



**BCCDC Foundation**  
*for Public Health*



# ANNUAL REPORT

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**2021/22**

655 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

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We acknowledge and show gratitude that we are able to work, live, and play on the traditional and unceded lands of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lo and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) Nations, and that our work humbly extends to all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people across what we call British Columbia. We make our commitment to continue on our path

of learning and reconciliation and where welcomed to do so, to work with communities to support undoing inequities that have harmed and continue to harm Indigenous people across the stolen and colonized lands of Turtle Island, or what we now call Canada.



# OUR BOARD CHAIR: A LETTER

**Cathy Daminato, BSc, MBA**  
Chair – Board of Directors

As we entered the second year living with COVID-19, the pandemic continued to be a significant focus for the Foundation. Thankfully, our best defence against the virus—vaccination—was introduced in late 2020. By April 2021, nearly one million adult British Columbians had received their first dose of vaccine, and a vaccine for children five and over was introduced later in the year. Even as highly-transmissible COVID-19 variants spread, our high vaccination rate in BC helps reduce hospitalizations and lessen the burden on our healthcare system.

The pandemic exacerbated another public health issue, the toxic drug poisoning crisis. April 2021 served as the five-year anniversary of the crisis being declared a public health emergency in BC, and five years into the declaration, the province had recorded more than 7,000 deaths from illicit drug poisonings. Addressing this crisis, and supporting those affected by it, has been, and will continue to be, a top priority for the Foundation.

Our partnership with the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), the Ministry of Health (MOH), and the public health sector was further strengthened this year. This collaboration will continue to play a key role in the provinces' ongoing response to COVID-19, as well as plans for recovery and addressing the societal consequences of the pandemic, some of which have placed an inequitable burden on our most vulnerable. Further, this partnership will enable us to support the province in preparing for, and responding to, existing and emerging threats, and to strengthening public health capacities, expertise, and infrastructure for BC.





A partnership also formed with Genome BC and Michael Smith Health Research BC (formerly the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research) in early 2021, which allowed our organizations to leverage resources and expertise to launch a rapid response funding program enabling us to collectively fund nine high-impact vaccine research projects in May 2021. Thanks to our donors, we also funded the COVID-19 SPEAK 2 Survey and interactive dashboard. “SPEAK 2” was the second iteration of the population-level survey, with a focus on recovery, learning, and supporting, as we look ahead to post-pandemic plans.

Whether through partnerships, collaborations, donations, or other types of engagement, many came together this year to show their support for the BCCDC Foundation’s role in two major public health crises in our province. For this, I extend my deepest thanks. I am also extremely grateful to our Board of Directors for their expertise, guidance, and deep commitment to public health in BC. My thanks also to our exceptional staff for their enormous contributions to the Foundation.

While much has been accomplished this past year, there is much more work to be done to recover from this pandemic, to prepare for the next, and to address the overdose crisis. With your continuing support, we will continue to strive for the best public health outcomes for all British Columbians.

**Cathy Daminato**, BSc, MBA  
Chair – Board of Directors

# OUR ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, we too continued to support the province and residents in BC with response efforts, including public-friendly communications to help distill the increasingly complicated information. As variants of concern and resultant waves continue to impact us all, we remained regimented through the year, while also having conversations about how we will support recovery and the societal consequences of the pandemic. We spent significant time this year working with the BCCDC, the MOH, and other partners to not only respond to the current pandemic, but to plan and prepare for the future.

We also began, in earnest, deeper conversations with our partners about the worsening overdose crisis, or what many have begun calling the toxic drug poisoning crisis to more accurately reflect the root cause, and to place the blame on the poisoned drugs, not the people. We're prepared to tackle innovative and progressive solutions, and are working with key partners towards critical actions we can take as a charity in the public health sector to put an end to this preventable loss of lives.

In order to continue to support the public health sector and the BCCDC, we were excited to grow this year by adding two new staff to our team, bringing very strong operational and fundraising experience and expertise to help guide the Foundation for the years to come. We had a new Board Director join us late in the year, who will take on our Treasurer position. This poises us to tackle more public health work for BC, and to play a key role in improving the health of our population as we continue to ground our work in the most pressing public health needs of today and tomorrow. As we continued to implement our strategic plan over the year, we worked across our priority areas to deliver upon key projects that are driving forward positive public health outcomes, supporting our communities, and addressing inequities. Similarly to last year, as we look ahead to the coming years, we also reflect on, and plan for, how we will leverage our work into even greater success for BC.



*“As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact all of us in BC and across the globe, we worked hard to continue to be your public health foundation on the ground, addressing response efforts and looking ahead to recovery needs. As a small organization in this space, we tackle the big, urgent crises impacting the health of our population, and we commit to addressing threats, reducing harms, and advancing equity for all as we look ahead to next year, and beyond.”*

*- Kristy Kerr,  
Executive Director, BCCDC Foundation for Public Health*

# OUR TOP PRIORITIES

As a public health foundation, it is our responsibility to support and address the biggest and most pressing public health issues for British Columbia. In doing so, fiscal year 2021-22 was very busy, and focused. Through this year, our top priorities have been the **COVID-19 pandemic** and the **toxic drug poisoning crisis**, which we have witnessed become more and more exacerbated by the pandemic, and pandemic measures.



**BC COVID-19 SPEAK 2  
Population Survey**



**Rapid SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine  
Research Initiative in BC**



**BC COVID-19 Wastewater  
Testing and Surveillance**



**Compassion, Inclusion, and  
Engagement: Supporting  
Peers on the Front-lines of the  
Overdose Crisis**



# “Our work to address COVID-19 has been highly collaborative.”

Our work to address COVID-19 has been highly collaborative. We funded, and supported knowledge translation, for a second large population health survey—the [BC COVID-19 SPEAK 2 Survey](#)—that went live in May 2021, and through over 200,000 responses, provided critical information at a crucial time in the pandemic, and second time point following the first SPEAK Survey.

The second iteration of the population-level survey focused on recovery, learning, and supporting, as we look ahead to post-pandemic plans. Data guided, and will continue to guide, areas such as: re-opening plans for safe return to school for kindergarten to grade 12 and the return of in-person post-secondary education; education and interventions to areas with high vaccine hesitancy levels; COVID-19 vaccine program decisions; supports and initiatives to improve mental health; recovery priorities in [supporting the health and wellbeing of young adults](#), and much more. This type of research is important for public health response and action, and we will continue to support key areas like this as we move through the pandemic and begin to look ahead to recovery and addressing the societal consequences.

As we first introduced last year, we formed a [unique collaboration](#) with Genome BC and Michael Smith Health Research BC (MSHRBC), formerly the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, to develop and implement a rapid response vaccine research funding program, “Rapid SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Research Initiative in BC.” Through a tremendous effort, we were able to leverage our resources and expertise and collectively fund nine high-impact vaccine projects that will support the province in vaccine programming and decision-making for the public health response. This is collaboration at its best—when we authentically work together with a shared goal and vision the impact is clear—Genome BC and MSHRBC are essential research funding organizations in BC, and by joining forces we are moving the dial on vaccine research much faster.



Wastewater testing has become a critical part of COVID-19 surveillance in BC. In 2020, with the support of Metro Vancouver and the BCCDC Foundation, BCCDC researchers Dr Melissa Glier and Dr Natalie Prystajeky rapidly developed and validated a series of methods to test wastewater in an entire community for SARS-CoV-2. This year, [the team was able to optimize their methods](#) and apply them to testing for SARS-CoV-2 in five wastewater treatment plants in Metro Vancouver, located within two regional health authorities, covering nearly 50% of BC's population. A collaboration with UBC researchers led to the development of a rapid sequencing method to effectively track COVID-19 variants of concern within a region and this methodology will become an even stronger tool for COVID-19 surveillance moving forward. This will

be part of a comprehensive enhanced wastewater surveillance system for BC that includes adding additional testing targets of public health concern, such as for surveillance of flu, foodborne pathogens, or organisms carrying antimicrobial resistance.

From the communications standpoint, spreading evidence-based information about COVID-19 was once again our top priority this year, especially when it came to vaccination. While most in British Columbia were getting vaccinated, there were still many who hadn't. [Vaccine Hesitancy: Foe of Healthy Communities](#) encouraged the importance of critical thinking, stopping the spread of misinformation, sharing accurate information, and encouraging loved ones to get vaccinated.



**“Reducing harms from the toxic drug poisoning crisis continues to be a top priority.”**

The toxic drug poisoning crisis is a top priority for us, and as the [Compassion, Inclusion, and Engagement \(CIE\)](#) program wrapped up, we have focused on raising awareness of the crisis and those greatly impacted by it, and we have dedicated our time to [sharing information and knowledge to support advocacy needs](#). Importantly, we have been deep in conversation with many partners to determine the role that we can play moving forward to make change, and take actions in ways that will help put an end to the staggering and preventable loss of life.



## Food Safety

Through a multi-year program, funding centred on food safety in our province working in partnership with the MOH. From drinking water, to poultry products, to dairy, researchers collected and tested samples in order to improve safety standards to continue to reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses. Working in partnership with Indigenous communities, these food safety practices were introduced with respect to cultural practices.



## Anal Cancer Screening

We were able to bring our Merck partnership to an area of shared interest with BCCDC to develop both a patient and healthcare provider educational resource for those requiring anal cancer screening. Led by Dr Troy Grennan, the goal is to enhance and improve the quality of care for these individuals where there is presently a lack of guidance and materials. Though based in Vancouver, there is intent for these resources to be used on a national level. Stay tuned for this work to further develop in 2022-23.



## Complex Chronic Diseases

Another long-term and multi-year collaboration with the Complex Chronic Diseases Clinic at BC Women's Hospital has allowed for in-depth research into chronic and complex diseases. Key areas of epidemiology have been strengthened, including the ability to identify, treat, and catalogue these complex chronic diseases amongst the population.



## Test, Link, Call Project

Working with BCCDC, and through support from our partners at AbbVie, the [Test, Link, Call \(TLC\)](#) project has been launched to provide transitional care for people living with hepatitis C leaving provincial correctional centres. This project has great potential to improve health equity for people who experience incarceration, in particular for people who use substances, people who experience mental health issues, or people living with hepatitis C or HIV infection. As this project is implemented in 2022-23, we look forward to showcasing the outcomes and impact.

# OUR PUBLIC HEALTH CHAMPIONS

Public Health Champions—committed donors, funders, and partners of the Foundation—generously gave almost \$10.7M to support public health projects that advance health equity, and are addressing the dual health emergencies facing the province.



As a small, yet mighty organization, every donation truly makes a difference and has impact. **Thank you** to each person, family, group of friends, company, government supporter, and organization, for your partnership in creating a more equitable province, where everyone can live in healthy and safe communities.

## The Tarry's hold 3rd BC Stay-at-Home Campout

“We decided to do another camp out this year, because we can see that everyone is getting tired of COVID restrictions and yet the numbers are going up and we all should stay home. Anything we can do to have fun while staying at home is great, especially if it means contributing to the fight against COVID too! Last year many families really enjoyed the experience and we hope to get that same level of engagement again!”

- Kelly Tarry, Organizer,  
BC Stay-at-Home Campout



In the early days of the pandemic, to encourage people to stay home (and have fun while doing it), the Tarry family of Surrey, BC, held their first BC Stay-at-Home Campout in 2020 and asked people to donate at least \$5 to the Foundation’s Emergency Response Fund. That year they held a second campout that was equally successful, so in May 2021, [they decided to do a third!](#) In total, to help address COVID-19, the Tarry’s helped raise nearly \$5,500 from over 175 participants across BC from their three campouts.

## Congregation Beth Israel Honours Dr Bonnie Henry

“Dr Henry’s actions and behaviours show leadership in this world, and they exemplify Jewish values that we hold dear. We believe that the saving of a life, known in Hebrew as Pikuah Nefesh, is the most important act in which we can engage. Dr Henry has done everything possible to save the lives of British Columbians. We also believe that we are obligated to work with the value of chesed, kindness. We cannot imagine that there is a kinder leader than Dr Henry. Her message of ‘this is our time to be kind, to be calm and to be safe’ exemplifies the teachings we hold sacred.”

- *Esther Moses*, Executive Director at Congregation Beth Israel



We were pleased when Congregation Beth Israel reached out to us about honouring Dr Bonnie Henry at their Annual Gala with the ‘Keter Ha’Bri’ut’ (‘Crown of Health’) award, along with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Foundation. This “[Celebration of Kindness](#)” online event was beautifully organized, well attended, and raised an incredible \$10,000 for our Emergency Response Fund to help with COVID-19 response efforts.



## Legislative Ban on Conversion Therapy

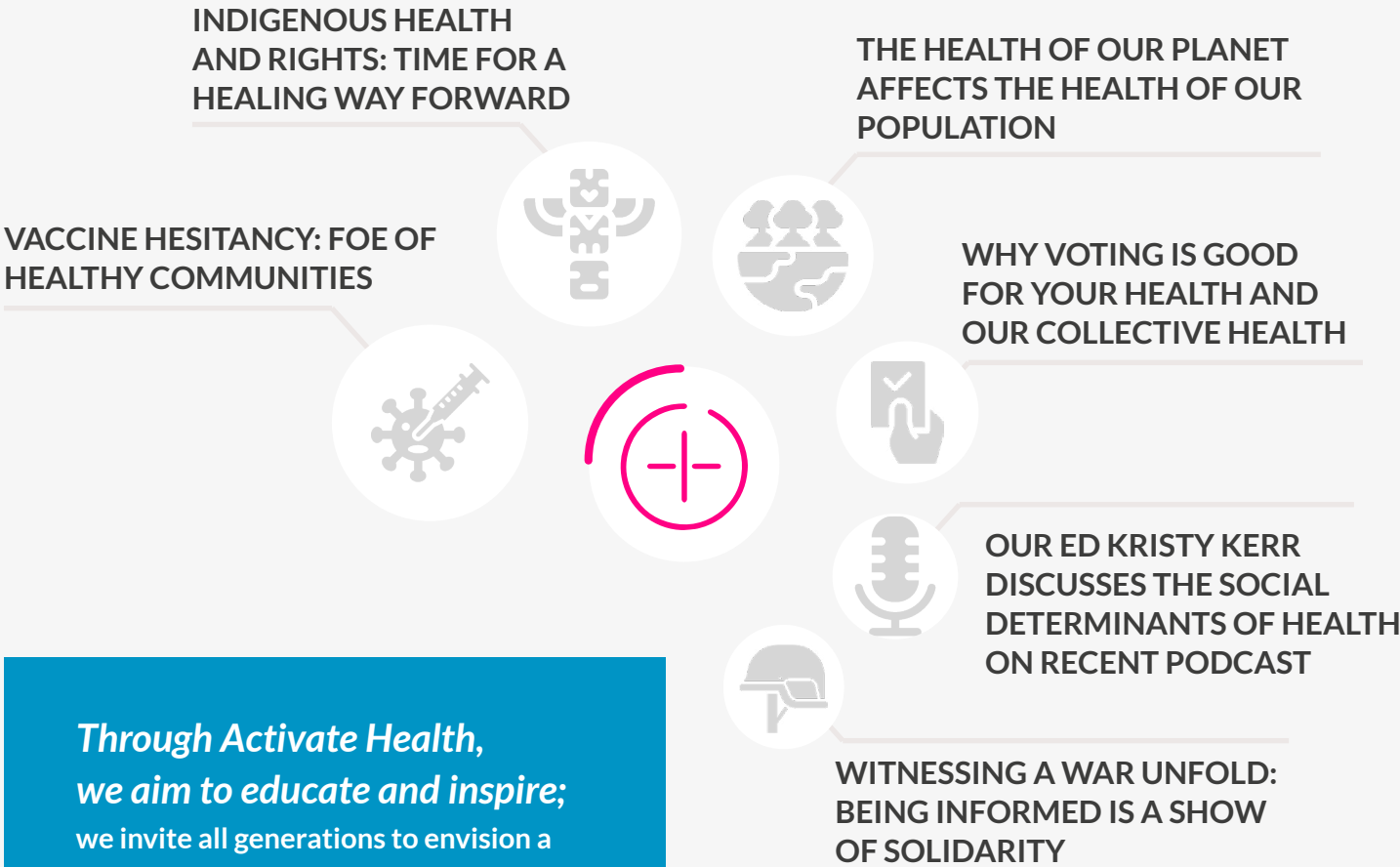
“This enormous achievement is cause for celebration, reflection, and deeper commitments to addressing the social ills that enable conversion therapy to occur in the first place.”

- *Dr Travis Salway*, Social Epidemiology Assistant Professor, SFU

To support survivors of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Change Efforts (SOGIECE), also known as “conversion therapy,” in 2019, with the help of many donors, the Foundation funded a research project led by Dr Travis Salway that included a dialogue event to determine the research priorities to support the health and wellbeing of survivors. Dr Salway used this research to engage with government and ultimately, through many efforts and in a huge victory, in January 2021 conversion therapy was banned in Canada. This doesn’t mean these practices have been eradicated completely, though, [as limits and unintended consequences](#) are well documented in the context of other public health issues, like HIV for example. Still, the banning of conversion therapy is an enormous win, and it is with thanks to our donors who supported this work that we can say we are so proud to have been able to fund work that helped lead our country to the ban, and the positive health impacts it will have on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

# OUR BATTLE CRY: ACTIVATE HEALTH

Public health is not only about keeping people healthy, it's also about empowering people to be healthy. **Activate Health** is about changing the way we see, think about, and engage with our health. It's about shifting the focus from being reactive to proactive—from treating illness and injury, to preventing it from happening in the first place. It's also about acknowledging and addressing social injustices, rather than turning a blind eye to social inequities. There is power in our individual actions—power to use our actions to improve the health of those around us, and in turn, contribute to building a healthy, safe, and just society for all.



*Through Activate Health, we aim to educate and inspire; we invite all generations to envision a world of healthy, happy, well individuals, starting with themselves. And this year, through our blog posts, there were many times we wove Activate Health principles into the conversation.*

## VACCINE HESITANCY: FOE OF HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The pandemic caused misinformation to run rampant online, and in person, far and wide, resulting in vaccine hesitancy, a danger to the protection of our population. In [Vaccine Hesitancy: Foe of Healthy Communities](#), we talked about what drives vaccine misinformation, how to find and spread evidence-based information only, and the positive impact one can have by being a COVID-19 vaccine ambassador.



Image credit: Emilee Gillpin; Artists: Jerry Whitehead, Sharifah Marsden, and Corey Larocque

## INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND RIGHTS: TIME FOR A HEALING WAY FORWARD

Just a few days prior to the start of Indigenous History Month, 215 undocumented remains of children were uncovered at a former residential school in Kamloops, BC. In [Indigenous Health and Rights: Time for a Healing Way Forward](#), we called on our community to work on the hard truths and vital reconciliations; we must work toward healing. We shared six ways we can do this together, along with a rich list of resources and further reading.

## THE HEALTH OF OUR PLANET AFFECTS THE HEALTH OF OUR POPULATION

Climate change has caused unprecedented temperatures in BC that led to hundreds of deaths in just one summer alone. [The Health of Our Planet Affects the Health of Our Population](#) addressed the fact that not all British Columbians experience the effects of climate change the same—those who already experience inequities such as colonization, racism, and low income, are more susceptible to its negative effects. We shared three ways to **Activate Health** to create a positive impact for our population, and to promote health equity.



## WHY VOTING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH AND OUR COLLECTIVE HEALTH

As we faced a federal election, it was important to encourage everyone to vote, especially young adults who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. We called on individuals to consider how they can use their voice to express their values, concerns, hopes, and expectations—how to [use their vote to stand up for their rights and for their health](#).

## OUR ED KRISTY KERR DISCUSSES THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH ON RECENT PODCAST

Our ED, Kristy Kerr, was invited for an interview on the [Small Conversations Podcast](#) to elaborate on the Foundation's role in supporting positive health outcomes for people living in British Columbia. She used her time to educate audience members on the social determinants of health, what positive health really means, and how we as individuals, and as a population, can strive toward creating the healthy human.



### WITNESSING A WAR UNFOLD: BEING INFORMED IS A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY

We would be remiss if we didn't address the devastating war in Ukraine, and the negative health impacts it has on survivors. [Witnessing a War Unfold: Being Informed is a Show of Solidarity](#) called on the community to not look away, rather to lean in to what is happening—to pay attention. Because it's through paying attention that we witness; by witnessing we become informed; and by informing ourselves, we take action.



*And that's what **Activate Health** is all about: taking action. The beauty of **Activate Health** is that we can all get involved in our own unique ways to take individual actions and to stand up for the health of our society, and in doing so, create a positive impact for the health of our friends, neighbours, community, and world.*







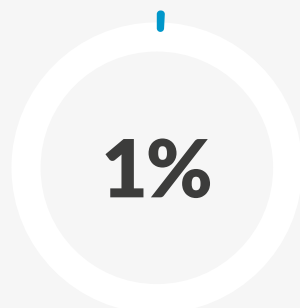
# OUR FINANCIALS

**2021/22**

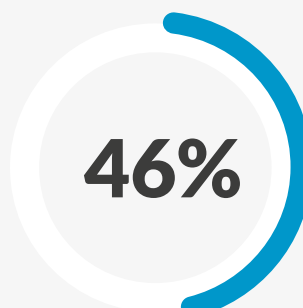
ANNUAL REPORT FINANCIALS



## SOURCES OF REVENUE



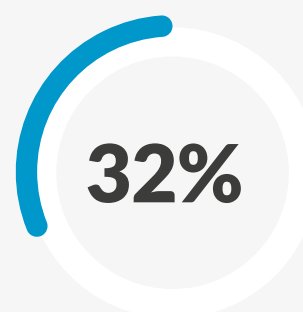
In-kind contributions



Government Grants



Donations and other  
charitable gifts



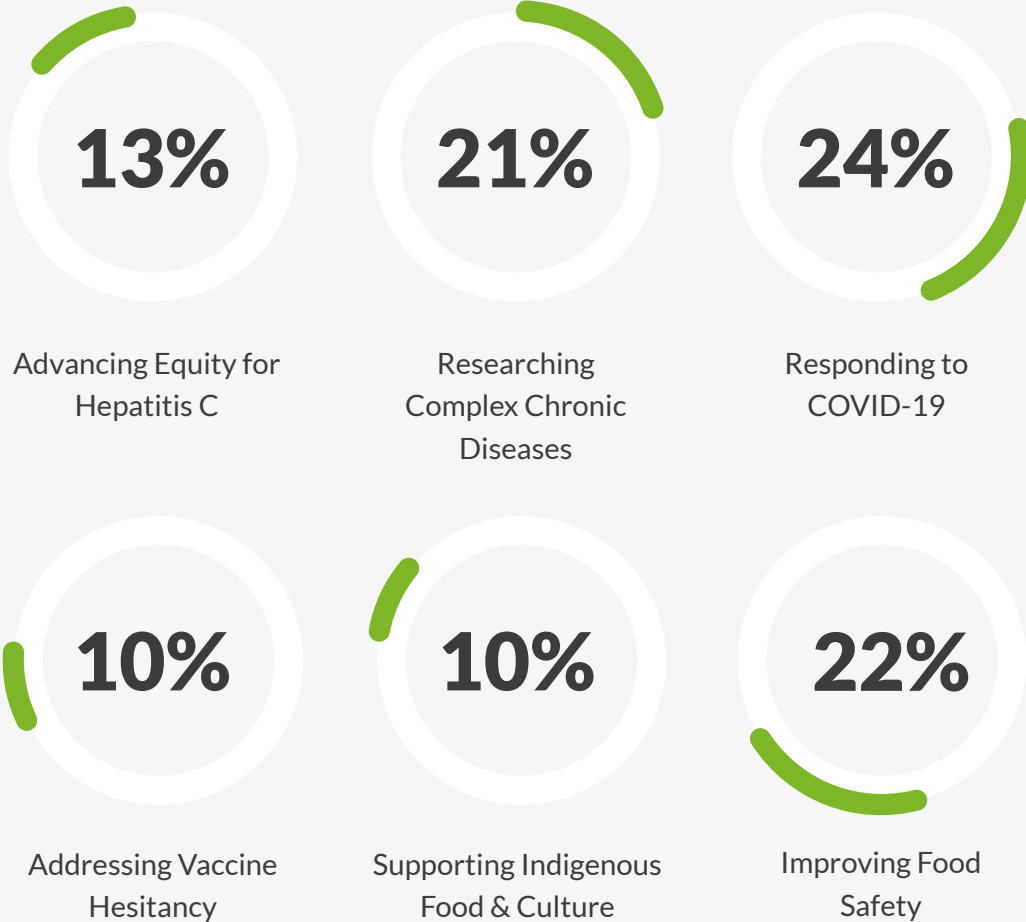
Investment Income

## Statement of Financial Position

	2021/22	2020/21
Assets	\$11,914,627	\$12,029,057
Liabilities	\$11,161,147	\$11,090,384
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$753,480	\$938,673

To view our audited financial statements, go [here](#).

## INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH



### Statement of Operations

	2021/22	2020/21
Total Revenue	\$987,479	\$1,236,128
Project Expenses	\$564,778	\$530,040
Operating Expenses	\$607,894	\$422,588
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(\$185,193)	\$283,500

# OUR THANKS

We extend gratitude to all supporters who helped advance public health efforts this past year. We appreciate each donation and share this special acknowledgement to the individuals, businesses, and organizations that have contributed \$100 or more to the BCCDC Foundation for Public Health. In partnership with this committed donor community, together, we are creating change. Thank you!



*Thank you to our Donors,  
Funders, and Partners*



**\$250K  
VISIONARIES**

- BC Ministry of Health
- Provincial Health Services Authority



**\$75K-\$250K  
CHANGEMAKERS**

AbbVie Canada Corp.



## **\$25K - \$74,999** **AMBASSADORS**

Merck Canada



## **\$5K - \$24,999** **ALLIES**

Anonymous Donor  
Congregation Beth Israel

## **\$500 - \$4,999** **IMPACT COLLECTIVE MEMBERS**

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Anonymous Donor	Ben and Lilac Milne
Vincent Argiro	Douglas Nelson
Ellen Balka	Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel
Kristy Kerr	June Wing
Fabio Kenji Kume	

## **\$100 - \$499** **FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION**

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Anonymous Gifts (4)	Cathy Daminato	Neil Jorgensen	Duncan McLean
Kim Acedo	Bob Dawson	Natasha Krotez	Hala Nugent
John Andru	Alex Fang	Rosalind Lau	Lance Parker
John Boggiss	Bhaskara	Rowena Lunn	Kelly Pollack
Veronika Bumbulovic	Gangavarapu	David Mackay	Judith Snider
Elaine Chong	Ria Gupta	Nancy Matheson	Tho Tong
Geoffrey Chum	Elissa Hermolin	Gillian McCormick	Sung Van
			Jing Wang

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ADVISORS

## Thank you to our 2021–2022 Board of Directors and Advisors

The BCCDC Foundation for Public Health will forever be indebted to its Board of Directors and Advisors who selflessly dedicate their time and leadership to help steward the Foundation. Many thanks are extended to our Board and our Advisors.



**Cathy Daminato**  
Chair, BCCDC Foundation



**Ellen Chesney**  
Director and Secretary,  
BCCDC Foundation  
Chief Administrative Officer-  
Research, PHSA



**Andrew Montgomerie**  
Director and Treasurer  
(as of March 2022),  
Senior Director, Health Care  
Services at WorkSafeBC



**Ben Milne**  
Director, BCCDC Foundation  
Director, Unbounded Canada  
Foundation



**Douglas Nelson**  
Director, BCCDC Foundation  
President, Managing Director,  
The Discovery Group



**Carmond Ng**

Director and Treasurer  
(until March 2022),  
BCCDC Foundation Manager,  
Health Industries and Risk  
Assurance Services, PWC



**Andrew Hazlewood**

Director, BCCDC Foundation



**Dr Perry Kendall**

Director, BCCDC Foundation  
Co-Executive Director,  
BC Centre on Substance Use



**Kelly Pollack**

Director, BCCDC Foundation  
Executive Director,  
Focused Education Resources



**Dr David Patrick**

Advisor, BCCDC Foundation  
Director of Research, BCCDC



**Dr Réka Gustafson**

Advisor, BCCDC Foundation  
Vice President, Public Health and  
Wellness, BCCDC; Deputy Provincial  
Health Officer



**BCCDC Foundation**  
*for Public Health*



BCCDC Foundation for Public Health  
655 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4



604-707-2490



[www.bccdcfoundation.org](http://www.bccdcfoundation.org)  
[info@bccdcfoundation.org](mailto:info@bccdcfoundation.org)



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