



Foundation

Annual Report

For the year ended March 31, 2026

2025 by the Numbers	3
Letter from Ken Cretney	4
Letter from Moira Gookstetter	5
RBC Boosts Culinary Arts Virtual Reality Programs	6
Anatontage Table Offers a New Look into the Human Body	7
Donor Spotlight: Roxanne Vandale	8
CCEAI Takes Shape	9
Learning Beyond the Classroom	10
Donor Spotlight: Lee Kum Kee	14
2025 Outstanding Alumni Awards	15
Flourish 2026	16
Student Spotlight: Megan Lockwood	18
TD Insurance Expanding Partnerships	19
The Community that Keeps on Giving	20
Giving Tuesday 2025	21
Recognizing Red Seal Trades	22
Donor Spotlight: The Chan-Kent Foundation	23
Board Of Directors	24

2025 by the Numbers

Last year, the VCC Foundation distributed

\$1,118,430

in bursaries, scholarships, and awards to VCC students last year. These funds ease rising living costs and improve access to higher education, allowing students to spend more time focusing on their studies and plans for the future.

Endowment Balance

\$13,208,919

Endowment Donations

\$153,179

Annual & Other Donations

\$2,307,351

Number Of Donors

407

Total Raised

\$2,460,817

With the support of donors like you, we:

Distributed awards and bursaries to

1,103 Students

Distributed

\$1,118,430

in scholarships and bursaries

Distributed

212 Entrance Awards

122 more than last year

Created

25 New Awards

for students

A heartfelt thank you to the donors who created the following new awards this year:

123 Dentist Award
2025/26 VCC Board Leadership Award
Alma VanDusen Bursary
BC Paralegal Association Bursary
Belyea Collins Ingledow Bursary
Bill Hatswell Memorial Award
Bud & Eileen Zakoor Nursing Award
Chelsea Mae Simpson Memorial Award
Counselling Skills Program Award
DMD Family Dental & Ortho Award
Dr. Jane Jae-Kyung Shin VKCSF Award
Dr. Jane Jae-Kyung Shin Family Award
Eco Grant Leadership Award

First Nations Student Award
Forever Grateful Award
Gian Singh Memorial Scholarship
Murray Smith Bursary
Pediatric Dental Group Award
Snow Cap Enterprises Entrance Award
Strathcona Cunningham Bursary
Susan Wells Memorial Award
VCC Accessibility Project Fund
VCC Board Leadership Award
VCC Special Initiatives Fund
VLSA Legacy Award

Letter from Ken Cretney

As Vancouver continues to grow and evolve on the global stage, it is important to recognize the people who keep our communities thriving — the skilled workers, caregivers, hospitality professionals, tradespeople, and innovators whose talents support our economy and enrich daily life. Many of these individuals began their journeys as students at Vancouver Community College.

At VCC, education is more than gaining technical skills; it is about opening doors, building confidence, and creating pathways to meaningful futures. Every day, students arrive with ambition and potential. Through hands-on learning experiences, students gain the knowledge and practical training needed to succeed in rapidly changing industries and communities.

This year, donor support helped to expand transformative learning opportunities for students across the College. From advanced healthcare simulation technology, and virtual reality culinary training, to new clean energy and automotive equipment, students are gaining experience with the tools, technologies, and innovations shaping the workforce of tomorrow.

As Chair of the VCC Foundation Board of Directors, I am extremely grateful for the generosity and commitment demonstrated by our donor community. Your support is helping reduce barriers to education, strengthen access to high-quality training, and empower students to pursue careers that will have lasting impact throughout British Columbia and beyond.

The progress highlighted throughout this report reflects what is possible when a community comes together in support of education. Together, we are helping students build brighter futures while strengthening the industries and communities we all rely on.

Thank you for believing in VCC students and for investing in hands-on, life-changing education.

With gratitude,

Ken Cretney

Board Chair, VCC Foundation



Letter from Moira Gookstetter

In a world that can feel somewhat unpredictable, one thing that we can always rely on is the value of higher education. Part of what makes Vancouver Community College (VCC) so special is that we focus on lowering barriers and increasing access to education so that no one is excluded from learning.

The VCC Foundation plays an integral role in supporting students from all walks of life – from single parents to high school graduates to international students to people who face learning challenges. Our generous community of donors funds student scholarships, as well as a Computer Lending Library, free psychoeducational assessments, and improved access to food programs. We have seen countless students take these opportunities and soar.

Like the VCC student body, the VCC Foundation community of donors is unique and inspiring. Many of you have a personal connection to the school; others simply see the intrinsic value of low-barrier, high-quality education. VCC's next chapter is going to catapult its standing from "diamond in the rough" to a leader in post-secondary education. The new Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation (CCEAI) will provide students with cutting-edge education in clean energy and other trailblazing programs. We are so excited to support them.

Whatever your inspiration for becoming a donor, thank you for your dedication. We can never know exactly how far your impact will reach, but we know our world is better for it.

With sincere appreciation,

Moira Gookstetter, MA CFRE

Executive Director, VCC Foundation



RBC Boosts Culinary Arts Virtual Reality Programs

RBC is a long-time partner of VCC, investing in advanced teaching tools and trades education. Last year, the VCC Foundation was thrilled to receive a \$100,000 gift from the RBC Foundation towards VCC's Culinary Arts Department's Virtual Reality Butchery program.

The project funding allows VCC to design and implement a suite of VR Butchery teaching modules, offering students a comprehensive curriculum in beef, poultry, lamb, and fish butchery. These modules provide students with new learning opportunities, while saving on materials, ingredients, and time.

"This innovative program is redefining culinary education and preparing students with cutting-edge skills that we know employers are actively seeking," said Rebecca Pang, RBC Regional Vice President of Commercial Financial Services. "By supporting VCC in their efforts to nurture talent and provide the tools necessary for success, we're building a foundation that strengthens our communities and workforce."



VCC Culinary Arts student using a Virtual Reality headset.

Anatomage Table Offers a New Look into the Human Body

VCC continues to revolutionize healthcare education by embracing innovative technologies that improve student preparedness for their future careers.

With the support of the VCC Foundation and a contribution from a private family foundation, VCC recently acquired an Anatomage Table. This cutting-edge tool offers immersive, interactive 3D visualizations that allow students to explore detailed anatomy and the inner workings of the human body. Students can perform virtual dissections, learn about intricate internal systems, and explore hundreds of real 3D patient cases, from the convenience of a VCC classroom.

"When I first came to VCC, I thought it would be a traditional learning environment – learning from textbooks or videos. But it was completely different," said Stephen, a Nursing student.

"Improving healthcare education is one of the most effective ways to enhance patient care," says Jo-Ellen Zakoor, Dean of Health Sciences, VCC & lead of B.C.'s Health Student Practice Education Simulation Strategy. "At VCC, health science programs are taught by our expert instructors using a combination of classroom theory, laboratory skills, health simulation, and clinical experiences."

VCC is the first community college outside of Ontario to offer this teaching tool to students with courses in anatomy and physiology.



VCC's Maria Pineda, Denso Uy, Dinesh Krishnan, and Dustin Chan demonstrating the new Anatomage Table.

A Record-Breaking Year for VCC Student Awards

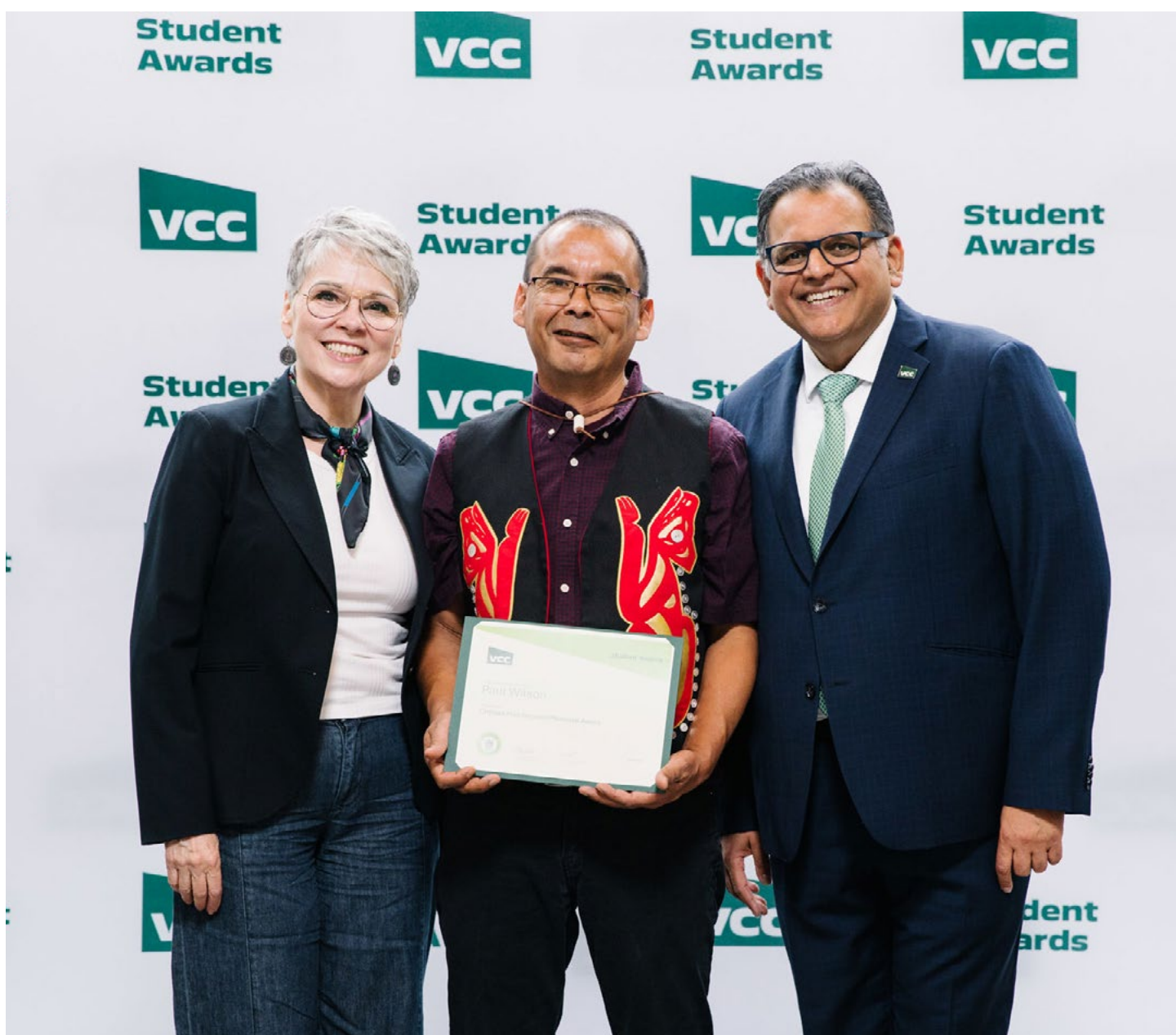
Every donor or organization that creates an award for VCC students has a story to share. From former students to industry leaders to family members honouring a loved one—each pays the gift of education forward.



Donor Spotlight: Roxanne Vandale

At 56 years old, Roxanne Vandale embarked on a new chapter to pursue a Certificate in Office Administration from VCC. Early in her journey at the College, Roxanne became involved in the VCC Indigenous Gathering Space and began supporting fellow students in the role of Indigenous Cousin. Now as an advisor, she helps organize workshops and events to share culture, decolonize education, and reclaim spaces to see, hear, and value Indigenous voices and experiences.

Roxanne also started the Chelsea Mae Simpson Memorial Award to honour her late daughter and Indigenous students who demonstrate resilience and commitment to learning. In this way, she has come full circle from 2023 when she won an award from VCC, while being cheered on by the Indigenous Education and Community Engagement department.



Roxanne Vandale, student recipient Jason Wilson, and VCC President & CEO, Ajay Patel.

Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation Takes Shape

The Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation (CCEAI) is the exciting catalyst project for VCC's Campus Plan. Currently under construction at the Broadway Campus, the new building will help evolve VCC's long-term vision and help transform the Great Northern Way corridor for the surrounding communities.

Students at the CCEAI will prepare for careers in high-demand clean energy fields, as well as creative programs like Jewellery, Fashion & Design, CAD and BIM, and Graphic Design. From inspiring new classrooms and labs, the CCEAI will support BC's strategic workforce development toward training, labour market, and environmental goals for a clean and sustainable future for generations to come.

With a tentative opening date for classes in spring 2028, the VCC Foundation has been building partnerships with lead donors to support the building, technology, and students long-term.

The CCEAI's design is inspired by Knowledge Keeper sessions with representation from Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. The building incorporates elements of the land, water, and the canoe, and honours the spiritual significance of the area.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

At VCC, some of the most exciting learning takes place outside of the classroom, in factories, street markets, and historic regions that inspire students to dream big. Last year, the VCC Foundation was proud to support several field trips both near and far.

Baking & Pastry Students Taste Sweet Opportunities

With support from the VCC Foundation, students from VCC's Baking and Pastry Arts visited the iconic [Rogers Sugar](#) building in East Vancouver.

The students were treated to a factory tour and conversations with industry professionals who helped deepen their understanding of the baking process. The party next visited [Rise Baking Lab](#), a Chilliwack institution that specializes in bakery consulting and classes. Students met successful bakers in the industry and were inspired to see new and exciting career pathways available after completing their VCC education.

"Beyond the learning experience, we had a great time engaging in lively and meaningful discussions about bread and baking overall," said June Lee, RSE, Program Assistant, Baking & Pastry.



VCC Baking & Pastry students in front of a wall of sugar at Rogers Sugar.

È Così Delizioso!

VCC partners with ALMA, the School of Italian Culinary Arts based in Colorno, Italy, to promote cultural exchange and enhanced learning opportunities for students. And last year, two VCC Culinary Arts students, Alice and Karen, won the classroom “Rio Mare” cooking competition. They earned a spot in a “Like an Italian” course at ALMA, as well as a Barrett Family Foundation scholarship that supported their trip.

“Our instructors showed us how geography, ingredients, and tradition define Italian cuisine. From risotto to regional cheeses, every dish told a story—and made me reflect on my own roots. As a new immigrant to Canada, the experience inspired me to honour Cantonese food traditions while exploring how to combine them with B.C.’s incredible local ingredients, like spot prawns and Dungeness crab.”

Karen

“I gained an appreciation for the deep respect and pride Italians hold for their culinary traditions. I learned firsthand that great cooking isn’t just about technique—it’s about understanding the history, culture, and details behind every dish, starting with the careful selection of ingredients.”

Alice



VCC Culinary Arts students Karen and Alice in Italy.

From Textbooks to Textiles on the Silk Road

The best way to understand fabrics is to experience them in person, and that's exactly what two VCC Fashion students got to do on a field trip through the Silk Road in Vietnam. Oceana Sam and Sonja Ledoux received \$1,000 scholarships to participate in an international experience collaborating with local businesses on upcycling, traditional textiles, and ethical design.

"Having the opportunity to see another country's textile industry is invaluable knowledge that will strengthen the students' perspective and employability. Bringing back stories and pictures to share with their classmates allowed everyone to gain from their experience overseas."

Sarah Murray, VCC Program Coordinator, Fashion and Creative courses



From left to right: VCC Fashion students Sonja Ledoux and Oceana Sam with new friends in Vietnam.

Golden Opportunity in Macau

In September last year, the VCC Foundation hosted the second annual FEAST!, VCC's Asian Culinary Arts program fundraiser presented by Scotiabank. The event welcomed nearly 100 esteemed guests to VCC's JJ's Restaurant, where diners and sponsors raised \$58,580 over a five-course meal, all while celebrating 50 years of Asian Culinary Arts at VCC.

The event supported VCC Asian Culinary Arts alumni Junhao Li and Shaoyi Sun at the International Chinese Chef Master Competition in Macau to represent Canada on the world stage. Their innovative dishes, technical skill, and teamwork earned them a gold medal, reflecting the high-quality training provided by VCC's Asian Culinary Arts program.



VCC Asian Culinary Arts alum Junhao Li and Shaoyi Sun assemble their gold medal-winning dishes.

Donor Spotlight: Lee Kum Kee

Lee Kum Kee was established in 1888 when its founder Mr. Lee Kum Sheung invented oyster sauce in Nanshui, Zhuhai, Guangdong Province of China. The company has since become an international household name, and the VCC Foundation is grateful for their growing commitment to students in VCC's Asian Culinary Arts program.

With exciting advancements coming to VCC's Baking and Culinary programs and infrastructure, we look forward to an exciting partnership, educating the next generation of chefs.



The Lee Kum Kee table at 2026 Flourish.

2025 Outstanding Alumni Awards

Each VCC alum achieves something exceptional as they earn their credentials and go on to make a difference in their lives and communities. Their inspiring stories, dedication, and community impact carry forward VCC's proud legacy.

Congratulations to the 2025 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients!

Cathy Larson | *Career Success*

Elder Dee George | *Honorary Alumna*

Mike Steele and Ernesto M. Reyes | *Community Contribution*

Andrew George | *Lifetime Achievement Award*

Camille Francisco | *One to Watch*



Outstanding alumni left to right: Ernesto M. Reyes, Andrew George, Elder Dee George, Cathy Larson, Mike Steele and Camille Francisco.

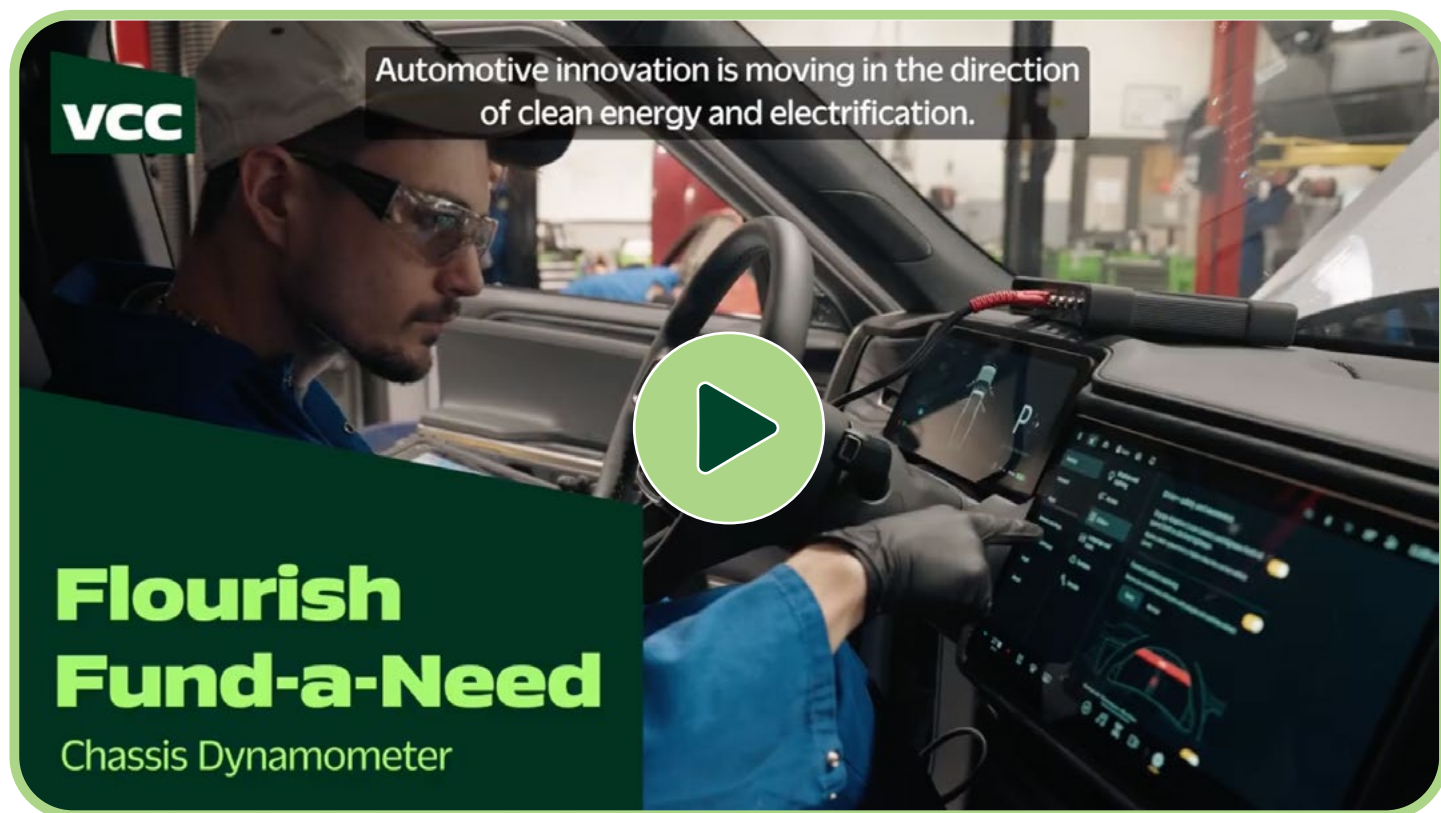
Flourish 2026

2026 Flourish brought the VCC community together for an unforgettable evening, raising an incredible, record-breaking \$267,000 in support of VCC students.

Guests enjoyed exceptional culinary creations and explored stations from programs across the college, including Automotive, Health Sciences, Esthetics, Baking & Pastry, Science, Jewellery, Fashion, and Design. The night highlighted the creativity, skill, and hands-on learning that define the VCC experience.

This year's proceeds will support the purchase of a Chassis Dynamometer for VCC's automotive area, strengthening hands-on training as the college prepares to open its Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation in 2027. The new equipment will give students experience with industry standard tools, including those compatible with electric vehicles, while also supporting applied research opportunities for local businesses.

Watch the VCC Fund a Need 2026 Video



Flourish 2026



Student Spotlight: Megan Lockwood, VCC Automotive Technician Student

“As a woman in the trades, I just have to say—it’s exciting. Trades have traditionally been male-dominated spaces, but that’s changing. Being part of that shift feels empowering. Every time I walk into the shop, I know I’m not just building a career—I’m also helping show that there is space for everyone in the trades.”

What I love most about attending VCC is how this education opens doors. This course isn’t just about becoming a technician—although that’s definitely the goal—it’s about creating opportunities. There are so many pathways in the automotive industry: advanced diagnostics, specialty certifications, leadership roles, and even owning a business one day. VCC doesn’t just prepare us for a job; it prepares us for a future.”

Megan Lockwood, VCC Automotive Technician Student



Megan Lockwood, VCC Automotive Technician Student, sharing her story at 2026 Flourish.

TD Insurance Expanding Partnerships

The VCC Foundation's community partnerships succeed because of a shared interest in supporting students and alumni, and every partnership brings something special to the VCC experience.

TD Insurance has long been an Affinity Partner for VCC graduates, helping alumni access preferred insurance rates on car, home, condo, and tenant coverage; they also sponsor the VCC Outstanding Alumni Awards. In 2026, TD Insurance became a key Flourish sponsor, providing an opportunity for TD Insurance to introduce its small business insurance products to the VCC community—an offering that aligns well with many of VCC's entrepreneurial alumni and graduates entering the workforce.

Support generated through the partnership with TD Insurance is reinvested directly into programs, awards, and initiatives that help students thrive during their studies and build successful careers after graduation.

The VCC Foundation's impact is made possible through the generosity and commitment of partners like TD Insurance and the many organizations that share our belief in the power of education. Together, we are creating brighter futures for VCC students and the communities they will serve.



TD Insurance AVP of Relationship Management, Max Stiles, VCC Foundation Executive Director, Moira Gookstetter, TD Insurance Western Canada Market Lead, Amy Desender, TD Insurance National Sales Support Manager, TaeHee Kim, and VCC President & CEO, Ajay Patel.

The Community that Keeps on Giving

The 2025 VCC Foundation Annual Recognition Event brought the donor community together to shine a spotlight on the generosity, dedication, and vision that make a difference for VCC students every single day.

It was inspiring to gather at the Broadway Campus with so many leaders, donors, and supporters – each playing a part in empowering students and building a stronger future.

Guests shared stories, ideas, and a look into the exciting plans for VCC. The VCC Foundation extends sincere thanks to everyone who continues to champion education, opportunities for students, and progress in our communities.



Attendees at the 2025 VCC Foundation Annual Recognition Event.

Giving Tuesday 2025

VCC's food programs are designed to improve food security for students with low-barrier access to food and snacks. Snack Shacks are currently installed in five VCC departments: Design & Esthetics, Health Care, Jewelry Design, Culinary Arts, and Adult Basic Education Upgrading. Vouchers are also available for students to use at VCC food outlets like the cafeterias and Siefferts Market.

Thanks to this community's generous support and a matching fund, this year's Giving Tuesday campaign raised over \$45,000 to expand VCC's food programs.

"At VCC, real learning for real change means responding to the real challenges students face. Rising living costs have made food insecurity a growing barrier to success, and no student should have to choose between eating and learning. Through this campaign, we're nourishing learning by ensuring every student has the support they need to thrive—in class and in life."

Reba Noel, Associate Director, Student Recruitment & Learner Engagement

Watch the VCC Giving Tuesday 2025 Video



Recognizing Red Seal Trades

Last year, the VCC Foundation celebrated the achievements of VCC's trades alumni at the Red Seal Recognition event. This bi-annual event honours students who earned Canada's prestigious Red Seal certification, a national standard of excellence in skilled trades. VCC offers Red Seal certification in culinary arts, baking and pastry arts, hair design, auto collision, auto service, and heavy mechanical trades.

The event was held at the VCC Broadway Campus and featured inspiring remarks from Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Hon. Jessie K Sunner, MLA Joan Phillip, Vancouver city councillors Sean Orr and Sarah Kirby-Yung, and VCC alum and Red Seal chef Andrew George. Our sincere gratitude to SkilledTradesBC for supporting accessible pathways to certification, and to TD Insurance for sponsoring the celebration.

Watch the VCC Red Seal Recognition 2025 Video



Donor Spotlight: The Chan-Kent Foundation

The Chan-Kent Foundation supports students in fashion, textiles, and design across B.C., promoting innovation, sustainability, and craftsmanship through bursaries. The Foundation was established in 1964 to honour Charles and Toy Chan-Kent and their commitment to education. Charles was the founder of Aero Garment Ltd., one of Western Canada's largest garment manufacturers.

The VCC Foundation is grateful for our ongoing relationship with the Chan-Kent Foundation and for the generous support they offer students. We look forward to future collaborations that help foster Vancouver's thriving fashion and design industries.



Bob Chan-Kent, Marissa Chan-Kent, and VCC President & CEO Ajay Patel

VCC Foundation Mission

Together with Vancouver Community College, alumni, and an engaged donor community, the VCC Foundation enhances access to practical, progressive, and impactful education.

VCC Foundation is a registered charity and works together with individual donors and industry partners to build rewarding relationships.

Board Of Directors

Ken Cretney, *Chair*
Peter Van Dyke, *Treasurer*
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Libby Davies
Zoran Kovacevic

Brett Maerz
Pehlaj Malhotra
Alister R. Mathieson
Kay Wong-Alafriz
Joyce Yip

VCC Representatives

Moira Gookstetter, *Executive Director, VCC Foundation*

Ajay Patel, *President & CEO*

Colin Zou, *VCC Board of Governors*

"Thank you for believing in students like me. Thank you for investing in education and in the trades. And thank you for helping us build not just careers, but confident and capable futures."

Megan Lockwood,
VCC Automotive
Technician student



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This document was visually designed by Yvonne Olivotto, VCC graduate of the Graphic Design program.