Vital impact on people, places and the planet

University of Victoria
GIVING

It’s personal. Both for you, the donor, and the recipients whose lives are forever changed by your gifts. But the impact goes far beyond that. It reaches into communities, engages with diverse cultures and creates deeper understanding of local, national and international questions. Through your generosity, you’re more than an individual friend, alumnus, foundation or business. You become part of our collective force, driving change and contributing to the unique aspects that give us our UVic Edge.

As you’ll read in this report, donors like you are at the core of our commitment to dynamic learning experiences, healthy communities and Indigenous knowledge. You create opportunities for students, researchers and programs that enhance our extraordinary academic environment. You enable us to have vital impact on people, places and the planet.

Thank you for entrusting UVic with your gifts.
LEARNING ON THE LAND, FOR THE LAND

You help students make lasting change for a healthier planet

After completing UVic’s Northern Europe Sustainability field school, Riley Thackray was keen to apply her knowledge and enthusiasm to a local project. The Stephens Family Undergraduate Research Award in Organic & Sustainable Food Systems gave Riley the means to expand the scope of her project from a rain catchment system to a water conservation initiative with lasting benefits to community partner Woodwynn Farms.

Riley and fellow Geography student Rheanna Neilson, worked with the 193-acre organic farm and therapeutic community to employ rainwater harvesting in the Peace Garden. They hand built a specially designed free-standing system with materials from a local hardware store. With the remaining project budget, Riley and Rheanna implemented a drip irrigation system for the lavender- and sage-lined walking labyrinth. Both initiatives save water and volunteer time, increasing the non-profit’s capacity for its organic horticultural production activities.

Through their gift to UVic, the Stephens family, owners of Nature’s Path Organic Foods, are helping local organizations create sustainable food systems while enabling passionate graduates who will become future leaders in their field.

“I’m thankful for the opportunity to actually create something. I expanded my learning and experience while contributing to something that’s going to benefit the community. That’s opened my eyes to what I could achieve through a career in sustainability. I wish everyone could have this experience.”

Riley Thackray (pictured on the left)
“I helped students think about reconciliation, the role we all play within it, and to consider how we express that through art. The class was about peeling back layers and exploring these issues, then piecing it back together.”

Rande Cook (pictured above, right)

SACRED TEACHINGS, CREATIVE PRACTICE

Donor-funded professorships bring fresh perspectives to the classroom

For eight years, the Audain Professorship of Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest has brought Indigenous artists into UVic’s classrooms. Audain professors’ diverse approaches and specialized knowledge complement the rich Visual Arts program. They split time between the studio and teaching a course, which is open to all students.

In 2016 and ’17, the position was held by Rande Cook, a multi-disciplinary artist and chief of the ‘Namgis nation (near Alert Bay, BC). The convergence of traditional teaching in an institutional setting gave rise to new experiences for both Cook and his students. He eschewed contemporary critiquing practices in favour of an intimate, circle-based sharing environment and emphasized the spiritual aspect of his artistic practice.

In addition to sharing his art form and meanings, Cook addressed issues such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Idle No More and the REDress project. During his term, Cook worked on a symbolic piece of art—a carving dedicated to missing and murdered Indigenous women that demonstrates how art can bring awareness to issues and a voice to the silenced.

Thanks to the foresight of Michael Audain to endow his gift, the university will continue to realize the vast possibilities of this unique professorship in future years.
ILLUSTRATING YOUR SUPPORT IN 2017/18

4,623 DONORS GAVE $18.8m

539 FACULTY/STAFF DONORS

2,605 ALUMNI DONORS

33% Program funds

1% General university

5% Buildings & equipment

6% Library

43% Student awards

12% Chairs & professorships

$6.1m IN DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS WENT TO STUDENTS

DONORS SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN 2017/18

$1m—the investment from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to innovative teaching and research for cleaner and more environmentally friendly transportation solutions, led by mechanical engineer Dr. Zuomin Dong

5,000 feet treated thanks to donors to the Feet First Program, carried out by 4th-year nursing students at Our Place in Victoria

$1m—when my father passed away suddenly I couldn’t afford the international tuition fees for my remaining courses. I faced returning to Iran, where I had no family or prospects. I’d go as far as to say bursaries saved my life.”
Bahar Banagar, BSc ’17

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Carson Sage, MA ’17, BA ’15, co-founder of Cycling Without Age Victoria

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

$7.7m ADDED TO THE ENDOOMENTS IN 2017/18

$451m CURRENT VALUE OF THE FUND

$15.6m DISTRIBUTION BUDGET IN 2018/19

$4.8m FROM ENDOWMENTS AWARDED THIS YEAR IN BURSARIES, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

$2.3m LARGEST GIFT TO THE ENDOOMENTS THIS YEAR

$1.5m DONOR-FUNDED BURSARIES TO 800 STUDENTS

$4.6m DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS & ATHLETIC AWARDS TO 2,183 STUDENTS

3,335 DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS GIVEN OUT

1 in 7 STUDENTS IS HELPED BY A DONOR-FUNDED AWARD

89 NEW AWARDS SET UP
"From my very first meeting at UVic with my supervisor I’ve felt that I was exactly in the right place. And by recognizing my service to community, this scholarship confirmed that I should continue to focus on collaborating and creating spaces where people can tell their stories."

Hector Vazquez Cordoba

RETHINKING CULTURE

Your gifts support graduate research with worldwide impact

PhD student Hector Vazquez Cordoba came to UVic to further his calling to increase access to music in schools throughout Mexico. An accomplished violinist and tenured member of an orchestra in Xalapa, Hector hoped to bring classical music to small communities. After an epiphanic encounter with an Indigenous musician, Hector’s focus shifted. Now he’s researching ways to promote pre-hispanic music and instruments through Mexico’s national education curriculum to help young Mexicans of all backgrounds proudly embrace their heritage.

Hector is already working to increase access to music (both classical and Indigenous forms) through his non-profit organization, and has founded a music festival in Naolinco, Mexico that has gained national recognition. He was awarded the Norma Mickelson Legacy Scholarship in recognition of his community leadership.

While working as a research assistant for his supervisor, Dr. Anita Prest, Hector saw how music educators in Northern Vancouver Island incorporate Indigenous values into music education and learned research practices he could apply during field work in Mexico. If Hector’s research is embraced by the public school system it could change the perception of what is valued in education and foster understanding and pride in Indigenous cultures in Mexico and other countries.

Learn about the Norma Mickelson Legacy Scholarship

205 DONOR-FUNDED AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN 2017/18

$1.2m AWARDED TO 368 GRADUATE STUDENTS IN 2017/18

$21k AWARDED IN NORMA MICKELSON LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS
The LAVA website has visuals so you can actually see in advance if the facilities will work for you, because everyone is different and has different needs. I like building something that will benefit people for years to come.

Dan Spelt

REMARKABLE LIVES

Local partnerships enable UVic to share stories from the disability community

One in seven Canadians lives with a disability. The Remarkable Lives project, funded by the Victoria Foundation, set out to better understand the challenges faced by people living with disabilities and their families in Greater Victoria. The project team included UVic students, researchers and young people from the disability community. Researchers asked people living with disabilities and family members to share stories, journeys, insights, strategies and concerns. They surveyed support agencies about the people they serve, services and facilities, challenges they face and future needs. Their findings will inform planning by funders and community organizations.

The end goal of Remarkable Lives is to develop a comprehensive, interactive and sustainable web-based resource for the disability community. The project team has already launched a fully accessible web app, Leisure Access Victoria App (LAVA). Dan Spelt, a software developer who worked on the website, said the app is a great way to dispel anxieties people living with disabilities may have about whether there will be wide enough doorways or accessible bathrooms at facilities. He hopes to remain part of the team as they continue to improve information and resources for the disability community in the future.

Learn about the Remarkable Lives project

| 200+ Support agencies surveyed for the project |
| 13 People with special needs worked/volunteered on the project |
| 3 UVic students completed practicum/directed studies on the project |
“Seeing the impact of your gifts drives us in our commitment to research and teaching that leads to meaningful change. We are so grateful to have your support as we continue to tackle the issues that matter to people, places and the planet.”

Jamie Cassels
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Victoria

Visit uvic.ca/impactreport to read more about how your gifts help create vital impact.

Sarah Khan, recipient of one of the Schulich Leadership Scholarships, working on a new technique to develop cancer-blocking molecules.