

Connecting possibilities, sparking potential

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The Lawson Foundation
2014 Annual Report

VISION

We envision a Canada where all people have the opportunity to thrive and develop the capabilities to fully participate in and contribute to community and society.

MISSION

We invest in and engage with ideas, people and organizations that contribute to healthy outcomes of Canadians throughout their life course.

OUR FOCUS

We focus our work on the well-being of children and youth. We invest in three inter-related strategic areas that we believe will have a significant impact on the healthy development of children and youth:



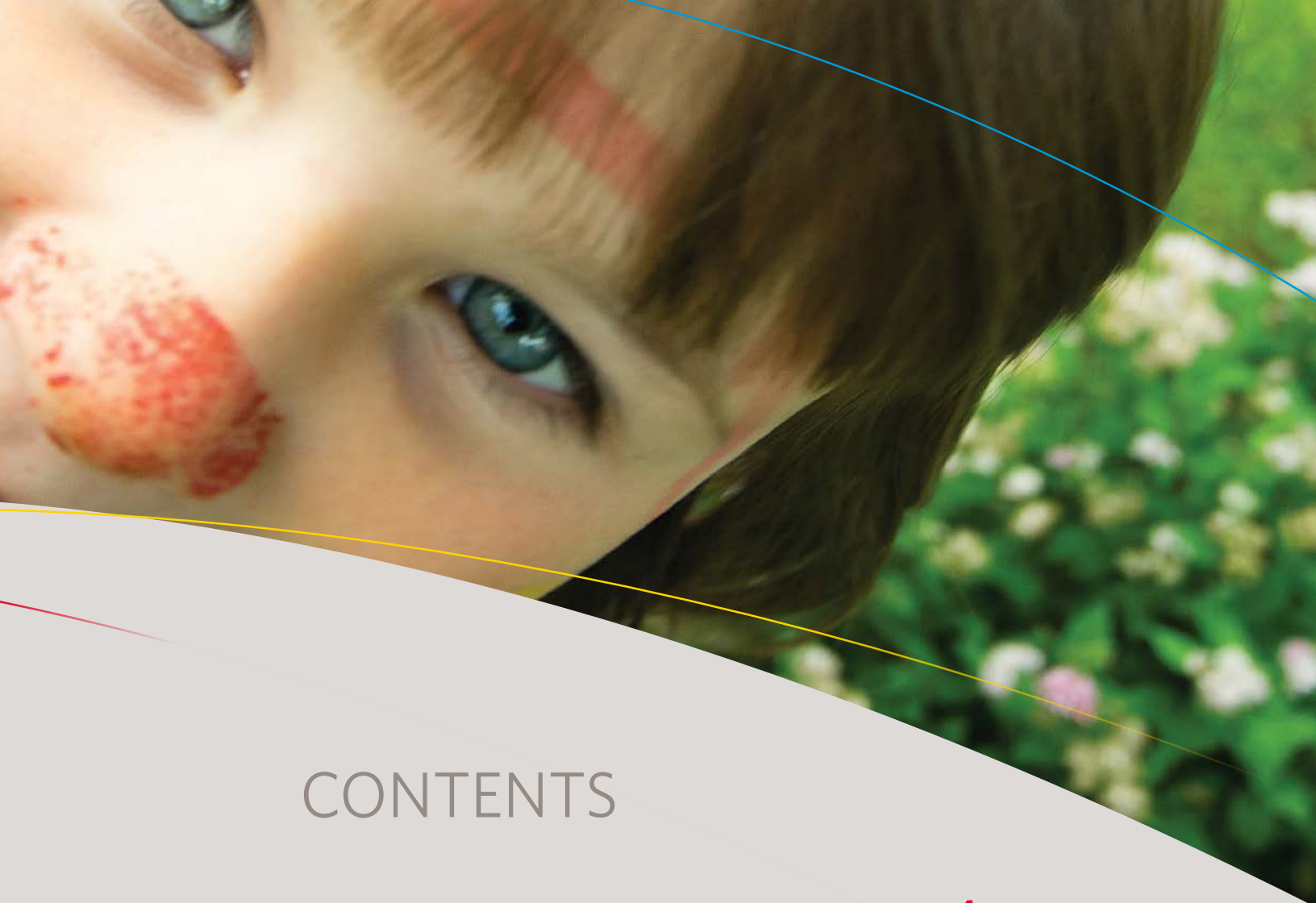
Early Child
Development



Healthy
Active Living



Children & the
Environment



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STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Board of Directors

Jonathan Wood (President)
Susie Osler (Vice-President)
Ted Lawson (Secretary-Treasurer)
Chris Osler
Evan Wood
Jane Fitzgerald
Michelle Chui
Monica Patten
Tony VanDuzer

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Monica Patten (Chair)
Barbara Lawson Miller
Charlotte Gardiner
Evan Wood
Holly Henning-Wood
Jonathan Wood
Stephanie Wood
Susie Osler

Audit Committee

John Callaghan (Chair)
Bob Paterson
David Gardiner
Evan Wood
Jonathan Wood

Investment Committee

John Pepperell (Chair)
Anish Chopra
Jonathan Wood
Neil Miller
Ted Lawson
Tim Gardiner

Ad Hoc Impact Investment Committee

Chris Osler (co-Chair)
Susie Osler (co-Chair)
Connie Wansbrough
David Gardiner
Jonathan Wood
Michelle Chui
Monica Patten

Staff

Amanda Mayer
Angie Killoran*
Christine Alden
Lynda Swift*
Karen Shelstad
Karen Pischedda
Marcel Lauzière

**Left the Lawson Foundation in 2014*



2014: A YEAR OF BOTH SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2014, we said farewell to our longstanding Executive Director Angie Killoran and Executive Associate Lynda Swift and thanked and celebrated them for their outstanding contributions to the work of the Foundation over so many years. Marcel joined in April, excited to build on the organization's strong foundation, while creating new possibilities. And in the fall, we welcomed Amanda Mayer, our Manager of Governance & Communications.

While we will continue our presence and contributions in London through the Miggsie Fund, we set down new roots in Toronto, sharing office space with the Laidlaw Foundation. This move has inspired us to begin working with other Foundations as well on a common project to come together under one roof to not only share ideas and resources, but to spark and nurture further collaboration between Foundations.

At the same time, building on our work of many years, we strengthened our commitment to children and youth through the development of a new strategic direction for the Foundation. One that will see us focus on the healthy development of children and youth through three broad areas: Early Child Development, Healthy Active Children and Children and the Environment.

We followed through on the commitment made last year at our AGM to begin to get involved in impact investing as early adopters. We see impact investing as an important new tool for the Foundation to contribute to meaningful initiatives that are making a difference in communities across the country. And we've moved forward quite boldly on engaging with the 5th generation (5G) of family members through the creation of a granting initiative led and run by the family millennials.

Our new Strategic Direction also highlighted the importance of broadening our communications and we are moving on this front. We are now active on social media and we are working to ensure that the Foundation

is well known so that when new ideas are being hatched, conversations are being started and action contemplated, we can be part of these developments.

The snapshot above highlights just a few of the changes and accomplishments that took place in 2014. None of these activities would have been possible without the dedication of the Foundation's Board and many volunteers on our various committees and, of course, our staff. So thank you!

We look forward to an engaging and productive year ahead as we lead up to the launch of our 60th anniversary celebration.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Jonathan Wood in black ink.

Jonathan Wood
President



A stylized, handwritten signature of Marcel Lauzière in black ink.

Marcel Lauzière
Executive Director



A renewed strategic direction

In 2014, we undertook a concentrated review of our priorities and activities at the Lawson Foundation, looking for a focal point and convergence that would inform a new strategic direction. What emerged was an agreement to focus on children and youth, and specifically on healthy child and youth development. After all, our children represent Canada's future; both socially and economically.

This focus on children and youth will be supported by three broad areas of work:

Early Child Development

We believe that every child should grow up in caring, supportive, healthy environments and have access to high quality early learning opportunities.

Healthy Active Living

Behaviours are learned early in life. Supporting healthy active living throughout childhood, from the early years on, will go a long way in shaping a society that not only recognizes the importance of being active and of eating well, but engages in healthy behaviours. We will continue to support diabetes prevention and care, from pregnancy and the early years to adolescence and the transition to adulthood.

Children & the Environment

We believe that nature should be an essential part of children's everyday life. Ensuring equitable access to green spaces – both nearby and in the wilderness – safe from toxics, will help ensure that all children and youth can reap the physical, mental and social benefits of a closeness with nature.

We also recognize that there are exciting prospects that may fall outside our three main areas of focus, which will be supported by our:

Special Initiatives Fund

This fund supports:

- New ideas, opportunities and partnerships
- Strengthening of philanthropy in Canada
- Initiatives of historical and legacy interest



Miggsie Fund

We continue Miggsie Lawson's legacy by providing charities with small operating or seed grants and supporting special initiatives in the London area.

Advised Giving Fund

With these limited funds, the Foundation helps support charities working in the communities of our geographically dispersed members.

Through our strategic planning process, we also identified those aspects of how we do our work that will be critical to our success. We believe that:

Mobilizing knowledge and getting information into the hands of people who can utilize it at the community level is key to improving practices.

Convening and creating conversations are important means to advance knowledge and improve outcomes.

Supporting innovation and change is crucial, but long-standing impactful approaches should also be supported.

Systemic change is key to long-lasting change, *but responding to immediate needs and issues* that are playing out on the ground today is also essential.

Bold leadership is crucial to making change happen and leadership needs to be supported.

Good governance and transparency have become essential for charities to succeed and thrive in today's environment.

The Lawson Foundation will support the work of Canadian charities working in our areas of interest in three broad ways:



Providing grants to charities

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



Acting as a convenor, a connector and a collaborator to create bridges and conversations, by bringing leaders and organizations together to share knowledge and learn from one another



Actively engaging in impact investing

through both program-related investments and mission-related investments to maximize our resources for greater impact in Canadian communities

Engaging the next generation

One of our current goals is to engage the Lawson family millennials (5th Gen) in philanthropy, building their desire to be involved in the Foundation for the long term. This work has evolved into a 5th Gen committee that will run a granting initiative of their own.



Accelerate is a group of fifth generation Lawson family members who are managing funds to support awesome ideas that will contribute to the well-being of communities in Canada. *5G Fund: Accelerate* micro-grants will seek to accelerate ideas in the early stages of a project/initiative; priority will be given to innovative projects that actively support the leadership of young Canadians, are youth-led or have a positive impact on youth or young leaders.



Stephanie Wood (co-Chair)



Jason Woods



Anna Gardiner



Robbie Gardiner



Bryan Lawson (4th Gen)



Robin Lawson



Charlotte Gardiner



Taylor VanDuzer



Christina Wood



Amanda Mayer (Staff, co-Chair)

Impact investing: making investments with a social return

To maximize our resources for greater impact in Canadian communities, in 2014 we moved forward on a new opportunity for doing so: impact investing.

We worked rigorously and quickly to identify ways that we can make investments that not only provide a financial return, but a *social return* as well. Impact investing is an emerging global movement that is relatively new to Canadian foundations. Taking action in this area positions us as an early adopter in this exciting new area of work.

In December of 2014, we announced our first two impact investments:





The Community Forward Fund provides loans or arranges financing exclusively for Canadian nonprofits and charities. This fund:

- Addresses gaps that traditional sources of financing for the sector can't fill, particularly for growth and working capital
- Increases the sector's access to financial tools for addressing social and environmental needs and helping communities thrive and grow



New Market Funds focuses on issue areas where social or environmental needs offer commercial growth opportunities for market rate return. This fund:

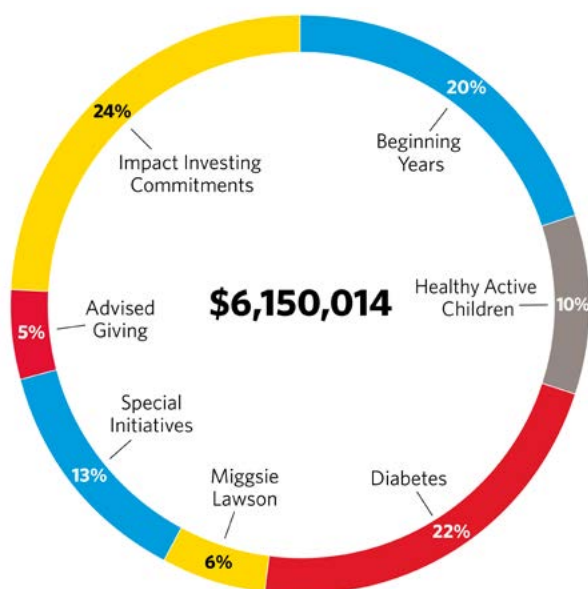
- Improves access to housing for low to moderate income individuals and families on a long-term basis
- Increases access to capital for nonprofit organizations
- Increases community ownership of real estate housing projects



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

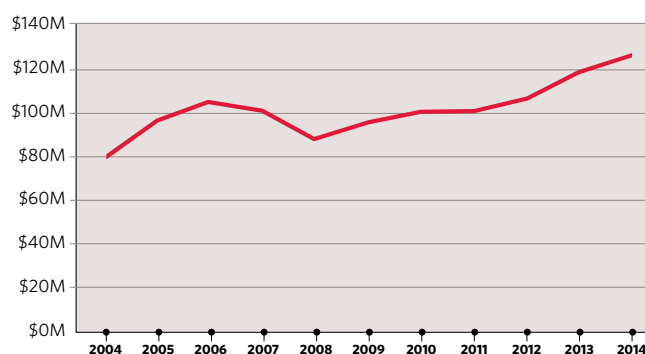
The information below for the year ending December 31, 2014 is derived from the financial statements for 2014, which were audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Our complete audited financial statements are available at lawson.ca/annual-reports.

2014 Grants Paid and Impact Investing Commitments



Endowment 2004-2014

2014 was a good year for investment performance, growing the market value of investments to \$125,500,000 (2013: \$118,000,000).



FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2014

Beginning Years

The Board approved \$341,000 in new grants and disbursed \$1,211,500 in payments during the year.

Advancing an Early Childhood Education Agenda

Public Policy Forum

Clyde Hertzman Legacy Fund

University of British Columbia

Encyclopedia on Early Child Development

Fondation Centre Hospitalier
Universitaire Sainte-Justine

Schools at the Centre

Ontario Coalition for Better Child
Care (OCBCC) Child Care Education
Ontario Inc.

Support for Core Operations & Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2014 report

Canadian Child Care Federation

Welcome to Parenting—Achieving Sustainability Part 2

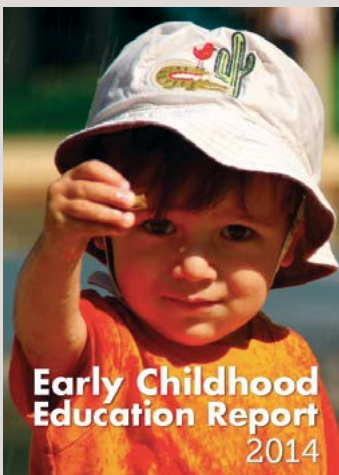
Renfrew County Youth Services

GRANT SPOTLIGHT

Monitoring Early Childhood Education Policy to Promote Excellence

University of Toronto: \$500,000 over 5 years 2013-2017

Provided in collaboration with the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation, this grant supports the research and evaluation of early childhood education policy initiatives.



Why? This project will help policy makers and practitioners identify policies and programs that improve the well-being of Canadian preschoolers, and raise the standards of evidence that are used in assessing early childhood education policies and programs.

In 2014, the *Early Childhood Education Report 2014* was released; this is an important report and status update, measuring provincial and territorial performance.

“Canada currently invests 0.6 percent of GDP in preschool education while the top third of countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are spending almost 2 percent. When the report was first developed that spending was tracked at 0.4 percent; this upward progress is promising, must continue and reflects the importance of monitoring.”

— Kerry McCuaig, Atkinson Centre, University of Toronto



© David Zimmerly

Healthy Active Children

The Board approved \$1,796,750 in new grants and disbursed \$618,214 in payments during the year.

Children and Youth Programming and Knowledge Exchange Initiative
Community Food Centres Canada

Convening for Active Outdoor Play Position Statement
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute

2014 Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children
Active Healthy Kids Canada

Have a Ball! Physical Activity Resource for Children 0-6 yrs
Health Nexus

Leadership and Capacity Building
Child and Nature Alliance Society

New Investigator in Childhood Healthy Active Living (*grant increase*)
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Foundation

GRANT SPOTLIGHT

Children and Youth Programming and Knowledge Exchange Initiative

Community Food Centres Canada: \$1,375,000 over 5 years 2014, 2015-2019

Building on the achievements of a 2013 seed grant, we approached Community Food Centres Canada about going through a deliberate, strategic process to look at how we could partner in areas that we both believe are crucial (i.e., around kids and knowledge mobilization). The result is this grant, which supports two areas:

1. Children and youth programs: Documenting current community food centre programming for children and youth, and supporting the development of innovative child- and youth-focused food skills programs among community food centres and their partners.

Why? To create the basis for lifelong healthy eating habits for children and youth.

2. Knowledge exchange: Creating a knowledge exchange and funding strategy.

Why? To increase the capacity in the community food security sector to provide respectful and impactful programming based on strong, established principles.

Diabetes

The Board approved \$2,441,000 in new grants and disbursed \$1,362,900 in payments during the year.

Balanced Scorecard for Quality in Diabetes Care

Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation

Carbohydrate counting and type 1 diabetes: Assessment of accuracy in adolescents who currently count carbohydrates, and a randomized controlled trial of internet-based teaching for those learning to count.
The Hospital for Sick Children

Evaluation of an Improved Home-based Alternative to Traditional Weight Training in People with Type 2 Diabetes

University of Calgary

Healthy Eating & Active Living for Diabetes—Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

Athabasca University

Innovative lifestyle prenatal program for First Nations pregnant women in rural or remote communities in Manitoba

University of Manitoba

Many Faces of Diabetes

BC Multicultural Health Services Society

National dissemination of Exercise is Medicine Canada—An initiative to promote the prescription of physical activity and exercise through primary practice

Acadia University

GRANT SPOTLIGHT

National dissemination of Exercise is Medicine Canada—an initiative to promote the prescription of physical activity and exercise through primary practice

Acadia University in partnership with Exercise is Medicine Canada: \$115,000

This project builds capacity and competency in physical activity counselling and exercise prescription in primary care, through:

- National dissemination of an exercise prescription pad
- Counselling decision tree
- Identification of physical activity and exercise resources
- Hands-on training workshops for primary care practitioners (primarily physicians) across the country

Why? To build recognition of exercise as a therapeutic agent in the fight against chronic disease and increase the proportion of health care visits that include physical activity assessment, counselling, or prescription.



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“ *If exercise was a drug, it would be one of the most effective and safe drugs available to help prevent and treat many chronic diseases including heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis and even depression! Encouraging more family physicians to assess, prescribe and counsel patients about physical activity is therefore an important goal of the Exercise is Medicine Canada Task Force. The Task Force is actively supported by the Sport and Exercise Medicine Committee of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).*

— The College of Family Physicians of Canada- Sport and Exercise Medicine Committee

Diabetes Continued

NorWest Mobile Diabetes Screening and Intervention Project

Nor'west Co-Op Community Health Centre

RADAR—Reorganizing the Approach to Diabetes Care for First Nations Communities through the Application of Registries

University of Alberta

Screening type 2 diabetes mellitus on the 2nd day after delivery in women with gestational diabetes mellitus - Stage 2, a multicentre trial

Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke

Technology-Enhanced Transition Coordinator

University of Calgary

The MoMMii study. Effects of a multimodal diabetes prevention intervention on families with a history of gestational diabetes

Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre

The Role and Effectiveness of Diabetes Coaches in British Columbia

University of Victoria - Centre on Aging

Transformation of Indigenous Primary Healthcare Delivery (FORGE AHEAD): Community-driven Innovations and Strategic Scale-up Toolkits

University of Western Ontario

Miggsie Fund



During the year, the Board approved \$209,000 in new grants and disbursed \$344,000 in

payments to a wide range of charities in London area communities.

Special Initiatives Fund



The Board approved \$301,500 in new grants, including two grants in memory of Tom Lawson and Joan

Francolini, and disbursed \$817,500 in payments during the year.

Advised Giving Fund

The Board approved and disbursed \$295,900 in grants during the year to charities in communities across the country.

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





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