



Max Bell Foundation  
**Annual Report 2020**



# OUR MISSION

Max Bell Foundation reflects the spirit, vision and intent of its founder to improve Canadian society. We encourage the development of forward looking innovations that impact public policies and practices with an emphasis on health and wellness, education, and the environment.

# Message from the Chair & President



2020 was a year like no other. Although defined by a global phenomenon, for many Canadians the pandemic was an intensely local experience. In neighbourhoods, towns, and cities across the nation, the pandemic simultaneously fostered solidarity and exposed deep divisions. It will be some time to come before we're able to fully take stock of what has been changed.

But in the moment of crisis, the responses from Canadians and Canada's institutions were remarkable. Max Bell Foundation played its modest role by adding 17% to our grants budget in order to provide emergency response support to community-based funds across the country (mostly administered by United Ways). At the same time and at a national level, we made grants to the pandemic response efforts of Canadian Red Cross, Food Banks Canada, and Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. We also established an additional program priority so we can support projects that advance the policy innovations we'll need to help Canada and Canadians recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

During the year, some of our partners needed to adapt or defer their plans. Others have been able to carry on more or less as usual. For our part, we have been among the lucky who could continue our work despite public health restrictions thanks to the availability of networked computing and the adaptability of a capable and committed team.

2020 dramatically demonstrated a principle that has been at the core of Max Bell Foundation's strategy since 1998: the scale and complexity of the pressing issues of our time require collective action. Our fundamental assumption continues to be that public policy is a critically important element of such collective action. Bringing innovation, intelligence, and understanding to public policy decisions is essential to improving the society we enjoy.

In 2020, Max Bell Foundation invested \$2.4 million in grants to organizations who share that view. In reviewing proposals for support, Max Bell Foundation relies on anonymous expert reviewers.

We thank them sincerely for their outstanding voluntary contributions, which are invaluable to our decision-making.

We expended a further \$140,000 delivering our own programs designed to educate Canadians. Included in those programs was our twelfth annual Public Policy Training Institute (PPTI). The PPTI provides professional development to individuals employed by Canadian registered charities to help them more effectively contribute to public policy development. More than 250 individuals have now completed the PPTI.

When Max Bell created his Foundation, he stipulated that 30% of the gifts the Foundation makes go to his alma mater, McGill University. Over the years, the Foundation and the University have partnered in a variety of ways to realize Max's wishes. Since November 2018, this gift has gone to support the Max Bell School of Public Policy under the direction of Dr. Chris Ragan. In 2020, the first cohort of 31 students graduated with their Masters of Public Policy, and the second cohort of 36 began their studies.

We continue to be inspired by the life of Max Bell. We look ahead, and look forward to giving our collective best in seeking opportunities to improve the quality of life for Canadians.

Brenda Eaton  
Chair

Allan Northcott  
President

# Our Work

## *The following new grants were initiated in 2020*

### **Brookfield Institute at Ryerson University**

Job Pathways Project / \$125,000 over 12 months

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To help workers more easily transition from occupations with low demand to those with high demand.

### **Burns Memorial Fund**

Extension of Senior Fellowship in Vulnerable Children & Youth Policy / \$15,000 over 6 months

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To improve the lives of vulnerable children.

### **C. D. Howe Institute**

Urgent Policy Action Working Groups – COVID-19 Pandemic / \$75,000 over 9 months

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To support five expert “crisis working groups” who developed policy options to help Canada recover from the pandemic.

### **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research**

COVID-19 Action Fund / \$30,000

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Emergency response support.

### **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research University**

Innovation, Equity & the Future of Prosperity / \$400,000 over 60 months

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To better understand relationships between innovation, prosperity, and opportunity so that programs and policies can foster equity in the future economy.

### **Canadian Red Cross**

COVID-19 Action Fund / \$30,000

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Emergency response support.





### **Food Banks Canada**

COVID-19 Action Fund / \$30,000

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Emergency response support.

### **Max Bell Foundation**

COVID-19 Regional Pooled Funds / \$300,000

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Emergency response support.

### **Max Bell Foundation**

Policy Collaborative Evaluation / \$133,500 over 36 months

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To evaluate collaborative public policy advocacy compared to single-organization approaches.

### **PolicyWise**

Opportunity Youth Policy in Alberta / \$17,813 over 8 months

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To advance Opportunity Youth employment outcomes.

### **Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society**

AB Primary Prevention Framework: Public Policy Collaborative to Prevent Domestic and Sexual Violence / \$566,940 over 24 months

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To develop and advance a primary prevention policy framework in the province of Alberta.

### **The Natural Step**

A Public Policy Collaborative / \$525,200 over 24 months

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To develop and advance a set of policy options to draw investment in Alberta's transition to a low carbon economy.

## Development Grants

### Child Welfare League of Canada

Networks of Care: Joint advocacy to promote the mental wellness of child welfare leavers / \$19,587

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To ensure safe and healthy transitions for youth in care.

## Directors Grants

### Barth Syndrome Foundation of Canada

\$5,000

### Children's Cottage

\$5,000

### McGill University

\$2,500

### Nature Conservancy of Canada

\$5,000

### Phoenix Residential Society

\$2,500

### Regina United Way

\$2,500

### The Study School Foundation

\$2,500

### United Way of Winnipeg

\$5,000

### The University of Victoria

\$2,500

### Victoria Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation

\$2,500





# Ongoing Grants

## ***The Foundation continued the administration of the following grants during 2020***

### **Brookfield Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Canadian Employment and Labour Market Skills in 2030 / \$107,000 over 18 months

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Forecasting the needs of the labour market in 2030.

### **C. D. Howe Institute**

Are colleges, universities and employers doing enough to educate work-ready graduates / \$25,000 over 6 months

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To generate policy recommendations around work integrated learning.

### **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research**

Biology, Energy, Technology, Start-up Phase / \$400,000 over 5 years

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To efficiently harvest the energy of the sun to create dramatically improved solar technologies.

### **Canada West Foundation, C. D. Howe Institute and Institute for Research on Public Policy**

Max Bell Policy Scholars Program / \$96,000 over 24 months

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To offer professional experience for three graduates of the Max Bell School of Public Policy (MBSPP).

### **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Foundation**

Integrated Care Pathway for Major Depressive Disorder / \$270,000 over 24 months

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To create a seamless and centralized treatment pathway for people diagnosed with major depressive disorder.

### **Centre for Suicide Prevention**

Training Teachers to Respond to Students at Risk / \$200,000 over 24 months

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To help working professionals like teachers to identify and assist students at risk of suicide.

## **CIVIX**

Protecting Canadian Democracy: Building the Skills of Informed Citizenship among Youth / \$150,000 over 12 months

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To assist teachers in helping students navigate the complex online environment of politics and the democratic process.

## **Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation**

National Scale Up and Scale Out of Canada's only Evidence Based School Mental Health Literacy Resource / \$343,500 over 30 months

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To update a Guide to mental health literacy, including the development and deployment of web-based teacher training resources and support to facilitate use of the Guide.

## **Headwater Learning Foundation**

Indigenous Education Initiative / \$150,000 over 24 months

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To produce a replicable and scalable First Nation educational model to enhance students' educational outcomes.

## **Heart and Stroke Foundation**

A Project to Reduce Hypertension Through Incentives and Digital Engagement / \$200,000 over 40 months

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An initiative to reduce rising blood pressure in individuals by empowering them to manage their modifiable risk factors.





## Macdonald-Laurier Institute

Real Jobs for Real People / \$60,000 over 12 months

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Research to ensure our education systems are adequately preparing Canadians for the future labour market.

## McGill University

Canada's EcoFiscal Commission – Phase 2 / \$300,000 over 36 months

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To increase the likelihood that policy tools related to Ecological Fiscal Reform will be deployed in Canada.

## Miistakis Institute for the Rockies, Inc.

Municipal Conservations Research Collaborative / \$224,000 over 18 months

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To ensure high quality, impactful, usable knowledge about conservation and land use is made available to Alberta municipalities in an efficient and effective way.

## Momentum

Enabling Education Savings for Low Income Families / \$115,000 over 24 months

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To help low-income families save for their children's education.

## Nature Conservancy of Canada

Protected Areas and Conservation Landscapes Certification / \$150,000 over 24 months

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To assist Canada in meeting its stated goal of conserving 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water by 2020.

## Partners in Action (University of Waterloo)

Effective Property Buyout Programs to Reduce Flood Risk in a Changing Climate / \$134,825 over 24 months

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To reduce the risks and costs of flooding.

## Pollution Probe and QUEST

The Smart Energy Communities Scoreboard / \$100,000 over 24 months

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To help municipalities and industry create better energy policies, to enable implementation, and benchmark their progress.





## **The Social Research Demonstration Corporation**

Better Student Loan Program for Disadvantaged Youth / \$66,600 over 12 months

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To help disadvantaged youth obtain loans for post-secondary education.

## **UBC Human Early Learning Partnership (UBC-HELP)**

Scaling the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) Phase 2: Reaching Sustainability / \$245,000 over 24 months

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To improve the outcomes for children in the middle years (ages 6-12) with the use of the Middle Years Development Instrument.

## **University of British Columbia – Okanagan Campus**

Integrating Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness into Support for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence / \$100,000 over 24 months

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To provide a concussion awareness training tool for frontline staff in domestic violence shelters so that women with a traumatic brain injury resulting from intimate partner violence can receive appropriate treatment.

## **University of British Columbia, Okanagan**

Volunteer Navigation Partnerships: A Compassionate Community Approach to Early Palliative Care / \$328,899 over 38 months

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To help trained volunteers support aging adults with a serious illness by providing supportive community-focused navigation services in the home.

## University of Calgary – Faculty of Nursing

Testing the Scalability of a Comprehensive Perinatal Mental Health Healthcare Model in Alberta / \$232,000 over 36 months

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To provide a screening tool for all pregnant women in Alberta to access timely evidence-based mental healthcare.

## Ongoing Internal Programs

***The foundation continued the administration of the following ongoing programs in 2020***

### Max Bell Foundation – Senior Fellowship Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) – University of British Columbia

Developing Systems Leadership in Support of Children and Families / \$100,000 over 24 months

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To inform the creation of a Systems Leadership Centre for Children at HELP-UBC.

### Max Bell Foundation

Public Policy Training Institute 2019-2022 / \$583,340 over 4 years

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Support for Max Bell Foundation's Public Policy Training Institute.

### Max Bell Foundation

Public Policy Advocacy Handbook for Canadian Charities / \$115,500

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To refine and share the curriculum of the Max Bell Foundation Public Policy Institute.

### Max Bell School of Public Policy at McGill University

Evaluation / \$35,000

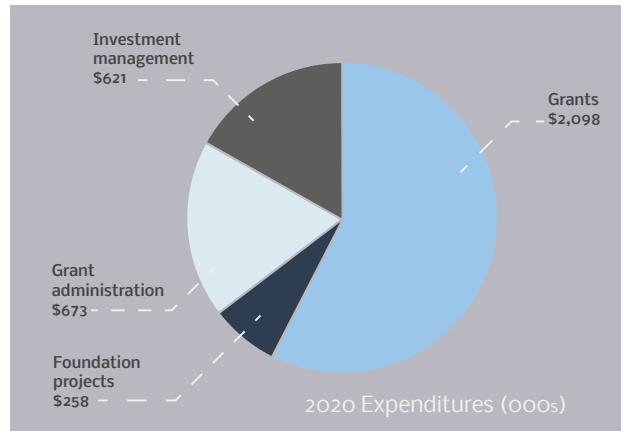
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To provide support for an evaluation of the Max Bell School of Public Policy at McGill University.

# Financial Report

In 2020,  
Max Bell Foundation  
made disbursements  
for grants totalling  
**\$2.393  
million**

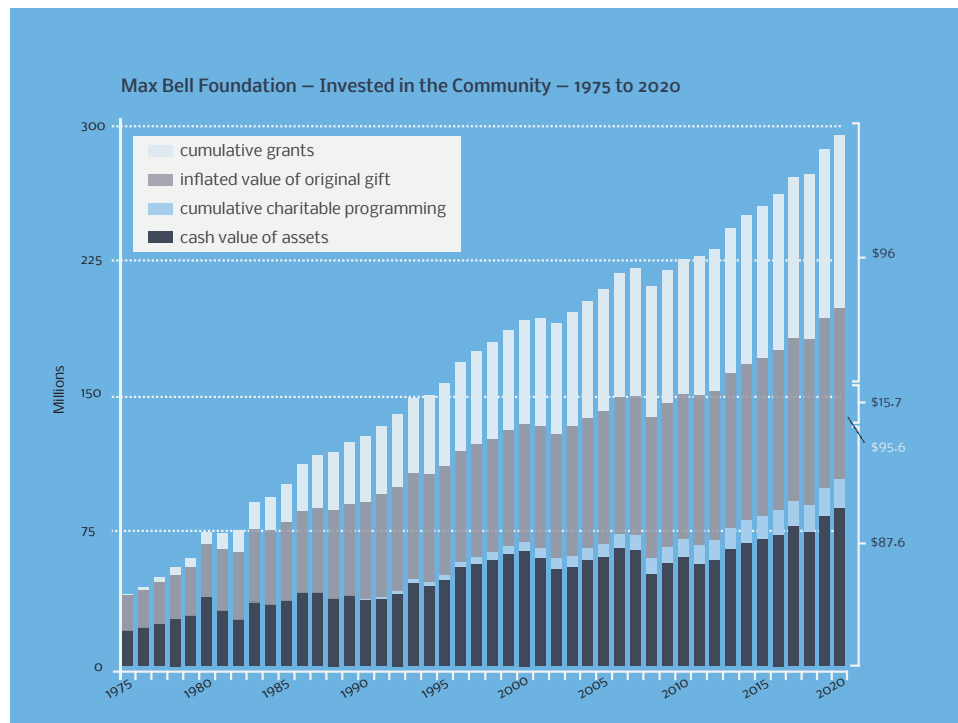
and undertook charitable  
projects costing  
**\$140,000.**



Combined, these account for 64% of the annual total expenditure of **\$3.95 million.**

During calendar 2020, the Foundation's investments funded the expenditure categories above and, in addition, the asset base rose from \$83.4 million to \$87.6 million. Had the growth of the Foundation's asset base kept pace with inflation since 1974, it would be valued at \$95.6 million at the end of 2020.

Since the Foundation's inception, it has invested \$96 million in grants to improve Canadian society, and has invested \$15.7 million in identifying, helping develop, and administering those grants as well as directly delivering charitable programs.



# Directors

Brenda Eaton, *Chair*  
Ken Marra, *Vice Chair*  
Paul Boothe  
Margaret-Jean Mannix  
Donna Miller  
Doug Moen  
Christopher Manfredi

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# Staff



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