



2019 Annual Report

Healthy
development
of children
and youth.



**OUR
PURPOSE**

Leadership Message

We are looking back on a year of significant activity, engagement and accomplishment.

We kickstarted the year with a Board and Staff retreat where we reviewed our Strategic Direction and reflected on the Foundation's activities over the past five years. When we charted our first Strategic Direction in 2014, we decided to focus our impact on the healthy development of children and youth. It was also our first foray into impact investing, and it was at that time that convening became a key tool for the Foundation.

Given our progress over the past five years, the Board decided to stay focused on the healthy development of children and youth and to refresh some of our areas of work to increase our impact. This review also provided the opportunity to renew our commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. The revised [Strategic Direction](#) was released at the end of 2019 and serves as our roadmap for the coming years.

2019 was also an exciting year where we began to harness all of our tools to address the Indigenous diabetes epidemic. In addition to traditional grants, these tools include the Foundation's capacity to convene - bringing together stakeholders, partners and community members to learn and work together on solutions - and our ability to leverage philanthropic assets through impact investments.

Following extensive consultations with our Indigenous partners, the Foundation signed an agreement with the Indigenous Services Canada to co-fund an Indigenous-led Solutions Lab that is bringing together Indigenous communities, government, researchers, economists and impact investors to identify effective community-driven diabetes prevention and management interventions, and to develop new financing approaches that will empower Indigenous communities. This is ground-breaking work that we believe will be transformational in addressing the diabetes challenge.

We also launched our inaugural Youth Action and the Environment [cohort](#) of young leaders from across the country, including the North. Research has shown that the link between nature connection and health is becoming increasingly important, given rising rates of certain physical and mental health issues and the fact that young people are more sedentary and are spending less time outdoors. The Foundation believes that all young people should have opportunities to connect with nature and contribute their leadership and creativity to help ensure a healthy, sustainable environment.

We were pleased to convene all of the young leaders together for a three-day event north of Toronto on beautiful Lake Couchiching in the fall. We believe that providing opportunities for our cohort participants to connect will bring a real value-add to their experience. These are opportunities for sharing and learning from each other. Of course, given the new context that we are in due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Foundation is exploring new virtual ways to continue to connect our participants so that they continue to benefit from being part of this cohort.

There is so much to talk about for 2019, including the [Outdoor Play Canada Honour Award](#) that the Foundation received in recognition of our "exceptional and sustained leadership for the promotion of outdoor play in Canada." So we invite you to review the highlights in this Annual Report and also to visit our website where you can learn more about the Foundation and our work.

In closing, we want to thank our amazing volunteers who sit on the Board of Directors, on our various Board standing committees and those who act as our advisors. Our success is in good part because of your involvement and dedication. We also want to recognize the work of our 5th Gens, who continue to be active in learning about and innovating in philanthropy. And of course, a heart-felt thank you to our outstanding staff who continue to carry the torch.



Barb Lawson Miller
Board Chair



Marcel Lauzière
President & CEO

Want to learn more?

While this report provides some key highlights from the past year at the Foundation, we invite you to visit our website for more information about our work, our grants and our impact.

www.lawson.ca

2019 Highlights

Our work as a Foundation makes an impact in communities across Canada. Here are a few highlights from our grantmaking, convening and impact investing that help to paint a picture of our impact over the past year.

We welcomed
10 projects and 22+
young leaders into
our inaugural
**YOUTH ACTION &
THE ENVIRONMENT
COHORT**

4

Virtual
Gatherings

1

In-person
Retreat at YMCA
Geneva Park

We are investing
\$2.7 million
to support
projects and the
development of
young leaders over
three years

14

Outdoor Play
Strategy

Organizations
engaged through our
**COHORT
APPROACH**

10

Youth Action &
The Environment

12

Child & Youth
Diabetes
Strategy

240

Number of events and
meetings hosted at
Foundation House



\$129.5 M

Invested in
communities
since 1956



\$41,709

Average size of a
Lawson Foundation
grant in 2019

Miggsie
Fund

17 grants
totalling
\$542,666

14
Community
Grants

2
Opportunity
Grants

41

Number of larger grants
(>\$25,000) awarded,
totalling
\$4,237,691

79

Number of small grants
(<\$25,000) awarded,
totalling
\$642,228

9

Number of foundations
and that attended our
Foundation Investment
Roundtable

In 2019
we renewed our
**STRATEGIC
DIRECTION**

setting the course for
our impact over
the next
five years



\$4.2 M

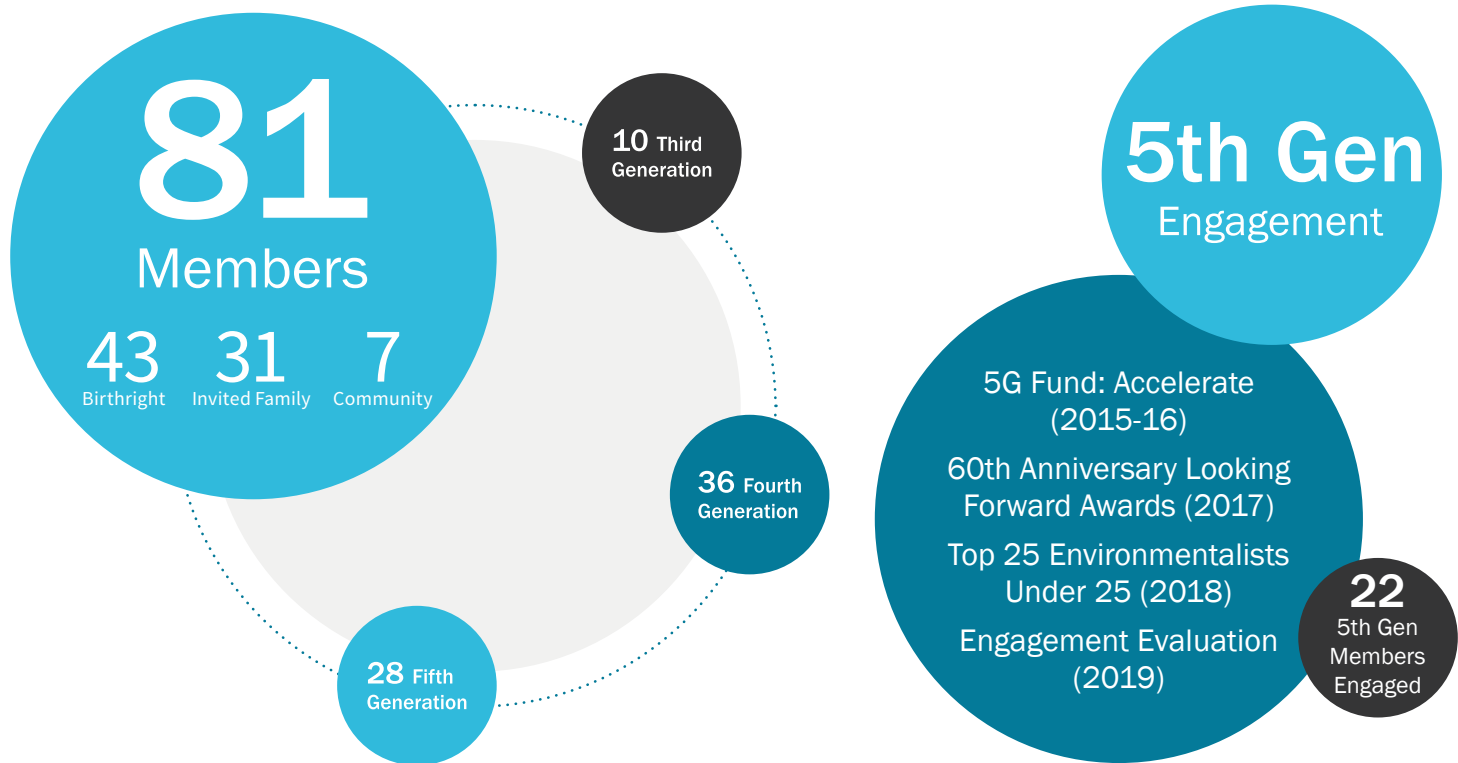
Amount committed in
IMPACT INVESTMENTS
with a median
investment of

\$250,000

11

Impact
Investments

You can learn more about our impact and our
goals as a Foundation for the next five years
by reviewing our Strategic Direction online at
lawson.ca.



What do we mean by 5th Gen?

Engaging the 5th Generation of Lawson Family Members in our philanthropy is an important part of our approach. You can learn more about the members of the 5th Gen and what philanthropy means to them on our website at lawson.ca.

Our commitment to Reconciliation

Advancing the work of reconciliation between Canada's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is a continuous journey and we are committed to learning and working alongside Indigenous partners across our program streams.



Lawson Foundation
receives the
**OUTDOOR PLAY CANADA
HONOUR AWARD**

in recognition of our “exceptional
and sustained leadership”
for the promotion of
outdoor play in Canada

We released
the Advancing Outdoor
Play and Early Childhood
Education Discussion
Paper stemming from
our Fall Symposium in
both English and
French

**DIABETES
PREVENTION
INDIGENOUS
SOLUTIONS
LAB**

6
Communities we
are working with in
Northern Manitoba
and PEI

3.78 million

Visits to the online
Encyclopedia on Early
Childhood Development

Available in:
ENGLISH
FRENCH
PORTUGUESE
RUSSIAN
SPANISH



Hosted a national
symposium with
Diabetes Canada, bringing
together sector leaders and
senior civil servants from
7 provinces and
3 territories

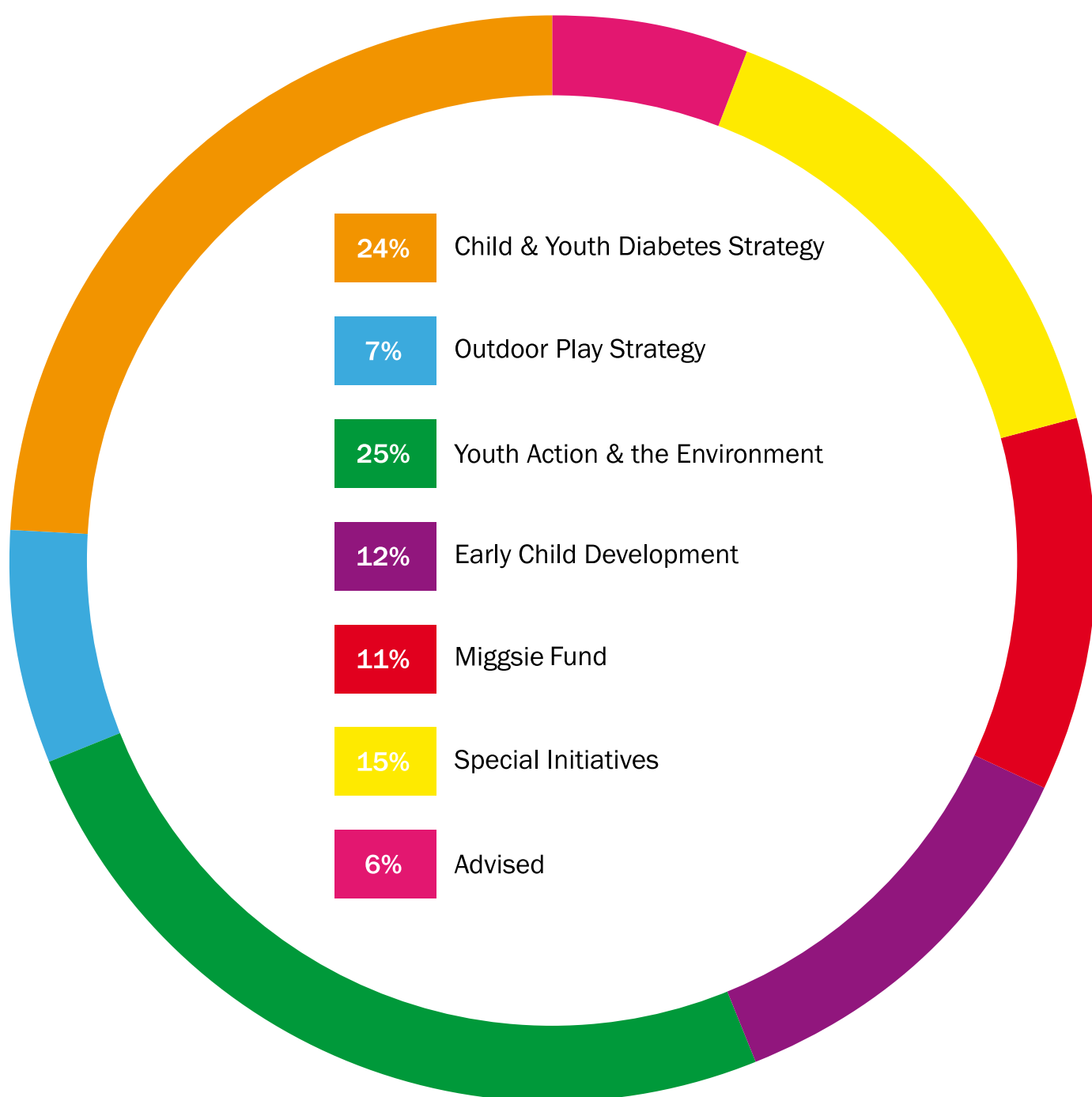
Process
led by the
Raven
Foundation

Co-funded by
Lawson Foundation
and the
Government
of Canada



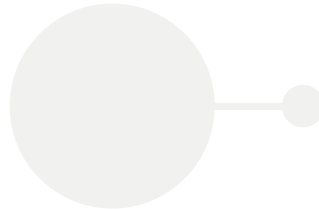
Financial Highlights

2019 Grant Allocation



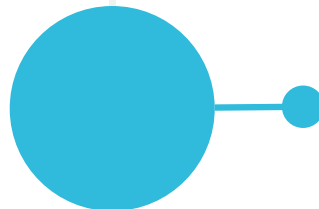
Investment in Communities

Granting



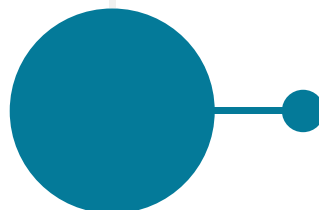
\$4,879,919

Convening



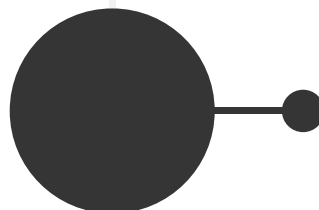
\$362,144

Impact Investment
Commitments



\$4,199,999

Total Investment
in Communities



\$9,442,062

The information presented for the year ending December 31, 2019 is derived from our 2019 Financial Statements which were audited by PwC LLP. The statements are available on our website.

Our People

From our board of directors to our standing committees, from our volunteers to our staff team, people are at the heart of our philanthropy. We'd like to recognize and thank the following individuals for their contributions to the Foundation in 2019.

Board of Directors

David Gardiner
Vice-Chair**

Tim Gardiner
Director**

Patrick Johnston
Director

Barb Lawson Miller
Vice-Chair* to Chair**

Neil Miller
Director

Chris Osler
Director*

Susie Osler
Chair* to Immediate Past Chair**

Tony VanDuzer
Secretary-Treasurer*

Jeremy Wood
Director

Wynne Young
Secretary-Treasurer**

Audit Committee

John Callaghan (Chair)
David Gardiner
Susie Osler*
Barb Lawson Miller**
Bob Paterson
Tony VanDuzer*
Evan Wood
Wynne Young

Governance Committee

Michelle Chui
Dave Gardiner**
Erin Grace**
Holly Henning Wood
Patrick Johnston (Chair)
Barb Lawson Miller
Susie Osler
Sarah VanDuzer
Christina Wood
Jeremy Wood
Alexander Wood*
Wynne Young

Impact Investment Committee

Nancy Gardiner
Patrick Johnston
Barb Lawson Miller**
Neil Miller (Chair)
Chris Osler
Susie Osler*
Monica Patten
Alasdair VanDuzer**
Peter VanDuzer
Taylor VanDuzer
Tony VanDuzer
Jonathan Wood*
Wynne Young

Investment Committee

Anish Chopra
Cameron Cross**
George Gardiner
Tim Gardiner (Chair**)
Barb Lawson Miller
Neil Miller
Susie Osler
John Pepperell (Chair*)
Tony VanDuzer*
Jonathan Wood***
Wynne Young**

Advisors

Child & Youth Diabetes Strategy
Heather Dean
Margaret (Peggy) Dunbar
Robyn Houlden
Donna Lillie

Miggsie Fund
John Callaghan
Sheila Simpson

Staff

Christine Alden
Program Director

Caitlin Blacklaws
Governance & Communications Manager

Marcel Lauzière
President & CEO

Amanda Mayer
Governance & Communications Director

Karen Pischedda
Grants Manager

Karen Shelstad
Program Director / Director, Social Finance

Allison Tse
Convening & Social Finance Coordinator

Shared Foundation House Staff

Nayan Datta Biswas
Receptionist & Office Assistant

Jonathan Hutchinson
Systems Administrator

* Board or committee term or officer position ended in June 2019.

** Board, chair or committee term or officer position started in June 2019.

*** Until September 2019.

The Lawson Foundation

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www.lawson.ca
CRA BN 11924 1727 RR0001

* Cover Image: Members of the Lawson Foundation's Youth Action & Environment Cohort