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 WJOLEŁP. Our leadership and staff are honoured to travel, conduct our work and provide support throughout Indigenous homelands across what is now called British Columbia and beyond.
Trying to put together a mirror shattered in a million pieces – that’s the work that we are doing. It doesn’t refer only to language. It refers to the very fabric of our lives, our knowledge systems, our cultural practices, our traditions ... When we put this mirror together, it doesn’t come out perfect. It might be distorted. There might be missing pieces. We might put pieces together that are upside down. But we’re putting it together. And that’s the most important part of our work.

- Dr. Lorna Wánosts‘a7 Williams, Foundation Board Chair
CONTENTS

Message from the Board Chair ................................................................. 6
Invest in the Future .................................................................................. 9
Why Invest? .......................................................................................... 11
The Value of Indigenous Languages, Arts and Cultures ....................... 12
About the First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation ....................................... 14
Our Partners ......................................................................................... 16
Twenty Years of Progress ....................................................................... 18
The Current Context ............................................................................. 20
Investment in Community ...................................................................... 22
Programs and Initiatives Supported by the Foundation ......................... 24
   FirstVoices ...................................................................................... 25
   Mentor-Apprentice Program ................................................................. 26
   Language Nest Program ..................................................................... 27
   Reclaiming My Language Program .................................................. 28
   Digitization Grant Initiative ............................................................... 29
   B.C. Language Initiative ................................................................... 30
   Language Revitalization Planning Program ....................................... 32
Community Capacity Development ......................................................... 34
HELISET TŦE SKÁL ‘Let the Languages Live’ – International Conference. 36
Research ............................................................................................... 38
Digital Resources .................................................................................. 40
Our Goals for the Future ....................................................................... 42
Our Investment Philosophy ................................................................... 45
Financials for 2019/20 ............................................................................ 46
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation, it is my honour to present the 2019/20 Annual Report.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Foundation. It is an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come in our journey to reclaim and restore our languages, arts and cultural heritage. When the Foundation was established in 2000, we recognized the need for Indigenous-led solutions for fundraising and advocacy. Twenty years later, we have provided millions of dollars in funding to Indigenous communities across British Columbia (B.C.) and we have worked alongside these communities to advocate for strong and sustainable support.

The past year has been marked by many exciting developments. The Foundation co-hosted HELISET TŦE SKÁL ‘Let the Languages Live’ with the First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC) in June 2019. This conference commemorated the International Year of Indigenous Languages and brought together language champions from around the globe to ignite new ideas and partnerships.

In 2019/20, our flagship technology, FirstVoices, was upgraded and streamlined to better connect us with our languages in a virtual space. We provided funding to over three times more FirstVoices projects than in 2018/19. Language technologies like FirstVoices are especially important for the many Indigenous people living away from their home communities to access their languages.

Our languages are our lifeblood and a diversity of approaches is needed to fully rejuvenate them. In 2019/20, we saw exciting growth in the language immersion programs that we fund through FPCC such as the Mentor-Apprentice Program and the Language Nest Program. These programs are critical for re-establishing pathways for Indigenous people to learn their languages. In addition, the Language Revitalization Planning Program helps communities design holistic plans to rejuvenate learning and sharing, and the Reclaiming My Language Program fosters healing through language.
The programs we fund are supported with research and resources grounded in Indigenous knowledge. In 2019/20, we funded FPCC to engage in new research on language and cultural heritage that is helping shape policy and advocacy. We also supported FPCC to develop two new digital resources – the First Peoples’ Map of B.C. and the FPCC Grant Portal. These platforms help connect Indigenous Peoples with their land, their communities and networks of support.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency of our work. Indigenous Elders with valuable knowledge must be protected. Communities are demonstrating exceptional strength and creativity as they innovate new ways to come together to learn, document and share their languages, arts and cultures. The Foundation is honoured to fund this important work.

As we look ahead to the next 20 years, the Foundation is committed to continuing our work to help revive the voices and wisdom of the land and our ancestors. We are grateful to our partners, funders and the many Indigenous people and communities who walk this path with us. We invite you, our allies, to join us in reimagining a future in which Indigenous languages, arts and cultures are nourished and thriving.

– Kukwstumckálap,

Dr. Lorna Wánosts’a7 Williams,
Officer of the Order of Canada and Recipient of the Order of B.C.
INVEST IN THE FUTURE

For twenty years, the First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation has supported Indigenous communities to rebuild cultural systems impacted by colonization. We envision a future in which Indigenous languages, arts and cultures are once again thriving and being passed down through generations.

We invite you to join us in making this vision a reality. Donate today at www.fpcf.ca.
WHY INVEST?

Over the course of decades, colonial structures such as residential schools, the child welfare system, the Sixties Scoop, and the Indian Act have disrupted the Indigenous cultural systems that share and pass knowledge down through generations. The result is that Indigenous languages, arts and cultures are under critical threat. As Indigenous Elders age and pass on, their irreplaceable knowledge is at risk of being lost forever. The urgency of this work has long been known by Indigenous people and communities, and it is beginning to receive increased recognition from governments, institutions and others. However, systemic racism against Indigenous Peoples persists. Many barriers still exist for Indigenous Peoples to exercise their rights to language, arts and culture. There has been chronic and consistent underfunding and undervaluing of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage.

The results of the programs we fund are clear: With adequate resources and support, Indigenous communities are successfully revitalizing their languages, arts and cultural heritage, and the invaluable knowledge that they contain.

Our goal is to support these Indigenous communities by providing funding that is accessible for years to come, so that Indigenous knowledge can continue to be passed on through the generations. We invite you to join us in this pursuit through a donation to the Foundation.

To make a donation, visit www.fpcf.ca.
THE VALUE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, ARTS AND CULTURES

Indigenous languages, arts and cultures have inherent value. Each represents an irreplaceable and unique worldview. Their revitalization is important to Indigenous identities and has substantial impacts for health and wellness, the environment and the economy.

Indigenous communities whose languages, arts and cultures are thriving experience better health outcomes. A holistic view of health and wellness encompasses languages, arts and cultures. Communities focused on their revitalization report lower rates of youth suicide, diabetes, cigarette smoking and substance abuse.

Valuable ecological knowledge is contained within Indigenous languages, arts and cultures. This knowledge can be applied in weather forecasting, agriculture, pharmaceutical production and environmental management. As B.C. works to combat climate change and create a sustainable future, Indigenous knowledge can be used to guide such efforts.

Investments in Indigenous languages, arts and cultures contribute to a diverse and growing economy. Experts in Indigenous languages, arts and cultures can find meaningful employment in education, administration, information technology and public policy. Indigenous arts and cultures play a key role in Indigenous economic development and self-determination.

Indigenous languages, arts and cultures enrich the cultural fabric of our province and our country. Their revitalization is a key aspect of reconciliation. The Foundation promotes the inherent value of Indigenous languages, arts and cultures for Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians.
Indigenous languages, arts and cultures are deeply interconnected and have far-reaching impacts on all aspects of life and society, including health and wellness, economic prosperity, environmental protection and cultural diversity.
ABOUT THE FIRST PEOPLES’ CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation is an Indigenous-led non-profit society devoted to supporting the vitality of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage in B.C.

B.C. is home to 204 First Nations, with 34 unique languages comprising over 90 dialects. There is a rich diversity of Indigenous arts and cultures across B.C., reflecting Indigenous Peoples’ connections to this land since time immemorial.

We work closely with established partners such as the First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC) to deliver millions of dollars in funding for community-led initiatives. Our focus is on evidence-based approaches that help rebuild Indigenous cultural systems to support the transmission of language, arts and cultural knowledge.

Thanks to our partners and funders, and the hard work of community leaders, the initiatives that the Foundation funds deliver inspiring results.

VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide funding and support for the vitality of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage.
VALUES STATEMENT

As a Foundation, our individual and collective values connect us to our sacred responsibilities. These values guide our work, and it is our role to uphold them in all that we do.

- **Indigenous-led**: We are an Indigenous organization working with Indigenous people.
- **Knowledge**: We draw on and share knowledge with communities and partners.
- **Resilience**: We focus on and honour the strengths of Indigenous people.
- **Helping one another**: We take care of each other through providing resources and funding.
- **Responsibility**: We act with respect and thoughtfulness towards all living and nonliving relatives to do our work in a good way, as all things are connected.
- **Cultural continuity**: We give thanks as we learn from past generations and share with future generations.

“We call it QENDOLES, it is the vision. We want to give them that freedom to continue that from one generation to the next. Each one is connected to the land, the sky, the wind, the rain that falls on the ground. We are so close to nature, our way of living. We want our people to have that freedom wherever they are living, so they can pass it along to young people in a good way.”

– J,SNȚEN John Elliott – Foundation Board Member and WSÁNEĆ Elder
The Foundation works in partnership with a range of diverse organizations, both locally and globally. Our partners include First Nations, Indigenous organizations, government agencies, cultural organizations and post-secondary institutions. We are grateful to our many partners for their collaboration and contributions to the important work of revitalizing Indigenous languages, arts and cultures.

Our key partner is the First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC), the only Indigenous-led B.C. crown corporation. The Foundation and FPCC work in tandem to rebuild the cultural systems needed for the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts and cultures in B.C. FPCC is a global leader that has developed and mobilized proven strategies for language, arts and cultural revitalization. Many of the programs the Foundation funds are delivered by FPCC. The Foundation is honoured to work with FPCC to support Indigenous communities in B.C. and beyond.

The Foundation also collaborates with other local, national and international organizations. As awareness of our work grows, the Foundation remains focused on the goal to increase our funding base through new partnerships. Our funding partners know that they make a direct contribution to cultural revitalization. Their investments support the rights of Indigenous Peoples and help to counter the impacts of colonization.

Our current partners include the following:

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)
- First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC)
- Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH)
- Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- University of Victoria (UVIC)
“Our government passionately supports the critical work of the First Peoples’ Cultural Council and First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation to revitalize Indigenous languages at serious risk of being lost forever.”

– Scott Fraser, (former) Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Province of B.C.

TWENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

The First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation was established in 2000 as a way to create additional funding streams for the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage in B.C. The Foundation has provided funding to the following key initiatives over the past 20 years:

**FirstVoices.com**

In 2003, the Foundation launched FirstVoices, a world-class digital resource for Indigenous language preservation and revitalization. FirstVoices originally launched with 15 First Nations languages in B.C. and has since expanded to include archives for over 70 languages from around the world. Indigenous communities own and control their own language data stored on FirstVoices, so it will be accessible to them for years to come. The website was awarded the BC Premier’s Award for Excellence in 2008, and it has continued to evolve and adapt in response to changing technologies and community needs.

**Other technologies**

In 2010, the suite of FirstVoices resources grew to include dictionary apps and a web-based learning tool called Language Tutor. In 2012, the First Peoples’ Arts Map launched, and the Foundation recently funded the First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC) to integrate this map into the new First Peoples’ Map of B.C. In 2016, a keyboard app was introduced, allowing users to text in over 100 Indigenous languages. Our continued commitment to innovation is digitally connecting Indigenous people and communities with languages, arts, cultures and each other.
Language immersion programs

In 2007, the Foundation began funding FPCC to deliver language immersion strategies such as the Mentor-Apprentice Program and Language and Culture Immersion Camps. Since that time, Indigenous language learners from communities across B.C. have worked with language mentors to develop proficiency in their languages.

Early childhood development

In 2005, the Foundation launched FirstVoices Kids, a language learning tool for pre-readers. In 2007, we established the Early Childhood Development Language Resources Fund to support Indigenous communities to develop language nests. Since that time, over 85 communities have had the opportunity to foster immersion experiences for preschool-aged children.

Monitoring progress

In 2010, the Foundation sponsored FPCC’s publication of the first Report on the Status of B.C. Languages, which tracks progress in language revitalization for all 204 First Nations in B.C. Since then, two subsequent editions of the quarterly report have been published, and they show increases in the numbers of second language learners of Indigenous languages in B.C.

Milestone events

In 2019, the Foundation partnered with FPCC to co-host HELISET TŦE SKÁL ‘Let the Languages Live’ – International Conference on Indigenous Languages to celebrate the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The conference was awarded “Best Conference” by the Canadian Event Industry Awards. The conference has had lasting impacts on participants, many of whom credit it for inspiring new language learning efforts.

Twenty years of supporting Indigenous languages, arts and cultures in B.C.
THE CURRENT CONTEXT

In the past year, we have witnessed new milestones in the movement to revitalize Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage.

• Globally, the United Nations celebrated the International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019 and announced an international decade of Indigenous languages to commence in 2022.

• Nationally, the Indigenous Languages Act was passed in June 2019.

• Provincially, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act was passed in B.C. in November 2019.

These types of initiatives can help empower and support Indigenous communities to rebuild the cultural systems needed for their languages, arts and cultural heritage to thrive. However, legislation alone is not enough.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released their final report in 2015. The report emphasized the urgent need for governments and other institutions to provide funding and infrastructure to redress the impacts of cultural genocide.

Five years later, financial and structural support for the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage remain far below what is needed. Long-term strategies backed by sustainable funding will help communities regenerate pathways of knowledge transmission.
INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY

The Foundation’s purpose is to generate sustainable funding for the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage. This funding supports grassroots programs led by Indigenous communities and grounded in research on best practices. These programs are proven to restore and safeguard Indigenous knowledge, while contributing to positive economic, environmental and health outcomes.

The Foundation contributes to Indigenous economic success by creating jobs and investing in skill building for Indigenous people. This results in increased opportunities to employ people for their Indigenous knowledge and contributes to economic activity.

Donors who invest in the Foundation make a direct contribution to reconciliation. The Foundation’s work counters the impacts of colonization by rebuilding cultural systems impacted by cultural genocide.

Decolonizing wealth and building good relationships is one key step that non-Indigenous Canadians can take towards being good guests on Indigenous land. A gift to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage is an act of reciprocity for the many gifts Indigenous Peoples have shared. This is an essential part of reconciliation.

Penelakut Island Elementary School and Learning Centre Heritage Program grant recipient for cultural trail building project
“Our language isn’t just the spoken word; it is what connects us to our land and our families. With the funding that we received we were able to expand our program and have more opportunities to create more resources and support our staff.”

– SI,OLTENOT
Bartleman, SENĆOTEN
Immersion Teacher,
ȽÁU, WELṈEW Tribal School
PROGAMS AND INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION

Hul’q’umi’num’ Mentor-Apprentice Program participants Kelly Hall and Myra Charlie
**FIRSTVOICES**

FirstVoices.com is an online Indigenous language resource that allows communities to document their languages for future generations. Users can upload collections of words, phrases, stories and songs, along with audio and video recordings, to their own community archives. These materials can be used for learning, teaching and sharing Indigenous languages.

In 2019/20, the Foundation provided funding to enable the FirstVoices team at the First Peoples’ Cultural Council (FPCC) to streamline and improve the platform, making it faster and more user-friendly. FirstVoices has also added more community collections to the platform, including two new dictionaries for Sm’algyax and Heiltsuk.

The FirstVoices Grant Program provides funding, training, resources and technical support to Indigenous communities so they can create and upload audio and video recordings of their languages. In 2019/20, the Foundation funded **17 FirstVoices projects for a total of almost $800,000 in grants.**

Digital resources like FirstVoices are particularly important for off-reserve or urban learners, as well as in times when physical distancing is required.

**FIRSTVOICES COMMUNITY IMPACTS**
MENTOR-APPRENTICE PROGRAM

The Foundation funds the delivery of FPCC’s Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP), which pairs a proficient speaker (the Mentor) with an adult language learner (the Apprentice) for a one-on-one language immersion experience. MAP contributes to re-establishing natural language learning patterns in which language is passed down from one generation to the next. The program provides learners opportunities to use their languages with fluent speakers, usually Elders, both at home and on the land. This encourages organic language use in communities and leads to increases in language acquisition, intergenerational relationships and well-being.

2019/20 was a banner year for the Mentor-Apprentice Program with a record number of over 100 Mentor-Apprentice teams in the program. For the first time since the program’s inception, there were three regional workshops to accommodate the number of participants. The success of the program is evident from the participants’ final reports: 99% reported an increase in proficiency, and 97% reported that they are using the language more often.

“I love, love, love my language and am proud to say I am a part of the language preservation.”

– Jessica Creyke, Wet’suwet’en Mentor-Apprentice Program participant, with her mentor Catherine Michelle
LANGUAGE NEST PROGRAM

Language nests are home-like learning environments for small groups of preschool-aged children where they are immersed in their Indigenous languages. Elders, staff and volunteers carry out daily tasks with the children in the language, and parents are encouraged to participate. By immersing young children in their languages, language nests can regenerate populations of fluent speakers who can carry their languages forward.

In 2019/20, the Foundation provided funding to FPCC to support 34 language nest projects in B.C., creating immersion opportunities for preschoolers and their parents in 22 different languages. Language Nest Program grant recipients are provided with resources and professional development opportunities to support their success in the program.

“I hear the kids saying k’i Kwak’wala! (speak Kwak’wala), and so they are reminding each other to speak in the language, and that’s huge for me.”

– Hiʔliqilaʔgelis (Natasha Green), Principal of the Kwanwatsi Language Nest, Campbell River, B.C.
RECLAIMING MY LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The Reclaiming My Language Program is designed for silent speakers, who may have grown up hearing and understanding their languages, but do not speak them. Adapting a proven strategy developed for Indigenous Sami communities in Scandinavia, the program combines cognitive behavioural therapy with language learning in a safe and supportive environment.

The objective of the program is to allow silent speakers to heal and begin to speak their languages. Once they have completed the program, participants are invaluable to language revitalization efforts, as they are able to share and transmit their languages throughout their communities. In 2019/20 the Foundation funded FPCC to deliver the Reclaiming My Language Program to nearly 200 silent speakers in 22 communities.

“I was just amazed at myself, how the language just started to pour out because I already heard it as a child. It was there, deep down, but I never did speak it. This program has helped me to have that release.”

– Seraphine Stewart, Reclaiming My Language Program participant, Upper Nicola Band
DIGITIZATION GRANT INITIATIVE

Launched by FPCC in February 2020, the Digitization Grant Initiative supports Indigenous communities to preserve their intangible cultural heritage. Program participants receive funding, technical skills development and access to technologies to digitize audio recordings and other media. The recordings contain valuable knowledge such as words, phrases, stories and songs in Indigenous languages.

The Digitization Grant Initiative was born of a partnership with the Museum of Anthropology, the University of British Columbia and FPCC. It connects experts in cultural preservation and audiovisual technology with Indigenous communities committed to safeguarding the words and wisdom of their ancestors. In its first year, the Foundation funded the Digitization Grant Initiative for over 20 groups digitizing materials from 14 languages.

“Community organizations hold large and small collections of precious cultural heritage recordings in nearly every format possible. ... All of these recordings are important, and we want to allow each community to decide what their priorities are (for digitization).”

– Málągius Gerry Lawson, Technical Lead of Indigitization Program at UBC
B.C. LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

Language revitalization is complex. B.C. is home to 204 First Nations speaking 34 languages, and the range of programs and strategies that meet these diverse communities’ needs and interests can vary. Proven strategies like FirstVoices and the Language Nest Program are effective, but additional programs that are community-designed are also needed. The B.C. Language Initiative provides grant funding for exactly these community-designed projects.

In 2019/20, the Foundation funded FPCC to support 98 community-based language revitalization projects through the B.C. Language Initiative. Many of the projects focused on language immersion by creating gathering places, developing learning materials or providing programming. Other projects included language games and camps, digital lessons, afterschool programming, supports for parents of children in immersion and wellness programs.

“I hope that – no, I know that – my learning our language is making a difference. Even if I am only one person, I am one person that can speak.”

– Sheri Ann Stelkia, Nsyilx̱can language learner
Éy7á7juuthem MAP apprentice Brenda Hanson at the 2019 skills development gathering.
The Foundation funds the Language Revitalization Planning Program, which has been offered by FPCC since 2018 and supports Indigenous communities to develop sustainable long-term strategies through grant funding, regional coaching workshops and sharing and mentorship gatherings.

Planning is an essential component of successful language revitalization. Communities need to develop capacity to provide opportunities for children, youth and adults to learn and share their languages, no matter where they live or at what stage they start.

For language revitalization to be successful, it requires reclaiming language in all aspects of life and society. Language projects must be inclusive of everyone, including children, Elders and those who live away from their home communities.

Coordination these efforts requires developing comprehensive long-range plans for language revitalization that are not reliant on year-to-year funding for individual projects and programs. Language revitalization planning is a holistic approach that reflects Indigenous worldviews on the interconnectedness of all aspects of language and culture.

Thanks to the outreach efforts of the regional language revitalization coaches, the Language Revitalization Planning Program is growing quickly. In 2019/20, the Foundation funded 30 language revitalization planning grant projects administered by FPCC.
Daall Jaad Melody Gravelle and Linda Tollas at the Ḹaad Kil / Ḹaaydaa Kil language gathering
COMMUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

“Our young apprentices are very excited about language work because they’re so involved in projects. We have young adults in university, getting education degrees. They will be able to replace my sister and me as language teachers.”

– J,ŠINTEN John Elliott, Elder and Knowledge Keeper (WSÁNEĆ)

The Foundation empowers Indigenous communities to strengthen their capacity in language, arts and cultural revitalization. We fund FPCC to provide skill development, professional learning experiences and resources that harness Indigenous knowledge and build technical expertise. These opportunities help communities to succeed in their projects and programs, as well as acquire transferable skills in areas such as project management, facilitation, administration and technology.

In 2019/20, the Foundation sponsored FPCC to provide learning opportunities for specialized skill development in language revitalization to 864 people in all regions of B.C. This included regional coaching for 12 communities developing language plans, and three workshops for new participants in the Mentor-Apprentice Program. In addition, the Foundation sponsored three FirstVoices events and two workshops to support the growth of Indigenous technical skills and expertise.

We funded FPCC to develop 30 resources to support Indigenous communities to achieve their goals. Handbooks and webinars serve as “how-to” guides to support language, arts and heritage projects. Templates and other tools help guide communities through various aspects of project planning and implementation.
Shayla Allison and Candice Gabriel from Outma Sqilx’w at the Language Nest skills development gathering
HELISET TŦE SKÁL ‘LET THE LANGUAGES LIVE’ – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

In commemoration of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the Foundation and FPCC co-hosted the HELISET TŦE SKÁL ‘Let the Languages Live’ – International Conference on Indigenous Languages in June 2019.

This international conference attracted hundreds of delegates from over 20 countries around the world and showcased B.C. as a global leader in Indigenous language revitalization.

World-class experts spoke on a diversity of topics to educate and inspire language revitalization on an international scale. Messages of hope were shared by Indigenous youth and Elders. Musical performances by Indigenous artists highlighted the deep connections between language, arts and culture.

HELISET TŦE SKÁL gave Indigenous language champions the opportunity to come together around the common goals of sharing and advancing knowledge and advocating for Indigenous language rights.

The conference motivated calls for an International Decade of Indigenous Languages, which has since been declared by the United Nations to commence in 2022. The Foundation is proud to have helped spark this important global movement that will help carry Indigenous languages forward into the future.

“I want to acknowledge the role of the HELISET TŦE SKÁL - ‘Let the Languages Live’ Conference in bringing together both our speakers and learners to ensure our traditions, beliefs, ceremonies, and cultures are passed on from generation to generation.”

- National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations
HELISET TŦE SKĀL events. Top left: Performance by Twin Flames. Middle: J,ŠINTEN John Elliott closing the event. Bottom right: Welcome performance by A.N.S.W.E.R.
RESEARCH

The Foundation drives innovation and policy by sponsoring the development of groundbreaking research to support Indigenous language, arts and cultural revitalization.

Costs of Language Revitalization

The Foundation funded FPCC-led research on the costs of Indigenous language revitalization in Canada and the investments that other countries make in language revitalization. This research provides a framework for communities to plan and budget for their language programs. It was instrumental in the development of the Government of Canada’s Indigenous Languages Act and is an important tool in advocating for Indigenous language funding in B.C.

Even following the passing of Bill C-91, the Indigenous Languages Act, Canada spends significantly less on Indigenous language revitalization than other high-resource countries. Canada’s spending is also well below what is actually needed. The key to sustainable and sufficient funding is a national strategy for implementing Indigenous language legislation with clearly defined timelines and targets.
Indigenous Heritage Policy

The Foundation also sponsored FPCC to develop a policy paper called Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C. in 2019. This research has received international recognition for its in-depth investigation of the unique threats to Indigenous Cultural Heritage and the pathways towards its safeguarding and revitalization. It is influencing policy dialogues and highlighting the need to fund and support Indigenous Cultural Heritage.

The Foundation is proud to advance research that yields evidence-based strategies for language, arts and cultural revitalization at the community, provincial and national levels.
DIGITAL RESOURCES

Indigenous Peoples’ have inherent rights to their languages, arts and cultural heritage – no matter where they are. Digital resources can help connect all Indigenous people in B.C. with their communities, histories and traditions, providing critical access to language, arts and culture.

The First Peoples’ Map of B.C.

FPCC launched the First Peoples’ Map of B.C. in March 2020, which combines the former First Peoples’ Language Map and Arts Map. This interactive digital resource, developed with funding from the Foundation, provides opportunities to explore the diversity of Indigenous languages, arts and cultures in B.C. in a virtual space. It is driven by user-contributed content and can be used as a teaching and learning tool, a networking resource, a means for discovery, or a guide to traditional territories.
Grant Portal

The Foundation provided funding for FPCC to develop an online Grant Portal as a way to streamline the administrative aspects of grant programs. It allows Indigenous communities to focus on the important work of revitalizing their languages and cultures. Applicants can now develop and submit their grant applications, file their final reports and communicate with FPCC staff – all in a centralized digital hub. The Grant Portal records and documents applicants’ grant history. This allows individuals and communities to keep track of their progress over time and allows FPCC to better understand and address the needs of communities.

Meryl Bishop, Verena Wilhelmson and chuutsqa Layla Rorick at a technology skills development session
OUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS-LED REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS

B.C. is home to an incredible diversity of Indigenous languages, arts and cultures. We recognize that each and every one is treasured, irreplaceable and deserving of sustained funding and support.

The Foundation will seek new investments from a diversity of sources to ensure that Indigenous language, arts and cultural heritage programs will continue to grow and create long-term impacts.

Our overarching goal is to provide a sustainable and Indigenous-led source of funding that is dependable, regardless of fluctuating priorities or policies. The Foundation is working to grow a long-term endowment fund to ensure that Indigenous language, arts and cultural heritage programs continue to thrive for future generations.

“Our goal is to ensure that all of the original languages of this land flourish again, and I’m very hopeful for their future.”

– Tracey Herbert, CEO of First Peoples’ Cultural Council
CULTURAL HUBS

Physical spaces for Indigenous people and communities to gather for sharing and learning are needed. The Foundation is committed to supporting the development of Indigenous-owned and managed spaces where people can teach and learn their languages, practise their arts and showcase their cultures.
ACCESSIBLE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

We are committed to investing in technologies that connect Indigenous people and communities with their languages, arts and cultural heritage.

Digital technologies like FirstVoices require sustained investments for ongoing innovation. Technology changes quickly, and we need to be nimble and adaptable to stay ahead of digital trends. Our technologies must be user-friendly by design, so that they can be used for teaching and learning. They need to be accessible to Indigenous people no matter where they live.

The Foundation will continue to support the development and growth of FirstVoices.com. We will also invest in programs that provide professional development and funding to communities to archive language recordings and create new learning tools using digital technologies.
OUR INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

One of the Foundation’s primary goals is to create sustainable sources of funding to enable long-term investments in the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage. We do this by focusing on increasing our revenues and investing capital strategically to achieve long-term growth.

Our strategy includes approaches that will ensure the safe and secure delivery of grant funding while also achieving long-term capital growth and income generation. The Foundation has a Statement of Investment Policy and Procedures (SIPP), which it reviews annually to stay up to date with economic conditions.

The Foundation’s investment portfolio is designed to withstand changes in the global economy. This includes diverse, defensive and conservative investments. We are confident that our investment portfolio will generate sustainable grant income for communities in the years to come.

We invite you to invest in the future of Indigenous languages, arts and cultures. Your donation to the Foundation will support the rights of Indigenous Peoples and contribute to the rebuilding of cultural systems impacted by colonization. Donate now at www.fpcf.ca.
# Financials for 2019/20

## Statement of Operations 2019/20

### Revenues 2019/20

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<td><strong>$16,971,280</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditures 2019/20

**Grants Awarded**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Revitalization Grants</td>
<td>$13,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Conference Travel Grant</td>
<td>$490,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FirstVoices</td>
<td>$830,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Trish Rosborough Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor-Apprentice Program</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,878,387</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grants and Program Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wages and Benefits</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Conference</td>
<td>$1,163,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Overhead</td>
<td>$61,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,224,512</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total**                                   | **$16,102,899** |

### Net Excess of Revenue Over Expenses

- **$868,381**

### Net Assets – Beginning of Year

- **$1,200,751**

### Net Assets – End of Year

- **$2,069,132**

To see our full audited financial statements, visit www.fpcf.ca.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

• Wuuj̓ə aasanalááʔ • Kukwstsétsemc
• Sunachailya • ̓gGiáxsiʔa. Hamii ya’a
• Sne kal yēgh • înanâskomitinân
• HÍSWKE • ‘uálazkʷítl
• T’oyaxsut nüün • Huy ch q’u
• Stutwiniitscw • Huy chexw a
• kʷukʷstéyp • Hunaqnaqniini
• ?ułnumsh • Limləmt • Kwâ nà schis
• Mussi cho • Kúkwstuʔmckacw
• Haawa • Gilakas’la • Gùnèłchísh
• Soga sénlá’ • T’ooyaksi’y ńiin
• Kukwstumúlhkacw • ččɛhəθɛč
• Sechanalyagh • Ɂekoo Ɂekoo

Image Credit: Ryan Dickie, Winter Hawk Studios Photography