



HOUSING



EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENT



NEWS



CATHERINE  
DONNELLY  
FOUNDATION

# GRANT RECIPIENTS MAY 2017

The board of directors of the Catherine Donnelly Foundation is pleased to announce the successful completion of the twenty-fifth round of granting. Grants have been awarded in three areas of focus—**Adult Education Advancement Initiatives, Environment (Climate Change) and Housing Initiatives.**

Congratulations to the following grant recipients:

## ADULT EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVES

**Bedford House Community Ministry** Peterborough, ON \$25,000

*Funding will support the Bridges Out of Poverty framework (at work in over 370 communities across North America) as part of a city-wide effort to reduce poverty and build relationships across class, faith, and social divides. The project includes two parallel adult education programs. 1) For people living in poverty, where participants become "investigators" of their particular context and challenges and develop strategies and a Life Plan. 2) For middle and upper-income people, trained to play a support role through a Mentorship Training Program, to act as allies. After training, these two groups meet in confidential support teams, called Bridging Teams.*

**www.bedforhouse.ca**

**Community Wise Resource Centre** Calgary, AB \$17,200

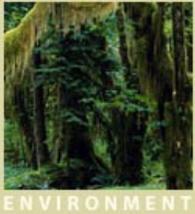
*Funding will support the second phase of Community Wise Resource Centre's Anti-Racist Organizational Change (AROC) process. This includes the development and facilitation of their Advisory and Working Groups. The goal is to ensure that AROC's adult education framework is retained and further strengthened.*

**www.communitywise.net**

**Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Assoc.** Vancouver, BC \$20,000

*Funding will support the Power of Women project, a social justice collective of women, many of whom are poor, racialized, Indigenous, and/or homeless. Participants will identify areas of concern and create a plan of action by determining their goals. As the women of the group build their leadership capacity, they will also seek out opportunities for meetings with local groups and individuals to educate or influence social change as well as participate in community action. The project will facilitate women in the DTES building their capacity and understanding of decision-making processes, and telling their stories to garner public support for policy change.*

**www.dewc.ca**



**Liard Aboriginal Women's Society**

Watson Lake, YT

\$49,500

*Funding will support "The Mothers of the Land Gathering" which will occur over three days in 2017. Participants involved will include Kaska citizens and Elders from each of the Kaska communities, allied organizations, and facilitators with similar interests. The event will include dialogues on the traditional principals and spirituality of land stewardship, discussions on issues of land use and resource extraction on traditional lands, and forums to develop consensus on critical issues and social action strategies.*

**[www.liardaboriginalwomen.ca](http://www.liardaboriginalwomen.ca)**

**Montreal City Mission**

Montreal, QC

\$20,000

*Funding will support the "Women Weaving Their Dreams" program which will bring together Syrian and other refugee women through workshops that aim to create a safe space to express their feelings of loss and grief, articulate the challenges in their new context, and their dreams for the future. Once a network has been formed through sharing, mutual support, and empowerment, participants will be ready for the next phase which will focus on economic participation and the skills needed to either join the workforce, create one's own small business or engage actively in volunteer work.*

**[www.montrealcitymission.org/en](http://www.montrealcitymission.org/en)**

**North York Community House**

Toronto, ON

\$30,000

*Democracy Talks 2.0 will engage 90 newcomers, immigrants and racialized low-income residents over 5 months, in a series of experiential adult education workshops and practicum activities aimed to strengthen participants' voices and and inspire the possibility of change for themselves and their communities. Democracy Talks is an independently evaluated and successful program developed by Samara Canada, in collaboration with North York Community House and other community agencies.*

**[www.nych.ca/](http://www.nych.ca/)**

## HOUSING INITIATIVES



### **Ecotrust Canada**

Vancouver, BC

\$35,000

*Funding will support the first year of the Tree to Home program to build a new approach to housing with Indigenous communities. It aims to improve the economic, social, cultural and ecological well-being of communities through the development of a community directed and driven housing sector. At the end of the project they will have set the stage to implement pilots in a select number of First Nations communities, and established templates for others to follow, thereby creating the critical path for enabling this work over the next 5 years.*

**[www.ecotrust.ca](http://www.ecotrust.ca)**

### **Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust**

Toronto, ON

\$ 24,500

*In collaboration with Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre (PARC), PNLT will acquire a 17 unit at-risk rooming house and creation of a demonstration project. PNLT will own the property in trust, with PARC as a supportive housing operating partner to ensure long-term affordability. The project will create a replicable model and feasibility studies for three additional at-risk or vacant rooming houses in Parkdale.*

**[www.pnlt.ca](http://www.pnlt.ca)**

### **Victoria Cool Aid Society**

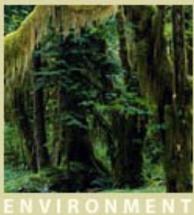
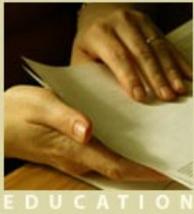
Victoria, BC

\$18,000

*The Victoria Cool Aid Society, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness and Vancouver Island Health Authority are partnering to create and pilot a culturally-specific approach to Aboriginal homelessness in Greater Victoria, that will ultimately serve to inform leading practice and advance systems-change and lasting solutions to prevent and end homelessness of Indigenous Peoples. The goal of the project is not only to assist homeless Aboriginal individuals in securing and maintaining housing but more so, to offer holistic services within a cultural context to reinforce health and well-being, and improve connection with family/community.*

**[www.coolaid.org](http://www.coolaid.org)**

## ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES



### **Discourse Media**

Vancouver, BC

\$30,000

*Funding will support Discourse Media as they seek to deepen their innovative and investigative reporting on climate change and climate justice in Indigenous communities in BC. They will report on how aboriginal communities are impacted by industrial development, particularly proposed energy developments in BC. Discourse will address the issue of “news poverty” in remote communities by doing reporting based on the expressed needs of local communities, and building local reporting capacity through fellowships and training focused on “solutions journalism” - reporting in the public interest.*

**[www.discoursemedia.org](http://www.discoursemedia.org)**

### **Ecology Action Centre**

Halifax, NS

\$24,150

*Funding is to support the Climate Jobs Roundtables Initiative which will engage marginalized communities around Nova Scotia in conversations about climate jobs. Ecology Action Centre will host roundtables in four marginalized communities, with an ambassador for each community who will partner to organize the roundtable according to each community’s unique needs, and building relationships beyond the project. Outcomes include a public document outlining: policy recommendations to increase climate jobs; skills and training opportunities; and awareness shifting tools.*

**[www.ecologyaction.ca](http://www.ecologyaction.ca)**

### **Pembina Foundation**

Calgary, AB

\$24,150

*Funding is to support the Mikisew Cree First Nation and The Pembina Foundation in a joint initiative to coordinate and strengthen the First Nations and ENGO caucus to ensure toxic tailings in Alberta’s oilsands are quickly and effectively removed from the landscape. This initiative will provide the opportunity to share perspectives, pool technical expertise and traditional ecological knowledge, and develop strategy within the caucus to ensure outcomes are aligned with long-term environmental and social justice.*

**[www.pembinafoundation.org](http://www.pembinafoundation.org)**

### **Sierra Club of BC Foundation**

Victoria, BC

\$21,700

*Funding is to support Sierra Club BC’s Pull Together campaign to mobilize grassroots community support for First Nations’ legal challenges opposing Kinder Morgan’s tar sands pipeline and tankers proposal, through: public education; compelling, story-based communications; amplifying Indigenous voices; distributed grassroots organizing; catalysing business voices; and underscoring reconciliation as a key component of climate justice.*

**[www.sierraclub.bc.ca](http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca)**