

Leta Best, Chair



Meet the Notary Foundation of BC

In 1985 the Provincial Legislature amended the *Notaries Act*, SBC Chapter 334, to create the Notary Foundation.

This non-profit organization receives interest earned on the general trust funds held by members of The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia.

The Notary Foundation receives and distributes over \$1 million each year. Most of the money is paid to the Legal Services Society, specifically to provide Legal Aid in the province.

In addition, the Notary Foundation makes funds available to The Society to assist with members' continuing education, applicants for membership, and the Notary Preparatory Course. This year, the Education Committee and a Task Force are revising the Notary Preparatory Course and Course Development Program.

The 12-member Board of Governors of the Notary Foundation of BC is comprised of:

- 8 members of the Board of Directors of The Society of Notaries Public;
- 1 representative from the Attorney General's office in Victoria;
- 2 Directors-at-Large, appointed by the Attorney General; and
- the Executive Officer.

The 8 members from The Society are elected by the Directors of The Society from among their ranks, for a 3-year period.

In addition to grants, the Notary Foundation funds scholarships and bursaries...

The Governors have the responsibility of guiding the foundation in its mandate to disperse the funds for the following purposes.

1. Legal education
2. Legal research
3. Legal aid
4. Education and continuing education for Notaries and for applicants who have enrolled to become BC Notaries
5. Establishing, operating, and maintaining law libraries in BC
6. Contributions to the special fund established under the *Notaries Act of BC*

G. W. (Wayne) Braid, Executive Officer of the foundation, is responsible for administration of the office, staff, and the diverse investment funds.

The Board of Governors meets quarterly to consider funding applications from various organizations and to set policy, review the foundation's financial status, and provide direction for the administration of the foundation.

Any individual or organization requesting funds for projects in the

above areas of law is encouraged to contact the Executive Officer of the Notary Foundation for further information. For an application, please visit www.society.bc.ca. Applications for major grants must be received prior to March 1 each year. The Grants Committee of the Notary Foundation may consider "small grants" (those under \$7500) at any time during the year.

In addition to grants, the Notary Foundation funds scholarships and bursaries each year for individuals attending UBC and taking certain law-related courses.

The Notary Foundation is currently in its 19th year of operation. During that time, the foundation has had the privilege of administering approximately \$13,254,101.74, generated from funds held in trust by BC Notaries.

Despite lower interest rates, our revenue has stayed positive. We have done well because of our negotiated agreements with our financial partners. We enjoy their continued support of the Notary Foundation and its programs through interest rates paid on our trust accounts. Without the support of the financial institutions, we would not have the funds available for the Legal Services Society of British Columbia, legal education, legal research, maintaining law libraries, and education for our Notaries.

Over the years, we have approved and funded many requests for grants, endowments, scholarships, and bursaries that have met our criteria.

These organizations received support from the Notary Foundation from 2003 to 2006.

- Advocacy Centre
- Alex Kwai Kit Chan
- Alzheimer Society of BC
- Amy Ka Wai Yeung
- BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
- BC Coalition to Eliminate Abuse of Seniors (BC CEAS)
- BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association
- BC Human Rights
- BC Law Institute
- BC Liberties Association
- BC Non-Profit Housing Association
- British Columbia Courthouse Library Society
- Camosun College Foundation
- Capilano College Foundation
- Core Conflict Resolution Society
- Downtown Eastside Residence
- GVP Victim Services
- Irina Zaharia
- Jamie Soo
- Kwantlen University College
- Langara College Foundation
- Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
- Navigation for Change
- North Shore Community Resources
- Open Learning Agency
- Penticton & Area Women's Centre
- Prince George Housing Coalition
- Prince Rupert Restorative Justice Program
- Pro Bono Law of BC
- Program on Dispute Resolution
- Representation Agreement Resource Centre
- SCOW Institute
- Sunshine Coast Women's Resources Society
- Tenants Rights Action Coalition
- The People's Law School
- Together Against Poverty (TAPS)
- University of Victoria, Faculty of Law
- Vancouver City College Foundation
- Vancouver Law School
- West Coast Domestic Workers' Association
- West Coast Environmental Law
- West Coast LEAF
- YWCA Crabtree Corner
- YWCA Family Mediation Practicum ▲