Together, let’s make way for what’s possible.

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW & 20TH ANNIVERSARY

MakeWay
Now more than ever, on the land, in deep coastal rainforests, vibrant towns, and big cities, it’s time for change.

Table of Contents

Lessons learned in 2020: Letter from CEO ........................................... 2
2020 Highlights .................................................................................. 4
Programs .......................................................................................... 6
The Akpaliapik program builds resilience in young girls and teens in Northern communities (story) .................10
Donors ...............................................................................................14
Partnering with Patagonia to Support Grassroots Environmental Action in British Columbia (story) ............................ 16
Grants and Funds .............................................................................18
Team ..................................................................................................20
Shared Platform ................................................................................24
Taking the Nawalakw Culture Project from vision to reality (story) .................................................................26
Shared Platform Projects ................................................................28
Board of Directors ..........................................................................32
Financial Results .............................................................................36
20 reasons to celebrate: MakeWay turns 20! ................................. 38

Cover Image: summerlunch+, a project on MakeWay’s shared platform, provides healthy meals to students over the summer break. This year they developed the summerlunch+ at home initiative which included a weekly food box and virtual program so that students could learn valuable food literacy and cooking skills at home.

Featured: Cassie distributing meal kits and seed packs in the Toronto neighbourhoods of Regent Park and Moss Park.

Photo: Nadia Islam
Hello Friends,

This tumultuous year will go down in history for all of us. A virus that changed everything. Profound inequality exposed. Re-energized movements for racial justice. Multiple crises that have created the opportunity to build systems for care and repair for people and planet.

So thank you to all our partners—you have stepped up in so many ways, whether ensuring your community has access to healthy traditional foods, or removing restrictions on grants to ensure communities can build solutions fast. You will find a few of these incredible stories in this annual report.

This year also marked the 20th anniversary of this organization and the transformation from Tides Canada to MakeWay. As a quiet leader in environmental and social justice philanthropy in Canada for the last two decades, it was time to better tell the story of this unique organization and its network of partners with a name that truly reflects our commitment to MakeWay. As a quiet leader in environmental and social justice philanthropy in Canada for the last two decades, it was time to better tell the story of this unique organization and its network of partners with a name that truly reflects our commitment to MakeWay.

As part of our internal changes and in responding to new external realities we have all learned a lot this year—lessons that will help us better achieve our mission to ensure communities thrive together.

1. Being a good partner is everything.
As we increase our work in partnership with communities across the country, the more we learn that this is not easy or fast work. As one of the largest philanthropic funders of Indigenous-led work across the country we have a responsibility to question traditional ways of approaching work in the charitable sector. There is much to learn and unlearn. And so, we listen carefully and invest time and good intention into relationships. Our commitment to supporting community-led work means we will not dictate the actions and visions of our partners. When Covid-19 struck, our community partners knew what they needed to do. They shared with us their ideas and plans for increasing local resilience to the threats of the pandemic. This inspired funders to contribute more flexible and accessible resources, and other organizations and governments to seek guidance on how they could better respond. Through our Covid-19 Rapid Response Funds, we have seen that trust-based, or unrestricted, community-led philanthropy is indeed possible.

2. The work for anti-racism means tackling white supremacy.
Like most organizations, the worldwide protests for Black Lives made us look deeper to see how we have contributed to systemic racism as individuals and as MakeWay. Despite significant advances to bring on Indigenous staff and shift our grantmaking to Indigenous-led solutions, it is clear we must do better to advance decolonization and racial justice in more areas of our work. Both philanthropy and the environmental sector are still very white, and their lack of diversity will be at their peril. Internally, we are having the courageous conversations and implementing a range of plans from diversity audits to trainings. We are also exploring how we can have more impact externally and increase access to the charitable sector for racialized groups.

3. Take nothing for granted.
A recent British Columbia government report has sadly confirmed widespread failure to protect remaining old growth forests, with less than 1% of the most productive old growth remaining. The report called for a paradigm shift, moratoria on old growth logging, and Indigenous-led strategies to steward forests. Meanwhile industry is aggressively logging these ecologically vital forests—even in the Great Bear Rainforest. The promise of ecosystem-based management and the Agreements surrounding it are at risk. Furthermore, as a decade of work on marine planning in the Great Bear Sea approaches policy completion, the next few years are critical in the ongoing work to ensure a conservation-based economy. MakeWay is funding a 20-year report on ecosystem health in the Great Bear Rainforest to help hold decision-makers accountable, and we will continue our focus on strengthening capacity for Indigenous-led stewardship. Old growth protection will need to be urgently addressed before it is too late, taking into account First Nations rights that were enshrined last year under the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. With those goals in sight, we are collaborating to identify new conservation financing models that sustain communities and protect endangered ecosystems.

4. Large scale behaviour change is possible.
While Covid-19 has taught us so many lessons, one to highlight is that it is possible to dramatically change our ways of being as individuals and communities in ways that could benefit nature and climate action. We’ve seen more community gardens. More cycling. Less flying. More benefit nature and climate action. We’ve seen more community gardens. More cycling. Less flying. We’re looking to these lessons to see what more philanthropy can do to shift behaviours that will truly bring about systems change.

5. Choose courage.
After many years of attacks based on misinformation, and even a bomb threat, we learned that the way forward is through courage, hope, and transparency. By getting clearer on who we are, what we do, and why it matters, we have been able to turn the page. We decided not to participate in the political theatre of the Alberta Inquiry until the rules change. We have proudly completed a multi-year CRA audit with success! In the name of transparency, we redesigned our public grants listing to be more accessible and detailed. When asked, our partners told us that MakeWay is unique because we are both daring and reliable. We are committed to living up to that description by looking forward—not back—towards solutions to the climate crisis, and an economy that provides well-being for nature and communities. Let’s make way for what’s possible.

With thanks again,
We became MakeWay

Our new name encompassed that feeling of momentum, of community-led change, of innovative partnerships, and of daring ideas that amplify impact.

We celebrated our 20-year anniversary

We disbursed

52% of our programmatic fund balance and 24% of our Donor Advised Fund balance directly to communities

This is significantly above the 3.5% charitable requirement

$17 million+ in grants were distributed to over 250 organizations from coast to coast to coast to enable nature and communities to thrive together

We made the first investments as part of our new Impact DAFs, aligning grantmaking and impact investing for a shared purpose.

Investments focused on supporting clean energy projects and Indigenous-led enterprises

230 foundations
55 governments, nations, and municipalities
50 businesses
4100+ individual/families

We partnered with over

to tackle pressing local and systemic challenges
Healthy people. Healthy planet. Healthy economy. Our sweet spot is where environmental issues intersect with social and economic issues. Building on two decades of experience, MakeWay programs leverage our unique expertise, tools, strategic partnerships, and deep community connections to tackle challenges within a geography or around a pressing issue.

Over the past 10 years, $29.2 million in grants has been distributed to Indigenous-led projects in the Pacific region, making up 69% of our funding in the region.

The Northern Manitoba Food Culture and Community Collaborative partnered with 58 community projects to foster healthier and stronger communities in Northern Manitoba through improved access to healthy foods and the development of resilient local economies. The most ever in one year!

We supported the establishment of a hydrophone network on the north coast of British Columbia to monitor at-risk whale populations.

Through grantmaking, we supported country food harvesting programs in over a dozen Arctic communities as a key part of a movement towards Indigenous food sovereignty.

We supported and convened a network of 25 Indigenous guardian programs across the territories and Inuit Nunangat to share knowledge and best practices.

Atuat Shouldece, from ᓴᒃᑳᑲᕐᔪᐊᖅ (Rankin Inlet), Nunavut worked as a guide for cruise ships travelling the Northwest Passage. Atuat now plans to use his experience to launch his own business, taking film and photography crews on tours to showcase the spectacular wildlife, landscape, and communities in the North.

In 2020, Atuat joined shared platform project Entreprenorth’s second cohort of northern entrepreneurs focused on local tourism services.

Photo: Chickweed Arts
The Akpaliapik program builds resilience in young girls and teens in Northern communities

An innovative new program aims to bring opportunities and support to girls in the North. The Akpaliapik pilot program will offer organized activities for young girls and teens that are focused on developing well-being and identity through connection and pride in their culture, language, and heritage. It will offer a safe space to hang-out, learn, and grow surrounded by people and supports that will help them thrive.

“This cultural connection is key to strengthening their confidence and belief in themselves,” says Adriana Kusugak, executive director at Ilitaqsiniq (Nunavut Literacy Council), who is heading the program. “By helping girls and teens to feel connected to and proud of who they are, where they come from, what they can do, what their ancestors have done, we can show them their worthiness and how they have to keep striving and moving forward.”

With financial support from the Canadian Women’s Foundation in partnership with MakeWay and the support of the Grey Birch Foundation, the Akpaliapik program will serve two cohorts of 12-15 participants over 10 weeks, with one cohort made up of girls aged 9-13, and the other serving teen girls aged 13-16.

Kusugak has no doubts that the program will be well-received. “The girls are going to be happy to have somewhere to go, but there will be lots of hands-on activities around personal wellness, group building, as well as reflection time – all the things in our busy lives we don’t always necessarily take the time to do. But, if we teach this to the girls while they’re young, it might become part of their practice, and help them to have a healthier lifestyle in the future.” Program delivery will be supported by community elders and counsellors.

For young girls and teen girls in Rankin Inlet, there aren’t many places that you can go to simply hang out or be a part of activities that aren’t sports-based. There also isn’t much support for these girls whose lives are often touched by trauma, poverty, and violence.

Mentorship is a key component of the Akpaliapik program. The plan is to have grade 12 girls acting as co-facilitators. “We know that participants will relate more to girls that they see regularly, and by having grade 12 girls be a part of the program it’s
helping to have that connection and know that there is someone they can turn to for help in a rough situation at school,” says Kelly Lindell, Kivalliq Program Manager for litaqsniaq (Nunavut Literacy Council), who will be coordinating the sessions. This also helps build the capacity and skills of those grade 12 girls, with the hope that they might be able to develop, organize, and plan similar programs in the future.

“Those older girls are going to be able to have that relatable moment where they can say, “Yeah, when I was 12 this was hard for me, too,” or “this is how I got through this” or “this is who I use as a support,” Kusugak explains. “We want to show them that these girls in grade 12 are looking at pursuing postsecondary opportunities. They are role models within our community. They’re trying their best to live healthy lifestyles and make good choices for themselves. And I think that the younger ones need to know that. You know, even though you might make mistakes along the way or get derailed a little bit, you can still bring it back.”

Forging new partnerships in the North

The Canadian Women’s Foundation has long had an interest in funding northern projects but has historically found it difficult to connect with projects and organizations there. Partnering with MakeWay helped bridge that gap. “We have done grantmaking in the North, but we always felt like we were not really getting to all kinds of organizations,” explains Anuradha Dugal, Senior Director, Community Initiatives and Policy at the Canadian Women’s Foundation. “We wanted to make sure we were more receptive to the differences in the North and get in touch with what different groups were doing. Working with MakeWay enabled us to do that.”

To reach more women and girls in the North, the Canadian Women’s Foundation decided to build a specific northern strategy and hire someone who could help execute that. “We were not getting to the North is really big!”

Dugal says that the Canadian Women’s Foundation has learned a lot about how projects operate in the North, including why their tried and tested application process created barriers for Northern projects. “For example, a lot of the ways that we have expected people to be able to do their grant proposals is through an online portal. I mean, we’ve always said you can just do it on an email and send it in. But even that means that people have to take the extra step to call us and say we need your word document, and then they have to download it.” Dugal says, “It’s lots of steps for organizations who are already tremendously busy and may not even believe that we would be open to that. So, having Delma there means that she can directly connect, she hears what they need. And then she says, “Okay, well, I’ll make that happen.”

Making it happen means breaking away from the traditional western and often-colonial requirements that are often put on projects seeking funding. “We help with proposal writing and are open to answering any questions around reviewing the proposals. We don’t have deadlines for the grants. We don’t have this crazy long list of criteria or boxes that we have to check, and where we do have requirements it is very flexible, making it easier for organizations with their programs,” Autut says.

In the many years that Autut has worked in the North, she has seen many organizations try to bring in projects that have failed. “They don’t understand how it works here. You need to Nunavutize it! You need relationships with someone in the North so that you can grow, that partnership piece and connection to the North is really big!”

Akpaliapik is one of two projects currently being funded through the Canadian Women’s Foundation/MakeWay partnership, while more are set to follow. “This is exciting for us, and it’s just so nice to be in a place where we finally seem to have hit the right mechanisms, to make it happen in the way we were always hoping it would,” says Dugal.

Destined to succeed

Kusugak and Lindell are excited to get Akpaliapik up and running and are confident that it will be successful. “I already know that as soon as we put the advertisement out for the program we’re going to have so many more applicants than what we have room for,” says Kusugak. “Then they’re gonna be upset when it’s done, and say, “Awww, it’s already over, when are you going to do it again?”” adds Lindell. They are hopeful that after the pilot program runs this will be something that they can continue in Rankin Inlet, and take to other communities.

“Ideally, it would be nice to have this going throughout the year, or a drop-in basis so that we can offer continual support to more girls,” says Lindell. “Often, youth here are left feeling “and now what?” so being more consistent with this programming would be incredibly helpful.” With the Foundation increasing access to funding for projects in the North, there’s a sense of optimism around what could be achieved. “We weren’t even aware of the opportunity that the Canadian Women’s Foundation made available to the different groups until MakeWay connected us, and it has given us a lot of confidence to know that a funder really is interested in the North, especially in the arctic and Nunavut, and in helping women and girls,” says Kusugak.
Foundations, Charities, and Nonprofits

Foundations, charities, and nonprofits are important members of the MakeWay community. Their donations help us support community-led initiatives across the country.

Businesses

Businesses provided generous support to innovative projects and programs. We also help businesses increase their social impact by crafting charitable giving strategies that align with their corporate values.

Governments

We partner with local, provincial, territorial, First Nations, and federal government agencies to support solutions that integrate healthy communities, a healthy planet, and healthy economies.

Individuals and Families

In FY2020, we received more than 4,400 donations from individual Canadians and their families. Our community of individual donors work with us to support hundreds of initiatives, ranging from neighbourhood-scale social programs to national conservation efforts.

Donors

We sincerely thank the following partners who provided support to community-led initiatives across the country. This list represents a wide range of individuals, governments, and organizations who contributed to programs, shared platform projects, collaborative, and campaigns in FY2020. These contributions are vital to helping nature and communities thrive together.
Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard has a deep personal connection to the Skeena watershed, a region in Northern British Columbia. In the early 1990s, Chouinard fly fished in the Skeena River, becoming close to the area, and the community. Even back then, Chouinard offered financial support to small conservation projects in the region. These days, the self-described activist company is funding initiatives on a grander scale, in partnership with MakeWay.

Patagonia has long provided funding to many projects on MakeWay’s shared platform. But in 2016, our partnership evolved as Patagonia stepped in to bolster the Pacific Salmon Watersheds Fund, which was set up to help the conservation organizations in the Skeena region protect the wild salmon ecosystem. Salmon are the keystone species in the region, providing food for countless wildlife as well as fertilizing the surrounding forest. The First Nations people – the Metlakatla and Lax Kw’alaams – have depended on Skeena salmon for countless generations.

In most regions around the world, Patagonia maintains headquarters with its own employees to determine which conservation projects to fund. “Canada is the one region that we fund internationally where we don’t have employees on the ground,” says Sarah Ebe, Environmental Grants Associate. Instead, Patagonia works with MakeWay advisors to increase their ability to help grassroots organizations.

MakeWay is set up in a way that makes investing in Canadian conservation projects a smooth process for international funders. As critical issues like climate change and conservation know no borders, this is an agility which Patagonia cherishes.

“MakeWay does a tremendous job of networking with folks in the region and really embedding deep into the community. Through them we have knowledge of what’s happening on the ground, which is a really really important part of our grantmaking philosophy.”

Sarah Ebe, Environmental Grants Associate, Patagonia

Patagonia’s partnership is helping to protect sacred spawning grounds in the Skeena Regions in northern British Columbia.

Researching Chinook salmon populations in the Fraser River.

Photo: Raincoast/Michael Snyder for Raincoast Conservation Foundation
Grants

In 2020, MakeWay and our community of donors enabled more than 250 organizations across Canada to effect positive, sustainable, community-led change. To view a list of MakeWay grants in fiscal year 2020, please visit makeway.org/about-us/grant-listings.

MakeWay’s grants are posted quarterly on our website. By sharing detailed grants information, we aim to foster innovation and knowledge exchange across the charitable sector, support more effective grantmaking, and further our commitment to transparency.

Funds

Donor Advised Funds are a flexible and cost-effective way to manage charitable giving. MakeWay partners with a diverse community of donor advised fund holders – individuals, charities, foundations, nonprofits, and businesses – who share a passion for environmental and social change.

Programmatic funds at MakeWay are strategically managed by our staff and support community-led initiatives that align with our mission.

Donor Advised Funds
- 7th Generation Fund
- 8th Generation Fund
- Alberta Clean Economy Fund
- Alexander Graham Bell Innovation Fund
- Animal Spirit Fund
- Andals Little Angels Foundation Fund
- Aurora Family Fund
- Bealight Fund
- Black Philanthropy Fund
- Burton Family Fund
- Central Coast Conservation Fund
- Chaloult Wallace Fund
- Change Capital Chauvel Fund
- Choose Waters Fund
- CNS Surgical & Obstetrical Skills Education Fund
- Cohen Building Fund
- Communications & Broadcasting Canada Trust Fund
- Coyle Family Foundation Fund
- CPAWS Nova Scotia Conservation Fund
- Dark Horse Fund
- David J. Sokol Endowment Fund
- Denz Tru Chi-Denway of Life Fund
- Division of UBC PM&R Fund
- DLN Fund
- Don Rubenstein Housing Fund
- Dr. Bik Mai Wo & Dr. Chung Nin Lam Endowment Fund
- Dragonfly Fund/Dearn-Haddon Endowment Fund
- Elements Fund
- Endowed Long-Term Fund
- Equinera Fund
- Friends of Qatnawas Fund
- Funding Awesome Fund
- Future PLAY Fund
- Gail D’rordan Climate and the Arts Series Fund
- Gristone Wip Sustainability Fund
- Glen Powers and Melanie Wong Foundation Fund
- Harbinger Fund
- Hollyhock Scholarship Fund
- Hoops 4 Hoops Fund
- Hahen Fund/Anti Research Fund
- Jesse and Julie Rasch Foundation Fund
- Joel and Dana Solomon Fund
- John Kenneth Galbraith Prize Endowment Fund
- Jokabeca Foundation Fund
- Joy Family Giving Fund
- Language Documentation and Revitalization Fund
- Lights On Fund
- Lindawee Tracey Award Fund
- Lunapads Global Opportunity Fund
- MacDavies Fund
- McNall-Dobie Fund
- Mentoring Excellence BC Fund
- Michael and Amefa Humphries Earlhina Legacy Fund
- Nihen Fund
- Nanaimo Conservation Fund
- Natural Rural Association Fund
- New Literacies Fund
- Nonprofit Centers Fund
- Pacific Wild Fund
- Penny Performing Arts Fund
- dPaweways Fund
- Power of Giving Fund
- Prescription for Change Canada Fund
- Ross Luthers Charitable Fund
- Renewal Funds Charitable Giving Fund
- Reverence for Life Legacy Fund
- Richardson Family Fund
- Rideau Institute Research Fund
- Robert Huber Memorial Fund
- Robin Wheeler Legacy Fund
- SHLF Endowment Fund
- Sleena Wattershed Fund
- SkeenaWild Conservation Trust Fund
- Social Innovation Conference Series/Social Venture Institute Fund
- Sokol-Rubenstein Family Life Insurance Duff Fund
- Somas El Barrco Fund
- Stoad Family Giving Fund
- Stand Now Fund
- Strohan Harley-Legacy Foundation Fund
- Strategic Philanthropy Course Fund
- Street Kids International Fund
- Sustaining Design Fund
- Tegan and Sara Foundation Fund
- Ternwive Fund
- the deer crossing the art farm fund
- Tlatsini Conservation Endowment Fund
- Transformation Fund
- Tunk Island Protection Fund
- Tyte Roscovich Memorial Fund
- Type Solutions Society Fund
- V. Paul Lee Family Foundation
- Valerie Elia Fund
- Vancouver Bicycle Fund
- Vancouver Tomorrow Fund
- Vern’s Community Fund
- Wellbeing Fund
- Wilburforce Canadian Conservation Fund
- Wild Faith Fund
- YouMileIt Foundation Fund
- Programmatic Funds
- Arctic Marine Fund
- Arctic Strategy Fund
- BC Marine Focuss Fund
- BC Marine Planning Fund
- Canadian Food Funders Collaborative Capacity for Conservation Fund
- Coast Conservation Capacity Fund
- Community Investment Research & Development Fund
- Community-Based Marine Conservation Fund
- Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund for Remote Communities
- Emerging Northern Leadership Fund
- Great Bear Sea Fund
- Great Lakes Water Fund
- Indigenous Authority and Leadership Fund
- Indigenous Cultural Revitalization Fund
- Indigenous Ecotourism Opportunities Fund
- Indigenous Stewardship Fund
- Land-Based Wellness Fund
This year, the Ayalik Project, a project on the shared platform, supported a 12-day canoe expedition in the sub-arctic region of the Northwest Territories for 12 Nunavut youth. Here, the group is ready for another day of paddling!
MakeWay is made up of dedicated staff located across the country. We have offices in Toronto, Yellowknife, Vancouver, and a brand new office in Iqaluit. Many of our team members also work remotely, embedded in communities from Victoria to Ottawa and from Winnipeg to Saguenay.

In 2020

MakeWay Foundation hired
15 new team members
and MakeWay Charitable Society hired
69 new team members
resulting in a total of
275 staff at MakeWay

We welcomed
9 new projects
on the shared platform for a total of
65 current projects
This year we also welcomed our
150th project
in the history of the shared platform!
MakeWay’s **shared platform** is home to over 60 unique projects working on community-led solutions from coast to coast.

By joining the platform, projects benefit from the support of a mission-aligned community, charitable expertise, and shared resources, so they can focus on the work closest to their hearts.

**Shared Platform**

**Not Far From the Tree**
- Harvested over 10,000 lbs. of fruit from trees in and around urban Toronto, reducing food waste and supplying fresh fruit to community partners like local food banks and community kitchens.

**Climate Change Connection**
- Organized and delivered 5 Youth Conferences to 1,460 students and 122 educators to educate Manitobans about climate change.

**Ontario Youth Indigenous Partnership Project**
- Provided over $115,000 to 23 community initiatives led by Indigenous youth. The most ever distributed in one year!

**EntrepreneNorth**
- Completed its second entrepreneur support program cohort focused on Local Tourism Services and launched their third focused on Circumpolar Fashion.

**Our Living Waters**
- Presented a list of 250 shovel-ready water protection projects for the government to invest in as part of a stimulus package in the first 30 days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

*These 250 projects were ready to start work immediately, creating local jobs while also helping to advance environmental protection.*

**Northern Confluence Initiative**
- Created a podcast series tapping into local expertise to make food gardening accessible for First Nations communities in British Columbia’s Skeena region.

**The Existence Project**
- Developed a writing workshop to bring people from marginalized communities and the Greater Victoria community together to discuss issues of homelessness and housing. The workshop was adopted into the Greater Victoria School District curriculum and delivered at all secondary schools.

**Binners’ Project**
- Generated a total of $286,502 in income for binners to improve their economic opportunities and reduce the stigma they face as informal recyclable collectors. The project engaged a record 168 binners and diverted a considerable amount of waste from landfills.

**Don and Rose**
- Celebrate completing the Lake Erie Challenge. The event hosted by shared platform project Canadian Freshwater Alliance raises awareness for the importance of protecting Lake Erie’s ecosystems.

**East Scarborough Storefront**
- Celebrated 20 years of facilitating collaboration, building community, and supporting people to learn and create together in the Kingston Galloway/Orton Park neighbourhood.

**Our Living Waters**
- Presented a list of 250 shovel-ready water protection projects for the government to invest in as part of a stimulus package in the first 30 days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**These 250 projects were ready to start work immediately, creating local jobs while also helping to advance environmental protection.**
Taking the Nawalakw Culture Project from Vision to Reality

K’odi Nelson grew up surrounded by the language and customs of his ancestors. “I believe that’s where my strength comes from today,” K’odi says, “I grew up proud of who I was, and I was nourished by my grandparents and our culture.”

K’odi knows that many First Nations young people do not grow up with that support, and instead are still dealing with the waves of intergenerational trauma that have led to broken families, and young people not having pride in who they are and where they come from. “We need to restore pride and dignity in our children,” K’odi says, “Restore their spirit, and help them grow up with confidence.” K’odi believes that healing for First Nations youth begins with the resurrection of their language, and pride in their cultural heritage.

That is what is happening right now on a secluded estuary in the heart of Kwikwasut’inuxw Haxwa’ms Territory, in what is more commonly known as the Great Bear Rainforest on the Southern Central Coast of British Columbia. K’odi is spearheading the Nawalakw Culture Project, a healing centre focused on immersing youth in their native Kwak’wala language and the culture and traditions of their ancestors.

Read full story...

Project update: Nawalakw Culture Project helps nourish the community in more ways than one

Nawalakw has broken ground on their culture camp, which will serve as a gathering place, offering health and language programs for the community. Construction is continuing through the winter and six local Musgamagw Dzawada’enuxw youth are being employed as part of this historic build.

This year, the project also faced the Covid-19 pandemic, establishing a relief team to support local needs. Communities identified food security and local employment as top priorities. The Nawalakw team built and installed more than 100 garden boxes for elders in the Alert Bay area to strengthen food security as food supply lines were compromised. The team planted or delivered over 316 blueberry bushes, and 36 apple trees to three remote First Nations communities. Twelve local Indigenous fishers were hired, including two young students, and Nawalakw delivered over 1000 pounds of prawns and 1000 pounds of halibut to eight local Indigenous communities including the villages of Alert Bay, Gwayasdums, Hegams, and U’kwanalis. Nawalakw has now begun a coordinated community planning process for long-term food security.

We truly believe that this is going to be the flagship reconciliation project that Canada can point to and say, “Look what we did. Look what the philanthropic sector in Canada can do.”

Chief K’odi Nelson

K’odi Nelson, Nawalakw Program Director, helps distribute hundreds of pounds of prawns to community members of Alert Bay. With food supply lines compromised due to the pandemic, communities identified access to traditional foods as a priority. Nawalakw hired 12 local fishers and delivered the catch of over 1000 pounds of prawns and 1000 pounds of halibut to 8 Indigenous communities including Alert Bay, Gwayasdums, Hegams, and U’kwanalis.

Photo: Alisha Souch
The bright green shirts of Binners’ Project are a fixture at Vancouver summer festivals.

**Pictured:** Glenn sorting recycling at the PNE.

**Photo:** Lani Brunn

Elder George Brown of Alert Bay enjoys fresh vegetables from his new garden boxes. The boxes were grown and tended to with help from local youth like Adrienne Dawson, Karissa Glendale, Danya Harris and Giselle Alfred, pictured left.

**Photo:** Tanis Dawson for Nawalakw Culture Project

Learn more about the shared platform and innovative, environmental and social change projects.

* Projects that were active in FY 2020 but have since closed.

** Projects that joined the platform after FY 2020.

**Shared Platform Projects**

- Above Ground
- 400% Free World Canada
- Arctic Funders Collaborative
- Ayulik Project**
- BC Food Systems Network*
- BC Freshwater Alliance
- BE Initiative*
- Binners’ Project
- Canadian Biotechnology Action Network
- Canadian Freshwater Alliance
- Centre for Connected Communities
- Climate Change Connection
- Coalition for Artisan Trout
- Community Resilience to Extreme Weather, BC
- Connecting Youth with Scarborough Studios
- Dana Notes
- Diagnosic Genius
- Digital Justice Lab
- Digital NWT
- East Scarborough Storefront
- Ecoanalytics Research Initiative
- ENRICH*
- EntrepreNorth
- Environment*
- Farm at Work
- Firelight
- First Nations With Schools Collective
- Food Communities Network / Réseau Communautés nourricières
- Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW)
- GBEAR - Great Bear Education and Research
- Hidden Harvest Ottawa
- Indigenous Aquamental Marine and Environmental Works
- IndigenousVIE
- Indigenous Food Collective
- Indigenous Placemaking Council*
- Inner Activist
- Innovative Young Indigenous Leaders Apprenticeship
- Just Think It*
- Marine Fish Partnership for the North and South Coast
- Ntwetwele Culture Project
- Naturalized
- NorthwestPAC - Dasiqox Tribal Park Initiative
- Northern Birthwork Collective**
- Northern Cloutence Initiative
- Northern Youth Leadership
- Not Far From The Tree
- Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project
- Organizing for Change
- Our Living Waters
- OurVoices
- Powered by Data
- Pathways to Conservation**
- Project Neutral
- Qokak
- Reforest Solutions Implementation, Midwest
- Rest Youth
- Resilient Indigenous Leaders Network**
- Resilient Waters
- Rivers Without Borders Canada
- Round River Conservation**
- Sacred Seeds Collective
- Social for Social Entrepreneur Ontario
- Set to Cedar
- Share Reuse Repair Initiative
- Shift (R)Citizen to Investor (2021)
- Stillwater
- Slave River Coalition
- Social Venture Partners Toronto*
- summer21
- The Existence Project
- The Reading Partnership
- Together Project
- Turtle Alert Initiative
- Western Arctic Youth Collective**
- Yotuni

Shared platform project EntrepreNorth hosted an On-The-Land tourism gathering in Inuulit over the summer. Because of Covid-19 travel restrictions to the region, case numbers were almost zero over the summer months, and gatherings of locals could take place safely.

**Photo:** Chickweed Arts for EntrepreNorth

The bright green shirts of Binners’ Project are a fixture at Vancouver summer festivals.

**Pictured:** Glenn sorting recycling at the PNE.

**Photo:** Lani Brunn

Elder George Brown of Alert Bay enjoys fresh vegetables from his new garden boxes. The boxes were grown and tended to with help from local youth like Adrienne Dawson, Karissa Glendale, Danya Harris and Giselle Alfred, pictured left.

**Photo:** Tanis Dawson for Nawalakw Culture Project
How can we support our diverse projects and programs across Canada through the early stages of the pandemic and help prepare for the coming months?

This was the key question that MakeWay teams grappled with when the first wave of Covid-19 hit communities back in March.

We knew there was an urgent need for philanthropy to step up, to act with urgency, and to disrupt traditional ways of grantmaking by placing trust in community.

Before March 2020, MakeWay had little experience with emergency-response funding. However, we did have a lot of experience supporting community-led solutions.

As the pandemic brought many issues into sharp focus, namely the inequity of impacts on communities across the country, we knew that local responses and solutions needed support to continue serving diverse community needs.

Our role was to get community leaders and organizations the resources they needed quickly, because they know the best solutions for their local challenges.

And so, we launched the Rapid Response Fund for Changemakers.

The infrastructure to get funding into communities quickly was available thanks to our shared platform model.

The MakeWay shared platform is home to over 60 social and environmental initiatives each working on community-led solutions to pressing environmental and social challenges. In the early days of the pandemic, many were able to quickly adapt daily activities, creating innovative ways to provide support to communities. Others immediately felt the pandemic’s severe economic consequences and were forced to close their doors and cut their programming.

From local gardening podcasts to investing in pandemic-friendly youth leadership, clean energy recovery programs, and more, the Rapid Response Fund has been a crucial support for purpose-led initiatives working to help nature and communities thrive together even in unprecedented times.

Find out more about the 22 grants to projects on our shared platform, totaling $126,000 in funds going directly to communities in need.


Not Far From The Tree received a $5,000 grant from the MakeWay Rapid Response Fund for Changemakers to proceed with their produce harvests in Toronto safely, in the midst of Covid-19.
Board of Directors

“AzureWay has a unique way of bringing together different voices and views to create solutions for complex challenges. Social justice and the environment are inextricably linked, and the people that make up this organization work to advance those causes everyday.”

“MakeWay has a unique way of bringing together different voices and views to create solutions for complex challenges. Social justice and the environment are inextricably linked, and the people that make up this organization work to advance those causes everyday.”

“I have been continually inspired by MakeWay’s commitment to innovation within the philanthropic sector. MakeWay creates meaningful partnerships, whether with remote communities or the federal government, with truly beneficial impact on the environment and communities. I welcome a new generation of board members to MakeWay. The future looks good.”

MakeWay extends sincere thanks and gratitude to Jodi White and Ed Levy who are departing the Board.

NEW DIRECTOR

“I’m honoured and excited to join MakeWay because of the organization’s unique approach that centres the voices, leadership, and power that exist within communities. In joining the Board, I look forward to the opportunity to draw from my experiences in Canada and abroad managing community-led food access initiatives and stewarding capacity-building partnerships.”
Financial Results

MakeWay is home to MakeWay Foundation and MakeWay Charitable Initiatives Society. The following provides a summary of the combined FY2020 financial results for MakeWay.

### Revenue

- **Individuals & Families**
  - 7% 
  - $2,372,377

- **Governments**
  - 15% 
  - $5,254,159

- **Other Income**
  - 3% 
  - $860,901

- **Business**
  - 14% 
  - $4,754,298

- **Foundations, Charities, and Not-for-Profits**
  - 61% 
  - $20,857,787

**Total Revenue** $34,099,525

### Expenses

- **Donor Advised Funds**
  - 20% 
  - $7,460,127

- **General and Administrative**
  - 15% 
  - $6,536,114

- **Strategic Programs**
  - 15% 
  - $5,606,454

- **Shared Platform**
  - 47% 
  - $17,444,520

**Total Expenses** $37,047,515

See our annual audited financial statements
20 reasons to celebrate: MakeWay turns 20!

Wow, time flies. It has been two decades since this organization began as a scrappy environmental non-profit working on conservation in the Great Bear Rainforest. Given that we can’t get together to dance and share stories of old times, we thought we would share 20 reasons to celebrate (because we all need some good news these days):

1. Back in 2000, Tides Canada (now MakeWay) was born when a small group of caring and daring philanthropists including Carol Newell, asked “how can we bring more capital to tackle pressing environmental and social problems in Canada?”

2. Over the last 10 years, 59% of our funding in the Pacific region went to Indigenous-led initiatives, totalling over $29.2 million in grants to further people and place, thriving together.

3. We’re growing up— from a few staff in Vancouver to a team of 60 Foundation staff in Victoria, Metro Vancouver, Squamish, Roberts Creek, Winnipeg, Yellowknife, Iqaluit, the Greater Toronto Area, Saguenay, Ottawa, and beyond, and another 215 staff on MakeWay’s shared platform in communities from coast to coast to coast.

4. Recently, staff told our People & Culture teammates that their favourite thing about working at MakeWay is their connection to the vision and mission of helping to support nature and communities thriving together.

5. After the demands (oodles of paperwork, thousands of hours) of two multi-year CRA audits, we passed with two gold stars!


7. Four amazing Indigenous northern women (and Steve) lead MakeWay’s programmatic work in the North, living with and building trusted relationships with a diversity of communities and organizations across the three Canadian territories and the Inuit regions.

8. Diverse forms of government across Canada hold partnerships with MakeWay including municipal, provincial, federal, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis governments.

9. In 2017, an incredible woman, Toni Frisby, passed away, leaving a generous—and surprise – legacy gift to MakeWay in her estate. In life, Toni was dedicated to environmental protection in BC, and she saw the value in bringing people together for a common cause. We were inspired by her belief in our work, and strive to make her proud.

10. We have pet-friendly offices: perhaps you’ve seen our Vancouver pup, Dave, on our Instagram? Dave is often the first MakeWay team member to “vet” interviewees.

11. We joined the open data movement and proudly publish our grants quarterly as part of our commitment to transparency and sector innovation.

12. We piloted the shared platform model in Canada which has caught on as a cool and effective way to increase access for amazing changemakers to the charitable sector.

13. Over 160 changemaking initiatives have joined the family on MakeWay’s shared platform since its inception in 2000.

14. Our closest partners, staff, and board said that MakeWay is both “reliable and successful,” and “daring and imaginative.” Both a dynamic tension and a sweet spot we are happy to hold.

15. We’re the backbone home to five amazing funding Collaboratives in the Arctic, Northern Manitoba, and Ontario.

16. Canada’s first 100% customizable impact donor-advised fund to be invested for impact was launched by MakeWay in 2018 to bring charitable giving and impact investing together in one fund for more impact.

17. We were one of the very first organizations to move all of our investments to a fossil-fuel-free portfolio, invested with ESG (the latest environmental, social, and governance criteria) since 2006.

18. Our notorious claim-to-fame is that Alberta’s Premier Jason Kenney once called us a “pig in lipstick” — we don’t really get it either.

19. The partners and communities we work with have incredible stories to tell – and they are just getting going. Here are just a few.

20. In our 20th year, we changed our name from Tides Canada to MakeWay – an invigorating call to action, our new name invites us to all to work together and make way for what’s possible.
MakeWay is a national charity and public foundation with a goal to enable nature and communities to thrive together. We do this by building partnerships, providing solutions, grants, and services for the charitable sector across the country.