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facts

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

Community foundations are locally-run foundations that build and manage endowment funds to support charitable activities in their area.

Each community foundation is autonomous and governed by a volunteer board of local leaders. They exist in every province and one territory and are linked and supported at the national level through their membership organization, Community Foundations of Canada.

WHAT DO COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS DO?

Community foundations combine three main roles:

1. Endowment Building/Donor Service

Pool the charitable gifts of many donors to create permanent, income-earning endowment funds – a nest egg that will always be there to benefit communities

Connect donors with the issues and organizations that matter most to them. Offer a variety of funds to meet donors' charitable goals; use their insight and experience to help donors have maximum impact

2. Grantmaking

Use the income earned by invested funds to give grants to a wide range of community groups; the original investment is left to grow over time

3. Community Convening & Leadership

Work with the entire community, bringing people together from all sectors to identify and address local issues

Who gives to community foundations?

All kinds of people give many types of gifts – cash, real estate, stock, artwork and insurance.

Flexibility is key. Donors can choose to support their hometown broadly or designate a favourite cause or charity.

Many charities also place their endowment funds with community foundations in order to benefit from greater returns on their investments.

WHO BENEFITS?

The whole community. Community foundations benefit everyone by promoting the value of charitable giving.

They provide grants to every sector – from health, education, and social services, to youth, the arts and environment.

Their support also includes helping charities manage complex donations, linking groups with common goals, and connecting organizations with potential donors.

OUR HISTORY

Winnipeg established Canada's first community foundation in 1921. Today, community foundations are one of the country's fastest-growing charitable movements.

The number of Canadian community foundations has grown dramatically over the past decade – from 28 foundations in 1992 to more than 145 today.

OUR RECORD

Community foundations have decades of experience and a proven track record of helping Canadians make an impact in their communities – now and for future generations.

We've helped countless individuals, families, businesses and other groups get the most out of their giving.

That's why community foundations received some of the largest charitable gifts in Canadian history, such as the historic \$100-million donation from Winnipeg's Moffat family.

OUR INTERNATIONAL GROWTH

There are more than 1,100 community foundations in 42 countries and Canada is a recognized leader in this growing global movement.

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) has played an instrumental role in establishing a worldwide network dedicated to building philanthropy.

CFC also honours the true spirit of philanthropy by widely sharing its expertise with organizations in other countries including Brazil, Mexico, Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, South Africa, and Australia.

F A S T F A C T S

Number of Canadian community foundations:
145 and growing

Combined assets:
\$2 billion

Total grants:
over \$95 million to support local charitable causes

Population served:
89% of Canadians (28.5 million)

Distribution:
community foundations in every province & one territory (NWT)

**all numbers from 2004 fiscal year*



Community Foundations
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