

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023



We acknowledge that Vancouver Community College (VCC) is located on the traditional unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaɣ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples who have been stewards of this land from time immemorial.

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A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM KEN CRETNEY



On behalf of the VCC Foundation Board of Directors, thank you for your ongoing support and contributions. As you will see from this report, the past year has been successful and remarkable in many ways: the Flourish fundraiser returned and was a sold-out success; 817 bursaries and scholarships were awarded; additional student wellbeing initiatives were introduced; and funds raised have fostered more teaching and learning opportunities to enrich the educational experience for students. Your generosity has helped ease students' financial situations, creating greater access to future opportunities by allowing students more time to focus on their studies. We often hear from students that donor support has made a significant difference for them, and that your generosity has a tremendous and lasting impact.

The VCC Foundation is entering a pivotal and exciting period. Continued hard work and dedication is delivering results, with 2022 being a year of transition and renewal for the Foundation. There was also major and successful work done by the College to advance the campus redevelopment planning. This very exciting opportunity creates a future that is really beyond words. The college intends to leverage its real estate assets to modernize the education facilities for jobs of the future and contribute to community needs, including housing, day care and amenities to support the Broadway and Downtown areas. This visionary and transformative planning for our campuses and our students is the beginning of an exciting new future for VCC and the Foundation. We hope you will join us on the journey.

Also key to the future growth and success of the VCC Foundation is our exceptional team, led by Executive Director, Moira Gookstetter. Looking forward, we remain focused on effective and responsible governance with the renewal of our partnership agreement between VCC and our Foundation.

Once again, our sincere gratitude and thanks to all donors who help to create a stronger student experience. On behalf of the Foundation Board and staff, our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support. We could not do this without you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Cretney', written in a cursive style.

Ken Cretney
VCC FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

2023 Endowment balance

\$12,552,300



SCHOLARSHIPS

\$364,234

TO 425 STUDENTS



BURSARIES

\$228,567

TO 392 STUDENTS



OTHER PROJECTS*

\$247,654



TOTAL DISTRIBUTION IN 2022

\$840,455*

ANNUAL AND OTHER DONATIONS

\$1,693,763

ENDOWMENT DONATIONS

\$169,129

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

356

NEW AWARDS CREATED

15

* INCLUDES IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENT SUCCESS

In total, we distributed 817 awards and \$592K, to students last year.

Financial awards such as scholarships and bursaries lessen the financial load of students on their education journey, while providing them with important recognition as they pursue their careers. As the post-secondary institution with the lowest tuition fees in BC, VCC makes education accessible for everyone. Oftentimes, it is never enough. With the incredible support of our donors, successful outcomes are nevertheless possible. A special thank you to the following donors who created 15 new awards this year:

- Digital Graphics Design Equipment
- McKay Family Fund Award
- Marie Wells Award
- Coast Capital Trades Awards and Bursary
- The Li Family: May Mei-Chu Tsoi Resilience Annual Award
- Apex Structural Design Award
- Project Management Institute Canadian West Coast Chapter Award
- Ray and Flora Wallace Bursary
- Canadian Dental Association Alliance Award of Excellence
- Yulee Harris Fund Award
- Andrew Morrison Memorial Bursary
- Ellen McInnes Healthcare Workers Scholarship
- VCC Entrance Awards

[View video of VCC 2023 spring student awards](#)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



"I really enjoyed the competition and the experience it gave me to apply my skills and what I've learned into a judged application."

– AIDEN R. WON BRONZE IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE CATEGORY AT THE 2023 SKILLS CANADA BC PROVINCIAL COMPETITION AND WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE MERIDIAN MERIT TRADES COMPETITION AWARD.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

"I am honored to receive such an award amongst my peers. Your generous support is greatly appreciated. This award has given me the courage and encouragement to strive and continue to learn more in my chosen field."

– **JANICE THOMPSON**, JEWELLERY ART & DESIGN, 2022 FALL PYRRHA AWARD FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS RECIPIENT (WITH VCC PRESIDENT AJAY PATEL)

REMOVING BARRIERS

Supporting underrepresented groups to build skills for their chosen careers.

Removing barriers to education is key to ensuring our students get the training they need to enter the workforce or upgrade their skills for career progression. The VCC Foundation works hard to support our most underrepresented community members. This support has come in a variety of ways: through direct financial support to students with scholarships and bursaries; through the creation of the Coast Capital Trades awards; supporting underrepresented student populations in one of VCC's six Red Seal trade programs; presenting the Pyrrah's Award recognizing Indigenous Students enrolled in our Jewellery Arts program; and Ben's Original™ Seat at the Table award to support BIPOC student in the Baking or Culinary program. These are all examples which help even the playing field for students.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



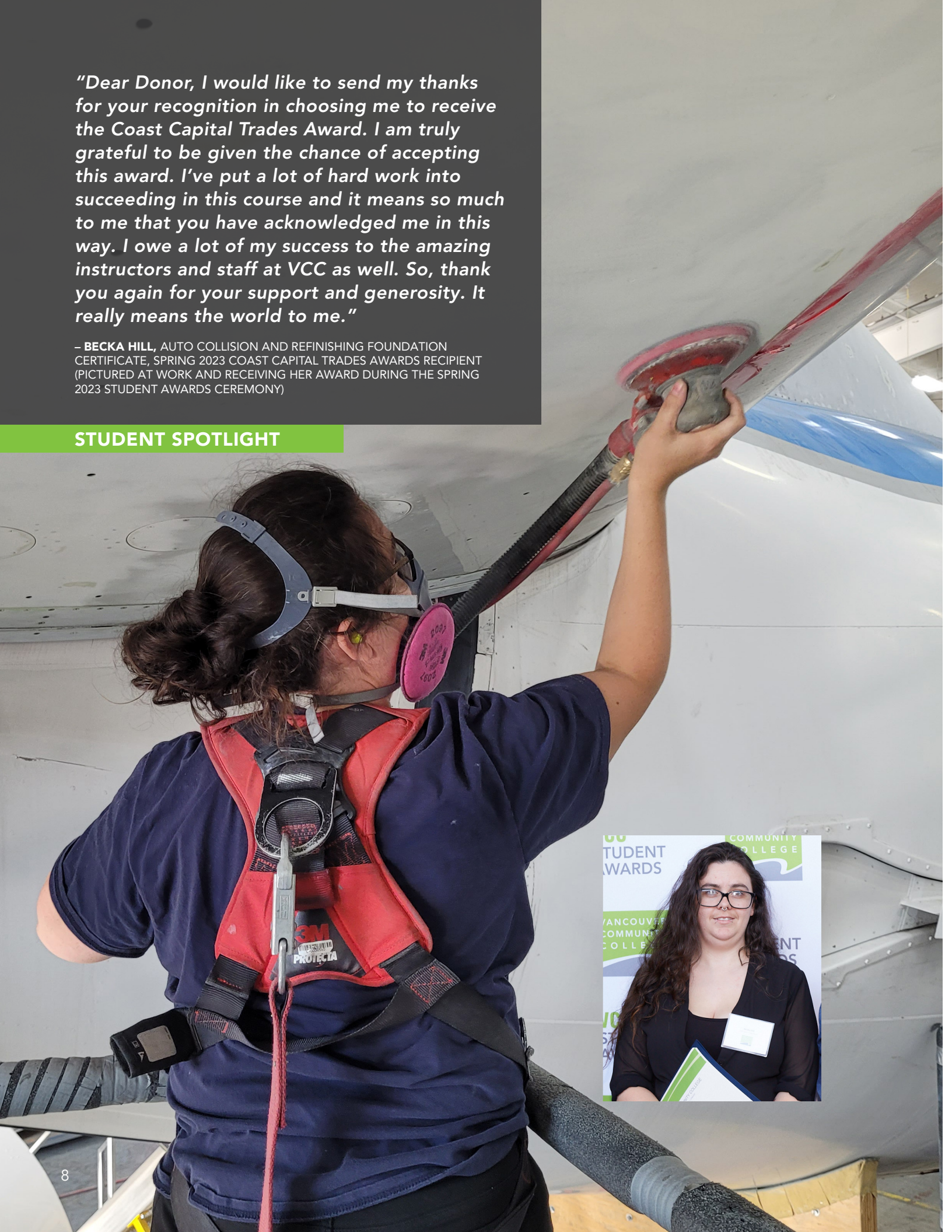
"No words can express the feeling of my sincere gratitude for the recognition and support you have shared with me through this award. The financial assistance you've shared is truly a great help to me in paying my educational expenses."

— **ALEXANDER BENEDICT BERNARDO**, CULINARY ARTS, SPRING 2023 BEN'S ORIGINAL SEAT AT THE TABLE FUND RECIPIENT
(PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: ALEXANDER BENEDICT BERNARDO, SANGIT PRASAD, VCC PRESIDENT AJAY PATEL, AND THOR HOFFMAN, SENIOR KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER MARS CANADA)

"Dear Donor, I would like to send my thanks for your recognition in choosing me to receive the Coast Capital Trades Award. I am truly grateful to be given the chance of accepting this award. I've put a lot of hard work into succeeding in this course and it means so much to me that you have acknowledged me in this way. I owe a lot of my success to the amazing instructors and staff at VCC as well. So, thank you again for your support and generosity. It really means the world to me."

– BECKA HILL, AUTO COLLISION AND REFINISHING FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE, SPRING 2023 COAST CAPITAL TRADES AWARDS RECIPIENT (PICTURED AT WORK AND RECEIVING HER AWARD DURING THE SPRING 2023 STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



OPENING EMPLOYMENT DOORS

Our partnerships have also supported programs such as the Trade Sampler and the Community and Career Education (CACE). The Trade Sampler program is a 10-week program targeted to high school aged students to experience a variety of different trades programs offered by VCC that are in-demand. Through our community partnerships, we are able to offer this program free of charge and attract a wide range of students, including at-risk youth from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Scotiabank and the Diamond Foundation provided critical program support in 2022 to ensure that high school aged students are able to explore career options through hands on learning.

Another program example is a partnership with the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, which provides program grant support to CACE and offers students with cognitive developmental disabilities education and practical training as well as foundational employment skills required to gain entry level employment in a variety of industries. Their funding support has been critical in offering students the use of technology to enhance learning and the development of life skills. This includes using a phone for speech to text; training our students to confidently work with employment apps on personal devices; conducting online interviews; uploading resumes and documents; and signing in and out at places of employment using technology.

CHRISTIAN'S STORY

A difference maker at Broadway Moving!

Career Awareness Program (CAP) is a career exploration program for individuals with cognitive disabilities. As a part of this eight-month program, CAP coordinates three 4-week work practicums at various businesses that the students expressed interest in.

Christian came to VCC in 2021. As part of his program requirements, he completed his work experience at Broadway Moving. Christian would clean trucks, sort recycling, sweep the warehouse, and unload trucks. Upon completion of his four-week practicum he was hired part time. Christian came to VCC a very shy, quiet and reserved young man and has since grown into a valuable employee for Broadway Moving. The skills he developed both at school and on the job make him a fantastic future employee. Adam, his supervisor and the owner of Broadway Moving, says, "Christian, you were an exemplary employee at Broadway Moving and you had no problem with any of the tasks you were asked to do. You were always cheerful and eager to take on any duty and your co-workers were happy to have you on site."

Christian continues to work part-time at Broadway Moving. In the fall of 2022, he made the decision to return to VCC to take the Retail Hospitality program.



Mental health is a 24/7 issue.



Mental health is a 24/7 issue. In 2019/20, we entered the third year of three-year partnership with the Pacific Blue Cross Foundation to expand student mental wellness initiatives. Pacific Blue Cross Foundation's commitment has allowed VCC to upgrade technology used by the Counselling Department in support of student mental health wellness in the virtual environment in addition to in person opportunities. This pivot to virtual offerings has already seen remarkable success in meeting the mental health needs of our students. Specifically, VCC was able to purchase six new laptops and ipads, and six headsets with upgraded microphones for VCC Counsellors to ensure consistent, clear,

and secure service delivery. In addition, a special virtual headphone and microphone was purchased to allow for high quality recordings to be used in supportive videos.

This year, with the support of the Pacific Blue Cross Foundation, we were able to launch a new national online platform called TogetherAll, a peer-to-peer mental wellness program. This took Counselling and support from an 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. offering to a true 24/7 service. Online support is easily accessible and delivers increased engagement. Less intimidating than meeting someone in person, this approach has resulted in more frequent use of virtual support by students.



Creating readiness for a career in Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) and Building Information Modelling (BIM).

Technology and hands-on learning play a critical role in preparing VCC students for their chosen careers. Thanks to a generous donation from McElhanney, an engineering and land survey firm headquartered in Vancouver, the Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) and Building Information Modeling (BIM) department was able to outfit the new student 3D studio with virtual reality (VR) equipment. Students are now able to collaborate on projects and identify how different parts of the building, such as plumbing and walls, interact with each other. This innovative technology gives students the experiential, hands-on learning for which VCC is known. Partnerships like this help set VCC students apart by giving students the practical tools needed to turn applied knowledge into meaningful careers.



McElhanney

IMAGES (TOP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT):
DAVID WELLS, VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC & RESEARCH, KELLY WIGHTMAN DEPARTMENT CHAIR CAD/BIM, STEVE ROMBOUGH, BRANCH MANAGER – VANCOUVER GEOSPATIAL, PABLO M. MARGAIN 3D / AR / VR VISUALIZATION SPECIALIST, WILLIAM (B.J.) HOUGHTON, BCLS, PENG BRANCH MANAGER, KITIMAT, TJANA SMILJANIC, DIVISION MANAGER, DESIGN BUILD, LUCY GRIFFITH ACTING DEAN SCHOOL OF TRADES, TECH, AND DESIGN; REZA SAIEDI VCC INSTRUCTOR TRYING VR EQUIPMENT; BRUCE MCGARVIE VCC INSTRUCTOR AND PABLO MARGAIN.





FLOURISH RETURNS

On Feb. 28, 2023, over 300 guests donned their best evening attire for the highly anticipated return of VCC Foundation's signature event, Flourish.

The green-tie affair featured an impressive roster of new and returning alumni chefs at 15 stand-up food tasting stations, and nine wine stations generously supported by Naramata Bench Wineries Association. Other sponsors who contributed to the event's success included PCI Developments, Onni Group, Lowtide Properties, Dilawri Vancouver, Sodexo Live, BTY Group, Craftsman Collison and Color Compass Corp., and media partners BC Business and Drishti Magazine. As a result of the sold-out gala event, the Foundation raised over \$100k to support student scholarship and awards. In combination with the funds raised from previous Flourish events, the Foundation announced new awards and funding initiatives to support VCC students in 12 different programs across the College.

[View video of 2023 Flourish gala](#)



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENTS SUPPORTING
CULINARY AND HOSPITALITY STUDENTS

2022/23 marked the return of many Culinary fundraising events to support VCC students.

Canada's Great Kitchen Party is a prestigious culinary competition, hosted annually in October. Equally focused on fundraising, the competition provides accessible opportunities for young Canadians to achieve excellence in their pursuits of sport, music, and food. The late and beloved Vancouver food writer Andrew Morrison, co-founder of Scout Magazine, played a key role in Canada's Great Kitchen Party for 14 years. In honour of Scott, a new VCC bursary was announced: the Andrew Morrison Memorial Bursary. This inaugural award was presented to VCC Culinary Arts student Tsai Rung "Sara" Lee. This annual bursary will recognize rising stars in the culinary industry, who are training at VCC.

In May, Hy's Steakhouse & Cocktail Bar hosted its annual fundraising event in support of the John Aisenstat Memorial Scholarship. This award was created in memory of John, the son of legendary restaurant tycoon, Hy Aisenstat and the executive vice-president of Hy's Steakhouse prior to his passing in 2018. This scholarship was created in 2019 to recognize high academic achievement and to provide financial support to a VCC student pursuing studies in the hospitality and culinary arts. This year's event was the most successful one to date, raising over \$13,000 to support the award. "John was a champion of post-secondary institutions and students pursuing careers in the culinary and hospitality field," says Neil Aisenstat, Chief Executive Officer, Hy's Steakhouse & Cocktail Bar. "This scholarship is just one of the many initiatives that allow us to both honour his legacy and show our ongoing support for the industry he loved."



IMAGES (TOP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT): JAMES CHATTO NATIONAL KITCHEN PARTY LEAD JUDGE AND TSAI RUNG "SARA" LEE, ANDREW MORRISON MEMORIAL BURSARY RECIPIENT 2022. PHOTO CREDIT TO ANJALI SPOONER; VCC PRESIDENT AJAY PATEL WITH MIYEON JEON, JOHN AISENSTAT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SPRING 2022.



VCC FOUNDATION MISSION

Vancouver Community College Foundation stimulates financial support for students and programs at Vancouver Community College. Our board and staff ensure the prudent management of funds received, and encourage the community's goodwill toward the College. VCC Foundation is a registered charity and works together with individual donors and industry partners to build rewarding relationships.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Cretney, Chair
Peter Van Dyke, Treasurer
Mark Andrew, Secretary
Geoff Bowman

Zoran Kovacevic
Barb Steele
Kay Wong-Alafriz
Alister R. Mathieson

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023



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