



### USF Mission Statement:

To provide opportunities for urban Aboriginal people on their journey to success through education and training, secondary and post-secondary scholarships and relief of poverty.

### Introduction

Urban Spirit Foundation is a registered charitable organization that exists to further the success and self-reliance of urban Aboriginal people in the Metro Vancouver region. In 2007, USF was created by Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS).

The Foundation's three core purposes include Education and Employment Training, Scholarship/Bursary Awards for secondary and post-secondary students and Short Term

Assistance that provides grants to urban Aboriginal organizations for community-based projects that enable urban Aboriginal individuals and families to get back on track in times of need.

USF's Board of Directors is a diverse group of reputable individuals with strong connections and commitment to the urban Aboriginal community. The Board is represented by the following community leaders:



USF President  
Susan Tatoosh  
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship  
Centre Society



Vice-President  
Jerry Adams  
Circle of Eagles Lodge Society



Secretary-Treasurer  
Stewart Anderson  
Vancity Savings Credit Union



Director  
George Chow  
Community Member



Director  
Ross Ramsey  
Ross Ramsey Associates  
Limited



Director  
Merv Thomas  
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS  
Network



Director  
Tabitha Geraghty  
Helping Spirit Lodge Society

USF is overseen by Executive Director John Webster and staff. The office is located at 108 – 100 Park Royal, West Vancouver, BC.

## Year in Review

Urban Spirit Foundation had a very busy and exciting year in 2014-15. The year began with scholarship presentations, short term assistance activities, the second charity golf tournament, football and hockey raffles, "Giving Tuesday" lunch and bake sale, the first USF donor recognition event and ended with the two Aboriginal Wellness Events.

### ACCESS/USF Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament

The second annual charity golf tournament that ACCESS and USF organized for the benefit of USF was very successful. The event was held at Country Meadows Golf Course in Richmond, BC on June 27, 2014. Eighty-four golfers took part as well as many guests, staff, volunteers and some of the USF and ACCESS board members.

Everyone had fun with the contests, fundraisers such as the popular silent auction, and all



Jason and Dave of NEC enjoying their golf day

were treated to a delicious evening buffet with relaxing background classical music by violinist David Rabinovich. A USF scholarship award recipient, Rae-Ann Lebrun, shared her personal and educational success story.

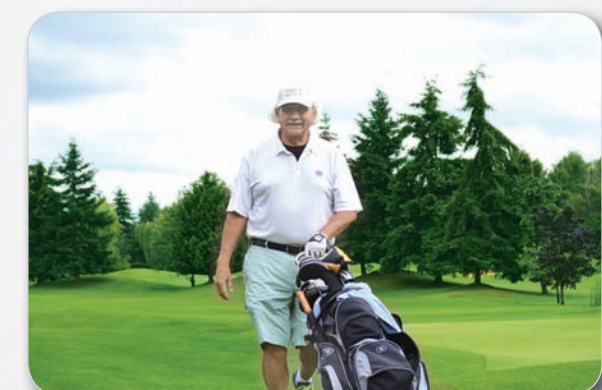
A third annual tournament is planned for Friday, June 26 at Country Meadows. We anticipate even greater success at that tournament which is one of USF's largest fundraisers of the year.



First place team trophy.



The 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament was won by New Relationship Trust team.



Golfer John Webster



## Giving Tuesday Fundraiser – A Canada Wide Charity Fundraising Event

Larry Webster, ACCESS Trades Coordinator volunteered his services at the 2014 USF Giving Tuesday fundraiser at head office. The ACCESS head office won 1st prize trophy for raising the most funds for the Giving Tuesday Initiative on December 2, 2014.



Larry Webster at 2014 Giving Tuesday fundraiser

## USF Recognition Event

Urban Spirit Foundation held a Donor Appreciation Event on February 26, 2015 at the Heritage Hall. The wine and appetizer event was an opportunity to thank donors for their ongoing support of USF. People were recognized by their levels of contribution and were presented with Aboriginal prints starting with the Frog level (\$1,000-\$4,999),

Wolf (\$5,000-\$9,999) and Killer Whale (\$10,000-\$49,999). Thirty-eight donors received recognition awards from 2007 to March 2015. Two students of past ACCESS programs related their student success stories, Jennifer Haggerty and Chase Panterbone.



Jerry Adams presents Killerwhale print to Calvin Fong of Vancouver Foundation



Jerry with Angie Poirier of Scotiabank and Wolf print



Chase Panterbone second student speaker



George Chow presents Frog print to Francesca de Bastiani



ACCESS student Jennifer Haggerty and Lynn White, MC

I like that wellness is being made accessible for the community.

I felt the event is a real gift to the public in many ways, especially in allowing participation of aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. The participants were so grateful for the event and all the practitioners were so happy to be there. This is a unique event and it would be great to see these more often.

## Aboriginal Wellness Events

USF was involved with the Aboriginal Wellness Events that occurred in Metro Vancouver with funding from BC Aboriginal Association of Friendship Centres and ACCESS from January to March, 2015 at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre. Nearly 500 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people attended the events. The event offered keynote speakers, free health

and wellness services and workshops such as nutrition, yoga, beading, medicinal salve making, massages, energetics, bodywork, reflexology, haircuts, makeovers, and readings to help people with stress, nutrition, lifestyle wellness, residential school/reconciliatory healing, and involvement in cultural activities.



Keynote speaker Dr. Maté



Participants take part in chair massages



Dreamcatcher workshop with Rita Lebrun on left



Haircutting and styling with Sameth and Annie



## USF Core Programs

### Scholarships Awards

Scholarships are provided to secondary and post-secondary Aboriginal students based on achievement. Urban Spirit Foundation disbursed scholarships to educational entities in 2014 with 6 urban Aboriginal scholarships awarded throughout Metro Vancouver as follows:

#### Surrey School District



*Tyler Dean 2014 USF Scholarship recipient from Surrey School District*



*Rae-Ann Lebrun 2014 USF Scholarship recipient from Surrey School District*

#### Vancouver School Board



*USF Scholarship recipient Francis Lockhart with Lucie Lacaille of USF*



*Robbie Desjarlais, second Vancouver School Board USF scholarship recipient*



*Laura Bell 2014 USF Scholarship recipient from Native Education College*

#### Native Education College



*Sheldon Martin USF Scholarship Award recipient from Native Education College with Elaine Clare of USF*

### Short Term Assistance

#### Back-to-School Backpack Program

Urban Spirit Foundation supports the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Children's Back-to-School Backpack Program. This initiative is geared toward providing school supplies for Aboriginal children in need in East Vancouver. USF's ultimate goal is to extend this program to Burnaby, New Westminster and Surrey areas.



#### Children's Christmas Program

USF contributes towards gifting to the Children's Christmas Program that is held at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre and provides Christmas food hampers and children's gifts to Aboriginal families in Vancouver. We would like to extend this program to include Aboriginal organizations in New Westminster and Surrey.



#### Employment & Training

USF supports ACCESS employment and training programs through funding obtained from funding sources like foundations and corporations.

### Contact

For further information on the Urban Spirit Foundation, to purchase Essential Skills DVDs and USF greeting cards or for online donations, please view our website at:

**[www.urbanspiritfoundation.com](http://www.urbanspiritfoundation.com)**

**or email us at:**

**[info@urbanspiritfoundation.com](mailto:info@urbanspiritfoundation.com)**

**Charitable Number:**

**82789 5368 RR0001**