

## Nanaimo Foundation takes part in Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund

*\$167,310 in funding available in Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Cedar, Gabriola Island and Lantzville for charities supporting COVID-19 response*

**May 19, 2020, Nanaimo, BC** – Nanaimo Foundation today announced it will be provide \$167,310 to support local charities responding to COVID-19 as part of a new partnership with [Community Foundations of Canada](#), [United Way Centraide Canada](#) and the [Canadian Red Cross](#), funded through the Government of Canada's \$350M Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). This vast national effort aims to support vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Nanaimo Foundation is among community foundations across Canada that are taking part.

"This is a vital step in the fight against COVID-19," says Nanaimo Foundation executive director Laurie Bienert. "Local charities and non-profit organizations have been working tirelessly to support those who need it most right now. This additional funding is a much-needed boost to their efforts. We're looking forward to flowing funds quickly to organizations serving vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Emergency Community Support Fund was [initially announced](#) on April 21, 2020 by the Prime Minister of Canada. It is part of a broad series of emergency response measures by the Government of Canada.

"Canadian charities and not for profits are always there to help you, in your time of need. But the COVID-19 pandemic is bringing real challenges to these important organizations. With today's announcement, the Government of Canada will be there for them so they can continue to be there for Canadians." - The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

Starting on May 19, Nanaimo Foundation will begin accepting applications for funding from qualified donees. Grants can be used for a variety of purposes, including to cover staffing or resource needs, purchase assistance and more. Funding will be issued on an ongoing basis through July 2020. Charities and community organizations are invited to visit the Nanaimo Foundation website for eligibility and application details.

“At Community Foundations of Canada, our purpose to “relentlessly pursue a future where everyone belongs” has never felt more important than it does right now,” said Andrea Dicks, Community Foundations of Canada President. “We’re grateful for the leadership of local community foundations like Nanaimo Foundation, who have been at the forefront of local response efforts since the pandemic was declared. Thanks to the Government of Canada’s contribution, our network will be able to unlock even more local impact for organizations serving vulnerable groups, helping us set the stage for more inclusive, resilient and sustainable communities.”

[www.nanaimofoundation.com/emergency-community-support-fund](http://www.nanaimofoundation.com/emergency-community-support-fund)

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### **About Nanaimo Foundation**

Since 1982, the Nanaimo Foundation has been stewarding the gifts of energy, ideas, time, and money to make meaningful and lasting impacts in our community. We inspire giving, support our local charitable sector, and build permanent endowments to address the current and future needs of our community. We help donors simplify and enhance their charitable giving, build their own legacies, and carry on their charitable wishes in perpetuity. The Nanaimo Foundation is connected to our community, and amplifies the impact of donations of all sizes through collaboration and strategic granting.

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