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Lorne Cardinal was photographed by Lucas Boutilier on the set of Where the Blood Mixes.



# Message from the CEO



ELCOME TO THE JUNE ISSUE OF LEGACY IN ACTION.

ECF has a long history of supporting Nations communities, including our flagship Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards Fund, which provides over \$2 million annually in scholarships for post-secondary education. In line with that history we're pleased to feature Canadian



icon Lorne Cardinal on the cover of this issue. Lorne starred in Theatre Network's 2013 production of Where the Blood Mixes, a Governor General's Award-

winning play that explores the haunting impact of Canadian residential schools. ECF was pleased to provide a grant in support of Theatre Network's outreach program. The goal was to bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Albertans together to start a conversation about residential schools and to begin the healing process.

On page 11 there is an article about MSGPS, a consolidated support system for Edmontonians suffering from multiple sclerosis. An ECF grant enabled the local chapter of the MS Society of Canada to create this resource — the first of its kind in the region.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LARRY PANA, LINDA HUGHES, DAVID MCCALLA, TERENA DELANEY, GURVINDER BHATIA, JOANNE BERGER, CARMAN MCNARY (CHAIR), TED KOURI, NANCY REYNOLDS, MARTIN GARBER-CONRAD (CEO)

BOARDMEMBERS NOT PRESENT: JOHN MAH ANNE MCLELLAN LIZ O'NEILL GARTH WARNER

ECF wouldn't be able to support this kind of innovation without the growing number of generous Edmontonians who created 53 new funds in 2012. One such fund creator is Gurvinder Bhatia and you can read about his "Friends United for YEG Fund" on page 12. This story illustrates what Edmonton Community Foundation is all about: citizens investing in their city to make it more vibrant and dynamic. This is the power of endowment — now and for generations to come.

Speaking of Edmontonians investing in their own city, check out the article on page 8 featuring one of Edmonton's foremost philanthropic families: Doug Stollery and ECF's retiring grants director, Scott Graham.

In the year ahead ECF is exploring the issue of

"food security" and will publish a report on it in October as part of Vital Signs®, a national community foundation initiative. The Edmonton report is a collaboration with Edmonton Social Planning Council, two levels of government and a number of food related organizations in town. To highlight food-related issues, we are delighted to host Jeremy Iles, Chief Executive of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, UK, as guest speaker at our annual general meeting. Join us on June 13, 2013 to hear Jeremy share his considerable expertise in supporting community growing spaces.

For further information regarding other ECF events, financials, grants and donors, please visit our website at www.ecfoundation.org or contact the office at 780-426-0015 if you would like copies of any of these documents. Thank you for checking us out.

Waster G.C

MARTIN GARBER-CONRAD

# State Street

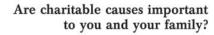
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laying a father whose long-lost daughter returns home after being seized as a baby was an emotionally exhausting experience for actor Lorne Cardinal.

The Gemini-winning actor thought of his parents, both residential school survivors, every time he took to the stage to portray his character Floyd in Where the Blood Mixes. "My parents were always in the back of my head. The trick was not taking that home with me," says Cardinal.

The play is a tale of repressed memories, hidden secrets and the power of the human spirit. The main characters' in the Theatre Network production are victims of the country's notorious residential schools, which housed thousands of aboriginal children in Canada.

Cardinal, an aboriginal stage, television and film actor, well-known for his roles in Corner Gas and North of 60, relied on years of acting experience to portray the tough emotional journey experienced by his character. It was a challenge to keep audiences engaged in the sad story while repeating the emotional performance night after night.

"You have to use the craft of acting to not just go stay in the dark, you have to find the light," Cardinal says.

Cardinal found some of that light in the reaction of the audiences, who night after night clapped, cried and hugged after watching the play, which detailed exactly how residential schools cast a shadow on the main character's life.

"It's an ugly piece of Canadian history that needs to be brought out into the light for both people who went to residential schools and people who have no idea about them," Cardinal says.

Thanks to an Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) grant, the performance, which played at Edmonton's Roxy Theatre for

three weeks in February, was able to reach a wider audience.

ECF reviews a few grant applications a week and Scott Graham, director of community grants with ECF, says that Theatre Network's application for funding stood out. The play employed local artists, and tradespeople, while telling an important, relevant story, and engaging a range of audiences.

ECF funding went towards hiring outreach coordinator Rosalie Gray, who developed strategies to encourage both aboriginal and non-aboriginal Albertans to come see the play. The outreach coordinator, who came to the position with a lot of event planning experience and existing contacts in the community, reached out to aboriginal people, organizations and businesses to draw audiences in. "Literally, everyone from high school students to elders," says Fawnda Mithrush, general manager of the Theatre Network.

Mithrush said the organization has never before hired a coordinator to draw in such a specific audience, but it "paid off in spades." Shows were packed and the outreach coordinator even organized "talk backs" with school-aged kids at weekday matinees. "It was great for them to see not only a play about their heritage and history but also see aboriginal actors on stage," she says.

Some of the grant money also went towards helping with transportation, as aboriginal audiences bussed in from places including Frog Lake. "Without [Gray], we wouldn't have most of the audiences that we did have," Cardinal says.

The actor believes the play was essential for both aboriginal and non-aboriginal audiences to see.

"It's about starting a conversation to promote healing and the way you do that is just by talking about things," Cardinal says.

The play educated people who were unfamiliar with residential schools. It promoted healing among those who have experienced



"I think it's very important for an organization like the ECF to step forward and support a play with such important resonance and magnitude"

the affects of the church-run, government-funded institutions first-hand by using theatre to bring to light a painful topic many aboriginals have avoided talking about for decades, says Cardinal. "I think it's very important for an organization like the ECF to step forward and support a play with such important resonance and magnitude," Cardinal says. "I think it's very brave."

Much of the social and moral fabric of the aboriginal culture has been damaged by the traumatic events children endured at residential schools, says Cardinal. Kids left the schools both emotionally hurt and physically and sexually abused and then had children of their own, meaning the impacts of the institutions have profoundly impacted generations of Canadians.

"It's a horrible cycle," Cardinal says. "This play is one of the steps towards breaking that cycle."

It's a cycle Cardinal knows well. The issue of alcohol abuse that is prominent throughout the play is all too familiar for Cardinal. Like many survivors of the trauma of residential school, Cardinal's father turned to alcohol as a way to self-medicate the lingering hurt from his difficult childhood.

Cardinal says he experienced first-hand the rage and helplessness that Floyd goes through in the play. The return of Floyd's daughter forces him to confront repressed memories and unbury years of hurt caused by his time in residential schools, his wife's death and the subsequent apprehension of his daughter.

When Cardinal's father was in his late sixties, and Cardinal was in his thirties, his father revealed to Cardinal and his brother that he had been sexually-abused decades before when he attended residential school.

"When he said that, our whole lives just kind of fell into place," Cardinal says, noting the revelation helped make sense of his father's struggles with alcohol and the anger, hurt and rage Cardinal felt from his father throughout his life.

Cardinal saw the play as an homage to both his mother and father and the difficult past they shared with so many other Canadians. "I was doing the play in memory of my parents because they have both passed on," he says. "It's their story as well that we have got to tell."

While Where the Blood Mixes wrestled with heavy topics, it also used humour to engage audiences and keep viewers laughing and crying. The demanding show left audiences and actors both emotionally exhausted and ready to move past the pain.

# Awards assist aboriginal community

Scott Graham sees Edmonton Community Foundation as a point of community connectivity.

It's fitting then, for the foundation to directly support the city's aboriginal residents.

"They are the community," says Graham, director of community grants with ECF. "They are who we are, and we are who they are, and that is why we support them."

Every year, a range of ECF grants and funds are dedicated to assisting Edmonton's aboriginal residents. For more than a decade, the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards have helped aboriginal Albertans attend post-secondary institutions across the country. The financial awards, which are given to Métis students with demonstrated financial need, have provided more than \$4.5 million to students since 2002.

The ECF also supports aboriginal students through the Shauna Seneca Award Fund, which is designated for a MacEwan University student in the child and youth care program. The scholarship is named after Seneca, a prominent Edmontonian who dedicated her life to serving others through work with Alberta Family and Social Services and the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, which she co-founded.

"This award supports an aboriginal student who is experiencing financial need and is really committed to a career in services for children and youth, has a history of leadership and volunteerism, and someone who really needs that financial boost to get through their program," explains Craig Stumpf-Allen, director of special funds at ECF.

In addition to helping aboriginal students pursue post-secondary education, ECF helps educate the public about aboriginal culture, art and heritage by providing annual support to the Dreamspeakers Festival Society through the Native Cultural Awareness Fund. "The fund was set up by family, in memory of their father, who was a judge," says Stumpf-Allen.

ECF has also supported aboriginal men, women and children by awarding Aboriginal Consulting Services of Alberta with a grant, which was used to renovate the agency's facility and thus expand important programming for aboriginal clients.

# LIFE-LONG SUCCESS

Doug Stollery and Scott Graham share their lives and Charitable Goals





hey're calling it retirement, but rest assured that Scott Graham and Doug Stollery won't be sitting back on reclining lawn chairs overlooking a golf course in Phoenix.

While they haven't yet solidified their plans, this couple will certainly continue doing what they do best after their formal retirements this summer, and that is making the world a better place.

Graham has been a linchpin for Edmonton Community Foundation for the past decade, and has made his mark as the director of community grants. Stollery has a national profile as a lawyer, both in construction and human rights, as well as helping to administer the charity his father founded, the Stollery Charitable Foundation. He is the director and president of the foundation, handling all the legal issues, financial investments and granting duties.

ECF chief executive officer Martin Garber-Conrad says the couple has done much more than just don fancy bow ties and schmooze at galas. With the original founders of ECF all gone, Graham and Stollery provide an important link to the last generation, he says.

More importantly, they represent the volunteerism, co-operation and philanthropy, combined with an entrepreneurial spirit that gets things done, and goes a long way to defining Edmonton.

As director of community grants for the foundation, Graham understands what needs to be done, while doing a remarkable job of building relationships with the community of donors and agencies, Garber-Conrad says.

"I know that anything in the grants area will be handled with a very high level of responsibility," says Garber-Conrad. "I never have to worry about whether the work will get done or the quality of it."

One of Graham's big accomplishments has been the way he has distributed Foundation Directed Initiatives (FDIs), discretionary grants that go to agencies based on community impact and needs. It's a proactive program, which spares receiving agencies from spending time and resources writing grant proposals and long reports. And it's succeeded because of the way Graham has implemented the program.

"It works very well because of his good judgment and the relationships Scott has developed over the years," he says. A program like that could go wrong either by getting money to areas that aren't important to the community, or to agencies that become lazy and regard it as easy money. But it has been successful since it started as a pilot project in 2007, he says.

Graham doesn't like taking credit for the success of FDIs, but he finds it rewarding that the grants, which are usually on a three-year renewable term, are making a difference to agencies such as the Edmonton Social Planning Council, Terra Association for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and the Bissell Centre. "Lots of people spend all their time chasing dollars instead of doing what they do best, such as working with people with disabilities."



Graham also steered the foundation's Youth Empowerment Program, which has provided grants for a number of initiatives, including projects to tackle youth homelessness and help young Rwandan immigrants, as well as artistic ventures such as documentaries. Probably the most rewarding part of that program is that the panel reviewing grant applications consists of young people between the ages of 13 and 22.

"They spend it like it's their own [money] — they're very aware of its importance to youth," says Graham.

Before joining the foundation, Graham worked as an administrator for Alberta College and the Alberta's Commission

on Learning. He realized his dream of working for ECF shortly after "cold-calling" former CEO Doug McNally. Initially there were no job openings, but McNally invited him to an interview when a position became vacant.

Doug Stollery was born into a family well-known in Edmonton for philanthropy. His parents, Bob and Shirley, were co-founders of ECF, and set up the Stollery Charitable Foundation, and were instrumental in the establishment of the Stollery Children's Hospital.

"What I learned from my parents was hard work, humility, humour and compassion," says Stollery. "I think those were the four touchstones for them."

Bob Stollery was also the CEO of PCL Construction, Canada's largest construction company, responsible for high profile projects from Pearson International Airport to a \$1 billion hospital in Melbourne, Australia. Doug Stollery was taken to PCL sites from the age of two months. But he went into law in the 1970s, attending the University of Alberta and Harvard Law School, clerking at the Supreme Court of Canada before returning to Edmonton and joining the firm of Reynolds Mirth, where he did a lot of legal work for PCL. Seven years ago he joined PCL as general counsel, and his legal work has earned him numerous national awards.

Stollery says that law and charity go very well together.

"What I learned from my parents was hard work, humility humour and compassion," says Stollery. I think those were the four touchstones for them."

Many lawyers do pro-bono legal work, but they are also drawn to volunteer community work because it's a way to engage with the community, and their skills and knowledge are invaluable to an organization.

Stollery is well-known for his work with publicprivate partnerships, or P3s, which involves contracting the design, construction, financing and long-term maintenance of public facilities to the private sector. But

the work that has meant the most to him has been his pro-bono promotion of human rights, which included the renowned case of Delwin Vriend, who was fired from Edmonton's King's University College for being gay. Stollery was part of the legal team that argued the case at the Supreme Court of Canada, which found that Alberta's human rights legislation violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by failing to protect gay people from discrimination.

Stollery wants to use his legal expertise to continue fighting for human rights, possibly overseas or right here in Edmonton. There are plenty of countries with blatant abuse of human rights

> many opportunities to lend his training to organizations such as Amnesty International.

He could also put his expertise in construction law to work. He was part of a G20 committee looking at infrastructure development, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Stollery sees possibilities in using his knowledge about P3s that could lead to better maintenance of facilities such as bridges and hospitals in developing countries

where maintenance is often ignored.

The question of whether the couple will be here or some farflung part of the world is still up in the air. "In today's world you can do a lot of things for other parts of the world from your home base," Graham says.

Wherever they end up, their ties to Edmonton will not be cut. Both Graham and Stollery have joined luminaries such as k.d. lang, Brian Burke and Olivia Chow on the honourary committee of the University of Alberta's Institute of Sexual Minority Studies and Services, which oversees research projects and provides services such as Camp fYrefly, a summer camp that provides leadership skills to gay teens.

And Garber-Conrad says that their relationship with ECF and the city's philanthropic organizations won't end with retirement.

"I'm confident that wherever their life takes them, Edmonton will be part of their lives."  ${\color{olive} \bullet}$ 



# MSGPS

A Personalized Road Map for Navigating Life with MS

tephen Persaud, a dairy manager for IGA, first noticed his fatigue as he unloaded the heavy pallets of milk from the truck. Over the next six months, his fatigue grew, then he noticed a slight limp. It was his colleagues' concern that led him to make an appointment with his doctor.

At 29 years old, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is a complex neurological disease that attacks the myelin, the protective covering around the nerves of the central nervous system. It is an unpredictable disease and Persaud had no way to know how the disease would progress.

MS affects every person differently. Some experience mild symptoms for years, and others will experience episodes of relapsing and remitting. Relapses can also be unpredictable: one time, a person's leg might go numb and the next time, they'll have vision problems.

The uncertainty of the disease makes it difficult to plan one's life. A group of stakeholders were reflecting on this at a meeting of the MS Society, Alberta and Northwest Territories Division, when one woman offered, "We need a GPS for MS."

Individuals are often overwhelmed by the planning required to live with MS. "They need someone who can guide them through all the different systems: government departments, insurance companies, medical systems," says Valerie Borggarg, coordinator of the MS Society, Alberta and Northwest Territories Division's new MSGPS pilot program. "They need someone

who can put it all together, and when they reach a barrier, problem solve how to get around the road block."

After being diagnosed, Persaud says, "My dining room table was full of papers — the first year was basically paperwork related to long-term disability benefits. At first I didn't know what I was entitled to. Now, I just bring the paper work to Valerie and she walks me through it."

Funded in part by Edmonton Community Foundation, the MSGPS pilot project started in November 2012. Borggarg is a social worker by training but she's become an expert at reading fine print on insurance claims, and making difficult technical jargon make sense. She is an advocate and master planner. She is a human GPS.

Every individual presents her with their unique 'road blocks.' Some, like Persaud, need help establishing long-term financial stability. Others must navigate government systems for help they never thought they'd require. Accessible housing, childcare, and social supports are frequent needs. For many, there is the fatigue that descends like fog and makes upcoming problems virtually impossible to anticipate.

"For many people, one of the hardest things to face with a life of MS is admitting that their life will be different than they planned," says Borggarg. What many individuals need is support in the process of re-imagining their life plan.

By helping him work out long-term disability benefits with his private insurer, Borggarg has relieved Persaud of significant stress. Persaud says, "With MS I can still have goals; only now, how I get there looks a little different." •



# A group of friends open an endowment fund and have a blast every step of the way

#### f you think you need to be a millionaire to start an endowment fund, think again.

When Gurvinder Bhatia became a board member at Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) in 2011 he felt it was important to show that ECF isn't an organization that depends on the rich to help the poor. Instead, he sees ECF as an "inclusive part of the community that everyone can be involved with."

With this in mind, Bhatia and his wife Aimee Hill thought about the \$10,000 minimum required to start a fund at ECF. They wondered why one person should donate the entire lump sum when they could gather a group of friends, and have each contribute to an endowment.

Everyone's successful, but not wealthy so we thought it would be good to do this as a group," Bhatia says. "The minimum threshold to start a fund is \$10,000, but you can take 10 years to get there. Get 20 people to contribute \$500. There are so many natural groups of people out there — family groups, work organizations."

So, that's what they did on April 2, 2013 when 22 of their closest friends gathered for salmon pate, wine and a cheque signing ceremony to open the Friends United for YEG Fund.

The 24 donors have committed to an annual donation of \$500 each for the next five years. At this rate the fund will grow to \$60,000 by 2018, and though the group doesn't know which organizations they want to support yet, it will begin granting out 3.5 per cent to local charities as soon as it reaches \$10,000. The group will also receive a 50 per cent tax credit for each gift, which means the individual donors will receive approximately \$1,250 in tax credits over the five year period.

The Friends United for YEG is a donor advised fund (DAF), explains ECF's director of donor services Kathy Hawkesworth. DAFs are the most flexible option ECF offers and are a popular choice for donors, because they have direct influence over who gets their grants. However creating them as a group is rare.

Usually group funds are set up to memorialize friends and relatives who have passed away. Or sometimes corporations will set them up to include its employees in granting as an incentive. But Bhatia's group is different; it's a group of "friends building community in the greater Edmonton area," Hawkesworth says. "I don't know of any other that's quite like it."

To create the group, Bhatia reached out to his inner circle, including Carla Corbett, the Executive Director, Operations and Client Connections, Enterprise and Advanced Education, Apprenticeship and Industry Training for the Government of Alberta, who signed up immediately. Corbett has known Bhatia since he was a Grade 10 student at Old Scona High School while she was attending university with Bhatia's sister Priti Laderoute, who is also in the fund group. Corbett jokes that she always knew Bhatia as "the little brother." Over the years Corbett has devoted hundreds of hours volunteering for local sports organizations including a stint at president of the Edmonton Women's Field Hockey Association and as a board member of Field Hockey Canada. It was through her volunteer work that she became familiar with ECF. She says that the chance to help Edmonton grow from a "good city to a great city" is what attracted her to the idea of joining the group.

"We want to create opportunities so everyone can have the kinds of advantages we had," Corbett says.

For Hawkesworth, helping donors define their purpose for the funds is the most rewarding part of her job. She takes great pleasure in helping people pinpoint the issues and causes that matter most to them, and determining how their resources can help reach their goals. For the Friends United for YEG Fund they'll be getting together as a group once a year to discuss where they want their grant to go. And that sounds like fun.

"We have a great group of friends who just love an excuse to get together to have a good time," Bhatia says. "It was so easy. People need to understand how simple it is to start a fund this way."

# opening a group endowment step-by-

# Talk to Your Friends

Find a group of like-minded people that want to join the fund. "There are so many natural groups of people out there — family groups, work organizations," Gurvinder Bhatia says. Approach them with the idea and see what they say.

# Find Your Passion

Once you have your team, it's time to brainstorm. "Get together and meet and have some fun choosing what you want to support," says Kathy Hawkesworth, ECF's director of donor services. Maybe there's a specific organization or cause you want to help. Talk to your friends and see if you can come to a consensus. If you can't, don't worry. Donor advised funds don't have to support the same cause every granting cycle. You can alternate. One year you might support a health and wellness organization, the next year an arts company or an environmental charity.

# Craft an Agreement

ECF will help you put your fund's mission into an official agreement. It will outline the goals and expectations of all the parties involved. The agreement acts as an indicator that ECF understands what you want the fund to be and how the granting decisions will be made. "Just call us," Hawkesworth says. "We love to put together these agreements."



# Get the Cheques

It takes \$10,000 to start a fund and you can take 10 years to contribute the full amount. Get your group of friends to chip in and follow the donation plan you agree upon to reach your goal. "It doesn't matter if you're at an income level where you can open a \$1 million fund, or a \$50,000 level, or \$1,000 for a year," Bhatia says.

# Upkeep

Once the fund has reached \$10,000, it's ready to start granting. It's up to your group to decide how much involvement they want to have in this process. "Our group has a very informal fund committee where if there's a cause or organization of particular interest to the group they can offer up the idea," Bhatia says. "Otherwise the funds will be left up to the ECF board's discretion." Either way, ECF will keep you informed on the status of your fund and where the money is going.

# spotlight on funds

Here are three of many donors who chose ECF to organize their giving

BY: ECF STAFF

#### **Tommy Banks Performing Artists Fund**

As an acclaimed musician himself, former senator Tommy Banks has seen many local musicians struggle economically as they reach retirement. That's why he opened the Tommy Banks Performing Artists Fund. His vision is to provide support for musicians who have devoted their entire lives to the Edmonton music scene. Through a successful fundraising recital that included performances from Tommy Banks, PJ Perry and many others at the First Presbyterian Church last October, a sizeable contribution was made to the fund. This fund is a great example of the community rallying behind a very important cause.

#### **ABC Head Start**

For over 28 years ABC Head Start has strived to enhance the ability of children to succeed in learning and life by providing unique programming for families with pre-school children living on a limited income. This programming, including a half-day preschool program, is made possible by The Nurturing the Future Club which is made up of many individuals who contribute to the endowment fund by making a donation or leaving money in their will. Since the fund was established in 2006, with an initial amount of \$100,000, the program has received funds annually, totaling \$46,336. Many non-profits establish an endowment so they can benefit from secure, stable funding that helps them meet their growing needs.

#### June Virginia Robinson **Memorial Award Fund**

When Harold Robinson established the June Virginia Robinson Memorial Award Fund in December 2010 he knew it was important. Harold wanted to honour his late mother, and support other single Métis mothers trying to improve their education. He knew there would be excellent tax benefits associated with his gifts (a 50 per cent tax credit on donations over \$200), but what surprised him was just how satisfying it was to remember and celebrate his mother's life and values through the fund. "I felt really connected to her again and that, I think, is one of the great joys of these funds," Robinson says. Our donors really do make a difference, one and all.

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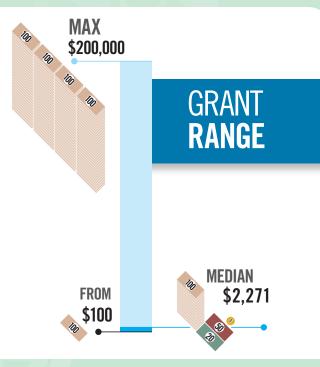
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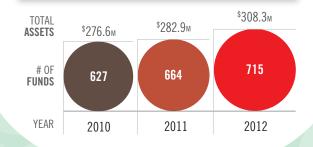
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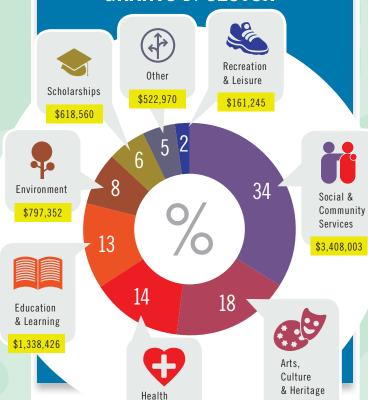




WE GRANTED

THIS INCLUDED 869 GRANTS TO **428 ORGANIZATIONS 200 SCHOLARSHIPS** 

# BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS BY SECTOR



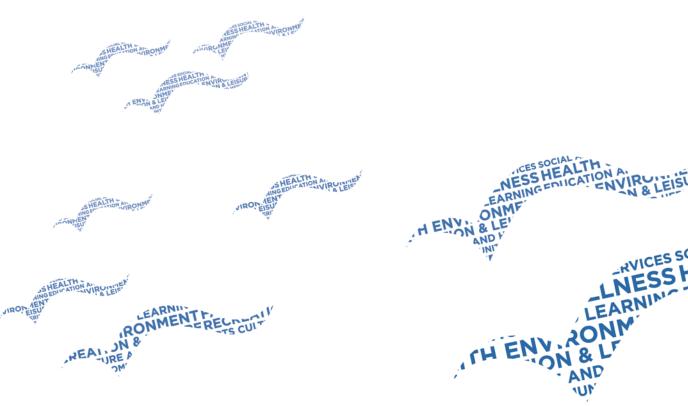
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012 16,227,723

& Wellness

\$1,468,918

For the most up-to-date financial statments visit ecfoundation.org

\$1,854,856



# Are there community causes that are important to you?

Your will may be an ideal way to provide a lasting gift to the charities of your choice.

To create an endowment fund that will create a truly lasting legacy please contact Donor Services at the Edmonton Community Foundation.

Call **780-426-0015** or visit our website **www.ecfoundation.org** 





