

# About Our Foundation



## OVERVIEW

## The Nanaimo Foundation

**Community means so many things to so many people, and the world to us.** *In all we do and all we say, we are all for community.*

We are the Nanaimo Foundation and community vitality has been our purpose, promise and passion since 1982 when we started connecting donors to community needs and opportunities. Together, we help build strong and resilient places to live, work and play.

A healthy, vibrant, livable and sustainable community. This is our vision for Nanaimo.

In our vision, our community is able to include, and offer opportunities to, everyone. It has the knowledge and ability needed to help shape its own future. Addressed by our Vital Signs publications, our citizens are able to benefit from the best our community can offer: the arts, recreation, health care, education, safe and inclusive neighbourhoods, and a healthy environment.

### **Our community foundation does three key things to build community vitality:**

- Vitality takes long-term resources for long-term solutions—so we work with donors to build endowment and other funds that ensure vital futures for communities.
- Vitality comes from all corners of a community, so we grant funds to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives.
- Vitality needs leadership, so we bring people together from all parts of our communities to stimulate new ideas, build participation and strengthen community philanthropy.

### **Our History**

The Nanaimo Foundation was established in 1982 by members of the board for the Associated Canadian Travellers Nanaimo Club (ACT).

In 2007, the Estate of former ACT Director and Board Member Nels and his wife Clela Horth, made a bequest of approximately \$900,000 to the Foundation. This bequest plus the founding contribution by the ACT formed the core of the Nanaimo Foundation, which has supported many local charities over the years.

The Nanaimo Foundation and its donors have provided 296 grants, totaling more than \$2.5 million to registered charities in Vancouver Island between 1982 and 2015.

**To learn more on how we support the Nanaimo community, please visit [www.nanaimofoundation.com](http://www.nanaimofoundation.com)**





## Ten reasons people choose community foundations.

### one

We are a **local organization** with deep roots in the community, and part of a nationwide movement whose support we build and share.

### two

We bring donors to the table as **community builders**, working closely with them to align their philanthropic vision with the community's needs.

### three

We identify **long-term needs** and opportunities and invest in solutions that let our communities guide their own future.

### four

We take a broad and inclusive view of what a community is, and **provide grants** to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives.

### five

We provide highly **personal and flexible service**, accepting a wide variety of assets and offering donors maximum tax advantage.

### six

We build **permanent funds** and those that can respond to immediate needs, helping our communities ensure vital futures.

### seven

We **multiply the impact** of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts.

### eight

We believe that diversity is strength, so we **bring the entire community together** to stimulate new ideas, build participation and strengthen community philanthropy.

### nine

We are **transparent and reputable stewards** of community resources, committed to being accountable, accessible and responsive.

### ten

We build **community vitality** – the unique and essential spirit that flourishes when people believe their community holds possibilities for everyone.

## Our Foundation in Action

*"The Nanaimo Foundation takes the time to get to know your organization and matches your needs with individuals who believe in your cause. Their independent credibility makes donors comfortable with taking the next step. They have made a major difference in our fundraising success and ability to move forward with our dream, building a world-class centre for dementia care for seniors on Vancouver Island."*

**ROBERT GROSE**  
**NANAIMO TRAVELLERS LODGE**

### Funding for capital projects leads to long term community vitality

Deborah Hollins, Executive Director of the Nanaimo Family Life Association, says, "Being an agency dedicated to the healing and well-being of those in our community in need of support, we are aware of the impact that the physical surroundings can have on one's progress to mental and emotional health. The Nanaimo Foundation has made it possible for us to achieve that goal and to provide those seeking our services with a space that is clean, colourful, and inviting."

### Our approach

Many organizations are working for better communities, but a few important factors make our approach stand out:

#### We bring donors to the table as community builders

We help them formulate and realize their philanthropic goals, matching their interests and concerns with community needs and organizations. We help them find innovative and responsible ways to give their investments lasting impact.

#### We take the broadest view of what a community is and what it needs to succeed

That's why our grants support everything from shelter, sustenance and care for those most in need, to recreation, the arts, and the environment.

#### We take the long-term view for our communities

We identify long-term needs and opportunities and invest in sustainable solutions, helping our communities become resilient, resourceful, and ready for the future they want.



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