Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Glen and Margaret Harrison Scholarship Fund
- Eric and Carol Johnson Scholarship Community Support Fund
- Eric and Carol Johnson Holy Names House of Peace Scholarship Fund
- Eric and Carol Johnson BGCW Scholarship Fund
- Keep Them In School Foundation - River East Transcona Scholarship Fund
- Lessard/Nichols Scholarship Fund
- Lions Club of Winnipeg Scholarship Fund
- LoisGer Memorial Fund
- McLean Rush Foundation Fund
- Mooney Family Bursary Fund
- Motor Vehicle Industry of Manitoba Scholarship - Joe and Geraldine Rewucki Scholarship Fund
- Order Sons of Italy Legacy Award Fund
- O’Reilly Urquhart Family “YCDI” Scholarship Fund
- Marjorie Rose Scholarship Fund
- Al Shell Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Allan Simpson Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Kevin Walters Memorial Scholarship Fund

THANK YOU NOTES FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

[Handwritten thank you notes from scholarship recipients]

February 13, 2019

Thank you so much for your kind generosity. It is so greatly appreciated.

I am overwhelmed by the magnitude of your gift.
The first Foundation scholarship funds were established in the early 1950s. The number of scholarship funds at The Foundation has more than doubled in the past 10 years, from 215 in 2008, to 436 in 2018.

GRANTS FROM SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS HAVE Risen FROM $1.1M IN 2008 TO $1.8 MILLION IN 2018

CURRENTLY, THE AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP IS $1,300, WHILE THE MEDIAN IS $950.

New scholarship funds at The Winnipeg Foundation can be established with a minimum contribution of $20,000. This minimum contribution can be built-up over a period of five years.

M EDIAN ANNUAL INCOME FOR MANITOBANS

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

$42,596
$53,615

BACHELOR’S DEGREE

$65,647
$76,677

AVERAGE COST OF UNDERGRADUATE TUITION CANADIAN STUDENT:

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG $3,405
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA $4,008

Since its inception in 2011, The Winnipeg Foundation’s You Can Do It Awards program has recognized 1,747 students in Winnipeg’s Inner City with $1,000 learning accounts. Similar to scholarships, YCDI Awards invest in a student’s future.

*as of June 2019
There will soon be a lot more financial support available to graduate students studying history in our province, thanks to new awards spearheaded by The Winnipeg Foundation.

Studying our community’s history can reveal our shared past and can also shape our shared future. For almost 100 years, people from all walks of life have contributed to the well-being of our community through gifts to The Winnipeg Foundation. In recognition of their generosity and the legacy we have inherited, The Foundation has created awards for graduate students focusing on the life and times of Canadians who have contributed to our rich history.

The awards will be available to Master’s and PhD-level students studying History in the Joint Master’s Program offered by the universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg. This program offers a range of major and minor study areas.

Currently, The Winnipeg Foundation is augmenting the financial support available to students who select either Canada or Indigenous Studies as a major.

Ultimately, the goal is that students pursuing a Master’s Degree or a PhD in Manitoba have access to financial support comparable to that available nationally at other prominent post-secondary institutions.

The Winnipeg Foundation Centenary Scholarship for Doctoral Studies in Canadian History will be offered to a PhD candidate once every three years beginning in 2021. It will be valued at $100,000 and is payable $50,000 in the first year and $25,000 in each of years two and three.

The Winnipeg Foundation Award for Studies in Canadian or Indigenous History is being offered to three, Year One Master’s students, beginning this year. It is valued at $17,500.

Two other Winnipeg Foundation Awards for Year Two Master’s students will be available beginning in 2020—both valued initially at $7,000. In recognition of the importance of truth and reconciliation – one award is for a student studying the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada. The second – named after Elizabeth Alloway, wife of Winnipeg Foundation founder William Forbes Alloway – is for a student studying the role of women in Canadian History.

To make a gift in support of either the Year Two Indigenous History Scholarship or the Year Two Elizabeth Alloway History Scholarship, go to wpgfdn.org/give.
Almost 5,000. That’s how many young people have learned about our city’s charitable sector, and the importance of giving back, through The Winnipeg Foundation’s Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) program.

“We know that when youth are exposed to charitable organizations, volunteering and philanthropy, they are more likely to continue to be involved and give back when they get older,” says Megan Tate, The Foundation’s Director of Community Grants and the first YiP Coordinator. “The network of YiP alumni in our community are more likely to be actively engaged in their communities – which is good for all of us.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of YiP. What started in 1999 as a program in nine schools has grown to include 30 committees (27 at high schools and three at community organizations). Since the beginning, YiP Committees have granted more than $1.8 million to the community.

Each year, every YiP Committee is allocated $5,000 to grant to charitable organizations. The Committees determine their areas of interest and mission statement, and then visit different charities to learn about needs and opportunities. This allows each Committee to have a personalized experience.

In addition, each YiP Committee is allocated $500 annually to cover administrative costs. Funds that are not used are reinvested into each Committee’s personal endowment fund, which means they’re able to grant even more. Some Committees also hold fundraisers to further augment their granting budgets.

The Foundation’s youth engagement programming has expanded to include a Summer Internship Program, which places YiP students at local charities during the summer; an Emerging Leaders’ Fellowship (currently on hiatus); and the Walking Together Grants program (read more on page 38).

Learn more about The Foundation’s youth programming, including YiP: wpgfdn.org/youth

DID YOU KNOW? THE FOUNDATION’S YiP PROGRAM IS THE LARGEST PROGRAM OF ITS KIND IN CANADA!
THE EVOLUTION OF YiP

A commemorative booklet is produced each year for YiP participants. Check out the different themes – and designs – that have been featured during the past 20 years.
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

A LASTING IMPACT

YiP ALUMNAE REVEAL HOW THE PROGRAM CHANGED THEIR OUTLOOK

How does Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) impact young people’s lives? We asked three former YiPpers from Balmoral Hall to tell us. Balmoral Hall has had a YiP Committee since the program began in 1999. In some years, more than 40 young women have participated.

“BeCause more opportunities available to children mean more opportunities as they grow into adults.”

Lisa Koss | Class of 2004

YiP participant: Grades 10 to 12 (2001 to 2004)
Current occupation: Human Resources Practitioner

Q: What originally drew you towards participating in YiP?
A: I grew up in Girl Guides and we were always participating in service projects. YiP seemed like a natural extension of that. Plus, it was something fun I could do with my friends.

Q: What is your best memory of YiP?
A: My favorite memory of YiP is driving around visiting different organizations with my friends and the feelings of independence and autonomy that came with that. How we distributed funds was something we had complete ownership over. There was no teacher telling us which organizations to visit and no parent chauffeuring us from place to place.

Q: How has the experience shaped your worldview?
A: The two biggest takeaways from YiP for me were even a small donation could have a large impact on someone’s life, and how important it is to have empathy for people and their personal situations. These are lessons that I have incorporated into my life and try to model for my son, so they become part of his value system as well.
“BeCause people deserve access to programs that enhance their health and enable them to have a better quality of life.”

Madelaine Stefanik | Class of 2007
YiP participant: Grades 11 and 12 (2005 to 2007)
Current occupation: Clinician with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority’s Geriatric Mental Health Team

Q: What originally drew you towards participating in YiP?
A: I wanted to learn more about charitable organizations in Winnipeg and take a more active role in addressing the needs of the community. I was intrigued by the idea that a group of students came together to pick an area of focus, research charities, visit the organizations, and see first-hand what issues were affecting people in the community.

Q: What is your best memory of YiP?
A: Meeting with an organization that was completely unknown to our group. The organization was one that had never been approached by YiP. The staff members were so eager to have us visit; they provided compelling information that highlighted their need for increased community support. Our YiP group was larger that year, so we were unable to grant funds to every organization visited. However, our group successfully advocated for this smaller organization to receive the maximum grant allowable.

Q: How has the experience shaped your worldview?
A: Through YiP, I saw the scope of how many lives were positively impacted by various non-profit organizations. My experiences through YiP were instrumental in enhancing my sensitivity towards the needs of others and helped to draw my interest in working in the field of mental health. YiP provided me the first of many opportunities to foster relationships with charities.
“BeCause every person deserves the right to feminine hygiene products.”

Katherine Campbell | Class of 2019
YIP participant: Grades 10 to 12 (2016 to 2019)
Current occupation: Summer program staff at West Broadway Youth Outreach; studying political science and business at Western University in the fall

Q: What originally drew you towards participating in YIP?
A: Maya Angelou once said, “At the end of the day people won’t remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel.” This is where YIP comes in. YIP allows you to take action in order to make that change in someone’s life. It allows you to prioritize compassion in a world that focusses on numbers and academics. The Winnipeg Foundation works to give students the opportunity to get to know their community by giving us the chance to visit charities, meet the incredible people behind the organizations and meet other students who have a common goal of making Winnipeg a better place.

Q: What is your best memory of YIP?
A: My very first site visit was one that will never be forgotten. We visited the House of Peace and got to meet the people who would be affected by our grant. This is when I realized YIP is much more than simply giving money to an organization. It is an outlet to encourage others to be kind. To not only think about school but to think about each other.

Q: How has the experience shaped your worldview?
A: Being in YIP has not only taught me about being a good leader but about being a good person. It is not about asking ‘What you want to be when you grow up?’ but encouraging you to ask the question, ‘Who do you want to be when you grow up?’ YIP also teaches you about gratitude. We often forget how much a small act of kindness can impact someone’s life. YIP teaches you that you must be kind to others as it can be overlooked when important things come along.
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

PITCHING FOR A CAUSE

YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY (YiP) HOSTS PITCH PARTY IN HONOUR OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Social anxiety and shyness held a firm grip on YiPer Marshall Morrisseau’s life. Despite these challenges, Morrisseau always maintained a keenness for politics and Indigenous culture.

In 2018, Morrisseau acted on his interest in politics and attended Youth Parliament of Manitoba Winter Session. While involved in the program, he gained a knack for public speaking. He also spent time recovering from his challenges with mental health — and came out the other side of Youth Parliament a stronger person.

Now motivated to inspire positive change in the world, Morrisseau made a pitch during the YiP 20th anniversary Pitch Party in support of Youth Parliament’s reconciliation fund.

“It was really a life changing moment for me to attend Youth Parliament’s Winter Session both times. Its reconciliation fund was tremendously helpful with pretty much every aspect of my life. I wanted to do a pitch for the reconciliation fund to help enable more Indigenous kids to have the same experiences I did, and to open up about themselves and be passionate, and be confident and be leaders,” Morrisseau says.

The YiP Pitch Party is modelled after The Winnipeg Foundation’s Fast Pitch program — with three YiP alumni, and three current YiPers presenting. Presenters vied for two grants of $1,000 — one for YiP Alumni and one for current YiPers, both decided by a panel of judges – as well as a People’s Choice grant of $500, decided by the audience. All participants received a $100 grant for their charity of choice.

The Pitch Party took place on June 19 at Winnipeg Art Gallery. The event also included an opening of the YiP time capsule from 2009, and speeches including one by Annette Riziki, Rhodes Scholar and YiP Alumna.
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

LISTENING AND LEARNING FROM YOUTH

Young people have the chance to support truth and reconciliation projects in ways that matter to them, thanks to The Foundation’s Walking Together Grants program.

This special granting stream supports youth-led truth and reconciliation projects at local schools and charities with youth committees. The first round of recipients was announced in June; see sidebar for details.

The granting stream is overseen by the Walking Together Grants Youth Advisory Council. Groups can apply for up to $5,000 for projects of up to one-year in length. The projects must be guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s 94 Calls to Action.

The Council includes young people from high schools, universities, community organizations and alumni of The Winnipeg Foundation’s youth engagement programming including Youth in Philanthropy and the Summer Internship Program.

Walking Together Grants build on the Reconciliation Grants made available to the community earlier this year. The Winnipeg Foundation’s first full Vital Signs® Report identified reconciliation as a central theme for community well-being, and an area that requires more focused attention and immediate action.

WALKING TOGETHER GRANTS SUPPORT YOUTH-LED TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PROJECTS

The following projects received support in 2019.

- **Organization**: Gordon Bell High School  
  **Program**: Indigenous student mentorship program for Indigenous students

- **Organization**: John Taylor Collegiate  
  **Program**: Monthly education events for students related to Indigenous peoples and truth and reconciliation

- **Organization**: Seven Oaks School Division  
  **Program**: Two-day Indigenous youth gathering in 2020

- **Organization**: Seven Oaks School Division  
  **Program**: One-day conference for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) students and members of the 2SLGBTQ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning) school community

- **Organization**: Spence Neighbourhood Association  
  **Program**: Bridging the Gap project bringing Indigenous youth and newcomers from the SNA Drop-In Program for outings focusing on Indigenous culture, traditions and history

- **Organization**: St. James Collegiate  
  **Program**: Workshops and outings (including cooking, language, dance classes, and collecting traditional medicines) to teach non-Indigenous students about Indigenous culture and support Indigenous students in re-connecting with their culture
Stable charities deliver reliable community services. The Winnipeg Foundation’s new Organizational Development Grants program helps local charities build capacity for stability today, and sustainability in the future.

“Within the past few years, The Foundation has focused on supporting the capacity of organizations through our Multi-Year Community Grants program and Professional Development Grants,” says Megan Tate, The Foundation’s Director of Community Grants. Organizational Development Grants are the next step.

The two-year pilot program has a continuous intake and supports a wide range of capacity building activities up to $10,000, including group mentorship, job shadowing, strategic planning, feasibility studies, governance or board development, evaluation, and Imagine Canada accreditation. Imagine Canada is a national charity that supports and advocates for the charitable sector, in part by offering a Standards Program for organizational excellence.

The Foundation’s 2018 report about Winnipeg’s charitable sector, Stressed, Stretched and Still Standing, found that while commitment and passion are strong, the sector is challenged.

“In response to Stressed, Stretched and Still Standing, we’ve been looking to find additional ways to provide support (to the sector) knowing that strong, healthy organizations are those that are able to deliver on their mission to support community,” Tate says.

Community leadership and strengthening the charitable sector are key components of The Winnipeg Foundation’s 2019-2021 Strategic Plan. Responses to The Foundation’s Perspectives report, which was published in April 2019 and surveyed recent grant recipients, also influenced the types of projects included as part of the program.

“Through Stressed, Stretched and Still Standing and Perspectives, we wanted to report on the pulse of the charitable sector in Winnipeg,” Tate says. “We developed this initiative in response to what we heard.”

For more information, visit wpgfdn.org/grants
“THE STRIKE THAT CHANGED CANADIAN HISTORY” IS HOW THE 1919 WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE IS KNOWN LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

The Strike 100 years ago laid the groundwork for contemporary labour laws, and modern labour and social justice movements. During May and June 2019, celebrations were held throughout our city to commemorate the event and the stories that made the history books.

The Winnipeg Foundation took part in the centennial celebrations, hosting a Vital Conversation called, 20x20 on 1919: 10 Tributes to the Strike that Changed History.

The evening was shaped by authors, artists and storytellers taking the audience on a tour of the historic strike, PechaKucha (pronounced PEH-chak-cha) style! The Foundation partnered with PechaKucha Night Winnipeg, the local chapter of the international organization sponsored by the Graphic Designers of Canada.

PechaKucha is a style of presentation developed in Japan that has speakers present 20 slides with 20 seconds to speak per slide, making for a fast-paced and entertaining style of storytelling.

The evening roster included authors Molly McCracken on behalf of mom Melinda McCracken, Harriet Zaidman and Richard Zaric, who shared their story behind their stories. Screenwriter Rick Chafe outlined the creative process behind co-writing Strike! The Musical and Brandon University Professor James Naylor and Anya Moodie-Foster from the Manitoba Museum set the historical stage of events. Travel writer Donna Janke presented on 1919 significant sites around contemporary Winnipeg, while her niece Sabrina Janke, tour programmer for the Exchange District Biz, talked about the involvement of women in the strike. Researcher Ellen Smirl highlighted the contemporary lessons learned and the struggles that continue, and filmmaker and artist Noam Gonick finished the evening by touring the audience through the Manitoba Archives where he researched photos and documents in the development of his art installation Bloody Saturday (see facing page).

The Winnipeg Foundation’s vision is ‘a Winnipeg where community life flourishes for all.’ Celebrations like 20x20 on 1919 bring communities together to honour our City’s rich history and contributions.

Special thanks to The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike Centennial Committee for its partnership and participation.
The tipped over streetcar is an iconic image that captured the boiling point of the 1919 General Strike. One hundred years later, a replica of that recognizable image is now a permanent part of the Winnipeg landscape.

Located at Pantages Plaza near the main site of the Strike activities, the installation is a nearly full-scale steel replica of the streetcar that was tipped over on Bloody Saturday. It illuminates at night, and a didactic plaque commemorates 100 years since the Strike by explaining the significance of the streetcar and the events of Bloody Saturday.

“I think it’s the most fascinating chapter in our City’s history,” says Noam Gonick, a filmmaker and artist who led the project. “I’m pretty sure it was the first time Winnipeg was on the cover of the New York Times. It was at the start of that brief moment when Winnipeg felt like it could possibly be at the center of a global moment.”

Gonick noted when the project was conceptualized five years ago, there was very little marking the site of the historic event, aside from a plaque which lacked visibility. He teamed up with sculptor Bernie Miller to change that.

“We felt that plaque was not doing justice to the history, whether you agree with the aims of the strike or not,” Gonick says. “You can’t argue that it was an important historical event and the kind of history that we should be proud of.”

The development of the installation was supported by The Foundation, the Government of Canada, Centre Venture, IATSE 856, the Amalgamated Transit Union, and unions in Manitoba.

“I want it to be a real beacon – something instantaneously recognizable,” Gonick says.

Gonick notes the significance of the 1919 Strike and the ripple effect it had on the lives of Canadians decades later.

“Even though it ended on a sour note for the strikers, many have attributed the subsequent gains by the labour movement to that outburst of activity and the devastating side effects of Bloody Saturday,” Gonick says. “Wherever it’s at right now, we live in a society that enjoys the fruits of that movement.”
Doors to nowhere.” That’s how the current state of mental health (MH) and substance use addictions (SUA) services in Winnipeg is described by stakeholders, including charitable sector leaders.

Earlier this year, The Foundation convened a focus group of charitable sector leaders to discuss the MH and SUA services in Winnipeg, and the role philanthropy can play.

A common sentiment shared is the mental health system is severely fragmented resulting in gaps in services, lack of treatment options, and long waitlists. Existing treatment programs and services are designed for alcohol abuse and are ineffective in dealing with opioids or the growing meth crisis.

Organizations are saying that increasingly the pressing issue for front-line workers is responding to the unpredictability and psychosis associated with meth use, which has put staff and other clients in harm’s way. In response, The Foundation made available through its Professional Development Grants, an additional $50,000 for frontline workers to access de-escalation training.

Since that focus group convened, The Foundation has conducted additional interviews with the executives at Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Klinic, NorWest Community Health, and the Manitoba government’s Mental Health and Addictions Branch within the Department of Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living. The Foundation has learned more about the system generally, as well as gaps in service and the role of the charitable sector in the VIRGO report, which is a blueprint to improve Manitoba’s health and addiction services.

Released a year ago, VIRGO indicates Manitoba stands out as the highest or very high on almost all the MH/SUA needs indicators, including those related to health, social, and justice related factors. According to the report, the needs are complex and require a “whole-system, multi sectoral response”.

Within such a complex system and with such high needs, what meaningful role can philanthropy play?

The Foundation believes philanthropy can play a role in systems change and advocacy, it can act as a catalyst, and it can fund programs, evaluations, research, capital renovations and infrastructure projects. During the past three years, The Foundation’s support in this area through the Community Grants program was approximately $2.8 million. On the horizon are additional capital requests, and other options.

We look forward to continuing to work with stakeholders to further determine what this support might look like, and will share information as it is available.

To make a gift in support of Health, Wellness and Recreation programming through The Winnipeg Foundation, go to wpgfdn.org/give.
On March 25, almost 250 people gathered at the University of Winnipeg’s Riddell Hall for a Vital Conversation; to hear Senator Murray Sinclair speak about the history of Indigenous people and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada’s Calls to Action.

The Vital Conversation was held in partnership with the Sacred Seven Youth Council, the elected community youth council for Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre.

The evening began with an opening by Elder and Traditional Knowledge Keeper, Dr. Myra Laramee, and followed by a keynote from Senator Sinclair. Senator Sinclair was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 2016 and previously served as the Commissioner of the TRC. During the evening he shared his experiences on the TRC and talked about Canadian history and the bias and racism that continues in Canadian society, and gave everyday examples of reconciliation in action. He answered questions about his motivations and shared his lived experiences through stories and humor.

The Senator closed his keynote by talking about the importance of remembering our true history, the importance of a national memory of the residential school system, and the importance of dedicating ourselves to changing the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

The evening hosts were Youth in Philanthropy alumna Tanjit Nagra, and Chair of the Advisory Council of The Winnipeg Foundation’s Walking Together Youth Reconciliation Grants, Ashley Richard.

"In public schools we were taught that Europeans were superior - that they came from a superior civilization... The belief that Indigenous people were inferior and European people were superior has influenced our conversation about each other for generations, and still influences our conversations today - because the leaders of our country have been educated in that kind of system."

- Senator Murray Sinclair

WHAT YOU SAID

We asked people to share their biggest takeaway of the evening with the Senator. Here’s a sample of what participants said:

“Know yourself and your history, which play a role in determining your future”

“My biggest takeaway is the importance of honouring the names given to us by our parents. Though the names came out of colonization they were given to us out of love by our parents. I have always believed this about my name. It’s refreshing to hear both Elder Myra and Senator Sinclair agree with this and encourage us all to honour our parents in this way. I really enjoyed the humour Senator Sinclair and Elder Myra brought to the event.”

“To care for our earth. To not be greedy. And to treat one another as friends. Truly a blessing to hear Senator Sinclair speak.”
Planning your Will and estate can be a daunting prospect. Most people don’t know where to begin. Will Week helps take the confusion out of the equation.

Will Week, a series of free public sessions with professional lawyers, aims to clear up the complexities of Wills and estate planning. The annual week-long program has been taking place since 2004, with support from The Winnipeg Foundation, the Manitoba Bar Association, and the Public Guardian and Trustee of Manitoba.

When Winnipeg lawyer Jake Giesbrecht realized it was his 15th year giving his seminar for Will Week he was shocked — it only felt like his fifth. Time flies when you’re helping demystify a complex subject.

“Will Week is an accessible source for information on really important topics,” Giesbrecht says. “There are few places you can learn the do’s and don’ts of something like power of attorneys at no cost.”

Lawyers like Giesbrecht provide essential information that would be difficult to find anywhere else without charge. During the sessions, attendees learn about power of attorney, health care directives, and how easy it is to leave a legacy gift.

“I was around the table at the professional advisory committee when we were developing Will Week,” says Giesbrecht. “It’s been great to see how many people have been interested and attended since then.”

The professional advisors on that committee saw an opportunity to provide a free education for those who don’t know where to find guidance. Giesbrecht says his presentation hasn’t changed since the very first seminar he gave because the information it provides is so concrete.

“The PowerPoint has the exact same background it did 15 years ago,” he jokes.
Presentations also explain what happens if you don’t have a Will, and what to consider when naming a proxy for your health care decisions, in the event that you can’t make your own decisions.

This year, through a special partnership with Royal MTC, attendees at the Will Week session at John Hirsch Mainstage could access discounted tickets to a matinee performance of The Cottage.

Jen Litchfield, the organizer of Will Week, also organizes Creating your Legacy seminars. These seminars are more focused on how to leave a bequest, or gift in your Will, to charity.

“The Creating Your Legacy sessions are an opportunity for people to explore how they might support the community as a personal legacy and how to go about it in a way that is both meaningful and ensures their wishes can be fulfilled,” Litchfield says.

These sessions go over different ways of giving future gifts — like leaving a gift in your Will, designating a charity to receive retirement assets, or giving a life insurance policy, along with what kind of recognition you might want and expect to receive for these types of gifts.

Will Week 2019 sessions, and express sessions took place from April 22 to 27 with more than 750 people registered. The sessions were held in various community hubs all around Winnipeg — covering each quadrant of the city. Stay tuned for more information about Will Week 2020.

Questions?

Jen Litchfield,
Senior Associate & Counsel - Donor Engagement
204-944-9474 ext. 238
jlitchfield@wpgfdn.org

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE WILL WEEK PRESENTATION:

Powers of Attorney:
• A legal document in which one person – the “donor” – gives authority to another person – the “attorney” – to make decisions regarding some or all of the donor’s financial and legal affairs

Health Care Directives:
• Often referred to as “Living Wills”
• May name a person or “proxy” who can make health care decisions on your behalf
• May include your specific wishes regarding health care

Formal Requirements for a Will
• Document must be in writing
• Maker of the Will must be over age 18, with some exceptions
• Will must be dated and signed in presence of two witnesses
• Maker of the Will must have testamentary capacity

*This above is provided for information only; The Winnipeg Foundation encourages you to seek guidance from a lawyer.
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

MANITOBA HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM HELPS SUPPORT MANITOBA’S MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

HISTORY IN MOTION

Rarely do we get the chance to feel history come to life around us. Peering through a window into our province’s rich past is a precious opportunity.

To help enhance that experience, The Winnipeg Foundation is administrating the Manitoba Heritage Trust Program (MHTP) with support from the Association of Manitoba Museums and the Association for Manitoba Archives.

Initiated by the Manitoba government, MHTP is helping more than 200 museums and heritage institutions across our province by offering stretch funds to the organizations to help grow their endowment funds. By assisting in sustainability, MHTP allows institutions like Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum—which exists in an old, historic building—to continue giving Manitobans a treasured look into our past.

"Having a trust and being able to one day pull from that trust is going to help us to provide great restorative conservation work to some of the objects in our collection," says Vania Gagnon, Director of Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum.

The Friends of The St. Boniface Museum Fund is an example of how MHTP is assisting in keeping Manitoba’s history alive.

"The fund is going to help us with that back-end work that nobody sees, but it’s also going to allow us to fund some fantastic programming like our play, In Riel’s Footsteps, or those days where we provide free museum access to the community," Gagnon says.

In addition to Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum, approximately 50 organizations are working with the Manitoba Heritage Trust Program.

Every $2 given to an organization’s MHTP endowment fund is stretched by $1 — so a $2 gift will become a $3 gift. Along with distributing the stretch funding, The Foundation provides organizations with administrative support, such as official tax receipts and promotional resources to help them fundraise during the three-year program.

For more information about the MHTP, visit EndowManitoba.ca.
MEET THE ENDOW MANITOBA TEAM

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MOVEMENT ACROSS MANITOBA IS ABOUT TO GET STRONGER!

Manitoba is home to 55 community foundations – the most per capita in Canada. Odds are your favourite community has a community foundation. These charitable organizations ensure communities across our province have a reliable source of annual grants to support a variety of charitable projects.

Through its Endow Manitoba initiative, The Winnipeg Foundation provides support to community foundations across our province. And now, the expanded Endow Manitoba Team will ensure even more responsive and proactive programming. In the coming months, a variety of new initiatives will be rolled out. Stay tuned for details.

Learn more: EndowManitoba.ca
204-944-9474 | communityfoundations@wpgfdn.org

Alan Goddard
Director of Endow Manitoba

Denise Campbell
Program Specialist - Endow Manitoba

Courtney Feldman
Community Engagement Specialist

Kevin Parsons
Community Engagement Specialist
The stories that lead us to the Causes we care about are often deeply personal. Our individual experiences of hardship, friendship and kinship are the reason we're driven to compassion. The Winnipeg Foundation’s BeCause & Effect podcast is designed to get to the heart of those stories.

“The long form nature of the podcast allows me to deep dive with each guest on why they care about a particular Cause,” says Nolan Bicknell, host of BeCause & Effect.

Bicknell has chatted with many notable Winnipeggers in front of the microphones — including conversations with Ace Burpee and Scott Oake.

Distinguished sportscaster Oake — who lost his son Bruce to a drug overdose in 2015 — opened up about the personal grief that has lead to the family's dedication for rehabilitation, addiction, and mental illness services for people.

“Our son battled addiction for the last four or five years of his life. It was that rollercoaster of ‘addiction, recovery, relapse,’” says Oake during Episode 1 of BeCause & Effect. “We miss him every day. We have holes in our heart that will never heal.”

It was his son’s death that lead Oake and his wife Anne to want to develop a new addictions recovery centre in Winnipeg named in honour of Bruce.

Bicknell's conversation with Ace Burpee in Episode 3 got personal when the prominent radio personality, who has served on The Winnipeg Foundation’s Nourishing Potential Committee, opened up about why mental illness initiatives are so meaningful to him.

“My mother worked in mental health and has her whole life. I was always around that issue,” Burpee says. “On days off from school I would go to the Selkirk Mental Health Centre. It was always very normal to me; as in these are not things to be ashamed about or taboo.”

As host of The Ace Burpee Show, he uses his platform to amplify overlooked voices.

“A lot of people need a champion, and for others, they either don’t have a voice or it’s not being heard.”

– Ace Burpee
GUESTS ON SEASON 1 OF BeCAUSE & EFFECT:

Scott Oake
Kal Barteski
Ace Burpee
Cynthia Drebot
Steven Schipper
Sister Lesley Sacouman
Bruce MacDonald
Joan Blight
Ian McCausland
Cate Friesen
Lynne Skromeda
Mark Chipman

Listen to the BeCause & Effect podcast on iTunes, Spotify, or anywhere you find your podcasts.

Turn the page to learn what some of the guests had to say.
As the latest Royal MTC season came to a close this spring, so too did Steven Schipper’s 30-year run as the theatre company’s Artistic Director. Schipper’s long and notable career is woven deep into the fabric of Winnipeg’s theatre community. Hailing from Montreal, Schipper came to Royal MTC to lend his vision to many productions.

Q: What is the first Cause you remember caring about?
A: As the child of Holocaust survivors, the first Cause I remember caring about was the fight against anti-Semitism.

Q: If money, politics and logistics were no issue at all, what’s the first thing you would do in support of your Cause?
A: I would teach every child that anti-Semitism is evil and people who hate Jews are bigots. I’d continue teaching that truth for generations until there were no more anti-Semites.

Twenty-four-years ago, Cynthia Debrot responded to a volunteer opportunity on a university bulletin board to work with youth in the criminal justice system. She instantly knew she would dedicate her life to working with overlooked members of society. Today she serves as the Executive Director of the North End Women’s Centre, a charity that works to empower women.

Q: What is the first Cause you remember caring about?
A: I had a teacher who stapled a hairdressing job application to my failed math test. I was so enraged by the fact that he was trying to belittle me. That was a pivotal moment for me. So, fighting for people to be treated fairly, justly, and equally in some way. Because it was done to me, and I saw it being done to other people.

Q: What is the biggest misunderstanding or stigma around your Cause?
A: The Cause around equality, and specifically with women, I think the biggest stigma is not understanding that there is a starting point. There is a continuum of where people are at and where they started.

Sister Lesley Sacouman’s unwavering relationship with God is at the heart of her selflessness and giving. Now Executive Director of Holy Names House of Peace—a charity dedicated to empowering newcomers—Sister Lesley is committed to helping as many marginalised members of society as she can.

Q: What’s the first Cause you remember caring about?
A: Sister Lesley Sacouman’s unwavering relationship with God is at the heart of her selflessness and giving. Now Executive Director of Holy Names House of Peace—a charity dedicated to empowering newcomers—Sister Lesley is committed to helping as many marginalised members of society as she can.

Q: What is the biggest misunderstanding or stigma around your Cause?
A: What I hear sometimes is, “With all these immigrants and refugees coming, they’re going to use up our health care and resources.” I find this really heartbreaking, because when you look at the size of Canada, when you look at our wealth, if we want to live fully, then we need to welcome and celebrate the newness of life.

Content has been edited for context and brevity. To hear the full episodes, head to BeCauseAndEffect.org
What do you care about? We care about it too! Discover the Causes people care about, and what drives them to give back, each week on The Foundation's radio show BeCause Radio, broadcast on CJNU 93.7 FM and available at BeCauseRadio.org. Hosted by Robert Zirk and Sonny Primolo, the show features stories about local charities, impact-makers, and Foundation activities. Have an idea for a story? Email BeCauseRadio@wpgfdn.org

RECENT SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

Actively inclusive
Impact-maker: My Body Fitness and Nutrition takes a different approach to physical fitness.
“We’re actively inclusive and we are an intentionally safe space for all humans and all bodies,” says owner Brooke Van Ryssel. “What we focus on is more what you’re capable of, rather than what you look like.”
Once a month, My Body holds a Kindness Class, where proceeds go to support a different charitable organization.
“Everyone deserves to be visible and be accepted and be respected. It’s just about doing my part to help with that.”
Original airdate: April 25, 2019

Reconciliation co-creation
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre has played an important role in strengthening Indigenous children, families and communities in Winnipeg since 1984.
“All of our places are welcoming places,” says Diane Redsky, Ma Mawi Executive Director. “We are rooted in our culture, we are rooted in our values for caring for one another.”
With support through The Winnipeg Foundation’s Reconciliation Grants program, Ma Mawi is working with Cuso International to develop a toolkit based on dialogue, capacity building, and education, to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, organizations and governments together.
“There has to be the truth [as well as] a co-creation of what reconciliation is. It’s not going to be easy. We need to make the investments into that tough work,” Redsky says.
“When there’s a meeting in the middle and it’s done in a respectful way, that’s super powerful.”
Original airdate: May 2, 2019

Happy and healthy
Good Neighbours Active Living Centre is helping Winnipeggers 55+ stay active and connected. With approximately 1,200 members, Good Neighbours is the largest 55+ centre in Manitoba, attracting people from all areas of the city.
“We now offer roughly 60 different programs a week,” says Kay Thomson, who has volunteered with the centre for 22 years. Among its many activities, Good Neighbours offers fitness programming, outings, lectures, games and music, along with special events like its annual Spring Fashion Show fundraiser.
“It’s a fun group. It’s a wonderful way to meet new friends,” Thomson says. “It keeps you healthy and hopefully keeps you young.”
Original airdate: May 23, 2019
HELPING MOMS AND BABIES

This fall the Manitoba government will launch its first social impact bond (SIB) to support Restoring the Sacred Bond, a program pairing at-risk Indigenous mothers with birth helpers to reconnect them with traditional cultural practices and support before, during, and after birth.

SIBs are a new tool for funding social services. The government partners with a service provider to run a program and one or more investors lend the money to cover the costs with a commitment to be repaid when the program meets its targets.

The two-year pilot project, in partnership Southern First Nations Network of Care, secured eight investors, including The Winnipeg Foundation, to help build strong connections between mothers, babies and their communities.

Elder Sherry Copenace (left) and Kathleen Bluesky, Board of Directors Chair, Wiijiriidiwag ikwewag

LEADER IN GENEROSITY

On June 1, The Foundation’s Director of Strategic Philanthropy, Cathy Auld was one of 20 Manitobans to receive a Senate 150 Medal from Senator Patricia Bovey. Established in 2017, the medals commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Senate of Canada’s first sitting in Parliament and are awarded to those actively involved in making their communities a better place to live.

Auld was recognized for her dedicated leadership in philanthropy, connecting donors and funders to projects and organizations in our community. According to Senator Bovey, “Many have benefitted from her quiet, determined and generous manner, and her ideas and actions have enabled and empowered both large and small organizations throughout Manitoba’s capital region.”

On June 1, The Foundation’s Director of Strategic Philanthropy, Cathy Auld was one of 20 Manitobans to receive a Senate 150 Medal from Senator Patricia Bovey. Established in 2017, the medals commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Senate of Canada’s first sitting in Parliament and are awarded to those actively involved in making their communities a better place to live.

Auld was recognized for her dedicated leadership in philanthropy, connecting donors and funders to projects and organizations in our community. According to Senator Bovey, “Many have benefitted from her quiet, determined and generous manner, and her ideas and actions have enabled and empowered both large and small organizations throughout Manitoba’s capital region.”

Exceptional Supporter of Students

Frances Kusner found happiness in knowing she made students’ lives easier. Kusner and her sister, Stella Wujek, set up Scholarship Funds at The Winnipeg Foundation to help graduating students from Murdoch MacKay Collegiate Institute and Transcona Collegiate Institute. Motivated by the kindness in her heart, she volunteered at Revenue Canada for 40 years doing income tax returns — a vocation that earned her a Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, a Governor General's award recognizing exceptional volunteerism. She passed away in June at the age of 103.

Frances Kusner with some of the young women who received the scholarship she established with her sister.

ADDRESSING AGEISM

Canada’s aging population is growing. For the first time, older adults outnumber children and it is projected Canadians over the age of 65 will represent approximately 23 to 25 per cent of our population by 2036.

This spring, A & O: Support Services for Older Adults presented Ageism: An Awareness Event to examine the issue of ageism. More than 100 people participated in the panel presentation and Q&A session with experts from legal, medical, and societal perspectives that challenged the stereotypical beliefs and biases of aging.

The Honourable Janice Filmon, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba (left), bringing greetings at Ageism: An Awareness Event. Photo Courtesy of A & O: Support Services for Older Adults

TAKING ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

This fall, leaders from Canada’s largest community foundations will gather in Winnipeg for Common Ground: An executive leadership program on human rights. This unique and immersive, three-day program will help these leaders shape their organizational perspectives and apply human rights leadership principles in their workplaces and communities across Canada.
OUR FOUNDATION

TRAILBLAZER AND COMMUNITY CHAMPION HONOURED

Doneta Brotchie is a trailblazer for women’s rights. She actively promotes gender equality and has helped break down gender barriers in organizations such as Hudson’s Bay Company and CIBC, places where she had worked during her career. In 2006 she was elected the first female President of the Manitoba Club and serves on the boards of many organizations, including as Chair of The Foundation’s Board. Brotchie has a passion for our community, providing leadership for many charitable campaigns, such as Constraction Winnipeg and Bears on Broadway, and volunteering in a variety of areas, including the arts and health care.

On May 8, Brotchie was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada, one of Canada’s highest civilian honours. Created in 1967, the Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to our country.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada and Doneta Brotchie.

A PROUD WINNIPEGGER

James (Jim) Burns took great pride in being a Winnipegger. He loved his city and the communities in it. In addition to serving as the President of Great West Life, Burns dedicated himself to leaving Winnipeg—and the people in it—better off. Burns served as Chair of the Conference Board of Canada and of the Prime Minister’s Advisory Committee on Executive Compensation in Government. He received both the Order of Canada and the Order of Manitoba for his remarkable work in business and philanthropy. He started The Burns Foundation, which operates as a Family Board of Trustees under auspices of The Winnipeg Foundation. He passed away earlier this year, at the age of 89.

IAN TALKS

Local photographer and proud Winnipegger, Ian McCausland is most often found behind his camera capturing images for many local magazines and organizations, including The Winnipeg Foundation. For TEDxWinnipeg 2019 he stepped out of his usual role as their photographer and onto the stage.

TED began in 1984 as a conference on technology, entertainment and design and has grown into global forum devoted to sharing “ideas worth spreading.” TED Talks are videos filmed at TED conferences or independent TEDx events that present a great idea in 18 minutes or less. In June, McCausland presented his Ted Talk, Picture Yourself Turning Fifty, based on his photography project of the same name.

A BOOST TO GROW

The Manitoba government recently announced it will create a $52 million endowment fund at The Winnipeg Foundation for the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) Program. The fund will allow the Manitoba government to help landowners protect our province’s wetlands and the environment by implementing initiatives such as water-retention projects, natural habitat restoration and soil health improvements. Projects will be tracked and evaluated by Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

The GROW Trust Fund also allows anyone interested in protecting and strengthening of our environment to support these initiatives.

To make a gift, visit wpgfdn.org/GrowTrustFund

CAMP FOR KIDS

Every child deserves the opportunity to go to camp. The Manitoba Camping Association (MCA) is dedicated to helping children and youth from low income families attend camp, sending approximately 600 children to camp programs in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario every year through their Sunshine Fund.

Earlier this year, Foundation staff attended the Sunshine Fund’s celebration luncheon. Established at The Foundation in 2002, the Fund has provided the camp experience for more than 21,500 children.

Foundation staff with Kim Scherger (centre), Manitoba Camping Association, Executive Director.
BOARD SPOTLIGHT

ALBERT EL TASSI

DIVERSITY BREEDS SUCCESS

Born and raised in Kherbetrouha, Lebanon, Abdo (Albert) El Tassi immigrated to Winnipeg in 1969. His first job was loading trucks at Peerless Garments. In 1975, he became a proud Canadian citizen. He continued at Peerless Garments, working his way up until he was appointed General Manager in 1979 and by 2006, he became President and CEO. Along with his wife Samira, El Tassi supports many charitable causes in our community. He joined The Winnipeg Foundation’s Board in 2012, and has served on the following Committees: Finance and Audit, Development, and Strategic Initiatives.

Q: Knowing all the activities and organizations you are involved with in the City, what kinds of changes have you seen?

The change I have found that is very encouraging and hopeful is the increased diversity on Boards and staffing of organizations. The gender diversity is also a welcome and much needed change. While we still have ways to go to be fully representative of today’s diversity, the direction has been set. There is increased awareness that to be successful, organizations must take advantage of the wide variety of talents and perspective diversity brings and how essential it is for growth and relevance of any organization.

Another positive change is that philanthropy is also crossing into supporting community organizations and building cross cultural relationship by encouraging partnerships and resource sharing. Organizations are encouraged to not work in isolation but to reach out to other, likeminded organizations without fear that their collaboration will exclude them or impact their funding.

Q: Has serving on the Board of The Winnipeg Foundation added any new insights to your thinking regarding our community?

I have definitely gained some valuable insights on how to assess needs and what variables to take into account when giving, and to think of both short and long-term benefits. As member of The Winnipeg Foundation Board, I have learned from other members and their experiences, and I have been exposed to the needs of communities which has broadened my appreciation of how to best build viable projects. I have also received valuable insights in developing my own vision for supporting community through giving, with passion tempered with knowledge.

Q: Is there any alignment between Islamic traditions and the work of The Winnipeg Foundation?

Absolutely. Charitable giving is one of the tenants of the Islamic faith. It is mandatory for every Muslim of means to give two and a half per cent of their income every year, as an investment towards the needy. All that we give above and beyond this, is highly encouraged and seen as part of our faith practice. Establishing endowments is an Islamic tradition that was established 1500 years ago and is still practised today. Setting up trusts for charitable giving, where money is invested in “Halal” businesses and commodities, is encouraged. Islam allows for profit but not usury, which is the only stipulation when investing. The Foundation has shown interest in learning on how it can make these accommodations when requested, which I am very pleased about.
As we approach our centennial in 2021, The Foundation is excited to bring you snippets from our history! We will devote a page in each issue of our magazine to archival information.

Do you have an item for consideration? Please contact us at comms@wpgfdn.org

These documents were contained in a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photos, speeches, and other mementos. The scrapbook is in storage to ensure safe keeping.

This Statement of Investment, dated Nov. 1, 1924, clearly shows the $100,000 gift from Winnipeg Foundation founder William Forbes Alloway, and the $15 gift from ‘Widow’s Mite’. These two gifts solidified the premise behind The Foundation: it’s not the size of the gift, but the act of giving that matters. First Foundation grants were made to the Margaret Scott Nursing Home, the Knowles Home for Boys, and the Home of the Friendless, amongst others.
In mid-June, Foundation staff had the privilege of visiting the Turtle Lodge International Centre for Indigenous Education and Wellness on Sagkeeng First Nation, where they learned about ceremonies, teachings and history.

Turtle Lodge, also known as Anishnabe Mikinack Kina-makami, was established by Anishinabe Elder Dave Courchene as a place for sharing universal and ancient knowledge, reconnecting to the earth and nature, and sharing among people of all nations.

Elder Courchene welcomed staff and shared insights about several topics, including the Seven Sacred Laws. Walking Wolf Drum Group demonstrated a Pipe Ceremony and traditional songs, while Anishinabe Grandmother Mary Maytwayashing demonstrated the Water Ceremony. Dakota Grandmother Katherine Whitecloud explained the Grandmother Teachings, T-Dre Player discussed Rites of Passage, and Anishinabe Elder Harry Bone presented about the meaning of the Treaty. There were additional sessions by Troy Fontaine, Robert Maytwayashing and others.

The Winnipeg Foundation is committed to walking together with our community on our shared journey of truth and reconciliation. Foundation staff have shared some of their reflections from the day.

**STAFF REFLECTIONS**

“I found their words to be generous given what they had personally experienced or others close to them had experienced. Their message was one of peace and a new path forward and I found that very moving.”

“One of the things that stood out most to me was the use of symbolism and the practice of gratitude. Everything has a greater meaning and a deeper purpose, from the Seven Sacred Teachings to the design of the lodge itself. Elder Dave Courchene was right, you do not leave the lodge the same as when you entered. “

“Turtle Island is a spiritual, peaceful setting to explore our individual gifts, purpose and role. Elder Dave Courchene’s reflection that prophecy represents hope resonated deeply for me.”

“Very spiritual. The different people that talked were genuine. They were not afraid to say that they were afraid, going on the wrong path and that they found themselves and found peace again at the Turtle Lodge.”

“It was so enlightening to better understand the ceremony Indigenous culture is steeped in. This has given me a new appreciation for all the rituals that are part of our country’s DNA.”

“I really enjoyed Elder Harry Bone’s historical perspective, having been in the middle of the Indigenous rights movement for decades. It’s inspiring to hear from someone who has dedicated their life to a cause that’s been an uphill battle, but who still maintains such kindness and optimism.”

“The moment that stood out for me was when Knowledge Keeper Katherine Whitecloud told us about the burning of the teepee in Brandon University. And how there was silence. No condemnation of the act. Just another story on the news. She talked about how the one teepee was burned and later in the afternoon community members had put up four more. I took away that leadership is critical in reconciliation and that leadership comes from community.”

“A reflection that stood out from me was everything we do to support our community needs to be connected to the well-being of our environment and nature.”

Top left: The Walking Wolf Drum Group. Top right: Winnipeg Foundation CEO Rick Frost (left), with Turtle Lodge’s Sabina Ijaz and Elder Dave Courchene. Bottom: Turtle Lodge knowledge keepers and Winnipeg Foundation staff gather for a picture at the end of the day.
One thing you learn quickly about working in community is that everything is connected to everything else. We wrote our Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2021 after taking into account feedback from both the public (through Winnipeg’s Vital Signs® 2017) and from the charitable sector (as documented in Stressed, Stretched and Still Standing, released in 2018).

As with any plan, the goal is to set priorities. In our case, two areas of focus seem increasingly connected to one another.

The Indigenous people of our country represent less than five per cent of the population, but are the primary occupants of enormous tracts of natural land. A traditional Indigenous lifestyle makes for minimal contributions to Canada’s carbon footprint. Any exposure at all to Indigenous culture teaches the importance of “mother earth” and environmental stewardship. It’s easy to understand these deeply rooted values. Indigenous people are one with the land and see themselves as part of the natural world. In contrast, western society has traditionally seen the land as something to develop and exploit. These views of how the world works are very different.

An important part of truth and reconciliation is giving voice to Indigenous people’s perspective. When it comes to the priorities of our society, Canadians must admit that Indigenous voices have rarely been heard in the conversation. With the threatened extinction of thousands of species due to climate change, it is becoming absolutely apparent that perspectives once described as primitive are in fact highly advanced. In this sense, The Foundation’s focus on environmental stewardship and reconciliation are closely aligned. Our challenge now is to listen to Indigenous-led charitable organizations that are pursuing an environmental stewardship mandate. While opinions may differ, we need to hear their voices and to heed their advice for the sake of our children.

Both reports referenced in this article are available on our website: wpgfdn.org

Learn more about The Foundation’s experience at Turtle Lodge on the facing page.
“BeCause exploring, learning and connecting with nature is how we can create change in the world.”

Ian Barnett, FortWhyte Alive

“BeCause awareness and understanding of the natural world promotes sustainable living.”

Liz Wilson, FortWhyte Alive

FindyourBeCause.org
#FindyourBeCause