



# News Release

June 27, 2008

## **Surrey School District students benefit from Vancouver Foundation grants**

Three Surrey School District programs have received grants from the Vancouver Foundation totalling more than \$35,000.

“The Vancouver Foundation has always been a great supporter of our students, particularly those that need the extra support,” says Surrey Board of Education chair Reni Masi. “The funds provided by the Foundation enable our staff to develop more innovative programs and extend our reach to better assist students.”

The Foundation has provided \$25,000 over two years to the ETCETERA (Early Teen Community Explorations To Educational & Recreational Activities) Preteen Youth Leadership Program at Hjorth and Holly Road Elementary schools; both inner-city Community Schools. The program, a partnership of the district and the City of Surrey, offers recreation and leisure activities for youth between 10 and 13 years of age designed to build self-confidence and communication skills, and assist young teens in using their abilities to contribute to their communities.

Earl Marriott Secondary school’s new “Navigation Program” has received an \$8,000 grant from the Vancouver Foundation to provide staff time for the initiative. The program has three components aimed at developing leadership and social skills among some Grade 8 and 9 students, including those who face in-school suspensions. A fourth component involves Grade 11 and 12 students in mentoring Grade 8 and 9 students.

The Vancouver Foundation has also provided a grant of \$2,500 to support the Kirkbride Elementary school Beautification Project. This initiative uses art-based projects to involve students more in their learning through creative expression. The art themes also tie into school social responsibility goals. Art projects include gym murals, book jackets, posters and wooden cut-out hands for the playground fence.

Vancouver Foundation is Canada’s largest and one of its oldest community foundations. Its mission is to create positive and lasting impacts in communities in British Columbia. It does this by bringing together generous donors (large and small, individuals, groups and corporations) and linking their contributions to important work that addresses the needs and improves the lives of communities across the province. Today, the Foundation manages an endowment worth approximately \$800 million. In 2007, the interest from that endowment allowed the Foundation to distribute about \$60 million to communities. To find out more visit: [www.vancouverfoundation.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca)

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