

LEVEL Granting 2019 Project Summaries

1. Youth Voices of East Van

Britannia Community Services Centre Society

Location:	Vancouver
Type of Grant:	Develop
Grant Amount:	\$10,000
Project Summary:	Youth Voices of East Van seeks to develop a sustainable, long-term approach to youth governance in Vancouver's inner city by creating a continuum of strategic leadership opportunities for Indigenous, low-income and newcomer youth, where they are represented in meaningful staff and volunteer roles in local government and non-profit settings. Through the Youth Voices process, youth, local organizations and institutions will be engaged in dialogues. The model will incorporate a structure similar to organization boards and will require special consideration around how youth can be included in both informal and formal ways.

2. Ethos Lab Project

Ethos Lab Project

Location:	Vancouver
Type of Grant:	Develop
Grant Amount:	\$10,000
Project Summary:	The purpose of the Ethos Lab Project is to empower Black youth, socially, culturally and economically through personal development and creating a cooperative enterprise. With Solid State Industries, the Ethos Lab Project will leverage the cooperative model to develop networked, members only, youth spaces (inclusive of all youth) that reflect their technological reality. We are hoping to inspire a legacy of black leadership and answer the question: "what might youth place/space making look like when you centre the humanity of the Black experience?" This project will empower Black youth regionally in creating spaces that consider their experiences and to re-imagine their communities within an ethno-culturally relevant approach.

3. Chinatown Young Leaders

Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice

Location:	Vancouver
Type of Grant:	Develop
Grant Amount:	\$10,000
Project Summary:	Chinatown Young Leaders' goal is to strengthen and refine youth leadership development at Yarrow and in Chinatown by empowering youth of East Asian Descent to connect with each other through a dialogue event and develop a strategic 3-year plan. Chinatown is lacking meaningful social justice youth spaces. We will recruit new members (newcomers and first-generation youth) and re-establish existing member commitments. The project will provide anti-oppression and community organizing trainings, to allow youth to reflect and ground their lived experiences in systems that directly affect their lives, while providing inspiration and tools for change. From this,

youth will plan and host a dialogue event with their peers to discuss opportunities for capacity building and leadership development. Yarrow youth leaders will develop a 3-year strategic plan based on the dialogue outcomes.

4. Developing a Leadership Continuum for Indigenous and Immigrant Youth

EYA Environmental Youth Alliance Society

Location: Vancouver
Type of Grant: Test
Grant Amount: \$50,000
Project Summary: In 2017, EYA began evaluating how our organization contributes to racial inequity in the non-profit sector. We confronted the fact that although 75% of EYA youth participants are Indigenous and racialized immigrant youth, these groups made up only 10% of our staff and board. In short, our staff and board members do not reflect the youth we serve and, are failing to support racialized youth participants to move into leadership roles. In response, we have taken several actions to address racial inequity at EYA over the past 2 years. This proposed project will confront a root cause of racial inequity within EYA: The absence of a clearly-defined, barrier-free continuum of programs that guide youth into staff and board positions. To address this structural gap, we will hire an Indigenous or racialized immigrant youth to explore, develop, test a leadership continuum model that increases the number of EYA youth participants belonging to a racial minority who move into leadership roles at our organization and other environmental non-profits.

5. Indigenous Young Women and Teenage Girls Recruitment and Hiring

Justice for Girls

Location: Vancouver
Type of Grant: Test
Grant Amount: \$50,000
Project Summary: Since our inception, Justice for Girls (JFG) has been co-directed by young women alongside more experienced women to ensure our vision, priorities and advocacy are youth led as our organization operates under the feminist belief that young women are the experts of their own experiences. We are now shifting to an emphasis on Indigenous youth participation in our organization. The goal of the project is to hire a full-time young Indigenous woman. Our project aims to support an Indigenous young woman through both assisting with the barriers she faces, as well as by providing her with a year-long employment opportunity. The project will be a total of 13 months, beginning with a 1-month period for the hiring and on-boarding process and followed by the full time employment of a young Indigenous woman including her salary, benefits, mandatory employment related costs and training for 12 months.

6. Leadership Through the Seasons

The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada

Location: Vancouver/Ottawa
Type of Grant: Test
Grant Amount: \$50,000

Project Summary: We want to formalize our practice and learning based on a leadership approach to aligning our labour with the seasons. This is one approach to how we are working to embed Indigenous worldviews (specifically Secwepemc) into our Indigenous led organization. We seek to engage a Learning and Listening coordinator to work with our board and staff to develop a specific framework for our strategic planning, annual work planning and to gather our learning about what happens when we are guided by the seasons. We also want to make space for hearing the wisdom of Indigenous leaders. We believe that showcasing Indigenous leaders and Indigenous led organizations will help young Indigenous folks see themselves reflected in a sector that can honour their voices and wisdom and contributions while being aligned to their values versus upholding whiteness in the sector.

7. West Coast YOUTH VOICES Project (YVP)

West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation

Location: Vancouver
Type of Grant: Test
Grant Amount: \$50,000
Project Summary: The West Coast YOUTH VOICES Project (YVP) is an opportunity for Indigenous youth to gain board leadership skills and experience in the ENGO sector. It will provide 3 new Indigenous youth board members with the resources and mentorship necessary for their success. The YVP will also create a paid position for a racialized or Indigenous youth to lead a process to make systemic changes to the outreach, application and decision-making processes of our environmental legal aid program to better embody environmental justice principles. The decision to add and mentor 3 Indigenous youth board members was initiated by our board nominations committee.

8. In Solidarity - A Newcomer & Indigenous Youth Leadership Project

DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society

Location: Surrey
Type of Grant: Test
Grant Amount: \$50,000
Project Summary: Through partnerships with newcomer & Indigenous youth led organizations (EdMeCo & FRAFCA's Transform(n)ations Team), this project aims to center newcomer youth voices in the leadership of DIVERSEcity by:

1. Building the individual leadership capacity of newcomer youth through paid positions within our organization (a Youth Project Lead position & the Youth Advisory Council).
2. Providing the opportunity for youth in these positions to lead the development of a decolonization leadership project in collaboration with Indigenous youth. These efforts will become a tool to empower other racialized youth in their leadership journeys, expanding the reach of this initiative.

9. Surrey Indigenous Youth Advisory Council

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)

Location:	Surrey
Type of Grant:	Test
Grant Amount:	\$50,000
Project Summary:	Surrey is now home to the largest and youngest urban Indigenous community in BC. However, funding and services are not at par with those offered in the Vancouver region, leaving many Indigenous youth in Surrey vulnerable. We witness these vulnerabilities through the high rates of Indigenous child and youth poverty and over-representation in the foster care system. It is our hopes that through building on the work of the Surrey Indigenous Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC), and carefully scaffolding with thoughtful mentorship and leadership training, Indigenous youth voices will be uplifted and mobilized for greater equity, awareness and influence in Surrey and beyond.

10. Indigenous Co-Executive Directors (ICED)

Matsqui-Abbotsford Impact Society

Location:	Abbotsford
Type of Grant:	Test
Grant Amount:	\$50,000
Project Summary:	ICED, (Indigenous Co Executive Directors), is being created and written by two Indigenous youth, one being Marcie Pruden, 18, and Jordie Lynn, 24. ICED is looking to create two co-executive director job positions at Impact, which puts young Indigenous leaders in a role of responsibility, decision making, team work, and management. The need for this project has been developed solely by the youth, who over time have been searching for more meaningful opportunities to be and feel important in their community. ICED looks at Indigenous youth moving forward, becoming leaders, and making decisions based off their understanding of teamwork, culture, and respect, with mentorship when need be. This is a much more suitable approach to giving youth experience in staff leadership and board governance, rather than simply moving forward with Indigenous youth, and hoping for the best. What we intend to do is ultimately: let youth run the show.

11. Surrounded by Cedar Youth Council

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services Society

Location:	Victoria
Type of Grant:	Test
Grant Amount:	\$50,000
Project Summary:	Establishing an Indigenous Youth Council has been a goal of Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services' Board and staff for many years. A youth council will enhance Surrounded by Cedar's (SCCFS) capacity, creating a youth voice to speak to youth-in-care issues and urban Indigenous youth issues. Through training and involvement at a board level, urban Indigenous youth will establish, and eventually master, solid leadership skills that will benefit them throughout their life. SCCFS envisions these youth becoming the "face" of the organization, speaking out on issues that affect urban Indigenous youth, and youth in care directly.

12. Luutkudziiwus Youth Constructive Arrangements-2020

Wilps Luutkudziiwus Education and Economic Society

Location:	Hazelton
Type of Grant:	Test
Grant Amount:	\$44,400
Project Summary:	The purpose of the Luutkudziiwus Youth Constructive Arrangements-2020 project is to mentor two Indigenous youth in introductory cultural community leadership and decision-making skills in regard to Luutkudziiwus' current cultural, land, and resource use initiatives and their outcomes. This concept originated with the need to facilitate deeper youth involvement in Luutkudziiwus culture, lands and waters, and natural resources in our territories along with the need to manage these assets so they benefit future generations. In the past, Luutkudziiwus members, knowledge holders, and elders shared knowledge from one generation to the next through oral traditions. Additionally, what do healthy relationships look like with government decision-makers, neighboring settler and Indigenous neighbors, and, how to manage lands, waters, and resources from a Gitxsan legal perspective. This Youth Constructive Arrangements project will provide for job shadowing and exposure to these thoughts.