



The story of The Calgary Foundation is one of commitment and contributions of time, talent and resources by thousands of individuals, families, charitable organizations, community leaders, volunteers and staff ... all striving to strengthen and enrich our city and the surrounding area.

Beginning

The Calgary Foundation (TCF) was founded in 1955 by visionary community leaders like Doug Hawkes who recognized that we are all dependent on one another for building a healthy, safe and nurturing community. Doug never forgot the generosity of the Red Cross Agencies that took care of him while serving as a soldier in WW II and vowed to return the favour.

Back in Calgary after the war, Doug's neighbour, F.G. Buchanan, named Doug as his successor as director of The Council of Social Services in Calgary - an agency of *Community Chest of Calgary* which was a forerunner of the United Way but it did not provide funds for capital expenditures or "venture money" for any untried community programs.

The vision of a community foundation to provide broader support to local charitable organizations began to take shape. Large amounts of money were tied up in estates for purposes which had become obsolete – funds for destitute immigrants traveling in covered wagons, a home for destitute sailors and a fund for destitute cowboys!

Builders

The early groundwork of the Foundation was led by Doug Hawkes, then Alderman Grant MacEwan and Con Ashby, the Executive Director of the Council of Social Services of Calgary. Ed Bredin, solicitor for the City of Calgary at that time, was enlisted to prepare the bill to incorporate the Calgary Community Foundation which passed on April 6th, 1955 in the provincial Legislative Assembly. (Ed generously waived his legal fee's)

TCF's first board of directors represented prominent city and business leaders including Grant MacEwan who served as Chair from 1955 to 1963 and later became Calgary's Mayor and Alberta's Lieutenant Governor. The first Board also consisted of Mrs. N.I Zemens, Vice President of the National Council of Jewish Women, E.A. Hookway, retired finance commissioner for the City of Calgary and E.H. Tanner, president of Triad Oil Co.

Stan Laing, FCA, was the first Executive Director, serving from 1972 to 1980. Many others followed, serving as Directors, volunteers, staff and leaders within the Foundation. Each of these persons brought new perspectives, strengths and vision to the work of the Foundation.

Growth

In the early 1960's, TCF received its first infusion of capital when 20 Founding Donors contributed \$5,000 each. These and subsequent gifts to The Calgary Foundation were pooled and invested. Income was then distributed as grants to local charitable organizations. The first grants were made in 1964 to the United Fund (\$1,000) and to Mount Royal College (\$500).

Ted Riback, one of TCF's twenty founding donors who also became one of the first Chair's of the Board says, "The Calgary Foundation was the spirit of several people, fantastic citizens who wanted to create a better future for all Calgarians."

TCF continued to slowly grow up until 1979 when a million dollar dinner, spearheaded by Harry Cohen, CM, and Hayden Smith, CLU, raised the profile of the Foundation and significantly increased its assets. This provided a base for the first paid staff – Lorraine Devries.

The dinner also laid the foundation for a dramatic increase in the value of grants distributed by TCF. Up to 1980, \$100,000 was granted to Calgary agencies such as YWCA, Meals on Wheels, the Handi-Bus Association and the Calgary Youth Orchestra. From 1980 – 1985, more than \$1.2 million was distributed for such causes as burn unit equipment for Foothills Hospital and audio-visual equipment for Alberta Children's Hospital.

By 1990, the Foundation's assets had grown to \$6 million, reaching \$125.9 million by the year 2000 through the support and encouragement of many including executive directors Wayne Stewart, Sam Aylesworth, donor Don Harvie and many other generous, committed Calgarians.

As the assets grow, so do the grants issued each year. The Foundation distributes five percent of the market value of each Fund on an annual basis. Any income in excess of this, net of administration expenses, is added to the capital of the funds. Foundation supporters are people who want to make a difference. They want to put something back into the community where they have etched personal successes, a community in which they have high-spirited pride. In a variety of ways, all are committed to Calgary ... forever.

The 20 Founding Donors of The Calgary Foundation

Peter C. Bawden	G. Max Bell	William Borger
Matt C. Brownlee	Dr. Harry Cohen CM	A.R. Cross
J.B. Cross	J.M. Cross	Sam Hashman
J.H. Hillier	E.V. Keith	Stan B. Laing, CFA
Dr. Gertrude M. Lange, OC	George C. Lancaster	H. Gordon Love
Fred C. Mannix	O.H.E. Might, QC	Carl O. Nickle
S. C. Nickle Sr.M.	Ted Riback	

Executive Directors of The Calgary Foundation

Stan Laing, FCA	1972 – 1980
Lorraine Devries	1988 – 1992
Wayne Stewart	1991 – 1995
Samuel Wm. Aylesworth	1995 – 2002
R. Michael Mears	2002 - 2005
Eva Friesen	2005 -