

## OVERVIEW

# Canada's community foundations

Helping donors do  
good work... **forever.**



**Canada's community foundations** are a national network of public foundations created by and for urban and rural communities to provide lasting support for local priorities. We are recognized sources of knowledge about local issues and are trusted for our ability to expertly manage donors' funds. Community foundations are one of Canada's largest grantmakers. In 2006, we granted more than \$137 million to a wide range of charities. Each foundation is autonomous, but we are linked and supported by Community Foundations of Canada.

### Three special features of community foundations

**One: endowment building/personalized service.** We build endowments and other funds to provide lasting support for local priorities. We make giving easy and effective, accepting a wide variety of gifts and providing donors with many charitable options. You can contribute cash, stocks, property, and other assets. You may establish a fund in your name or in the name of a loved one. And your gift qualifies for maximum tax advantage.

**Two: local grantmaking expertise.** Our foundation's staff and volunteers have a deep understanding of the issues, opportunities, and resources that shape our community. We seek out and support the most innovative and effective programs and organizations from every sector – including social services, education, the environment, health care, and the arts – adding impact to donors' charitable goals.

**Three: community leadership.** Because community foundations support all kinds of charities – not just one sector or issue – we are well positioned to bring diverse voices together to address pressing local issues. Our Board members are community leaders from all walks of life. Together, we build networks. We collaborate. We build community.

To learn more or to contact us, visit [www.cfc-fcc.ca](http://www.cfc-fcc.ca)

## Community Foundations of Canada

CFC is the national membership organization for Canada's 160+ community foundations.

Our Mission:

To build stronger communities by enhancing the philanthropic leadership of community foundations.

Our Strategic Goals:

- \* support established and emerging community foundations
- \* promote philanthropy and community foundations
- \* model philanthropic leadership in Canada and internationally

## Maximizing Community Foundation Value

### Ten reasons people choose to give through community foundations

#### one

We are a **local organization** with deep roots in the community.

#### two

Our staff and volunteers have **broad expertise** regarding community issues and needs.

#### three

We provide highly **personalized service** tailored to each individual's charitable and financial interests.

#### four

Our funds help people **invest in the causes** they care about most.

#### five

We accept a wide **variety of assets**, and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.

#### six

We partner with **professional advisors** to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving.

#### seven

We offer maximum **tax advantage** for most gifts under federal law.

#### eight

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

#### nine

We build **endowment funds** that benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies.

#### ten

We are a **community leader**, fostering collaboration on issues of broad interest to create positive change.

### Community Foundations of Canada

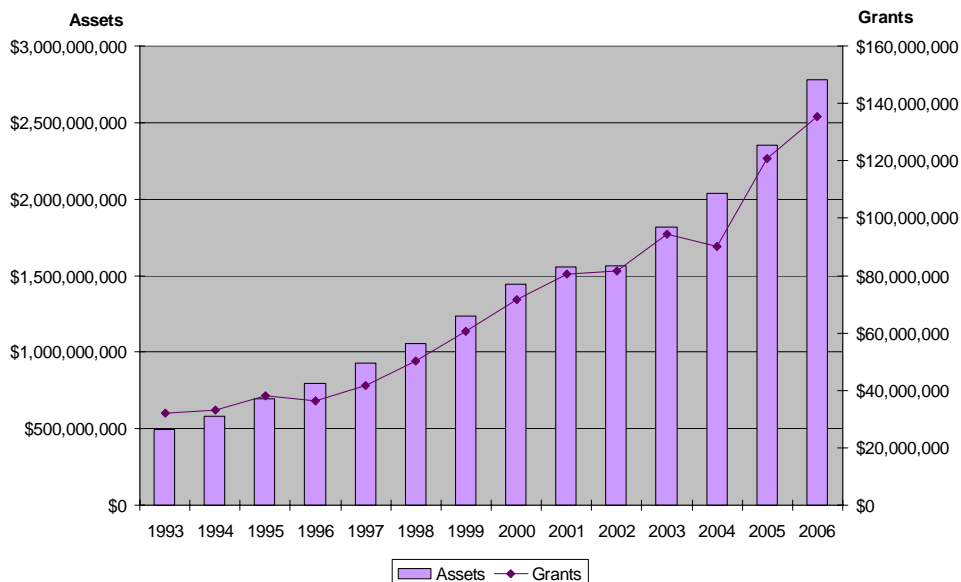
Canada's first community foundation was established in Winnipeg in 1921. Today, there are more than 160 community foundations in Canada, from coast to coast. **Community Foundations of Canada**, our national membership organization, was established in 1992.

CFC is the movement's central point for expertise and professional development, for strategic visioning, for pan-Canadian initiatives, and for connection with other networks. CFC is a strong voice for philanthropy in Canada and around the world.

### Challenging Philanthropy: CFC's Current Directions

- ④ **Quality of life indicators:** in 2007, CFC and community foundations in 11 communities researched and produced "Vital Signs" community report cards that are setting the agenda in local communities. In 2008, even more community foundations will join Vital Signs –for more information, visit [www.vitalsignscanada.ca](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca)
- ④ **Environment:** CFC is supporting 21 members to build endowment funds and strengthen community environmental efforts. We are supported by the McConnell Foundation
- ④ **Immigrant settlement and diversity:** CFC helped "turn up the volume" on these issues with a 2006 report on the reality of immigrant settlement in Canada, *Unsettled: Legal and Policy Barriers for Newcomers to Canada*. We've also developed tools for community foundations to begin to examine local diversity challenges
- ④ **Poverty and social justice:** CFC is helping community foundations tackle the root causes of our most complex social problems. We are supported by the Ford Foundation and Social Development Canada
- ④ **Youth:** since 1998, CFC has focused on bringing youth into the community foundation movement – building Canada's cadre of future leaders.

Asset and Granting Growth in Canadian Community Foundations, 1993 to 2006



## Milestones

# Canada's Community Foundations: Milestones

- 1921** Canada's **first community foundation**, The Winnipeg Foundation, is established.
- 1952** Canada's **first donor advised fund** is established at Vancouver Foundation
- 1992** **Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) is officially founded** to provide a national network for the growing movement. It begins with 28 members and combined assets of about half a billion dollars.
- 2001** Randall Moffat, former president of Moffat Communications, announces a **\$100 million gift** to The Winnipeg Foundation - the largest ever given to a Canadian community foundation.
- 2003** CFC launches **Supporting Your Community**, a unique philanthropic program offered by Bank of Montreal Financial Group in conjunction with Community Foundations of Canada and participating community foundations.
- 2006** Canada's community foundations launch **Vital Signs®**, a new national project aimed at measuring the vitality of their communities. Yearly report cards track and grade each community's quality of life in key areas such as the economy, health, housing, learning, and the environment. The project is based on Toronto's Vital Signs®, developed by Toronto Community Foundation and first published in 2001. Toronto, Victoria, Vancouver, Ottawa, and Montreal participate in 2006.
- This report and the increasingly coordinated conscious words and actions of community foundations across Canada is a key mechanism for facing poverty, dealing with the financial risks of immigration, confronting the income gap and the low-cost housing shortage. Conscious people have the tools to act and this report is just that – a vital tool for action.

*John Ralston Saul, Writer and Co-Chair of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, regarding **Vital Signs®**.*
- 2007** Community Foundations of Canada launches a partnership with **1% for the Planet**, an alliance of 500 companies from more than 20 countries that commit at least one per cent of their revenue each year to supporting environmental causes.
- 2007** **CFC celebrates its 15th anniversary**. The community foundation movement is now one of Canada's largest grantmakers, with \$2.7 billion in assets and distributing \$137 million in 2006 to charities across the country.
- 2007** 11 Community Foundations produce **Vital Signs®** in 2007: Toronto, Victoria, Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal, Waterloo Region, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Greater Saint John, Red Deer, and Sudbury.
- 2008** CFC hosts its **10th conference** in Montreal, Quebec, November 7-9, 2008. *Our Communities. Our World.* is the theme of this international gathering of community philanthropy colleagues. Come meet the world in Montreal 2008: [www.cfc-fcc.ca/conference2008](http://www.cfc-fcc.ca/conference2008).

