



LAWSON FOUNDATION

Celebrating 60 years of family philanthropy

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



The Lawson Foundation is a national family foundation that invests in and engages with ideas, people and organizations that contribute to the wellbeing of children and youth and their development as active and engaged members of society.



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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

2016-2017 is the year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of family philanthropy at the Lawson Foundation.

To celebrate this milestone, two sets of awards were announced. The first one is to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that have made and continue to make a significant contribution to Canadian society. The second is to recognize the importance of supporting the development of young leaders who are doing amazing work in the charitable sector. The first set was announced in the fall of 2016 and the Emerging Leaders Awards will be announced at the 2017 AGM. We also decided to capture on video the story of the Lawson family with its reflections on the value of giving back over 60 years. It is posted on our website.*

A foundation has a number of tools at its disposal to deliver on its charitable mission. We strongly believe that we can have more impact if we call upon all of these tools as we look at supporting important and meaningful work. Since our founding 60 years ago, granting has been our principal means to support communities. A few years ago, there was a decision to add impact investing as a valuable tool for the Foundation to support initiatives that bring social value to Canada. Impact investing, which is about both social and financial returns, is now part of what we do. For over a decade, our role as a convenor - particularly in our work on diabetes - has delivered great results. Building on this success, in 2016, the Board decided to become even more intentional about using convening as a key tool to get things done. Bringing the right people together at the right time on the right issues can play a crucial role in moving things forward in all of our impact areas. So convening is

increasingly becoming part of our toolkit. When we are now asked about the way we do our work, we say: we grant, we convene, we invest.

We hope that you will take a few minutes to read our Annual Report and see the work we have been doing which includes our first cohort on Child and Youth Diabetes, our action to increase investment for early child education and our work to support the rethinking of the northern food economy.

We would like to thank our Directors who give so much of their time to the work of the Foundation, and also to our many volunteers who serve as committee members or advisors to the Foundation. Their engagement is inspirational. Great thanks as well goes to the dedicated and professional staff who make so much of our work possible.

Merci beaucoup!



Susie Osler
Chair



Marcel Lauzière
President & CEO

* The video can be found at <http://lawson.ca/about-lawson/about-us/history/>

In 2016-2017 the Lawson Foundation celebrated its 60th anniversary as a national family foundation. Over the course of our history, the Foundation has granted to initiatives across the country that have made significant progress in achieving impact in a number of fields. In honour of this milestone, we decided to celebrate through two sets of awards.

LOOKING BACK

The first set was awarded to grantees (projects, individuals or organizations) who have made significant contributions in their respective fields of work. Similar awards were given for the Lawson Foundation's 50th anniversary, so when selecting the recipients for this milestone, we looked back over the past ten years to identify grantees deserving of this recognition. A total of \$400,000 was awarded by a special awards committee that undertook the hard work of selecting grantees from a great number of outstanding candidates.

The committee included Jane Fitzgerald, Connie Gardiner, Monica Patten, Joan VanDuzer, Sara VanDuzer, Evan Wood and Jonathan Wood (Chair).



Looking Back Award Recipients

Dr. Heather Dean (Retired)

University of Manitoba, Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba

Dr. Jonathon Fowles


School of Kinesiology, Acadia University

Dr. Mark Tremblay

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute

Science of Early Child Development

Red River College of Applied Arts, Science and Technology



60 Years of Family Philanthropy

Looking Forward Award Recipients

Liban Abokor
Youth LEAPS

Jessica Bolduc
4Rs Youth Movement

Nicole Gagliardi
Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough

Chalo Hancock
UforChange

Kelvin Redvers & Tunchai Redvers
We Matter

LOOKING FORWARD

The second set of awards was focused on looking forward at emerging leaders. We were not looking to recognize strictly leaders working in our impact areas, but rather to invest in young leaders who are making a difference in the philanthropic, charitable and non-profit sector.

This set of awards was a 'from youth, for youth' project led by the Foundation's Fifth Generation (5G). In awarding \$140,000 to six recipients, the 5G committee looked for individuals who have strong leadership skills, are dedicated to their work and are involved in the philanthropic, charitable or nonprofit sector in a positive, refreshing and innovative way. For these awards we called upon our Foundation House partners to act as an informal network and to nominate individuals they believe deserved recognition.

The Fifth Generation committee included Charlotte Gardiner, Jessica Gardiner, Lauren Lawson, Robin Lawson, Melissa Miller, Alasdair VanDuzer, Taylor VanDuzer, Christina Wood, Stephanie Wood and Jason Woods.



OUR APPROACH TO IMPACT

At the Lawson Foundation, we believe that achieving impact and results is about more than just providing grants. It's about bringing people, ideas and resources together to create lasting change.

Our approach:

We grant

For a variety of activities including community action, knowledge mobilization, monitoring, leadership, knowledge development, capacity building, and evaluation.

We convene

To create bridges and conversations, by bringing leaders and organizations together to share knowledge and learn from one another.

We invest

By leveraging our foundation assets to make intentional impact investments for social good.

Our three impact areas:

Early Child Development

Promoting and enhancing early child development for the benefit of children, families and Canadian society.

Healthy Active Children & Youth

Increasing opportunities for all children and youth to be active and make healthy choices to ensure their full potential, including a focus on diabetes prevention, treatment and management.

Youth and the Environment

Promoting the value of outdoor spaces and providing opportunities for youth to connect with, value and become stewards of their natural environment.



Early Child Development

The Board approved \$226,500 in new grants and disbursed \$577,500 in payments in 2016.

Annual Canadian Child Care Federation Meeting

Canadian Child Care Federation

Early Child Development Knowledge Mobilization

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) - Child Care Education Ontario

Early Childhood Education Action Congress Delegation

Sainte-Justine UHC Foundation

Early Child Development Funders Working Group Action Plan

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) - Child Care Education Ontario

Polling: A Smart Investment in Our Future - Igniting a commitment to an early childhood system in Canada

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) - Child Care Education Ontario

Youth and the Environment

The Board approved \$186,500 in new grants and disbursed \$51,500 in payments in 2016.

2016 Canadian Parks Summit

Alberta Recreation and Parks Association

Queen's University Biology Station Outreach & Teaching Coordinator

Queen's University

Outdoor Play Strategy

The Board approved \$1,075,200 in new grants and disbursed \$1,197,951 in payments in 2016.

Go Play Outside! Reframing risk to promote children's outdoor play
University of British Columbia

Mobilizing Action and Building a Play Legacy: 2017 Triennial International Play Association Conference
City of Calgary

Social impact marketing plan for the Canadian Outdoor Play Working Group
KidActive - Healthy Kids, Communities and Outdoors

Quality and Transformative Outdoor Play-Based Learning: Scaling the forest and nature school approach in Canada
Child and Nature Alliance of Canada

Food Security

The Board approved \$215,100 in new grants and disbursed \$290,100 in payments in 2016.

Addressing Food Security, Health, and Poverty Challenges in the Island Lake Communities
Community Ownership Solutions Inc.

Farm Training in the North - A Learning Exchange
Community Ownership Solutions Inc.

WE GRANT

SPOTLIGHT

Child & Youth Diabetes Strategy

The Foundation launched its Diabetes Strategy focused on children, youth and their families with diabetes or at risk for diabetes. The Strategy seeks to strengthen the delivery of diabetes prevention and management programs and services through innovation, translational research, knowledge mobilization and quality improvement.

In 2016, the Foundation approved funding of \$2,640,000 for 12 projects from across Canada.

Projects are based in various community settings (rural communities, inner-city neighbourhoods, schools and clinics) and range in scope from local to regional to national. They serve vulnerable populations at higher risk for diabetes, including Indigenous communities, South Asian and other ethno-cultural populations, children with type 1 at school, youth who are transitioning from pediatric to adult services, and families who are dealing with issues of poverty and food insecurity.

We continue to use a cohort approach, convening our grantees periodically to network, share and learn from each other. Simultaneously, we are engaging in a developmental evaluation to explore how the Foundation can enhance its impact in the diabetes area and how the learning from the projects can collectively improve diabetes outcomes for Canadian children.



Child & Youth Diabetes Strategy

The Board approved \$2,737,850 in new grants and disbursed \$1,690,250 in payments in 2016.

Diabetes at School

Canadian Paediatric Foundation

Diabetes prevention strategy for young Cree families with a history of gestational diabetes

Research Institute of McGill University Health Centre in partnership with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Food insecurity screening among families of children with diabetes

Ryerson University

Growth and self-care through mindfulness

Youville Clinic

mDawn Kids - Mobile digital-health for activity and wellness

University of British Columbia

Not in My Children: Type 2 diabetes prevention from preconception in Thorncliffe Park

Michael Garron Hospital Foundation

Project Bhangra: Drawing on cultural traditions to build lifelong exercise habits

University of British Columbia

Returning to Health Culture Camp

Chemawawin Cree Nation

Scaling Up SCOPE's Live 5-2-1-0 Initiative

University of British Columbia

South Asian Adolescent Diabetes Awareness Program

Sansar Foundation

Transition in Youth with Diabetes - The Mentoring and Volunteering with Peers Program

University of Calgary

Wrap around diabetes prevention program for at-risk youth and families

Norwest Co-Op Community Health Centre

The Foundation is thrilled to support and learn from this outstanding cohort of community and academic leaders, whose diverse and innovative initiatives seek to move knowledge into clinical practice and community programming to improve outcomes for Canada's children.

Miggsie's Fund

During her lifetime, Miggsie Lawson brought her special vitality to a variety of interests and organizations in the London area. She is fondly remembered by many as "Magnificent Miggsie," a compassionate listener who was also ready when needed to provide financial support to help address community issues. A tireless fund-raiser for London causes, she loved to be out and about in her signature fire engine red convertible.



Through the Fund, we will continue Miggsie's legacy by providing small operating or seed grants as well as matching grants that can help charities leverage other donations from the London community. We will also join with other funders to contribute to the success of community-wide initiatives whose broad impacts have been identified as strategically important to the London area. We will contribute to initiatives that create stimulating environments and inclusive, accessible programs to help citizens live healthy, active lives in a culturally rich and diverse community.

In 2016, the Board approved \$535,000 in grants and dispersed \$345,000 in payments from Miggsie's Fund.

Special Initiatives

The Board approved \$821,500 in new grants and disbursed \$1,102,810 in payments throughout the year to respond to emerging community needs, to support initiatives of historical and legacy interest, and to strengthen philanthropy in Canada.

Advised Giving

The Board approved \$214,007 and disbursed \$209,007 in payments in 2016.

For more information on any of our grants, visit lawson.ca.

A close-up photograph of several young green seedlings with two leaves each, growing out of dark brown soil. The seedlings are in various stages of growth, with some showing more developed leaves than others. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a garden or field setting. The lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the vibrant green of the leaves and the texture of the soil.

SPOTLIGHT

Meechim Farm School

With funding of \$200,000 the Lawson Foundation is helping four remote Island Lake communities in Northern Manitoba improve their local food systems through education and training. Community members in the Island Lake communities struggle with the multiple challenges of living in the north. The Meechim Farm School is part of a strategy to address food security and health issues, including diabetes.

The funding will help create, implement and evaluate the Farm School, an educational and training centre based in Garden Hill First Nation. The target population is youth aged 14-21 years. The curriculum will focus on creating a strong foundation in gardening practices, food security and small business management in the food industry in the north.

This is a collaboration among many partners to incorporate the Farm School course into the high school curriculum. The project aims to increase local food knowledge for healthy food production, reduce dependency on outside food sources to supply the local food system, increase employment, reduce poverty and its associated health risks, and demonstrate to policy makers in agriculture and gardening that food can be grown sustainably in the north.

SPOTLIGHT

Reigniting Pan-Canadian Conversation to Benefit Young Children

At the end of November 2016, we hosted a national dialogue on early child development (ECD) with approximately 60 early childhood leaders from across the country. The objective was to reignite national conversation about how to support young children by bringing together diverse stakeholders and thought leaders from national community-based organizations, universities, government and foundations.

The two-day event created a space for networking, learning and dialogue to take place among these different actors. This convening event provided a platform to foster increased cross-sector understanding of work underway across Canada, and increase collaboration and potential alignment of initiatives under the umbrella of ECD. This pan-Canadian conversation also allowed next generation ECD leaders in Canada to engage.

In addition, we welcomed June McLoughlin from the Colman Foundation to lead a discussion on how Australia has advanced an agenda for young children and lessons for Canada.

We were really pleased that the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Children, Families and Social Development, joined us on the first night to build relationships and dialogue with the sector.



In 2016, the Board made a decision to become more intentional about convening as a key tool to deliver on the Foundation's mission in all of our impact areas, alongside our granting and impact investing.

This builds on its long tradition of convening in the context of our work on the prevention and management of diabetes (now our Child & Youth Diabetes Strategy).

It also builds on our Foundation House Initiative launched in 2015 with the Counselling Foundation of Canada and the Laidlaw Foundation, and our many partners. Through Foundation House, we have created a space to bring people and organizations together to build new connections, foster strategic conversations as well as new collaborations.

In 2017, our convening work will become a central part of how we seek to achieve impact for stronger communities and for a stronger Canada.

WE CONVENE

SPOTLIGHT

Innovation Works

Innovation Works is a shared space and incubator designed for social innovators. Based on the Centre for Social Innovation (Toronto) model and supported by a number of community groups led by Pillar Nonprofit Network, it offers permanent offices and flex desks, meeting areas, and space to engage in collaboration on challenges such as poverty, youth unemployment or mental health.

The purchase and renovation of the heritage building in London was supported in part by London's first ever community bond. The Foundation made a lead \$500,000 impact investment in the community bond and is providing a three-year \$225,000 grant towards renovations and programming. In this way, the Foundation uses complimentary tools - granting and impact investing - to support a significant initiative in the London community.

Innovation Works opened to co-tenants in June 2016 and, as of April 2017, with renovations completed on three of four floors, is on target to generate sufficient revenue to achieve sustainability after 2018.

Innovation Works is linked with a national/international network of co-working hubs that give tenants access to space, facilities and connections in Canada and abroad. Pillar and Innovation Works are leading a province-wide knowledge-sharing project focused on how to measure the impact of social innovators.



**INNOVATION
WORKS**

In addition to our grantmaking, the Lawson Foundation is leveraging its assets to create social good through impact investing. Unlike grants, impact investments are investments made into social enterprises, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate measurable social and environmental benefits alongside a financial return.

In 2016, the Foundation made two impact investments:

Immigrant Access Fund Canada

Investment: \$250,000

IAF supports immigrants, including refugees, who arrive in our country equipped with excellent professional skills and knowledge but face significant barriers to employment. They provide micro loans to Canada's immigrants in order to assist them in obtaining Canadian licensing/training that will allow them to secure employment matching their education, skills and experience.

InvestEco Capital Corp.

Investment: \$500,000

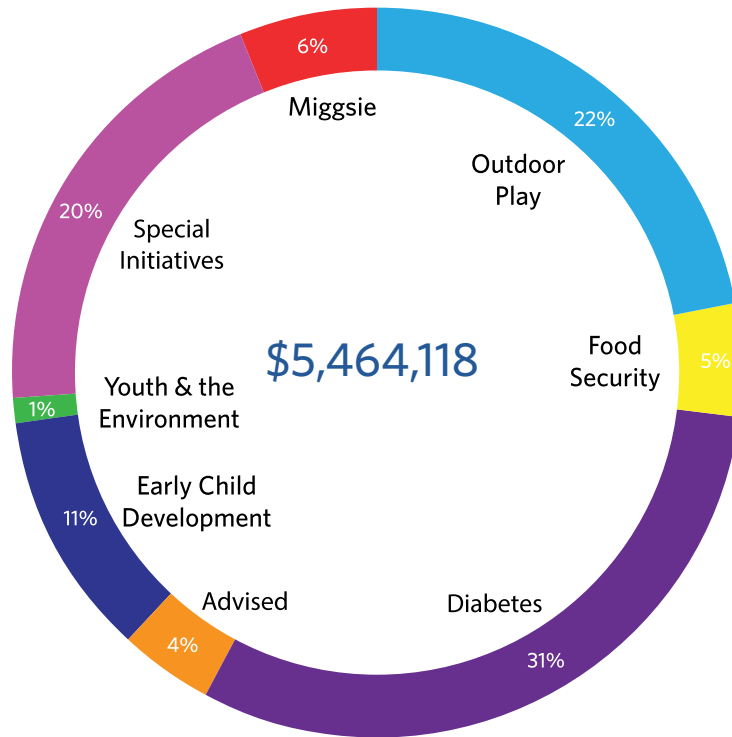
As an environmentally-focused investment firm, InvestEco aims to generate strong financial returns by applying its entrepreneurial culture, deep sector experience and a collaborative network to partner with socially-conscious investors and innovative companies in building a healthier world.

WE INVEST



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2016 Granting



Impact investing (commitments)

\$2,950,000

Convening

\$110,235

Total investments in communities

\$8,524,353

The information presented for the year ending December 31, 2016 is derived from our 2016 Financial Statements which were audited by PwC LLP. The statements are available online at lawson.ca.



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

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Coordinator

Marcel Lauzière
President & CEO

Amanda Mayer
Governance & Communications
Director

Karen Pischedda
Grants Manager

Karen Shelstad
Program Director

** Board or committee term
ended in May 2016.*

*** Board, Chair or Committee term
started in May 2016.*

****Chair position ended/
Secretary-Treasurer position began*

The Lawson Foundation

c/o Foundation House
2 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario M4T 2T5

www.lawson.ca

CRA BN 11924 1727 RR0001



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@Lawson_Fdn



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