



Artwork by
Chantelle Trainor-Matties



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Expressing Our Gratitude

The First Peoples' Cultural Foundation is grateful to have our home in the traditional unceded territory of the WSÁNEĆ Nation people in the village of WJŌŁŁP. Our leadership and staff are honoured to travel, conduct our work and provide support in Indigenous homelands across what has been recently named British Columbia and beyond.

In following protocol and alignment with how we are choosing to work in an Indigenous-led way, we would also like to acknowledge and give thanks to our friends who contributed their artistic gifts to the creation of this report:

ALISON TEDFORD-SEAWEED

Written content

Alison Tedford Seaweed, ɬakwagilə'ogwa, is a 'Nakwaxda'xw woman, a Kwakiutl First Nation member, writer and consultant. She has published a number of business books, writes for print and online publications, non-profits and national brands. She is pursuing a Masters of Art in Communications Research for Social Change at SFU.

CHANTELLE TRAINOR-MATTIES

Cover illustration & graphics

Chantelle Trainor-Matties, located in British Columbia, Canada is an Indigenous visual artist specializing in illustration, graphic design, painting, and mural work. Trainor-Matties works for herself and does freelance work for private and commercial clientele through her small business Frettchan Studios. Her work ranges from bold contemporary Northwest Coast formline to charming cartoons to painterly realism. She participates in a variety of events such as showcases, markets, and trade shows and has had her work displayed in multiple galleries in British Columbia. Trainor-Matties grew up disconnected from her Indigenous heritage and she has been reclaiming her Indigeneity through many pathways including art.

ARIANNA AUGUSTINE

Layout and design

Arianna Augustine is a coast Salish artist, graphic designer, and film maker. Grand daughter of Keatleemaht, Jane Marston, Arianna (K'wamkw'um'Suli) lives in the unceded territory of the Quwutsun people. When she's not busy being a creative, she can be found spending time with her family, exploring the outdoors, or playing board games.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Looking back on this year, I'm encouraged by the efforts in B.C. First Nations communities across what is now known as British Columbia. I see how community members are documenting their stories, sharing their cultural traditions and speaking the languages of the lands. It brings me great hope.

In our efforts to contribute to that good work, I am grateful for all the seeds I've seen planted by our team at the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation and the way seeds of the past years have blossomed and created fruitful partnerships. The foundation team has been working hard to gather resources the languages, cultures and heritages of First Nations communities need to continue to thrive, striving to secure funding and to build relationships rooted in possibility.

I have seen great care stewarding the contributions we have received for the financial well-being of the foundation and to continue contributing to the good work done by our partner, the First Peoples' Cultural Council, in communities. As a foundation, we contribute

funding for their programming, and we are here to share our knowledge where it might be helpful. We know the support needed in communities isn't just financial, but also in partnership as we navigate the direction, we want to take in rebuilding what colonization has impacted.

In the past year, our team has grown both in number and in strength and watching them build their working relationship has been heartening. They bring our mission and vision

to life in the initiatives they advance every day. Recruiting and nurturing talent with intention, we have been fortunate to find great people who care deeply about the foundation's values.

This year we have been walking alongside the FirstVoices team as it develops new technology for the benefit of communities and their languages. The foundation is a safeguard for FirstVoices, and we are excited for these new

developments. At the same time, we have lifted our voices asking for change to the infrastructure of higher education to meet the needs of Indigenous learners, advocating for the recognition of our knowledge systems through Open Science and in celebration of the Decade of Indigenous Languages.

We have accomplished so much this year with our partners by our side and have been laying a foundation we can build on for the future. Thank you for being part of our journey, for witnessing the work we share in this report and for celebrating with us the people in community who are leading the way.

– Kukwstum'ckálap,

Dr. Lorna Wánosts'a7 Williams, Officer of the Order of Canada and Recipient of the Order of B.C. and Indspire Laureate.

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OUR VISION

Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage are strong, supported and being passed on from generation to generation.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide funding and support for the vitality of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage.

OUR PARTNERS

The foundation is grateful to our partners and allies for their collaboration and contributions to the important work of revitalizing Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage. They share our vision and walk alongside us in contributing to Indigenous rights and self-determination. Our current partners include the following:

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC)
- The Circle on Philanthropy
- International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP)
- Endangered Languages Project (ELP)
- MasterCard Foundation
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)
- British Columbia Arts Council (BCAC)
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports (TACS)
- University of Victoria (UVic)

We also raise our hands in gratitude to the many individuals who contribute to this good work through annual and monthly donations. We are stronger as a community of people who have hope for the future. Together we can make a difference.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS 2022/23

REVENUES	2022/23	2021/22
Grants	\$6,065,316	\$18,204,276
Donations	\$86,610	\$81,302
Interest, Investments, & Other Income	\$1,014,546	\$419,044
Total	\$7,166,472	\$18,704,622

EXPENDITURES

GRANTS AWARDED	2022/23	2021/22
Cultural Heritage Programs	\$5,795,493	\$-
Other Cultural Programs	\$230,000	\$-
Language Revitalization Program	\$-	\$10,183,709
BCAC COVID Response Funding	\$-	\$520,567
BC 150 Time Immemorial - ICHIG Program	\$-	\$6,375,000
Subtotal	\$6,025,493	\$17,079,276

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	2022/23	2021/22
Wages and Benefits	\$278,561	\$86,915
Program Administration	\$-	\$1,125,000
Administration & Overhead	\$656,798	\$268,669
Subtotal	\$935,359	\$1,480,584
Total	\$6,960,852	\$18,559,860

Net Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$205,620	\$144,762
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$2,236,422	\$2,091,660
BC 150 Endowment - First Peoples' Cultural Heritage Fund	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
NET ASSET - END OF YEAR	\$7,442,042	\$7,236,422



Carla Lewis Photography

DAWN OF THE DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

The United Nations (UN) declared the Decade of Indigenous Languages, which runs from 2022 to 2032 and has been launched with many special events around the world. This initiative came out of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages and is being led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Our Board chair, Dr. Lorna Wanósts'a7 Williams, is active in action planning and advancing goals for the decade as an observer on UNESCO's Global Task Force and as a member of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO's Working Group. She spoke at events in Ottawa and Paris to contribute her

Members of the Canadian delegation of Indigenous language leaders gather in Paris for the global launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

Our board chair Dr. Lorna Wánosts'a7 Williams attended with language apprentice Aiyana Twigg, and FPCC Chair, Carla Lewis.

"My hope for the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages is that at the end of the next 10 years, our languages, our knowledges, our ways of life and our protection of Mother Earth will have taken steps for reparation."

- Dr. Lorna Wánosts'a7 Williams

perspective, wisdom and experiences in relation to language revitalization and to provide guidance as this period of focussed attention begins.

This decade is an opportunity to raise awareness of the status of Indigenous languages across

the globe and to mobilize national and international actions to protect, revitalize and advance them. These are the goals we work towards every day, and we look forward to this time when hearts and minds from around the world are coming together in support of what we hold dear.



UNESCO

INDIGENOUS-LED PHILANTHROPY

It is an exciting time to be an Indigenous-led charitable organization, which comes with amazing opportunities to address ongoing challenges. We are fortunate to be part of a growing movement of Indigenous-led organizations that are advocating for a more equitable charitable sector and contributing to positive change through learning, relationship-building and activation.

It is through these partnerships and relationships that we look to tackle ongoing inequities in the giving space, like the way settler-led organizations typically receive more financial contributions than Indigenous-led organizations. It is important from the perspective of Indigenous self-determination that Indigenous-led organizations receive resources to implement needed change in their own communities, rather than needing to rely on settler-led organizations to serve their communities.

In this space, we can connect with donors and other organizations doing great work in Indigenous communities. For example, in the past year we have participated in the Feast House, stewarded by the Circle on Philanthropy, which is an online platform for Indigenous abundance that centres origin

stories, leadership and philanthropic activities led by and for Indigenous peoples across the country.

Our focus on relationality, reciprocity, trust-based giving and reimagining relationships of giving have been the focus of our discussions with partners and allies. We have expanded our efforts to raise funds and create the strong relationships our foundation needs to continue contributing to this great work. Our strength is in community, in relationships and in what we can achieve together.



Artwork by Chantelle Trainor-Matties

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

The work of the foundation contributes to local communities, but at the same time, we are at the table for important global conversations, contributing our perspectives and lifting our voices in recognition of what matters most to our community partners.

Over the past year, we have spoken about the need to train Indigenous language teachers, to enhance the skills that communities need to expand capacity for linguistic and cultural revitalization. We hope to bring educational opportunities to communities instead of requiring community members to choose between learning and meeting their cultural obligations.

We have also illuminated the need to integrate Indigenous perspectives with intention in the field of science, to recognize our ways of knowing and being as Indigenous expressions of the scientific method and to bring in a more holistic way of looking at the world, nature and the connections between all of creation.

These conversations contribute to what we hope to see in the world: the recognition of Indigenous excellence and expertise. We plan to keep having these conversations and moving this recognition of Indigenous ways of knowing firmly into the discussion space for higher education and science.

Image credit: Ryan Dickie,
Winter Hawk Studios

LANGUAGE – SPEAKING TOGETHER

FPCC published the fourth edition of the Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages this year, an initiative funded by FPCF. The report assembles accomplishments around language learning and celebrates the successes of the past four years, giving a look behind the scenes at an incredible story: more First Nations families are speaking their languages and the movement towards fluency is building.

With an increase of over 3,000 learners since the last report and more language learning opportunities than ever, there are so many reasons to have hope for the future of our languages. There are now three times as many language nests, four times as many adult full-time immersion programs and a more than five-fold increase in mentor-apprentice program teams. More children are learning their First Nations language as their first language in the home than ever before, and the report shows what we have been working towards: languages being passed down from generation to generation.

We are excited to see all that will be accomplished in the coming years and for the next report. Investing in research in the efficacy of our ways of learning and sharing is a way to share what we have always known: our languages and ways of sharing them are powerful, important and precious.



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SPOTLIGHT ON A FAMILY LEARNING TOGETHER

One of the families featured in the report is that of hakał (Chrissie John). She speaks nuučaanú † with her children iica (1 year) and nuusči (6 weeks). A participant in FPCC's Youth Empowered Speakers Program, she is passing on what she's learning with mentor Fidelia Haiyupis.

She's inspired by those who have given her opportunities to learn her language and feels it's her role to do the same for her children. To integrate language learning into her home, she's exchanging instructions and phrases she uses in her daily life in English for her own language, and her partner is learning to do so, too. "It's really a conscious effort to make that choice to use the language. You have to consciously choose to do that all the time, and then when you do that repeatedly, then it becomes a habit," she explains.

As she brings her language into her day-to-day life, she hopes her children will build on the foundation she's laying for their language learning. "That's my hope because that's the goal, to pass it on and keep it alive," she smiles. She is grateful for the opportunity to learn and sees passing the language on as the best way to pay that back into the world.



hakał Chrissie John and her family, nuučaanú † speaker from Ehattesah/Chinehkint. ↗

"It has helped to heal some intergenerational trauma by bringing out the intergenerational resilience and strength. So all of the language shared with me is an example of that resilience, because it's still alive and still being used and still being passed on."

— hakał (Chrissie John)

ARTS – WEAVING OUR CREATIVITY

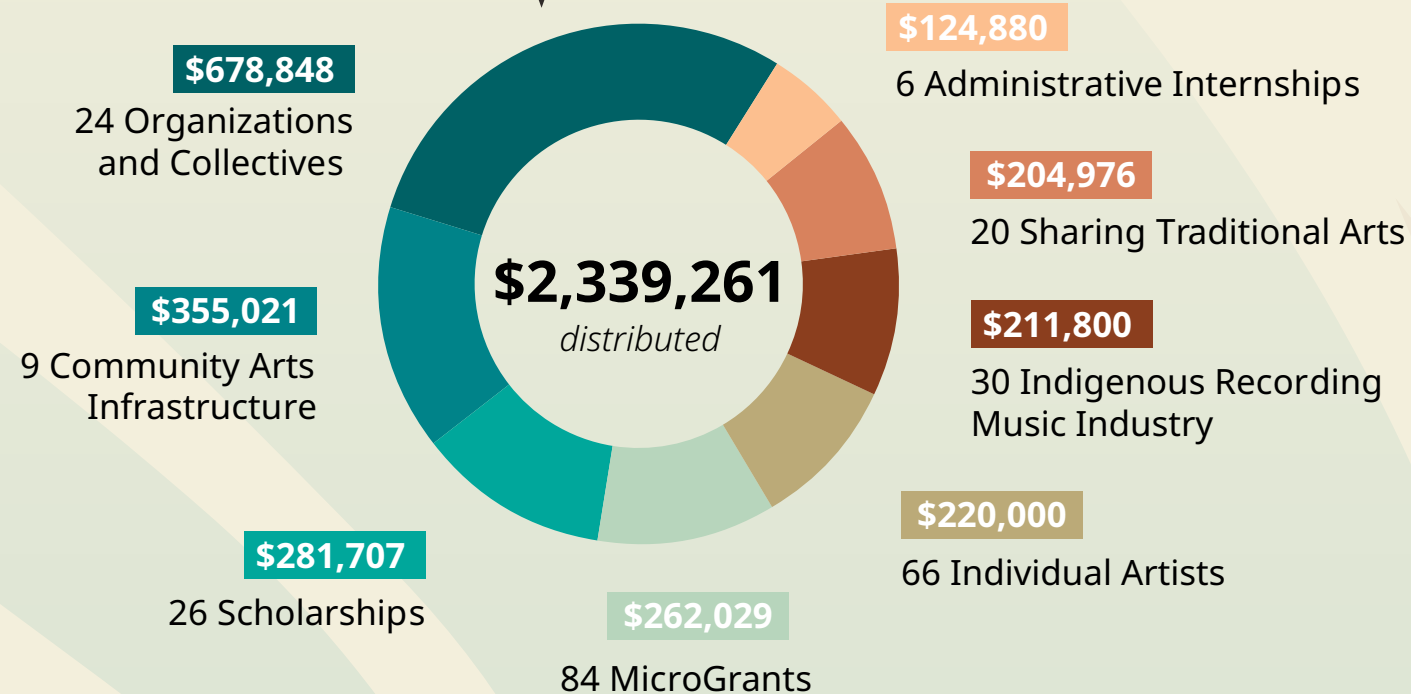
Over thousands of years, Indigenous people in what is now known as British Columbia have created beautiful art unique to their territories using methodologies refined over generations. With techniques and wisdom shared from artist to artist, these ways of creating have been passed down through mentorships and apprenticeships.

The arts are vital to Indigenous communities – it is how we share our perspectives and worldview and how we continue our traditions in contemporary times. Indigenous communities in B.C. are excited

to revitalize arts practices that are traditional to their territories, but in reflecting on the many things their communities need, they hope not to experience financial stress when doing so.

We are honoured to contribute funds received from MIRR towards the revitalization of the artistic practices in communities through the program development and funding delivered by the FPCC. This year we had the pleasure of providing funds for a range of artistic activities that will create a lasting impact.

FPCC ARTS PROGRAMS FUNDED BY FPCF



HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the projects we celebrate this year:

Harvesting Cultural Pride

Tseshaht First Nation held group classes and travelled to harvest cedar and grasses so they could engage in their traditional practices together.

“We want to see Indigenous artists flourish as they deepen their practice and connect with their cultures and communities. We look forward to continuing to celebrate Indigenous excellence by contributing to communities and their artists as they create a beautiful, culturally connected future with their talent and share it with the world.”

– Tseshaht First Nation Final Report

“We have been blessed with a renewed sense of pride in Nuuchahnulth.... Every community needs to know the importance of art to our societies. Education is key.”

– Tseshaht First Nation Final Report

Making Music that Matters

Maddi K of Snuneymuxw First Nation received a contribution towards the release of a 12-song debut album to share her voice and story with the world.

“I’ve learned a lot more about my culture, as the journey in creating music has led me to interact more with my community and dive deeper into the spiritual history of Indigenous cultures across the world and from my own family lineage. I’ve discovered that there is such a deep connection that runs through us all, and to be able to express that through music is such a gift.”

– Maddi K



Baskets of Joy

A group of Nuxalk Elders, weavers and youth travelled to Vancouver to be inspired by basketry from their nation in museum collections and to share traditional weaving techniques.

“Thank you for giving me the chance to see the work done by our ancestors.... To hold and touch the artifacts that were made hundreds of years ago and know that we still carry on the work today. The pride I felt when looking at these artifacts and realizing that my ancestors made, held and used these hats, capes, aprons, baskets, etc. made me shed tears. Thank you again for bringing our history alive to me.”

– Mary Mack



Ryan Dickie,
Winter Hawk Studios



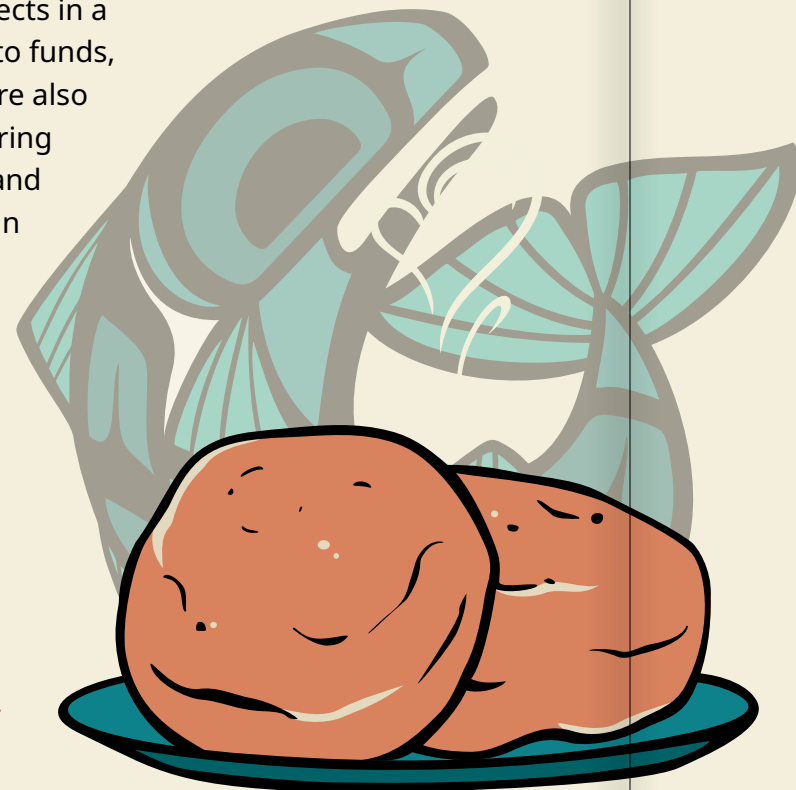
Ryan Dickie,
Winter Hawk Studios

HONOURING CULTURAL HERITAGE

We are proud to walk alongside communities who are investing funds and efforts into safeguarding and sharing their cultural heritage for generations to come. Often when we talk about cultural heritage, people think about museum exhibits and artifacts behind glass. While these are expressions of cultural heritage, culture also includes the daily living, breathing, ongoing activities that represent a community's way of life and living together and the places they happen. Our cultures are very much alive.

At the heart of the success of these opportunities to work together are strong relationships that allow for creative solutions and an ability to move forward on timely projects in a good way. In addition to funds, in kind contributions are also vital, including the sharing of technical expertise and best practices so we can all learn from each other as we work together towards a common vision: the vitality of Indigenous cultural heritages.

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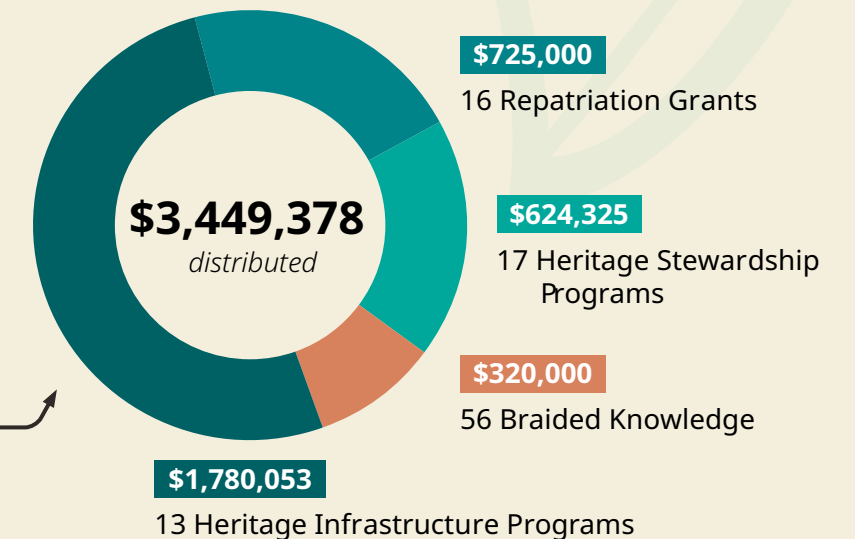
This year, we provided funds to FPCC through investment from MIRR, which administers resources for community-led cultural heritage infrastructure programs prioritized by the communities themselves. **Community priorities this year include the following:**

- **cultural centres** to share cultural traditions with pride so visitors and community members can learn more about the people of the land and their worldview
- **food processing infrastructure** to continue traditional ways of feeding the people and making the most of the earthly gifts that nourish community members and keep them healthy
- **cemetery and mortuary projects** to protect the spaces where communities honour their ancestors in the spirit world and allow for the sacred traditions of life and death
- **pit home, longhouse, gathering space and memorial buildings** to ensure there are spaces where community members can engage in the practices that matter most to them, as they have always done

The need for cultural heritage infrastructure protection is emergent and ongoing. Colonization caused interruption to the transmission of our traditional ways of knowing and being through residential schools, the sixties scoop and the potlatch ban. Now the impact of colonization on the environment creates new risks to the infrastructure of cultural heritage. Climate change is creating natural disasters, with sacred sites and spaces and cultural treasures in their path. In strengthening infrastructure, we can protect ways of life in Indigenous communities in the face of rising temperature, water and fire risks.

Looking to the future, there is a strong need for stable, substantial and ongoing funding so communities can continue their work stewarding landscapes, repatriating what belongs to them from museums and institutions, documenting rich oral history while Elders are still with us and responding to the needs of their growing communities. We look forward to continuing to contribute to the hard work of communities around cultural heritage and lift our hands to those who have taken on this sacred responsibility.

FPCC CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAMS FUNDED BY FPCF



LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER

As we look to the future, we plan to continue having important conversations around Indigenous-led philanthropy and transforming giving relationships. Giving, community and connection are expressions of Indigenous cultures that we share as part of our mission and vision.

It is a privilege to uplift the creation of musical, literary and visual art and the sharing of stories, albums, weaving and other expressions of art this year. We will continue celebrating Indigenous excellence in the year to come.

First Nations languages hold tremendous power – they are embedded with our worldviews, our perspectives and our traditional ecological knowledge, and they are intrinsic to our wellness as Indigenous people. We plan to continue contributing resources to communities to encourage the intergenerational sharing of the languages of the land, families speaking their languages at home with their children and silent speakers reclaiming the words of their ancestors.

First Nations communities in B.C. are doing great work safeguarding and sharing culture, assisted by resources provided through cultural heritage funding. We are honoured to be a part of knowledge sharing that honours culture as more than artifacts behind glass, but includes continuing the ways we live, gather and grow together.

We are going to keep inviting the world to participate in the elevation of our traditional ways of knowing and being as equal to colonial systems and to learn from generations of wisdom garnered in relationship with all that we are connected to – the land, the skies, the seas and all that call them home. Together we can activate all that knowledge to protect the earth and bring it back to health.

At the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, we consider ourselves fortunate to be part of the movement of so many vibrant communities, to be part of cultural resurgence and creating a better tomorrow that recognizes and resources the languages, arts and cultural heritages of B.C. First Nations communities.

We hope you join us in this work and on this journey.

WAYS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

» Contribute to the vitality of Indigenous languages, arts and heritage by donating to First Peoples' Cultural Foundation:

» [MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION](#)

» [BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR](#)

» Explore the First Nations in B.C. via the [First Peoples' Map](#)

» Learn a greeting in the language of the territory on which you live by visiting [FirstVoices.com](#)

» Watch a movie, read a book, or listen to music by Indigenous People

» Support Indigenous artists, musicians, business owners, and creators

» Educate yourself about the history and ongoing impacts of colonization on Indigenous Peoples

» Share the important work of the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation with your family and friends

To learn more about how you can contribute to uplifting Indigenous Cultural Vitality, visit our website www.fpcf.ca or get in touch with us at info@fpcf.ca.

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FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL FOUNDATION

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