

**THE LAWSON FOUNDATION**  
**PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S**  
**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

**June 14, 2014**

**Highlights and Achievements**

***Looking back on 2013:***

The year was a busy one for the Foundation. Our Annual Report will inform you of the various activities of the last year, including our funding of many great initiatives and projects. Whether these initiatives are focused on the early years, on active and healthy children or on diabetes, and whether they are community-focused, research-related or about knowledge sharing, they are all contributing to stronger communities and a stronger Canada. And we are proud of this.

Examples of our work include the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Diabetes workshop, held in Montreal, which was all about connecting, learning from one another and exploring collaboration. The more we can help connect people and ideas, the better; the first-ever community-based residential hospice in London funded through the Miggie Lawson program. A great example of community impact; and the Annual Report Card produced by Active Healthy Kids Canada, a project that has become international with 14 other countries now participating! Few Canadian foundations can boast about having funded projects that take on such an international profile!

But take a few minutes to read the Annual Report to learn more about what we have been doing.

And we are also happy to report that 2013 was a stellar year for the growth in our endowment. It is heartening to see the very positive results, as they will allow us to have even more impact and reach in supporting great organizations and visionary leaders.

***Going forward:***

Huge opportunities await us as a foundation. We truly believe that charities and foundations will be playing an increasingly important role in the years ahead as governments pull back on many fronts and as corporations rethink their community investment approaches. In industrialized countries around the world we are seeing foundations, such as The Lawson Foundation, take on stronger leadership roles.

With that context in mind, we will be closely examining our approaches to see how we can better focus our work in key areas in order to increase our impact and expand our reach. We will be out there looking for great investment opportunities in organizations and leaders who want to work differently to address some of the unique challenges that we are facing in our communities and in Canada.

While the principal tool at our disposal to support great initiatives and great people are the grants that we disburse, we also recognize that we can use some of our assets in ways that will contribute

to a better society. Getting involved in impact investment opportunities is a way to do this and we will be moving forward on this front, but in a careful and measured way. We will be working with some of the best experts in the field to help us chart a way forward, all the while continuing to work with our Investment Committee to ensure that our endowment continues to grow for many years to come.

We will also be looking very seriously at ways to better engage and communicate. In the first instance, with our Members, as this has been identified as an opportunity that needs to be seized.

But we will also look at ramping up our efforts to better engage and communicate with a broader set of potential partners and stakeholders. If we wish to expand our reach because we want to have more impact and maximize our resources, then we need to ensure that more people know about our work and the role that we can play. And we want to more fully disseminate the information, knowledge and learning that are coming out of the work of our grantees so that more can benefit from our experience.

In closing, we want to stress that none of the good work that we have undertaken in 2013 would have been possible without our devoted and competent Board members, both from the family and from the community. And a sincere thank you to all our volunteers who advise us on so many fronts.

And of course without the staff, little could be accomplished. We want to take this opportunity to thank Angie Killoran particularly for her outstanding service to the Foundation over 13 years! Not only was Angie loved and admired by all, she was instrumental in making The Lawson Foundation one of the very best foundations in this country. This was accomplished through her leadership and determination to get things done in order to contribute to the well-being of communities and of Canada. We thank her most sincerely. And of course our small staff (Lynda Swift, Karen Shelstad, Christine Alden and Karen Pischedda) deserve our heartfelt thanks for a job well done!



Jonathan Wood, President



Marcel Lauzière, Executive Director

## Program Highlights



### **“Convergence”**

Following last year’s external review of the Beginning Years program, which was presented at the 2013 AGM, the Board directed staff to begin work on a new program framework to explore the *convergence* among our strategic program areas. “Convergence” captures the ways our grantees and program areas overlap. This is a concept the Foundation has been recognizing in the last few years, but actually has its roots in the 1990’s when the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Board initiated proactive grantmaking.

Last summer, an ad hoc committee of staff, Directors, Members and Advisors was engaged to explore convergence and recommended to the Board:

1. To make the concept of convergence a central theme of *how* the Foundation works across all the individual strategic program areas.
2. To leverage our impact by proactively creating connections and conversation where linkages are not yet visible, and enhancing the Foundation’s convening role and collaborating potential.
3. To share the Foundation’s own knowledge and learning publicly.

### *Making Connections, Exploring Synergies*

In February 2014, the Foundation convened the first ever meeting of grantees from *across* program areas to explore convergence. Grantees introduced their work and networked with each other. According to our grantees, the event facilitated important new connections and it was valuable for grantees to meet one another. The themes and synergies among their work were apparent to all, and

they expressed their desire to come together again with more time to dive deeper into the synergies identified.

### ***Beginning Years***

- Two long standing projects, **Red River College** – *Science of Early Child Development*, and **Renfrew County Youth Services** (aka the Phoenix Center for Children & Families) - Welcome To Parenting, are in the final phases of Lawson support. The Foundation and the grantees are exploring for the first time taking products to market through the implementation of business and marketing plans. Both grants are exit grants concluding a 10+ year history.
- The Board recognized the opportunity to offer a grant to the **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research** to webcast the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 symposium *From Cell to Society* to celebrate the life's work of the late Dr. Clyde Hertzman. The webcast allowed CIFAR to extend the reach of the symposium and archive the presentations. The Board also invited a select group of 22 of our grantees to attend the symposium as well as our own February convening event *Making Connections, Exploring Synergies* (cited above).

### ***Healthy Active Children***

- This year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Active Healthy Kids Canada** Report Card on the Physical Activity of Children and Youth which was released at the first ever Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children held in Toronto in May 2014. The 2014 Report Card revealed the first global matrix comparing children's physical activity among 14 countries. The Report Card received unprecedented media coverage which reached around the world touching each of the countries. The Summit convened a rich dialogue to explore the extent to which all countries are both "leaders" and "laggers" in different aspects of physical activity. Canada has achieved relatively good public policy and infrastructure for programs, but children's behaviours still do not reflect sufficient physical activity.

### ***Diabetes Workshop***

- The Foundation convened the 9<sup>th</sup> Diabetes Workshop in October 2013 in Montreal, providing a valuable opportunity for our grantees to learn from other work and to connect with each other and with federal and provincial representatives. Grantees reported on 15 Lawson-funded projects from across Canada. Elder Joseph Aniataraken McGregor welcomed workshop attendees to the Kanien'kehá:ke (Mohawk) Territory and thanked grantee Dr. Ann Macaulay and her team for what they've accomplished to address diabetes prevention and management in young people in the Kahnawake community. The Lawson Foundation supported the **Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project** in the 1990s and then again in 2012-13 for the "*Healthy Nights for Healthier Days in Kahnawake*" project on the effect of healthy sleep habits on type 2 diabetes. Drs. Jonathon Fowles and Christopher Shields of **Acadia University** recounted the story of the *Physical Activity and Exercise Toolkit* and the three Lawson grants that helped fund the toolkit's development and dissemination to diabetes educators across Canada. The copyright for the toolkit has been transferred to the Canadian Diabetes Association to help ensure sustainability. Dr. Jean-Philippe Chaput, holder of a junior research chair funded under our Healthy Active Children program, gave a special presentation on insufficient sleep as a contributor to obesity and type 2 diabetes.

- Over the years, the connections made through the annual workshop have strengthened our grantees' work and resulted in new partnerships and initiatives. Dr. Jon McGavock, **University of Manitoba**, used Lawson's model to create the DREAM (Diabetes Research Envisioned and Accomplished in Manitoba) workshop which brings scientists and practitioners together in Winnipeg. Dr. Jean-Luc Ardilouze, **Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Sherbrooke**, is collaborating with grantees in Toronto and Winnipeg to broaden the reach of his work on gestational diabetes mellitus. Many collaborations among our grantees began with conversations at the annual workshops.

### ***Miggsie Lawson Program***

- London, ON is known worldwide as a leader in innovative health care delivery but a community-based residential hospice was missing from the spectrum of care. **St. Joseph's Hospice**, a newly formed charitable organization, integrates the long history of compassionate health care delivery begun by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1888 with 27 years of home care and day program delivery provided by Hospice of London.
- A grant in honour of Miggsie Lawson supported the development of a new 10-bed residential hospice to provide 24-hour specialized palliative care to people living with a terminal illness, as well as those in their life circle.
- The hospice opened its doors to the first patients and their families in January 2014. Tom Lawson, Jane Fitzgerald and Lawson Staff attended the Grand Opening.

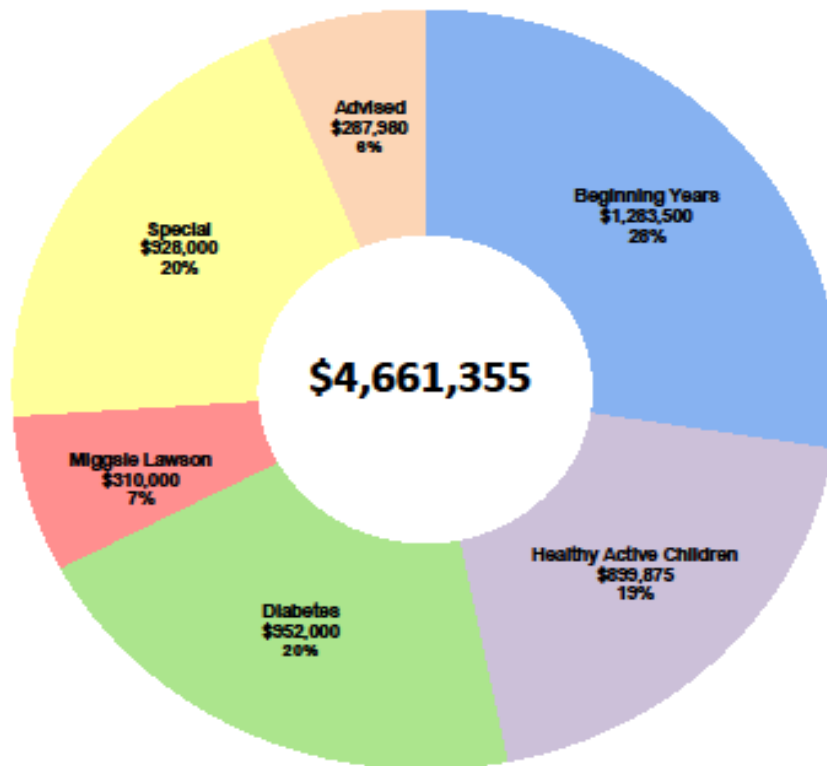
### ***Special Program***

- The Lawson Foundation joined a group of foundations – Metcalfe, Atkinson, J. W. McConnell Family, Sprott, Ontario Trillium, and Hamilton Community foundations – to support **Community Food Centres Canada** and help seed the community food centre (CFC) movement across Canada. The Foundation has supported national movements in the past (e.g., the growth of community foundations in Canada), a capacity of private foundations.
- CFCs are tailored to meet local needs and offer integrated and responsive programming in three core areas in a welcoming and respectful space:
  - Food access programs – healthy food banks, drop-in meals and affordable produce markets provide access to healthy food in a respectful and dignified manner that allows peoples to regain their sense of self-worth.
  - Food Skills programs – gardening and cooking classes help develop healthy food behaviours and skills
  - Education and Engagement programs – give individuals and communities voice and agency on food and hunger issues

## 2013 Grants Awarded by Program

Total 2013 disbursements: \$5,333,243 (\$4,661,355 grants paid + \$671,888 in expenses allocated to program and grantmaking). The Foundation maintained a 4.5% giving guideline from Fund #1 and distributed \$310,000 of investment income from Fund #2 (Miggsie Lawson Fund).

### Grants Paid in 2013



### Beginning Years

In 2013 new grants focused on supporting existing work while the program is under review.

- \$500,000 to the **University of Toronto**, matched by the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation to support the ongoing work of the Early Childhood Education Report, the legacy of the *Early Years Study 3*.
- \$10,000 to the **University of Toronto** for a collaborative project with the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation to explore the impact of school board-operated before and after school programs in Waterloo region.
- \$655,000 to **Red River College** to support the implementation of business and marketing activities to support broad uptake of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Science of Early Child Development*, an online resource used by colleges, universities and practitioners.
- \$185,000 to **Renfrew County Youth Services** (aka the Phoenix Center for Children & Families) to support core costs and create a business and marketing plan for *Welcome To Parenting*, an online prenatal and parenting resource.

- \$400,000 to the **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)** to support Dr. Alan Bernstein, in his leadership role to share the knowledge that is generated by the Child and Brain Development Program.
- \$10,500 to the **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)** to webcast the February 6, 2014 symposium *From Cell to Society* to celebrate the life's work of the late Dr. Clyde Hertzman.

2013 grant payments for multi-year commitments

- \$60,000 to the **Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development** (through Sainte-Justine CHU Foundation), matched by the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation, for the development and dissemination of the online Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development.
- \$235,000 to the **University of British Columbia Human Early Learning Partnership (UBC HELP)** for the Forum for Early Child Development Monitoring.

### ***Healthy Active Children***

Over the last year the Board has been exploring a refined area of focus for the Healthy Active Children program which currently broadly supports healthy active living for children and youth.

New 2013 grants

- \$95,000 to the **Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute** for two systematic reviews and a position stand on active outdoor play.
- \$335,000 to **Active Healthy Kids Canada (AHKC)** for the production and dissemination across Canada of the 2014 AHKC *Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth* which marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Report Card.

2013 grant payments for multi-year commitments

- \$31,975 to the **Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Foundation** (which matches the funds) for the Junior Research Chairs program in the Healthy Active Living and Obesity (HALO) Research Group.
- \$437,900 to **Physical and Health Education (PHE) Canada** for Health Promoting Schools, an initiative to support a range of activities and services within schools and their communities to help children enhance their health and develop to their full potential.

### ***Diabetes***

In 2013, grants focussed on supporting and enhancing existing initiatives. Staff also worked with the volunteer advisors – Dr. Heather Dean, Ms Peggy Dunbar, Ms Donna Lillie and Dr. Robyn Houlden – to review, revise and launch the 2014-15 Diabetes Funding Opportunity.

New 2013 grants

- \$40,000 to **Women's College Hospital** to measure the impact of a lifestyle intervention for women with previous gestational diabetes mellitus on their families by evaluating changes in partners' fitness and metabolic health.

- \$20,000 to the **University of British Columbia** for the *5th Conference on Recent Advances in the Prevention and Management of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity*, a forum for community stakeholders, policy makers and researchers to connect and share information about promising strategies to prevent and manage obesity in Indigenous youth.

2013 grant payments for multi-year commitments

- The Foundation distributed \$942,000 to 11 projects addressing needs in the areas of: reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes in pregnant women; communications technologies and diabetes self-management; healthy sleeping habits as a component of healthy lifestyles to address the primary prevention of type 2 diabetes; physical activity tailored to the needs of young people with type 1 diabetes; genetic and environmental influences on the development of type 2 diabetes in childhood; peer-led diabetes education and self-management curriculum for people with severe mental illness; and community-based integrated care for the prevention and management of type 2 diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular diseases.
- These initiatives serve diverse populations, including children, adolescents and young adults, pregnant women, First Nations, various ethno-cultural communities and marginalized groups.

### ***Miggsie Lawson Program***

The Board disbursed \$310,000 to London area charities. Since the program's inception, the Board has approved over \$1,800,000 in grants and commitments.

New 2013 grants

- \$250,000 to the **St. Joseph's-Hospice of London** to support the development of a residential hospice for London and Middlesex County.
- \$180,000 for diverse programs and services including: children's in-school breakfast/lunch programs, after-school activities and summer camps; Addiction Services of Thames Valley's Heartspace Program for women who are pregnant, parenting young children and substance involved; the Goodwill's micro loan program; and a project to preserve the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1848-1869) which provided refuge for escaped slaves from the US. Miggsie's Fund continued to support the work of neighbourhood resource centres across London and charities operating shelters, food banks and hospitality meal programs.



2013 grant payment for multi-year commitment

- \$50,000 to **Huron University College Foundation** for the *Huron-Lawson Chair in Moral and Pastoral Theology*. This grant is shared with the Special Program (see below).



## Special Program

New 2013 grants

- \$500,000 to **Community Food Centres Canada** to provide seed funding for the community food centre movement in Canada.
- \$500,000 to **Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation** to renew funding for the *Offord Centre Research Training Program for Young Scientists*. These fellowships provide highly motivated graduate students with the mentorship and learning opportunities needed to create strong research programs to address the developmental health needs of children and adolescents. Although varying in content (e.g., social competence, physical conditioning), these programs are to share three common elements: a focus on important health questions; high relevance to practices and policies serving youth; and the potential to effect positive change.
- \$10,000 to **David McAntony Gibson Foundation** to support Global Medic's efforts to provide disaster relief in the Philippines.

2013 grant payment for multi-year commitment

- \$150,000 to **Huron University College Foundation** to grow the endowed *Huron-Lawson Chair in Moral and Pastoral Theology* and leverage matching donations from the community.

## Grant Commitments 2014 - 2017

Future grant commitments and the Diabetes Funding Allocation total \$7,983,000.

