



**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 and ensuring 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 one day.

Doug continued in his career in the real estate business. His neighbour, F.G. Buchanan had been director of The Council of Social Services in Calgary who upon retiring, named Doug as his successor due in part to his military experiences. The council was an agency of Community Chest of Calgary – a forerunner of the United Way but would not provide funds for capital expenditures or “venture money” for any untried community programs.

Then Alderman, Grant MacEwan, also sat on this Board and between the two of them, they envisioned and discussed the idea of a community foundation in Calgary to provide support to local charitable organizations. 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!

Growth is seldom a smooth incline; more often, it happens in bursts. So it has been with The Calgary Foundation. 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).

## **BUILDERS**

Dr. J.W. Grant MacEwan was the first Chair of the Board, serving from 1955 to 1963. 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.

TCF continued to grow slowly 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.

# GROWTH

The dinner also laid the foundation for a dramatic increase in the value of Grants awarded by the Foundation. Grants to 1980 totaled about \$100,000. The grants were distributed to Calgary agencies and groups – including the Scouts and Guides, YWCA, Meals on Wheels, the Handi-Bus Association and the Calgary Youth Orchestra. Then major changes began to occur. In the first five years of the 1980's, more than \$1.2 million was awarded as grants for such causes as burn unit equipment for Foothills Hospital and audio-visual equipment for Alberta Children's Hospital.

The 1990's brought another inspired expansion, further solidifying the Foundation's fiscal base. At January 1, 1990, assets had reached approximately \$6 million. With support and encouragement from Ross Phillips FCA, Donald Harvie, OC, and a number of other prominent and committed Calgarians, a new vision was established along with a new mission and strategic plan. By the fall of 2000 assets had reached \$125.9 million.

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 -