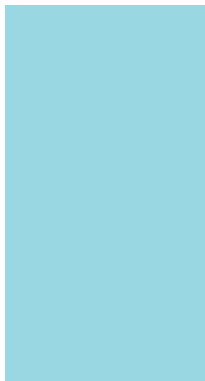


Social Innovation in British Columbia

BC SOCIAL INNOVATION INITIATIVES ACROSS THE PUBLIC, NON-PROFIT, AND BUSINESS SECTORS

Supporting
Economic
Development



vancouver
foundation



 **bcpsi**
BC PARTNERS FOR SOCIAL IMPACT


RADIUS
SOCIAL INNOVATION
LAB AND VENTURE
INCUBATOR

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INNOVATES
think. engage. change.

**BEEDIE SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS**



FOREWORD

Government of British Columbia

Social innovation is about thinking differently and doing differently. It is about coming up with unique and sustainable solutions to address some of our most challenging social issues like homelessness and unemployment. Social innovation matters to British Columbians because issues like these impact everyone, no matter where or how they live.

This publication is a collection of social innovation projects happening in all regions of this diverse province. It is a celebration of successes and best practices by social innovators and entrepreneurs, universities, businesses, non-profits and government. It is a resource from which new ideas may spring.

This document will help more social innovators learn of each other and the general public learn the importance of and opportunities within the sector. We hope the examples within encourage a new wave of action as more people are inspired to take steps in their own lives and businesses, improving social outcomes and supporting B.C.'s economy.

The strength of B.C.'s social innovation sector is due to the drive and creativity from individuals and groups across the province with a common interest in improving lives and the environment. It is evidenced by the number and diversity of partnerships across public, business and non-profit sectors and the remarkable outcomes achieved by them. The most promising opportunities for growth and progress come from these partnerships.

We have a growing social innovation sector in our province. According to a University of British Columbia study on B.C.'s social venture sector released in 2015, there are 1,891 social ventures employing almost 13,000 people, with annual sector earnings exceeding \$500 million. The sector has seen a 36 percent increase in the last five years overall, with businesses seeing the highest rate of growth at 89 percent. As reflected in the following examples, the B.C. government will continue to show its leadership in social innovation for the benefit of communities, businesses and British Columbians. In the past five years we have made important commitments to the sector, such as the historic Great Bear Rainforest agreement in 2016, and the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation's implementation of Social Impact Purchasing Guidelines and creation of the Community Contribution Company model in 2013.

Social innovation is a collaborative effort. As a province, we can be very proud of the individual and collective accomplishments by the British Columbians behind the projects within these pages. We can be especially proud of our youth. With such determination and vision, B.C.'s future holds countless possibilities for positive social change.

Honourable Michelle Stilwell

MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION



Ministry of
Social Development
and Social Innovation

FOREWORD

Vancouver Foundation

When we think about social innovation at Vancouver Foundation, we think about ways to address the root causes of complex social issues. We believe it's our opportunity to deal with the problems of today, in a way that makes them less likely to return tomorrow. And we believe that social innovations are most effective when they are initiated and led by the people most affected by the issue. It's what we call being *Community Inspired*.

Vancouver Foundation makes grants, builds partnerships, commissions research, shares learnings, and convenes stakeholders from diverse sectors across BC. Through this work, we're proud to support many of the programs listed in this guide.

But at Vancouver Foundation we've also made social innovation the focus of our own programs; through funding projects that seek to make transformative change in social systems, or by leading strategic initiatives that focus on the root causes of problems such as social isolation in our neighbourhoods, or the issues that vulnerable youth face in our society.

Across the province, Vancouver Foundation is well positioned to support social innovations at local, regional and provincial levels. We're eager to work in partnership with organizations that share our vision to build healthy, vibrant, and livable communities across BC.

Kevin McCort

PRESIDENT AND CEO, VANCOUVER FOUNDATION



vancouver
foundation

FOREWORD

Vancity Credit Union

It is uplifting to see the array of social innovation being undertaken in our province.

In their foreword, Molly, Ken and Al describe some notable characteristics of BC's culture of social innovation—the influence of an Indigenous lens, openness and mutual respect among practitioners, and the creative infusion of artists dedicated to social change. These are all defining elements of a mix that has attracted interest from across Canada and beyond our borders.

I am struck by the importance of co-creation among community, business and government in fostering a supportive ecosystem. Multi-sector forums create opportunities for the generation and exchange of ideas, the alignment of values and missions, the forging of new relationships and partnerships, and highlight effective social finance tools and resources for taking promising initiatives to scale.

As a values-based, community-rooted financial co-operative, social finance is at the very core of what we do at Vancity and it is through our members and partners that we continuously enhance our understanding of how best to work with and support the social innovation sector.

Reading these collected stories of the range of entrepreneurs and innovators developing novel and sustainable approaches to persistent social problems, I'm tempted to adapt the well-known aphorism: If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.

This compendium celebrates the significant distance we have travelled together in the last few years—and attests to that which will enable us to travel much further.

Tamara Vrooman

PRESIDENT AND CEO, VANCITY



BC Partners for Social Impact

British Columbians have always been good problem solvers. The beauty and elegance with which previous generations have survived and thrived demonstrates ingenuity at its best. Not only in taking care of each other, but also in taking care of all life in our province. Of course it hasn't been perfect. We've made mistakes. There have been serious omissions. Sadly, far too often we have ignored indigenous wisdom.

That's where today's generation of problem solvers come in. As this remarkable inventory illustrates, their desire for justice, in combination with their entrepreneurial talents, has led to a renaissance of social problem solving in our province. This renaissance is based on three advantages:

One: Indigenous innovation is flourishing. The most sophisticated practitioners of social innovation are indigenous people.

Coupled with their strategic prowess and creative capability is their understanding that the roots of our toughest challenges are interconnected. So are the sustainable solutions. Indigenous values of belonging and reconciliation are shaping and informing our solutions and remedies. They are our innovation teachers.

Two: We are learning to become wise travellers, committed to work across sectors, silos and suspicions. We've arrived at a time in history when we can no longer afford to go it alone. We can only realize our desire for a better world for current and future generations by working together. Wise travellers respect everyone's role and function, whether they are community volunteers, or employees of non-profits, government or business. They know that great things emerge when we treat each other with respect and work through our disagreements.

Three: We are making room for the artists in our midst. The inescapable truth of wanting to make the world a better place is that we must touch hearts before we can open minds. Painters, poets, singers, musicians, dancers, sculptors, storytellers and other artists have been doing both for millennia. More and more of us are making room on our social change journey for their company and artistry. In doing so we are discovering: new perspectives on challenges that have resisted previous efforts; solutions people wouldn't otherwise have thought of; and a release of creative energy and fun.

Our hope for this document is that just like creativity, it will expand, evolve, change and mature. And that it will help to bring out the best in us.

Molly Harrington, Ken Gauthier & Al Etmanski

FOUNDING CO-CHAIRS



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Accelerate Okanagan

BUSINESS SECTOR

Accelerate Okanagan is the leading technology accelerator in the Okanagan Valley, existing to offer mentorship, create connections, and bring the community together to help tech-enabled businesses thrive.

Through partnerships with the BC Innovation Council, the National Research Council, the Province of British Columbia, along with local academic institutions, and community organizations, Accelerate Okanagan helps entrepreneurs and local tech companies gain access to resources and build relationships that helps create a holistic and supportive entrepreneurial community across the valley.



(Accelerate Okanagan, photo)

It provides tools, programs, mentoring, networking opportunities, market intelligence, and market validation training through its innovative not-for-profit, zero-equity-stake model that receives core funding from various government and public sector agencies.

■ <https://www.accelerateokanagan.com>

Alert Bay—Financial Inclusion

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SECTORS

A financial institution, municipality and First Nation government are leading innovation through a first-of-its kind collaboration in economic development.

Vancity Credit Union is working with the Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation to support a sustainable local economy by opening a full-service branch on Cormorant Island and agreeing to subsidize any operating losses as the branch grows to financial sustainability over the next three years.



Prior to the partnership, the community's only financial institution shut its doors, leaving local businesses and residents without an "in person" branch to conduct financial activities and requiring them to travel by ferry to Port McNeill during the working week for in person financial services and adding to their banking costs when only private ATMs were available for withdrawals. This hindered business development and reduced the "multiplier effect" of local money staying within local and remote coastal economy.

Vancity works to deepen and broaden the relationship with Indigenous communities to better understand and meet their needs.

■ <https://www.vancity.com/AboutVancity/InvestingInCommunities/StoriesOfImpact/OtherImpactStories/AlertBay/>

BC Housing Procurement Policy

PUBLIC SECTOR

Property clean-up in the wake of a hoarder can be a huge challenge. So, too, can getting a job if you have a disability or have been living in poverty. And BC Housing has a lot of property to manage. These elements converged into a win-win social innovation with the Crown Corporation developing sustainable procurement policies and practice to encourage the growth of not-for-profit enterprises.

CleanStart, a social enterprise owned by Simpson Community Development Society, is the first enterprise to benefit from the policy shift. The junk removal company employs people who have barriers to employment like those living in the Downtown Eastside and other parts of metro Vancouver.

The Crown Corporation has targets set out in its policy and has updated its solicitation documents to include wording from its sustainable procurement policy. It also actively urges staff to consider sustainable options in their requirements and in their evaluation criteria.

It's paying off and changing the mix of contractors. Other awards include office cleaning services to Deepak Management and Master Care Janitorial, private companies that embed sustainability into their business practices and tools; and an award for food services to Potluck Catering, a social enterprise business that creates jobs for neighborhood residents with barriers to traditional employment.

BC Housing is looking to push the program further by developing opportunities for social enterprises on smaller scale projects. This approach would allow the social enterprise the opportunity to not only perform services for BC Housing, but to get to know and understand BC Housing's expectations and processes.

BC Hydro Aboriginal Employment and Economic Development Strategy

PUBLIC SECTOR

BC Hydro is creating employment and contracting opportunities for Aboriginal communities living near its operations, often through work on its capital projects. BC Hydro is creating these opportunities by closely collaborating and sharing information with those communities, an approach that's spawning more positive relationships across BC. Guided by its Statement of Aboriginal Principles, BC Hydro is helping create social change at the community level. The Crown Corporation is providing training to bridge gaps in qualifications, enabling local Aboriginal people to become employed directly with BC Hydro or indirectly with its contractors.

BC Hydro offers experiential learning and awareness initiatives, direct skills development programs and training solutions that link Aboriginal applicants to long-term career opportunities. Traditionally out of reach for many remote communities, technical and trades roles with BC Hydro are now a very real possibility.

Hydro has hosted or participated in over 75 events focused on attracting and interacting with Aboriginal students and community members, supported more than 120 Aboriginal trainees, and provided financial awards to 20 individuals who are studying in fields that are important to its operations. Since the beginning of fiscal 2017, the corporation has hired 43 Aboriginal people.

What does it look like? Read about the Construction craft worker program.

■ http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Programs/Areas_of_Study/trades/departments/Construction/Trades_Homepage/ccw/ccwaboriginal.html

BC Hydro Aboriginal Procurement

PUBLIC SECTOR

BC Hydro delivers procurement opportunities that directly benefit First Nations communities, often in support of formal agreements the Crown Corporation has with those communities.

BC Hydro opens the door to contract work for Aboriginal individuals and businesses by directly assisting with the development of skills and credentials. In turn, this creates opportunities for BC Hydro projects to gain from traditional knowledge and cultural heritage, through an exchange of ideas that takes place in the work environment.

Where appropriate, BC Hydro also sets up specific Aboriginal contract and supplier participation requirements. These requirements encourage individuals and businesses to meet new standards and helps foster social change on a larger scale.

■ <https://www.bchydro.com/about/suppliers/aboriginal-procurement.html>

BC Tech Fund

PUBLIC SECTOR

The \$100-million BC Tech Fund will help BC tech companies access the early stage venture capital they need to grow and stay in BC, help diversify the economy and create high-paying jobs for British Columbians.

Venture capital investments give companies the capacity they need to do research and development, patent technological innovations and scale their business in order to access global markets. Over the next 15 years, BC Tech Fund investments into BC companies will contribute to the growth and innovation of the tech sector, attract more investment to the province and create new jobs.

■ <https://bctechstrategy.gov.bc.ca/bctech-fund/>

BCTECH Summit

PUBLIC SECTOR

The #BCTECH Summit is the largest technology conference in British Columbia showcasing innovations in the technology industry and fostering an environment for the creation of cross-sector opportunities.

From innovations in eHealth data, autonomous vehicles and customer experience, to emerging ideas in cleantech, agritech and aerospace, the two-day conference brings together tech entrepreneurs, anchor companies, business leaders from traditional industries, investors, government and academia to establish new connections, nurture existing networks and exchange fresh ideas around innovation driving business growth.

■ <http://bctechsummit.ca/>

Catalyst Community Developments Society

BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

Catalyst Community Developments Society is a BC-based not-for-profit society that helps community organizations leverage real estate assets for social change.

Rising real estate values and low vacancy rates have made affordable housing a challenge for many low to middle-income Canadians. At the same time many community organizations—like not-for-profits and churches—that own properties, now possess tremendous, untapped asset value yet are cash poor. Their buildings that are meant to serve and support healthy communities can become a burden, detracting from their intended purpose.

Catalyst helps organizations develop real estate that meets the needs of the community, provides opportunities for “social equity” to benefit communities while receiving a fair financial return, and ensures that real estate assets remain in community ownership to create long-term financial sustainability.

■ <http://catalystcommdev.org/>

Chief Louie Paddle Company—Cheslatta Carrier Nation

PUBLIC AND BUSINESS SECTORS

Paddles and wood products are deeply grounded in Cheslatta culture, and in fact in all First Nations who have traditionally lived by the water. This connection inspires participation at the grassroots level.

The Nechako-Kitimat Development Fund granted \$95,000 toward a research and development initiative with a main objective of creating a social enterprise. During the 2007-2008 fiscal Cheslatta Carrier Nation received a Western Diversification (CEDI) grant to explore opportunities for harvesting, processing, and marketing the waterwood (timber recovered from the Nechako Reservoir) and beetle kill timber as well as to address infrastructure deficiencies.

Prior to the start of the project, Cheslatta Carrier Nation started to produce paddles and a growing line of craft and gift items, including functional paddles and smaller promotional sizes, spirit feathers, drum frames, carved canoes, and key fobs. The purpose of this feasibility phase of the project is to perfect and streamline the current product line, develop and add new viable products as well as to design and implement a marketing strategy.

The Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society assists the people of North West British Columbia, and in particular the Nechako region and Kitimaat Village, by investing in sustainable economic and community stability projects in the area most affected by the Kemano project and the creation of the Nechako Reservoir.

■ <http://chieflouie.com>

*Master Carver Pat Edmund,
Grandson of Chief Louie
(Mike Robertson, photo)*



Coast Capital Savings Innovation Hub Incubator Program

PUBLIC AND BUSINESS SECTORS

Launched in 2012 with a \$1 million grant from Coast Capital Savings, the Coast Capital Savings Innovation Hub (CCSiHub) is helping social ventures (ventures focused on creating positive social or environmental impact while generating sustainable revenue) to grow and scale their businesses and impact. The program is run by the Centre for Social Innovation & Impact Investing at the Sauder School of Business and brings together university resources, access to networks, and peer learning.

The one-year program gives social entrepreneurs the opportunity to take their ventures to the next level of growth by providing a supportive community and critical resources for the highest chance of success. Entrepreneurs attend intensive workshops on topics ranging from strategic growth, marketing, and branding, to culture and talent management. In addition to providing mentorship from UBC and industry experts, the program also provides a paid intern for each venture over the summer. Entrepreneurs co-locate on the UBC campus for the year and work within a supportive and collaborative community of peer entrepreneurs.

■ http://www.sauder.ubc.ca/News/2016/Companies_making_a_positive_impact_find_new_home_at_UBC_Sauder_School_of_Business



The 2016 social ventures cohort of the CCS iHub incubator program

Community and Employer Partnerships

BUSINESS, NON-PROFIT AND PUBLIC SECTORS

To date, nearly 1,400 job seekers have benefited from work experience and nearly 260 projects have been funded through Community and Employer Partnerships (CEP). The program fosters collaboration among community organizations and employers, assists local projects and increases employability for British Columbians.

For example, the program supported the Rick Hansen Foundation to help several people with disabilities gain work experience as accessibility specialists. These participants completed 75 accessibility assessments of local businesses and public spaces during a 52-week project.

In another example, the Innovating for Employment Success Research and Innovation project worked with unemployed internationally-trained professionals who are newcomers and seeking work in Canada. Through a series of workshops, this innovation project helped participants use design-thinking concepts to solve real-world business problems brought to the group by a sponsoring employer.

The Social Innovation stream of CEP expands the scope and goals of the program to support innovative projects that also have a positive social impact. To support the launch of the Social Innovation stream, CEP is highlighting “Nation’s Creations”, a Project-Based Labour Market Training (PBLMT) project. The project is currently providing work experience in manufacturing, in a social enterprise setting, to 24 EI-eligible participants, while supporting local First Nations artists through an innovative, royalty-based remuneration system.

■ <https://www.workbc.ca/CEP>

Community Contribution Companies

PUBLIC SECTOR

In response to an emerging demand for socially-focused investment options, British Columbia became the first jurisdiction in Canada to launch a new hybrid corporate model: the community contribution company (C3). Designed to bridge the gap between for-profit businesses and non-profit enterprises, this business model allows entrepreneurs to pursue social goals through their businesses while still generating a profit and providing investment opportunities to like-minded investors.

The regulations were established in 2013 in consultation with the BC Social Innovation Council. There are currently 49 active social enterprises incorporated as C3s.

■ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/legislative-changes-encourage-investment-in-social-capital>

Community Micro Lending

BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

Community Micro Lending is a non-profit society that connects local lenders to local borrowers. Local borrowers are people who want to turn their idea and passion into a livelihood but can't get the credit they need from a bank or credit union.

Local lenders are people who want to strengthen the fabric of the local economy by supporting a local small-scale entrepreneur. For example, a young woman starting a dog walking and house sitting business received a loan of \$1260 to purchase a new computer, a jacket with a logo so she can always be advertising when she is out walking a dog, registration at a pet expo in the spring and registration for other community events as she finds these events to be an effective way to meet new clients.

■ <http://www.communitymicrolending.ca>

E@UBC Impact Fund

PUBLIC SECTOR

Impact investing has emerged as one of the most talked about new strategies for tackling social and environmental problems. With the goal of creating measurable impact in addition to financial returns, impact investing typically supports ventures that are creating positive social or environmental outcomes supported by sustainable, revenue generating business models.



UBC alumni developing a venture that provides financing to underserved agricultural startups in West Africa

Created in collaboration with the Centre for Social Innovation and Impact Investing, and based on the success of the e@UBC Seed Fund, the e@UBC Impact Fund provides a powerful combination of mentorship, education, venture creation, and seed funding to support new social ventures started by UBC's students, alumni, researchers or faculty.

The fund operates as a philanthropic structure which enables fund donations to be eligible for charitable tax credits. As a philanthropic fund, it is able to attract funding from donors to support ventures until they are financially sustainable or achieve sufficient traction to raise commercial investment. Returns generated by the fund are continuously reinvested in new ventures.

■ <http://entrepreneurship.ubc.ca/impact-fund/>

Economic and Community Development Agreements

PUBLIC SECTOR

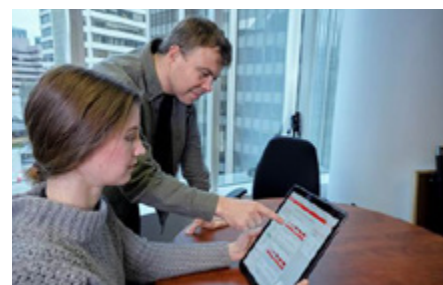
Economic and Community Development Agreements are agreements between government and First Nations for sharing the direct mineral tax revenue on new mines and major mine expansions. These agreements are the first of their kind in Canada, and they have strengthened relationships with First Nations communities and increased confidence for industry and investors.

■ <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/economic-and-community-development-agreements>

Ethelo Decisions

BUSINESS SECTOR

Ethelo Decisions is a communications and engagement strategy firm that provides digital, interactive consultations services to help public and private organizations arrive at the best solutions.



It's intuitive and saves time and effort by engaging hundreds through inclusive, interactive consultations that can lead to better public policy, increased employee engagement or improved marketing strategies. Ethelo's highly acclaimed technology makes big decisions better by engaging key stakeholders. Ethelo harnesses collective wisdom to find solutions to tough challenges that are innovative, practical and supported.

Public and private organizations have used the inclusive, interactive consultation platform to achieve better public policy, increase employee engagement and improve marketing strategies.

■ www.ethelo.com

First Nations Technology Council

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

The First Nations Technology Council is a central convener between government, industry, academia and First Nations communities to ensure comprehensive, sustainable and appropriate technology based programs and services are developed and funded.

The social enterprise also provides direct technology related services through fee for service and earned income programs that create less reliance on government funded programs and grants, while continuing to advance the use of digital technologies in First Nations communities. The enterprise mission is what supports and serves the sustainability of our service mission.

■ <http://www.technologycouncil.ca>

Fairware

BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

Fairware is a provider of sustainable and ethically-sourced corporate gifts and promotional products. It serves organizations concerned with the social and environmental impact of promotional swag and wanting to source products that reflect their values. The promotional products sold by the company meet international environmental and workers' rights standards. The company also hires local people and sources as many local products as possible.

■ <http://fairware.com/>



Field of Interest Grants—The Vancouver Foundation

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

Field of Interest Grants is a program of Vancouver Foundation that funds projects addressing the root causes of complex social issues. Different grants types are available to support three different stages of a social innovation, including Develop, Test, and Grow. Grant amounts range from \$10,000 up to \$225,000 over a three-year period.

All grant applications must identify a social issue, and describe how their project will address the root cause(s) of that issue. Applications are reviewed by a committee of external advisors with expertise in social innovation as it relates to a broad range of social and environmental issues.

■ <https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants>

Groundswell

BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

Groundswell is a non-profit society providing accessible education to support the creation of meaningful employment and social ventures. Its goal is to help create a regenerative, collaborative economy where each individual can contribute meaningfully and find purpose in their life through their work.



Its alternative education and programming catalyzes social venture development and supports budding social entrepreneurs, especially those marginalized by the dominant economic system.

■ <http://www.groundswellcommunity.ca>

Gwaii Haanas Agreement

PUBLIC SECTOR

Parks Canada and First Nations have found common ground in an agreement born out of collaboration and resulting in a mutual commitment to a holistic approach to land and water management in the Gwaii Haanas.

Under the Gwaii Haanas Agreement the question of ownership of the area will be done through negotiated settlement while there is formal recognition of Haida interests in continuing cultural activities and traditional resource activities on the ancestral lands and non-tidal waters of the area. The activities include gathering traditional foods and plants for medicinal and ceremonial purposes, cutting of selected trees for ceremonial or artistic purposes, conducting, teaching or demonstrating ceremonies of traditional spiritual or religious significance, and the use of shelter and facilities that support the pursuit of the above and other activities.

Under the agreement the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board (AMB), which has equal representation from Haida and Parks Canada, is responsible for all aspects of planning, operation, and management of Gwaii Haanas.

The agreement commits \$106 million to the development of a water and land-based national reserve, compensation of forestry interests, creation of a regional economic development fund, and a forest replacement account.

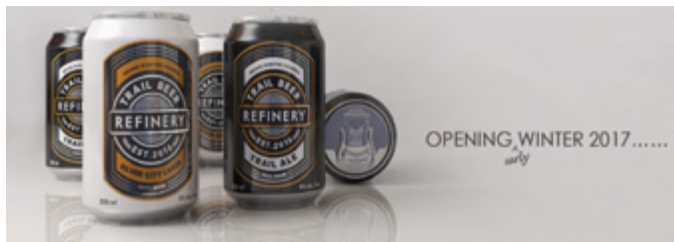
Key outcomes of the work of the AMB are the engagement and employment of the Haida people, and respect for and integration of Haida practices, beliefs and knowledge in AMB activities. For example, traditional knowledge is used to complement scientific research, and the Haida Watchman program, an integral part of managing Gwaii Haanas, encourages the participation of Haida elders and youth, recording traditional knowledge from elders, and enhancing public safety.

■ <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas/plan/plan1.aspx>

Impact Investment Fund—Community Futures

PUBLIC SECTOR

The Impact Investment Fund invests in for-profit businesses, start-ups, social enterprises and non-profits that can demonstrate and quantify broader benefits such as social, environmental or community impact as a result of the investment. It creates a financing option for credible business opportunities not otherwise able to secure conventional financing.



The \$2-million fund is financed by Columbia Basin Trust and managed by five Community Futures Development Corporation offices as well as the Heritage Credit Union. Investments range between \$50,000 and \$250,000. To date, the fund has supported one business transition, two business expansions, and two start-ups, creating 26 jobs.

A good example of the fund at work is the loan for the Trail Beer Refinery. This is a start-up Craft brewery operation located in Trail. The project will rejuvenate a large vacant commercial property located in the downtown core and help attract locals and visitors to the downtown area.

■ <http://ourtrust.org/iif>

Innovation Boulevard

BUSINESS, NON-PROFIT AND PUBLIC SECTORS

Innovation Boulevard is a young but rapidly expanding centre for technology development based in Surrey and linked with a growing network of innovation centres around the world including in France, Israel and Ireland.

Initially focussed on the development and commercialization of health technologies, Innovation Boulevard achieved rapid success including \$14.5 million in new infrastructure investment, commercialization of products, attraction of new companies and receipt of tens of millions of dollars in government grants. In 2016 Innovation Boulevard broadened its scope to include clean technology development with a view to adding more technology sectors in the future.



Left to right: Daniel Burtin, President of SATT Grant Centre, Mayor Linda Hepner and SFU President Andrew Petter mark a new Canada-France collaboration centred at Innovation Boulevard.

Innovation Boulevard's structure was strengthened in 2016 with the creation of Innovation Boulevard Corporation, an equal partnership between the City of Surrey and Simon Fraser University. Partners will contribute close to \$1 million over the next three years to further fortify Innovation Boulevard's operations.

■ <http://www.innovationboulevard.ca>

Knives and Forks Community Investment Co-op

BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

Knives and Forks provides capital to support local food-related economic activity and increase access to a sustainable local food supply for British Columbians. The co-operative provides loans to businesses with outstanding management, the capacity for innovation and demonstrated demand for the product or service.



Co-op members are eligible to invest in the co-op's lending activities (the minimum investment is \$2,400; the maximum investment is \$4,800). Members attend semi-annual pitch sessions where they hear local food businesses pitch their business ideas, and then vote on their favourite business. Finalists move forward for due diligence and adjudication by the investment committee.

■ www.knivesandforks.ca/

Liquefied Natural Gas Skills Training

PUBLIC SECTOR

The Aboriginal Skills Training Development Fund is part of a comprehensive plan to help ensure Aboriginal people and First Nations communities have more opportunities to benefit from the growth of the emerging Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector and to ensure community members' skills are transferable in a diversified economy. Co-designed by the Province, First Nations communities, and sector partners, this innovative initiative has resulted in a number of new and creative collaborations.

For example, the fund brought together six Tsimshian communities with the Province and industry partners BG Canada, LNG Canada, and Pacific NorthWest LNG to deliver Pathways to Success, a program that addresses the priorities and needs of the communities through essential skills training, job-specific, industry-recognized credentials, employment support, and job development.

The fund investments are also meeting complex community needs, resulting in improved employment outcomes, reductions in correlated government spending, and enhanced relationships between the Province and First Nations. So far, more than 1,200 Aboriginal people have benefitted from training under funded projects. Another 1,000 will receive training throughout 2016/17.

■ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/bc-boosts-investment-in-aboriginal-skills-training>



Local Economic Development Lab

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

The Downtown Eastside Local Economic Development Lab (LEDlab) aims to affect systemic change around conditions required for inclusive economic development in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. For example, it has supported the establishment of a micro-credential system that enables people to earn and display work skills acquired outside of formal education.

A shared initiative of Ecotrust Canada and RADIUS Simon Fraser University, LEDlab incubates community-driven social enterprise concepts and business models, via a blend of social innovation lab practice, community development and social entrepreneurship.

■ <http://ledlab.ca>



Love Northern BC

PUBLIC SECTOR

Small, independent businesses are often at a disadvantage as they compete with multi-national businesses with large marketing engines behind them. Frequently the owners are missing both time and expertise needed to expand their presence in the digital landscape. This is even more so the case for small business in northern BC, where high speed internet in many rural and remote communities is only being accessed now.

Love Northern BC is a movement connecting people with the independent locally-owned businesses and it helps small businesses create an online presence for only \$100 per business. The online platform is supported and maintained by the Northern Development Initiative Trust.

Love Northern BC also delivers unique marketing campaigns and small business development workshops that celebrate locally-owned independent businesses and their owners, with an aim to strengthen competitiveness and keep both talent and dollars in the local economy.

■ www.lovenorthernbc.com

Multi-Employer Pension Plan for Non-Profits

BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

Organizations that offer pension plans to their employees have a distinct advantage in the competition for talented employees but for small organizations, providing pension benefits through existing plan structures can be cost-prohibitive. To fill this gap, Realize Strategies Co-op, a multi-stakeholder co-op providing member and consulting services to the impact sector in BC, worked with The Co-operators to design a multi-employer pension plan that is accessible to non-unionized, small to medium-sized non-profits, co-ops and social enterprises. The plan features scalable contributions of as low as 1%, requires a minimum of just one employee, and provides a choice of ethical investment funds. In addition, members of the pension plan can create personalized investment profiles with the support of The Co-operators staff.



The team at Realize Strategies Co-Op

This pension plan, the only one of its kind in Canada, builds on the collective power of B.C's "impact sector," supporting it to find and retain talented, committed people who work to improve the well-being of British Columbians and the sustainability of our communities. The Pension Plan is just one of many other benefits and services that Realize Strategies Co-op provides to its members and clients to help them navigate organizational change and build sustainable, purpose-driven businesses with a lasting impact.

■ <http://realize.coop/pension-plan/>

New Market Funds

BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

The first-of-its-kind in Canada, New Market Funds is a for-profit investment firm owned by a registered charity formed by five organizations. The fund's partnership approach unlocks investment opportunities not otherwise available in the conventional market, delivering market competitive financial returns and long-term community benefit.



The fund's first four investment commitments total 358 rental units of family, workforce, elderly, and special needs housing, which are affordable on average to households earning 70% of the area median income.

The fund provides approximately 9% of the \$120 million combined value of the developments. The equity stays in each project for an estimated eight years, to allow time for the co-op and non-profit owners to build their equity stake, at which point the projects will buy out New Market Funds.

■ <http://newmarketfunds.ca/>

Pacific Impact Investor Network

BUSINESS, PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

The Pacific Impact Investor Network (PIIN) engages high net worth investors and foundations in impact investing. Impact investing refers to the act of making investments into companies, organizations and funds with the intent to create measurable social and environmental impact alongside financial returns.

Network members receive a wide range of support through each stage of the impact investment process. They receive advisory services on specific topics of interest through the support of the UBC Sauder Centre for Social Innovation & Impact Investing. PIIN's market intelligence and investment pipeline provide members with news on industry trends and access to local and global investment opportunities. Through quarterly meetings, PIIN members receive presentations from entrepreneurs, fund managers, and researchers. PIIN's research and investment opportunities cover a range of themes, including water and sanitation, autism, integrative health, sustainable cocoa production and social impact bonds (among others).

PIIN is supported by annual membership fees. The UBC Sauder Centre for Social Innovation & Impact Investing is a supporting partner, assisting with applied sector research on investment opportunities.

■ <http://piin.ca>

Pathways to Technology Project

PUBLIC AND BUSINESS SECTORS

First Nations organizations and the BC government are working to improve high-speed, broadband Internet connectivity to 203 First Nations communities that either have little or no Internet access. The Pathways to Technology project supports the future of First Nations businesses, schools, health centres, and band organizations.

Federal and provincial governments have contributed funding to the All Nations Trust Company to connect all 203 First Nations with an Internet connection through the Pathways to Technology project.

■ <http://www.pathwaystotechnology.ca/home>

Penticton Indian Band Development Corporation

BUSINESS SECTOR

The Penticton Indian Band Development Corporation (PIBDC) was formed to foster the development of a sustainable economy for the Penticton Indian Band. Its values are deeply rooted in the traditional qualities of the band community. Through its investments, it provides job creation, training opportunities and wealth generation for the Penticton Indian Band.

A for-profit business investment and development division of the PIBDC, it is the umbrella organization that holds and is responsible for the corporate business investments. PIBDC now oversees three limited partnerships: Westhills Aggregate LP, Coyote Cruises LP and Sn'pink'tn Forestry LP.

■ <http://www.pibdc.ca>

Qqs Projects Society

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

Initially established to respond to a youth suicide crisis within the Heiltsuk First Nation, the Qqs Projects Society has, over its 15 years, emerged to do so much more. A social enterprise or enterprising non-profit based in Bella Bella, it is reconnecting Heiltsuk youth to their culture and their place through environmental monitoring and stewardship activities that support local natural resource management. The society owns and operates the local library and café and is exploring other revenue generating options.

Other First Nations and Indigenous communities across Canada are interested in replicating the Qqs example by starting NGOs that are rooted in their culture and local community.

Qqs partners with many organizations including environmental NGOs (Tides Canada, ForestEthics, Green Peace) to social NGOs (Diabetes association) to governments (Provincial and Federal).

■ <http://www.qqsprojects.org/>

RADIUS

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Housed at the Charles Chang Innovation Centre, within Simon Fraser University's Beedie School of Business, RADIUS serves as a hub for entrepreneurial education and acceleration—building a network of ventures, programs and people embedded within the university and the innovation ecosystem.

RADIUS works with social innovators and entrepreneurs to solve complex problems from ecosystem degradation to economic inequality and ultimately building a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy. It is a bridge between a business school and a rich community of innovators, entrepreneurs, and everyday citizens working hard to put new ideas into action.



■ <http://www.radiussfu.com/>

Radius First Peoples' Enterprise Accelerator Program

PUBLIC SECTOR AND PRIVATE SECTORS

The First Peoples Enterprise Accelerator at Simon Fraser University is a catalyst and resource for sustainable economic growth and diversification in Aboriginal communities. It supports the development of Aboriginal entrepreneurs and advances early stage businesses and social ventures that contribute to the development of sustainable, healthy economies.

The accelerator delivers incubation programming and technical assistance for entrepreneurs, coupled with a strong research and evaluation process, all in conjunction with local Aboriginal partners. It is facilitated by RADIUS, the Beedie School of Business' social innovation lab and venture incubator, in partnership with the EMBA in Aboriginal Business and Leadership at the Beedie School of Business.



■ <https://www.sfu.ca/university-communications/media-releases/2015/sfu-to-advance-aboriginal-entrepreneurship-with-rbc-gift.html>

Renewal Partners

BUSINESS SECTOR

Renewal is a collection of independent organizations that fosters social change by encouraging and guiding others to invest, give and participate fully as citizens, in accordance with their deepest beliefs.

Believing that business must contribute to the common good, Renewal Partners offers a new model of investment that applies the powerful tools of business exclusively to long-term community solutions. It aligns financial, social, and environmental goals with effective asset management for maximum community benefit.

Employing a three-pronged approach of investment (Renewal Partners and Renewal Funds) charitable grant making (Endswell Foundation and Tides Canada Foundation) and cross-sector collaboration, Renewal has leveraged capital to create a new model for change.

Renewal has grounded and increased the leverage of its resources by focusing, primarily, on our region, British Columbia. By investing heavily in BC, Renewal has built a strong base and can now extend its influence and collaborative value more broadly. Renewal has also invested throughout North American networks as part of expanding our region's access to resources and visibility.

■ <http://www.renewalpartners.com>

Resilient Capital

BUSINESS SECTOR

Getting capital to run an organization or business that provides products, services, employment opportunities or training to people from marginalized or excluded groups is daunting and often impossible. Yet the benefit to society and the environment from those organizations can be huge.

Resilient Capital bridges the divide by providing patient and flexible capital—ranging from loans to equity investments—to social enterprises and blended-value businesses unlikely to get the financial support from traditional institutions. Aboriginal-run composting, inner city market gardens, and a restaurant that supports a not-for-profit theatre program for children are among the supported enterprises.

Established through a partnership between the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, Vancity, and the Vancouver Foundation, the program allows social enterprises to address social and environmental challenges and to help build more sustainable, resilient communities.

Funding for the program comes from deposit investors who make long-term deposits with Vancity and are given a predictable return on them. The depositors do not have direct interest in the social enterprises who receive debt and equity investments ranging from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million.

“The beauty of the Resilient Capital is that it’s an easy and impactful way to invest while making a reasonable return. Be it serving a human need or looking to invest in green technologies, the team at Vancity wants to use its funds to make a meaningful and lasting impact in our community. It makes for a great marriage between meaning and money.”

— **Fraser Wilson, Founder, BALLUCANB Impact Investments**

■ www.resilientcapital.ca

Rhiza Capital Inc.

BUSINESS SECTOR

Rhiza Capital Inc. is a joint initiative between Community Futures Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Credit Union and Powell River Community Investment Corporation. Rhiza Capital is an investment company created to raise local capital for investment in local ventures that will add economic, social and financial value to our communities.



Connecting community to opportunity

Rhiza Capital is intent on growing local economies and healthy communities by connecting capital to impact ventures.

Rhiza's impact investments are investments made into companies, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.

The investment market in Canada is undergoing a shift towards impact and local. More and more people looking to invest their money locally. A major driver in this change is the increasing demand for investment vehicles, which align with community development values. Rhiza sets itself apart from other investment companies by creating community amongst the family of portfolio businesses. By facilitating this interconnectedness, each portfolio business is more resilient, thereby strengthening each fund, Rhiza itself and the community.

■ <http://www.rhizacapital.com/>

ShareShed

BUSINESS SECTOR

ShareShed is part of the growing shared economy that is permitting individual participation based on one's asset. The online platform connects owners with outdoor gear, with people wanting to experience the great outdoors but do not own or wish to purchase the necessary equipment. ShareShed charges hosts a 15% service fee on all bookings.

■ <https://shareshed.ca>



ShareShed user in Tofino (Phoebe Stuart, photo)

Skipper Otto's Community Supported Fishery

BUSINESS SECTOR

Skipper Otto's Community Supported Fishery (CSF) connects local fishermen with consumers who purchase shares in sustainably caught seafood before the season begins. The model helps independent, small-scale, low-impact fishermen receive a fair price for their catch while ensuring members both a fair, stable price and a transparent local source for their seafood. This partnership fosters the protection of ocean resources while providing premium, wild, fairly-traded, Ocean Wise seafood.

■ <http://skipperotto.com>



Shaun and Sonia Strobel, co-founders and fishing family

Social Impact Purchasing Guidelines

PUBLIC SECTOR

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation staff consider social value in addition to financial value when making purchasing and procurement decisions in a new initiative aimed at ensuring that the money spent on goods and services has a positive social impact.

The first significant procurement activities under the guidelines were for security services for ministry offices across the province. In three separate procurement processes the successful proponents not only quoted the lowest price for their services, they identified a number of social impacts, including environmentally sustainable business practices through the use of hybrid vehicles, working with local agencies to hire people with barriers to employment, and hiring through inclusive processes.

The Social Impact Purchasing Guidelines resulted in the ministry becoming the first Canadian government organization to receive Buy Social certification.

■ <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/social-innovation/si-purchasing-guidelines.pdf>

Social Venture Partners

BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

Social Venture Partners (SVP) Vancouver is focused on strengthening the organizational capacity of non-profits serving children in need and at-risk youth. The organization is part of a global network that invests time, talent and grant money for philanthropic good.

Comprised of entrepreneurs, business professionals, volunteers, parents, community leaders, and engaged philanthropists, the Vancouver chapter has a long track record of strengthening the capacity within the not-for-profit sector. Some of the non-profits they work with include the Adoptive Families Association of BC, Athletics for Kids, the Fresh Roots Urban Farm Society, Growing Chefs, KidSafe, the Mom2Mom Child Poverty Initiative, Power to Be, the Red Fox Health Living Society, the Yo Bro Youth Initiative, and Zero Ceiling.

■ <http://www.socialventurepartners.org/vancouver/>

SoKap Communities Networks Inc.

BUSINESS SECTOR

Sokap Community Networks Inc, identifies business opportunities that are best suited to be owned by a community instead of a single investor or owner.

Sokap structures the deal and allows community members to reap both the social and financial benefits, while simplifying the management and making reporting transparent to stakeholders.

This is done through by using its expertise in crowdsourcing, software, proprietary IP partnerships, and providing excellent customer service.

Who is Sokap's customer?

- People who support locally owned businesses
- Communities looking for businesses that are low risk to stakeholders
- Who does Sokap partner with?
- Market ready social entrepreneurs
- City associations, credit unions and local leadership groups
- Professional advisory groups

■ <http://www.sokap.com>

Spring

BUSINESS SECTOR

Spring is Canada's first global school for entrepreneurs. Our goal is to help entrepreneurs use business to change the world and make a positive impact. Our courses are designed for entrepreneurs at any stage of their business and can be combined to create a comprehensive startup experience from ideation to the closing of the first round of funding. We have 400+ alumni around the world with 250+ companies successfully launched across 30+ campus locations.

■ <http://springu.is>

SquareOne

BUSINESS SECTOR

SquareOne, an initiative of the Nanaimo Economic Development Commission, is a tech incubator that provides office space, expertise and resources to tech startups in Nanaimo.

Vancouver Island University (VIU) has been an early supporter of SquareOne by purchasing five tech seats for VIU students who apply to take their startup ideas to Square One to explore development potential. Over the past three years more than 12 VIU students have participated in exploring development of new technology applications.

■ www.thinkbigatsquareone.com

Tax Aid DABC

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

People receiving the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit or the Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers (PPMB) can get assistance with simple income tax filings from Disability Alliance BC.

A number of financial benefits are available to British Columbians who file their taxes and the benefits will not usually affect PWD or PPMB assistance cheques. For example, the GST/HST Credit and BC Low Income Climate Action Tax Credit (BCLICATC) alone can provide as much as \$200 to \$400.

<https://taxaiddabc.org>

The Grist Mill And Gardens At Keremeos

PUBLIC AND BUSINESS SECTOR

The Grist Mill and Gardens is pioneering a new business model and social enterprise that allows the provincially-owned 19th century historic water mill to generate self-supporting revenue while staying true to the site's significant heritage values and also supporting the local community's needs.

Under the model, the property is leased to a Community Contribution Company, which operates it as a community facility for weddings, conferences, and meetings while also keeping its historic qualities intact and supporting tourism in the Similkameen Valley.

This model for the sustainable leasing of publicly-owned heritage property will lead to the development of new Land Act policy to facilitate similar tenures. It also addresses government's goal to seek sustainable community-based tenure for provincially-owned heritage properties and reduce reliance on public funds for sustainable stewardship of these properties.

■ <http://www.oldgristmill.ca>

The heirloom apple orchard on-site, which offers a picturesque backdrop of K Mountain during an evening banquet.



The HiVE

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

HiVE Vancouver Society uses its shared 12,000-square-foot community space to build a network of knowledge, connection and innovative action in order to take on society's most complex challenges.

From simply sharing ideas over a communal meal to designing actionable solutions for the neighbourhood, HiVE members—over 200 social entrepreneurs, change-makers, activists, and artists—have built a culture of collaboration where people and the planet come first. Organizations cowork side by side, share resources, develop new programming—all with the shared goal of creating a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society.

HiVE has implemented a barter program, Desk Bee, that gives an opportunity for folks new to Vancouver or Canada a chance to trade membership to our social impact community in exchange for 30 hours of HiVE front desk reception time per month. Desk bees are engaged in areas that range from advocacy to youth empowerment, mental health solutions and photography. They're working to create zero waste movements and communities of support in the social impact sector.

■ <http://www.hivevancouver.com>



HiVE members, programming staff, and Board members brainstorm solutions at "Swarm the HiVE", a community jam on the future of social impact in Vancouver

The Next Big Thing

NON-PROFIT AND BUSINESS SECTORS

The Next Big Thing (TNBT) is a national charitable organization that supports the entrepreneurial growth of youth through programs that give them skills needed to succeed in the Canadian and global economies. TNBT identifies and empowers young change-makers, rule-breakers, and entrepreneurial spirits through its intensive Fellowship Program and Youth Bright Idea Program. Through these programs, TNBT connects young Canadians with a highly influential professional network, practical business and technical skills, and each other.

Since 2014 the organization has supported 56 entrepreneurs, all under 25, who have launched 36 ventures and have raised \$4.8M in capital. They include young individuals like Salima Visram who developed a backpack that allows students in rural parts of Africa to study using the power of the sun. For every backpack purchased from Soular, a second backpack with a built-in solar panel is provided to a child in East Africa. The solar panels charge batteries that can later be connected to a LED light, allowing the children to study without using expensive, dangerous kerosene lamps. So far, more than a thousand children in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have benefitted from The Soular Backpack.



A backpack with a built-in solar panel is making it easier for children in rural Africa to study

■ <http://wearetnbt.com>

ThriveNorth Initiative, Futurpreneur Canada

NON-PROFIT AND BUSINESS SECTORS

A national agency supporting entrepreneurs and a global company proposing a mega project in the north are partners in a program to help young people with entrepreneurial aspirations in smaller, more remote, harder to reach communities.

ThriveNorth is a joint initiative between Futurpreneur Canada and Prince Rupert LNG, the proposed LNG project on Ridley Island. It supports young entrepreneurs in the Prince Rupert region wanting to prosper in their home communities and create opportunities for others who have left to return home. Specifically it provides emerging business owners aged 18-39 with resources, finances, mentoring and connections to other support in their communities.

The socially innovative partnership, focused on diversifying economic activities in the North, began in 2013 when BG Group entered into a five-year partnership with Youth Business International (YBI), a global network of organizations in 45 countries, helping young people start and grow businesses and create employment.

“Futurpreneur made this social enterprise a possibility, giving it not only financial support, but credibility and validity that a small business creating jobs in the community can be a reality...Futurpreneur has made a long-term impact that will last in this region for many generations to come and has shown what can be possible, even when the odds are stacked against you.”

—**Heather Bohn, Our Roots: Café Eatery and Community Space, winner of 2016 Best Social Enterprise Idea, ThriveNorth Business Challenge 2016, Terrace**

■ <http://www.thrivenorth.ca>



ThriveNorth winners and runner-ups take the stage

Urban Matters

BUSINESS, PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

Urban Matters CCC is a social enterprise incorporated as a Community Contribution Company that was created as a social innovation by the consultancy company Urban Systems Ltd. to “create significant, sustainable impact in communities through a blended value and sustainable business models.” As a CCC Urban Matters is required by law to reinvest a portion of its earnings back into the community.

Through explorations and innovation labs, to meaningful and supportive consulting work, to incubation and post-launch support, Urban Matters CCC works in partnership with social entrepreneurs and socially purposed organizations who are already generating meaningful change, to help them scale and magnify their outcomes.

Highlights of Urban Matters CCCs' current initiatives include the development and launch of the Aboriginal Social Enterprise Network (<http://www.aboriginalsocialenterprise.ca/>), initially in partnership with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, the development of a community-based social enterprise accelerator with local social entrepreneurs in the Okanagan Valley called purppl (for PURposeful PeoPLe, www.purppl.ca), and cross-sectoral explorations of levers (existing and new) to improve access to affordable housing in a number of Municipalities, with a number of non-profit housing providers, as well as with the Government of Alberta.

 www.urbanmatters.ca



Venture Acceleration Program

PUBLIC SECTOR

The Venture Acceleration Program (VAP), offered through the BC Innovation Council, helps entrepreneurs grow their early-stage technology using best business practices. The goal of the program is to drive economic development and job creation in BC by accelerating the commercialization of technology.

Entrepreneurs are guided by an Executive in Residence (EIR) who is an experienced professional on contract to the program. EIRs coach entrepreneurs through day-to-day issues and help them overcome the typical challenges of successfully growing a start-up. As well, delivery partners offer access to training, seminars, advisory services and networking opportunities.

The BC Innovation Council accelerates the commercialization of our province's technology through programs like VAP. In particular, this program enables the transfer of expertise and access to talent, new markets and capital.

■ <http://bcic.ca/for-entrepreneurs/vap/>

Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone

PUBLIC SECTOR

The Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone (VISIZ) is a partnership among educational institutions, not-for-profit social agencies and a financial institution aiming to create a climate for both greater understanding and more social enterprise on Vancouver Island.

One of the VISIZ projects helped modify co-op education practices to better enable social innovation. As a result students received funding from the co-op and career offices that supported 75% of their co-op salary, with the host organization paying the remainder. In addition to the regular co-op curriculum and preparation, students and community received additional training on social innovation and a set of social innovation specific competencies were developed for use in assessing learning of those students interested in social innovation terms.

VISZ partners are the University of Victoria, Royal Roads University and Camosun College, as well as Vancity, the Community Social Planning Council, Social Enterprise Catalyst and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

■ <http://visocialinnovation.ca/>

Young Entrepreneur Leadership Launchpad (YELL)

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

YELL creates deep learning experiences that equip students with an entrepreneurial mindset (skills, competencies, attitudes, and beliefs) and support network. To create this impact, YELL co-delivers a full-year (100+ hours) accredited entrepreneurship and innovation course that culminates in a Provincial Venture Challenge where students pitch their ventures. The course is designed to provide less theory and more real world examples; messy, real-world learning experiences where students are guaranteed to fail along the way, be forced out of their comfort zone, and deal with stress; and a mentor for 3 months to guide the students; and free access (for teachers) to world-class entrepreneurship education materials developed in partnership with universities. Founded in 2013, YELL has since expanded to serve 150 youth annually in BC and is doubling year over year, with over 300 youth expected to go through its program in the 2017-2018 school year.

The leader of this program was recognized with a 2017 BC Social Innovation Youth Award.

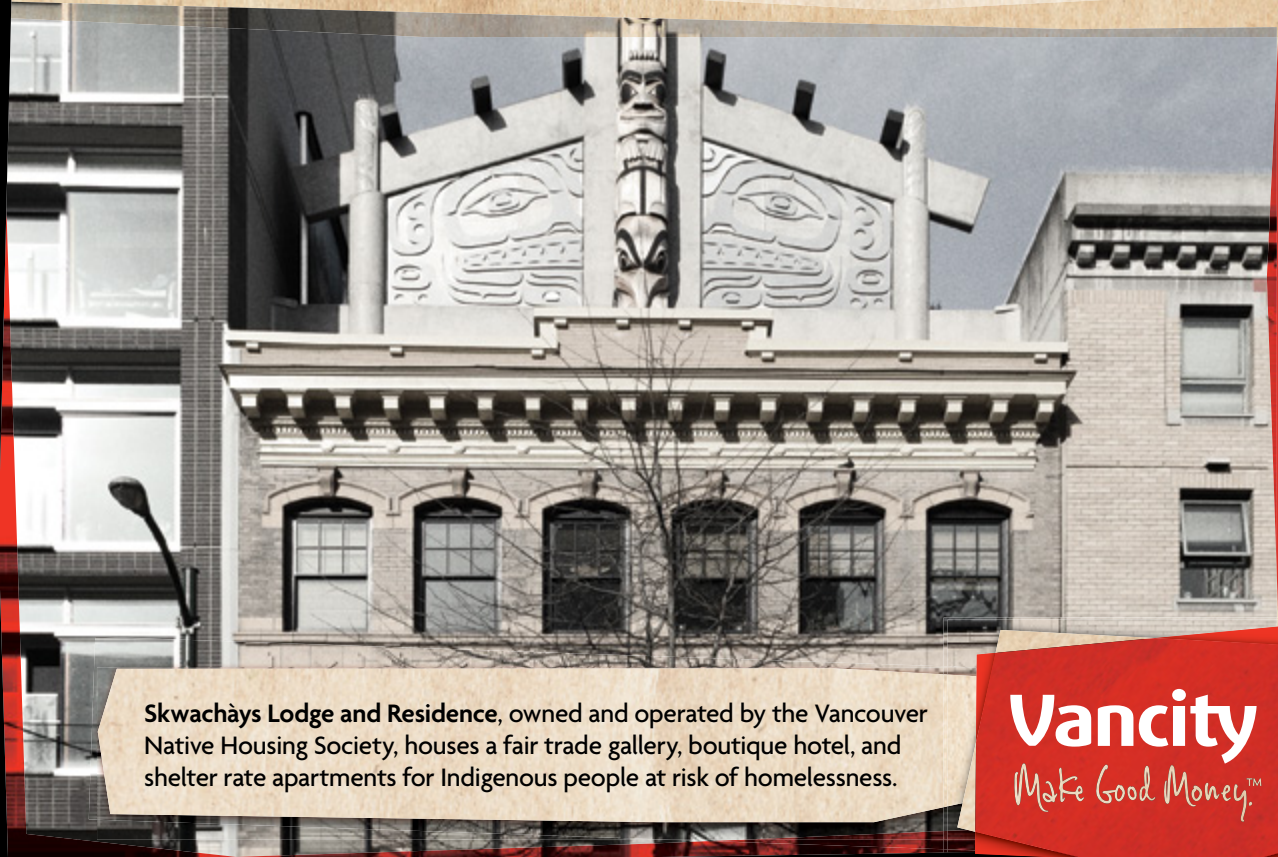
■ <http://weyell.org/>

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Skwachàys Lodge and Residence, owned and operated by the Vancouver Native Housing Society, houses a fair trade gallery, boutique hotel, and shelter rate apartments for Indigenous people at risk of homelessness.

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