



Kw'umut Lelum
— FOUNDATION —

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 Executive Director Message

05 Our Snuw'uy'ulh

07 Our Nations

08 Our Board

09 Our Impact

11 Highlights

13 Finances

14 Our Community

“

Having the agency to change our lives and support our communities, based on our knowledge, experiences and understanding of our interconnectedness to each other and the land, is the only way we can build social and economic prosperity for our Nations. Kw'umut Lelum Foundation supports our self-determination by empowering communities to identify and resolve the challenges we face and then create our own pathways to a brighter future.

~ John Elliot, Stz'uminus First Nation Chief

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“

We are proud to be an early partner of Kw'umut Lelum Foundation. We are united in our beliefs that every person has the potential to transform their lives and to improve the lives of their families and their communities. First Nations-led philanthropic organizations know best the initiatives that are needed for maximum impact and positive change and can play an important role in self-determination.

~ Jennifer Brennan, Head, Canada Programs
Mastercard Foundation

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“

Our society's dominant social, economic and political systems typically give support by setting the priorities and then offering funding envelopes to meet those priorities. Indigenous Peoples in this country can sometimes not even make small decisions without government approval and funding. I support Kw'umut Lelum Foundation because of the way it walks 'hand-in-hand' with local communities and individuals by letting them set the priorities.

~ Lyn Makepeace
Kw'umut Lelum Foundation monthly donor

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Welcome



Executive Director Message

Uy' skweyul Am.ma sa'

It is my pleasure to present the 2022-23 Annual Report for the Kw'umut Lelum Foundation. I recall last year's message where I made reference to the learning that was inherent in these first few years of developing the Foundation, and I can assure you that this remains a consistent theme.

It has been a productive year as we progress the governance structures, policies, procedures, tracking mechanisms, digital infrastructure and communication strategies necessary to be fully operational. In these beginning stages, I find myself wanting to fast forward into the future, impatient with the technical aspects required to do the work. I dream of the potential impact we have envisioned for the children and youth, but then I hear the voices of the Elders reminding me that to do good work, we must take time and trust the process.

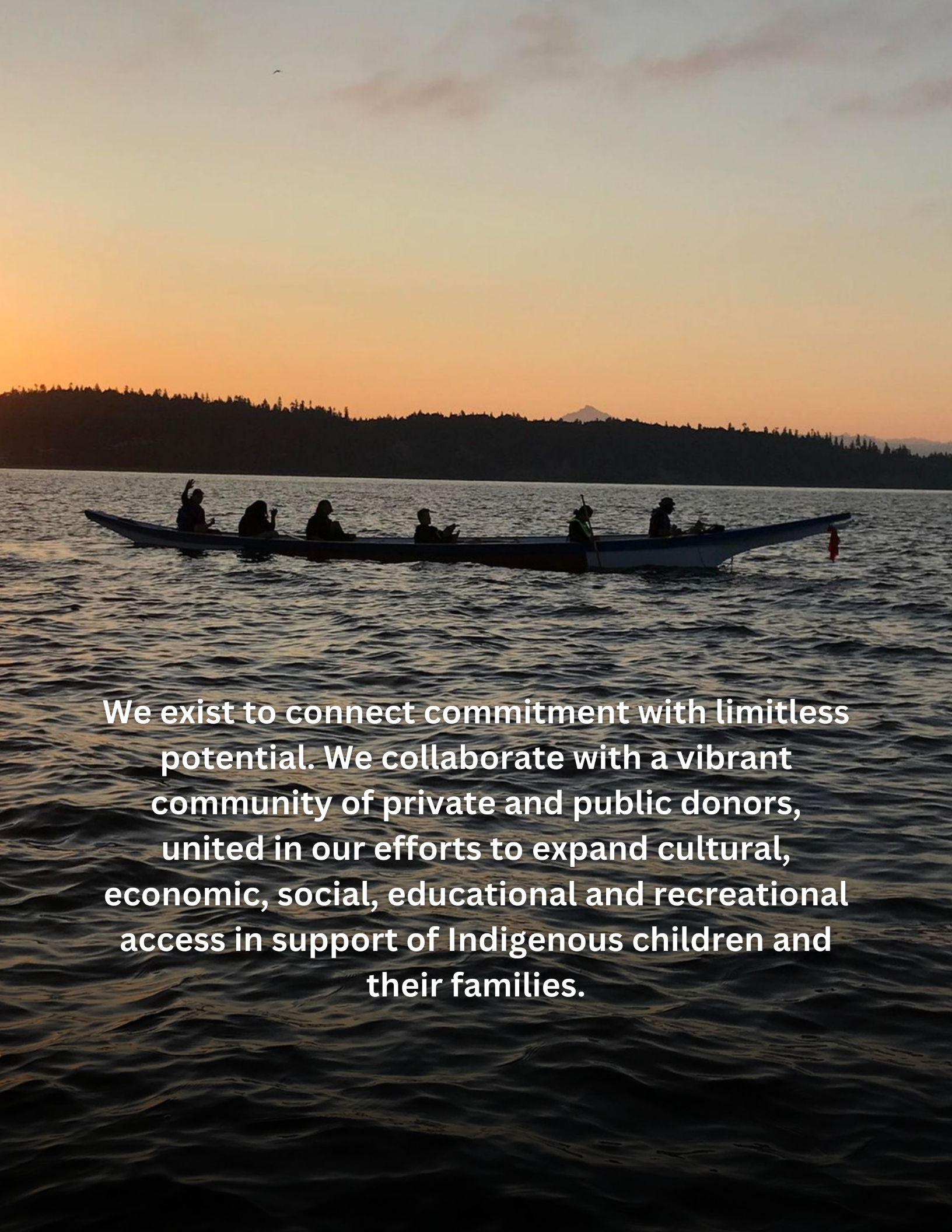


Reflecting on the last year, one of the highlights has been implementing our first granting cycle in which we distributed over \$500,000 in grants to the nine member Nations, their families, children, and youth. While the longer-term impact remains to be seen, we are learning how a gift of \$250 towards a child's soccer registration can alleviate their family's financial stress in the short-term, allowing them to continue providing essential care to their children. Other highlights include participating in various learning events such as the Indigenous Aunties in Philanthropy gathering in Haida Gwaii, the Mastercard Foundation's EleV National Launch, and Kw'umut Lelum's Honouring Our Sisters celebration. Community events included National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament, and hosting our own Truth and Reconciliation Conversations. Through all of these activities we are building relationships and deepening our understanding of the needs of and possibilities for the nine member Nations.

It is these experiences, teachings, and reflections that keep me humble and hold me accountable to what is in front of me now and to what lies ahead further down the road. I am grateful for the opportunity to do this good work and wish to thank the nine member Nations and Board for their support and guidance.

Huy tseep q'u
Ham yii yaa

Ha-Youly, Sharon Hobenshield



We exist to connect commitment with limitless potential. We collaborate with a vibrant community of private and public donors, united in our efforts to expand cultural, economic, social, educational and recreational access in support of Indigenous children and their families.

Our Snuw'uy'ulh



Snuw'uy'ulh

Snuw'uy'ulh (pronounced snu-WHY-uth) are teachings from our loved ones and Elders. They are ancient values that hold deep meaning for how we live. These Coast Salish oral learnings, taught over a lifetime, are about family, ceremonies and customs.

Our snuw'uy'ulh is like a basket woven together by oral teachings, stories and traditions passed on and supported through ceremony - these are all the fibres that give strength and shape to our natural laws.

Surrounding our basket are the practices that hold us accountable to these values and beliefs. Our goal as a foundation is to create abundance and fill our basket with what we know to be true to create thriving communities through collaborations and investment.

TSETSUWATIL

In the spirit of tsetsuwatil (working together for a common benefit), all donors, volunteers and supporters of Kw'umut Lelum are part of our tsetsuwatil community.

SEVEN GENERATIONS

Investing in community today to benefit subsequent generations of children.

ALL MY RELATIONS

Gift giving is intended to balance multiple relationships and demonstrate respect for our mutual existence. It is a system for social relations and for forming alliances and connections.

RELATIONAL GIFTING

We wish to enter into relationships with donors who feel a shared responsibility to address systemic and historic inequalities.

NUTS'AMAAT SHQWULUWUN

Together as one heart and one mind.

HONOURING MOTHER EARTH

We bring to all of our community investments and activities our understanding, traditions and practices that honour and respect the land.





Indigenous-Led, Values-Based Philanthropy

Indigenous-led philanthropy is based on the traditions of gift giving in Indigenous communities. Gift giving is intended to balance multiple relationships and demonstrate respect for our mutual existence. It is a system for social relations and for forming alliances and connections.

Indigenous-led philanthropy recognizes that Indigenous people are in the best position to solve challenges we have identified; that this work requires deep listening, learning and acting; and that everything is connected. It also recognizes that we have a responsibility to all our relations: past, present and future.

Grounded in Coast Salish values (self-determination, walking hand-in-hand in a good way and interconnectedness), we invite donors, non-Indigenous and Indigenous alike, into this reciprocal gift-giving relationship, with the understanding that everyone in the gifting process has a responsibility to address colonial systems and policies that persist with an expectation of respectful engagement to shifting power and ownership.

Stitumstuxw tun shqwuluwun

(stee-tum-stuw
tuhn shkwa-lah-
wuhn)

Self-Determination: Led by the nine member Nations we serve and with the voice of youth central to the work we undertake, ideas are generated and decisions are made by and with Indigenous people of our communities. We recognize the expertise of Indigenous people and their worldviews and understand that we are in the best position to solve the challenges we have identified.

Uy'ya'tulct ci'cuwatulct

(ai ya-tultst
tsee tsoo-wah-tultst)

Walking hand-in-hand in a Good Way: Our relationships with donors will be guided by Coast Salish traditions that honour the heart, mind and spirit, which communally creates something that is intended to be 'good'. Working in this 'good' way requires deep listening, learning and acting. We view the correlation between being and doing as the catalyst for transformation leading to a fair and more equitable society for all.

Xwunuts'amaat uw'muqwstem

(whuh-nut-sah-maht
ooh muck-stame)

Inter-Connectedness: The Kw'umut Lelum Foundation sees everything as connected and understands our responsibility to all our relations: past, present and future.

Our Nations



HALALT

Halalt are Coast Salish people who speak the Hul'qumi'num dialect. Halalt territory is located on the central east coast of Vancouver Island. The Administration office is located in Chemainus. The membership consists of just over 200 people.

LYACKSON

Lyackson Mustimuhw are a Central Coast Salish Hul'qumi'num community of over 220 members presently based in Chemainus, Vancouver Island. The traditional area is located on Valdes Island.

MALAHAT

The Malahat Nation represents approximately 365 members with two reserve lands located on the western shore of Saanich Inlet, south of the village of Mill Bay, about 40 kilometres north of Victoria.

PENELAKUT

Penelakut Tribe is a Hul'qumi'num speaking community that is separated into four reserve locations, the largest of which is Penelakut Island. The island reserve locations are only accessible by ferry or boat. The membership consists of just over 1,170 people.

QUALICUM

The Qualicum First Nation, with a membership of more than 150 people, is located in Qualicum Bay at the mouth of the Big Qualicum River, 15 minutes north of Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island.

SNAW-NAW-AS

Snaw-Naw-As First Nation are located on the west side of Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island and just north of the cities of Nanaimo and Lantzville. The Snaw-Naw-As First Nation membership numbers 270.



SNUNEYMUXW

The Snuneymuxw are a vibrant First Nation of the Coast Salish People, located in the centre of Coast Salish territory in Nanaimo. The Snuneymuxw First Nation is one of the largest Nations in B.C. with a membership of over 1,900 people.

STZ'UMINUS

Stz'uminus First Nation's traditional territory on east Vancouver Island includes four reserves of more than 1,200 hectares, much of it bordering the Strait of Georgia and Ladysmith Harbour. The Nation has about 1,430 members.

TS'UUBAA-ASATX

Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation has their traditional territory on the north shore of Cowichan Lake, west of the Cowichan Valley. Today, Ts'uubaa-asatx has approximately 30 people residing on its reserve and many more wanting to come back home.



Board of Directors



John Elliott, Thólmén

Board Chair
Chief, Stz'uminus First
Nation



Ralph Nilson

President Emeritus,
Vancouver Island University
2021 Appointee to the
Order of Canada



William Yoachim, Sqwulutsutun

Executive Director Kw'umut Lelum
2022 BC Achievement Community
Award Winner



Louise Mandell

Lawyer, advocate for
Indigenous rights



Brent Edwards

Board Co-Chair
Snaw-Naw-As Council
Member



Pamela Anderson

Actress, Activist,
Philanthropist

Our Impact



Community Capacity Development \$252,600

These funds supported activities that included:

- Healthy Living workshops (canning fish and developing a community garden)
- Consultation and engagement with Youth to develop community Youth Centre
- Environmental scan to determine community needs for the next 20 years

Language Arts and Culture \$36,825

- Weekly workshops with Elders sharing teachings with youth
- Language speakers going into the community pre-school to support culture and language development

Physical Literacy \$53,447

- Storage shed filled with a variety of purchased sports equipment and made accessible for Youth in community
- Fitness classes - offered boxing and basketball programs for youth in the community
- Taking 30 youth/families rock climbing and swimming on the weekends

“Taking a moment this morning to express my gratitude to your committee - my grandson’s hockey registration was approved. He loves it and his mom has been working two jobs to help ends meet in general.
Hy’ch’qa, hy’ch’qa, hy’ch’qa.”

KLF Indspire Scholarships \$52,800

10 scholarships awarded at \$5,280 each

Students from Stz’uminus, Lyackson, and Snuneymuxw

Students’ fields of study included: science, education, child and youth care, Indigenous studies, social work, linguistics, kinesiology, and social work

Financial Literacy \$40,200

Canada Learning Bond - \$43,700 in matched funds

14 community information and sign up sessions held

16 families opened a Registered Education Savings Plan

28 children receiving Canada Learning Bond contributions



“Do not be hard on yourself, and do not listen if they say you can’t, or aren’t smart enough, to do it.”

Kieran Rice, Snuneymuxw
Indspire Scholarship Recipient

Highlights



Indigenous Navigator Helps Access CLB

Our Foundation believes that every Indigenous child deserves a bright future and access to quality education. This year we helped our families to access education funding through the Canada Learning Bond (CLB), providing matching funds up to \$4,000 per child.

Understanding that many of our families face significant barriers when trying to interact with government and financial institutions, we supported them through the process with the help of an Indigenous Navigator. The Navigator worked respectfully with families, often in their own communities, to help them open Registered Education Savings Plans and receive the CLB and KLF funding.

We set an ambitious goal of getting every eligible child in our nine Nations signed up to receive the CLB funding in order to help them build a brighter future.

Sharing our Values

In the fall of 2022, we held a series of online Truth and Reconciliation Panel Conversations that brought together leaders, activists and organizations who care deeply about Indigenous-led foundations and their powerful positive impact on communities.

At three separate events attendees explored the traditional Indigenous practice of gift giving, the vital role of Indigenous-led foundations as community investment partners, and how to connect with Indigenous organizations from a heart-centered place.

“The tradition of gift giving is intended to balance relationships and demonstrate respect for our mutual existence. The tradition is not an abstract phenomenon, but one that involves the mind, body and spirit. Gifting is less about the material aspect of the gift, but rather the responsibility embedded in the gifting process - to enact our commitment to our sacred laws and communities.”

- Sharon Hobenshield, Executive Director
Kw'umut Lelum Foundation





Your small donation helps build big dreams



10 Scholarships Help Make Anything Possible

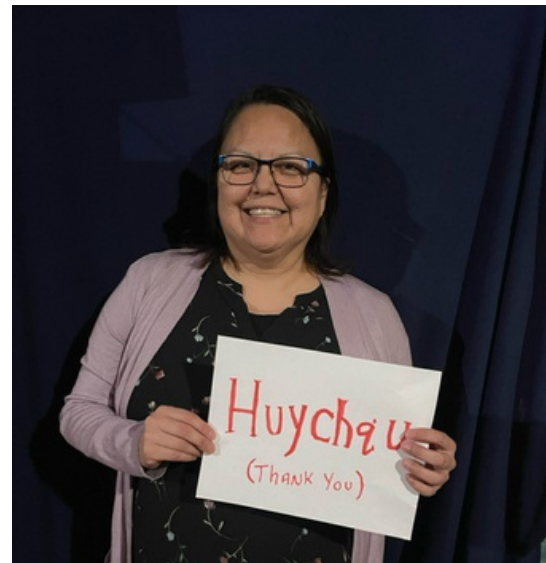
The Foundation's Indspire Awards provided scholarship grants to 10 post-secondary students from our nine Nations.

These grants were able to help support Indigenous students as they pursued a range of different academic studies. One student is on the path to becoming a teacher and wants to bring Indigenous knowledge into the classroom. Another is passionate about advocating for Indigenous peoples' health and their access to quality food and resources and hopes to help through her science degree and studying dietetics.

We are grateful to be able to share in their incredible journey.

The Kw'umut Lelum Indspire Award has given me confidence that anything is possible. I have worked hard in my studies, and it is great to be recognized for my dedication. I will keep on moving forward with my program and keep working diligently in all my classes. Winning the Kw'umut Lelum Indspire Award has given me the motivation to stay dedicated to my studies and stay focused on the path of education.

- Diana James, Lyackson



Finances



Reciprocity

In Kw'umut Lelum Foundation's second year of operations we have continued to develop our capacity, build relationships with donors, and expand our understanding and mastery of Indigenous philanthropy. We were able to hire people to advance our mission through storytelling, finance and administrative support. We were truly humbled to be able to gift our communities in so many ways over the past year - helping to activate projects from a place of self-determination. Nearly half a million dollars was shared out across our Nations.

\$1,503,919

Revenue



12% from private donations

\$952,975

Expenses



47% disbursed across our 9 Nations

\$892,508

Net Assets

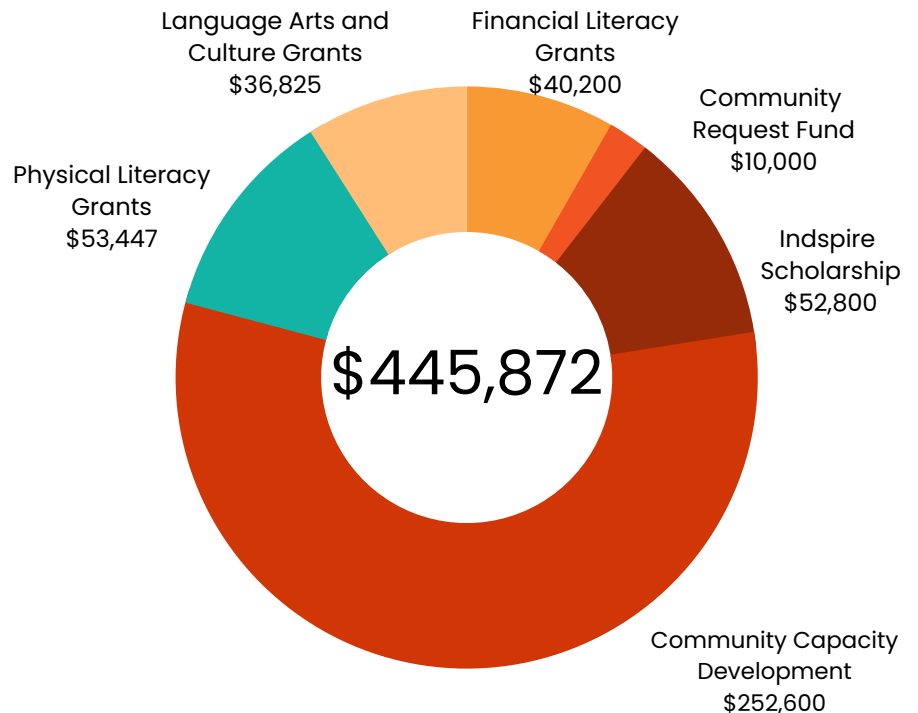


Earmarked for expanded gifting in 2023

Gifting

The practice of gift giving is a deeply rooted tradition among Indigenous People. It is a tradition that honours, renews and creates relationships between the human and natural worlds. We give and receive to demonstrate respect and ensure balance and harmony of our mutual existence.

The reciprocity embedded in this practice is integral to our ancient laws that teach us to share wealth among our communities, and in doing so, we are taking care of one another and all the relations we hold sacred.





Our Community

Tsetsuwatil is a hul'qumi'num word meaning "working together for a common benefit". We wish to acknowledge all the donors who supported the Kw'umut Lelum Foundation over the past year as part of our Tsetsuwatil community. We are grateful for your support and look forward to continuing our relationship as we build community and invest in the future potential of Indigenous youth. Huy tseep q'u - thank you all.

Corporate Donors

100 Women Who Care
CanadaHelps
Coastland Wood Industries
Georgia Strait Alliance
Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP

Great Canadian Casino
Indspire
Iredale Architecture
Mastercard Foundation
Mosaic Forest Management

Nanaimo Museum
The Edge Barber Shop
United Way
Vancouver Island University Faculty
Association

Individual Donors

Louise Bender
Rhenda Braun
David Bullis
Lesley Carter
Marc Cittone
Sheila Cooper
Hernando Cortes
Jackie Cox-Ziegler
Sharon Dalgarno
Doug Darwish
Crystal Dennison
Trevor Doyle
Susan Earl
Greg Flanagan
Zsuzsi Fodor

Kali Friday
Nancy Goldsberry
Maria Gomes
Liz Hammond-Kaarremaa
Sonya Hart
Chris Hild
Sharon Hobenshield
Deborah Hopper
Jennifer Johnstone
Andrea Kyle
Leanne Lee
Stephanie Levy
Shirley Li
Daniel and Barbra Lines
Maddy Macnab

Robyn Macpherson
Signy Madden
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Kayla Maloney
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Erica McCloskey
Charlene McKay
Kim McLeod
Daphne Mouat
Ralph Nilson
Zoe Noble
Brian Pankratz
Ashley Rowe
Sharon Russell

Kymerle Samis
Sylvia Scow
Marty Shepard
Howard Stiff
Carol Stuart
Andrew Sutherland
Vicki Swan
Mark Vincent
Nichola Wade
Dr. Jennifer Waelti-
Walters
Sarah Wiebe
John Wilson
Mitchell Zelman



**Kw'umut
Lelum**
FOUNDATION

204-12590 Trans Canada Hwy
Ladysmith, BC V9G 0B6
TEL: 250.924.6220
klfoundation.ca