



# InTouch

Spring 2016

Timeless contributions.  
Endless possibilities.

## Spotlight on *Grants*

Written by Elizabeth Bonkink, communications advisor

Do Likewise Society, which runs The Neighbour Centre (TNC), recently hired a resource development manager (RDM) with support of a \$40,000 grant from ECF. Bobbie O’Conner was hired in November of 2014 and has made notable changes at TNC.

“We are able to tell our story better. He has the ability to write and tell a story. We are telling a fuller picture of what it costs to serve someone. He refreshed the material we use and improved our branding,” said Kris Knutson, executive director of TNC.

TNC opened in 2012 to address the needs of neighbours experiencing homelessness and poverty in the Strathcona area, offering emergency relief, food, showers, and community

connections.

“About 65 per cent of our clients will be sleeping outside tonight, and approximately 50 to 90 per cent of the people are in need of housing,” said Paula Cornell, program manager. Their location near the River Valley makes it easily accessible to the homeless who frequent there.

Thanks to the funding from ECF, a dedicated staff person means the organization is able to maintain focus on those in need without losing sight of donors and volunteers.

“Since the addition of the RDM, donor communications are stronger and we are able to pay personal attention to donors. We have recruited more

volunteers and re-connected with previous donors,” said Knutson. The organization had mainly focused on serving clients. O’Conner has also streamlined the processes for the much needed volunteers, “making it more official,” said Cornell.

Additionally O’Conner is working on a database and growing the donor list. Knutson says that with this information they are able to pull reports for board reporting.

Eventually the organization would like to move out to a larger more functional facility. “We outgrew this space about 90 days after we opened,” said Knutson. They are currently looking at taking over an old church or co-habiting with another organization.



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Martin Garber-Conrad

## CEO Message

Welcome to *InTouch*. It won’t be long until ECF’s Annual Meeting and I hope you will join us for lunch to hear about many of the positive things happening in our local community. And, to help us see more widely, Lloyd Axworthy, politician, statesman and academic, will address our role as Canadians in assisting Syrian refugees. I very much look forward to seeing you on June 9<sup>th</sup> at The Westin Edmonton.

Mr. Axworthy’s talk relates well to the topic of our upcoming Vital Signs report, focusing on Edmonton’s newcomers (refugees and immigrants) and how we can all play a role in social inclusion. We chose this topic to coincide with work that End Poverty Edmonton is doing. One of the priorities adopted by the Mayor’s task force is the need to eliminate racism. Visible minorities are largely over represented among those living in poverty in Edmonton. The End Poverty Edmonton report will include solid research into the systemic barriers facing newcomers. The report goes to

City Council at the end of May.

I am also very pleased to let you know that Alex Draper, one of ECF’s grant associates, has been chosen as Community Foundations of Canada’s first Philanthropy Fellow. Alex will be doing a data integration project that will benefit local charities and inform non-profit sector practice more widely. You can read more about what Alex is planning on page 3.

Also in this edition of *Intouch*, ECF’s donor services team provides an update on Canada’s ever-changing tax regulations.

Finally, on the back page, there’s a story about a recent ECF community grant. Do Likewise Society hired a resource development manager and the position is proving quite useful to the organization. This is an excellent example of how ECF grants help make Edmonton neighbourhoods stronger.

All the best,



### New to *ECF*

ECF is pleased to welcome Lisa Pruden as executive assistant to the CEO.



## HOLD THE DATE! Edmonton Community Foundation’s Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2016,  
11:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Westin Edmonton  
- 10135 100 Street NW



Guest speaker:  
**Lloyd Axworthy**

“Importance of Canada’s role in the refugee crisis and how we, as citizens, can make the transition easier for them.”

Please RSVP your attendance:

[Annualmeeting@ecfoundation.org](mailto:Annualmeeting@ecfoundation.org)  
or 780.702.7628

Edmonton Community Foundation



[ecfoundation.org](http://ecfoundation.org) 780.426.0015



For change of address please advise:  
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9910-103 Street NW  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2V7



Edmonton Community Foundation



[ecfoundation.org](http://ecfoundation.org) 780.426.0015



## Tax season update Good news and *bad news*

Written by Kathy Hawkesworth, director of donor services

If you've done your 2015 personal tax return, you know that charitable gifts have a great impact on taxes payable. This is especially true in Alberta, where individual donors enjoy a tax credit of 50 per cent on gifts to charity that exceed \$200. While maximum limits on this credit exist, few donors actually reach those limits.

For gifts made in 2016, the federal government has increased its portion of this tax credit by four per cent for donors who have more than \$200,000 in taxable income. That makes the top charitable donation tax credit in Alberta 54 per cent.

### Status Quo:

The additional tax incentive for gifts of publicly traded securities remains the same. This popular incentive eliminates

the tax on any capital gain if these securities are given "in kind" to a Canadian registered charity.

### Bad News:

Before the last federal election, draft changes to the Income Tax Act (ITA) were proposed to become effective in 2017. Under the proposals, capital gains on real estate and private company shares would not be taxed if the proceeds of the sale were given to a Canadian registered charity (within time limits). Unfortunately, this proposal was abolished in the recent federal budget.

### Now we wait...

Over the past year, many changes have been enacted regarding how charitable gifts in wills, life insurance, and RRSP/RRIF/TSFA designations are handled for tax purposes.

The basic rules remain wonderfully similar. The 50 per cent (or 54 per cent) tax credit can create significant tax savings so that donors choose how more of their estates are shared. Further tax can be saved where publicly traded securities are transferred "in kind" to a charity as part of the administration of an estate.

The new rules affect how and when these gifts are valued and receipted. Ensuring that the charity actually receives its gift within five years has become extremely important for the donor's estate to receive all the benefits that the ITA provides. Time will tell how much impact, positive and negative, these changes will have. Changes to the taxation of trusts (including gifts to charities as part of a trust plan) continue to be eagerly discussed and especially require input from a professional advisor.

**the nina**  
Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts  
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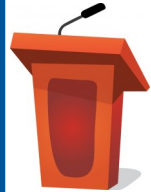
**Create. Connect. Change Lives.**

When genuine voices find expression through art, something magical happens. As an art lover, you know that every piece of art has a story. At the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, that story is always positive. When given the freedom to create, adults with developmental disabilities can change their lives.

Contact [rona@thenina.ca](mailto:rona@thenina.ca) to book a tour and if you love what you see, consider making the Nina part of your legacy.

The Nina Haggerty Fund at Edmonton Community Foundation helps change lives. Call 780-426-0015 to make a difference.

### Need a dynamic speaker for your group?



ECF has many qualified speakers available for presentations.

#### Please contact us!

To book:

•For **charitable giving, starting a fund or taxation** topics: Kathy Hawkesworth at [khawkesworth@ecfoundation.org](mailto:khawkesworth@ecfoundation.org)

•For **Vital Signs report** topics: Elizabeth Bonkink at [ebonkink@ecfoundation.org](mailto:ebonkink@ecfoundation.org)  
Or phone 780-426-0015.

## Community Philanthropy *Fellow*

ECF is pleased to announce that Alex Draper, donor grants associate, has been selected as the first Community Philanthropy Fellow (CPF).

CPF is a joint initiative of the Carold Institute and Community Foundations of Canada to offer an opportunity to build knowledge, enhance leadership skills, and advance community philanthropy through a sabbatical project.

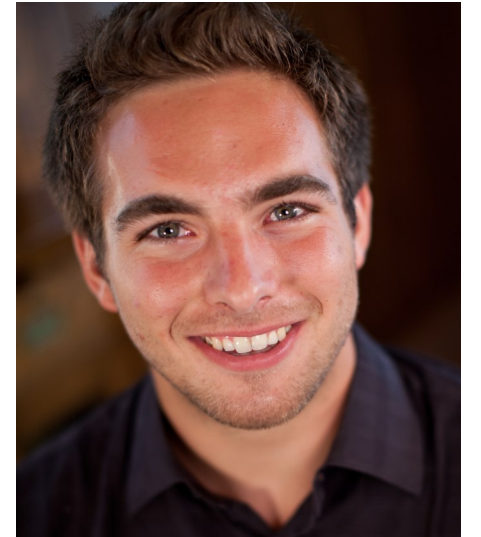
"It's an exciting opportunity to complete a project I've been thinking about for a couple of years. It is also an interesting position to be in because there really is no prescribed process. I am being given the chance to focus on producing a resource that's effective and useful in its own right, and resources to go about doing that in whatever ways make the most sense," says Draper.

For his project, he will explore how funders can share and leverage holistic data on funding decisions and

community investments in Edmonton, with the aim of creating a database that could be implemented in communities across Canada.

"Right now most funders report the organizations and programs they've funded, but you have to go to each foundation, government department, or corporation's website and find the report," says Draper. The project will use data from individual grants and put it on a platform where it is standardized, open, and usable. "This resource will improve funders' decision-making capacity. It will also be a good place for charities to see a wide range of funding sources, helping them identify new prospective sources of income," says Draper.

He believes that the project will improve the way the philanthropic sector is funded. "With this project I hope to improve the way funding decisions are made and help address some of the sector's root challenges."



In addition to his work at ECF, Draper volunteers his expertise to committees and organizations working to make Edmonton and Canada better places including; the Edmonton Arts Council, Family and Community Support Services, Edmonton NextGen, the Government of Canada's Urban Aboriginal Strategies, and the 4Rs Youth Movement. He is currently establishing and operating scholarship programs for the Africa Centre and the Edmonton Folk Music Festival.

## Community funding available for sesquicentennial projects.

Edmonton Community Foundation and the Community Foundations of Canada are partnering to bring a granting opportunity to Edmonton and area charities in honour of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. We encourage applications from charities working with diverse populations including Indigenous peoples, youth, groups that reflect our cultural diversity, and official language minority groups. Grants range from \$500 to \$15,000, but eligible projects are required to match, either in kind or cash, the grant requested. Application deadline is April 29, 2016.

Visit [ecfoundation.org](http://ecfoundation.org) for more information on how to apply.

