

# 2015

## Community Report



education · innovation · excellence

 educationmatters  
Calgary's | trust | for public education



The best public education happens when the community participates in its development. Together, we build a strong public education system; the cornerstone of a healthy, vibrant community.

## Vision

A society that promotes and values excellence in public education.

## Mission

To promote and facilitate community engagement with public education, to enhance and enrich the education offered to all students – enabling them to fully realize their potential and become valued and contributing global citizens.

## Mike Shaikh

Board Chair



EducationMatters was created to engage the community in public education and to secure additional financial support for educational enhancements to help Calgary's students succeed. I personally believe education is a fundamental component in a healthy, prosperous society and it is critical for the success of our nation.

As we enter our twelfth year as an organization, we reflect on the generosity of our many supporters who have made such a difference in the lives of our students. This past year has been challenging for many in our city and EducationMatters has not escaped the far-reaching effect of our current economic climate.

We continue to seek ways to increase our effectiveness and efficiency. The Board of Governors recently approved a renewed strategic plan for the next three years which reinforces our commitment to provide the very best educational experience for our students. Last year, donor support raised \$1.2 million, which allowed EducationMatters to distribute over \$800,000 in grants and student awards and continue to increase endowed funds that will help students for many years to come. You will read more about some of the projects you supported in the pages of this report.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, EducationMatters and Calgary families, thank you for your generous support.

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“We assist donors in aligning their wish to support children’s academic success with the current needs of students.”



## Marilyn Field

Executive Director

One of the keys to building a robust community lies in providing the best advantages for our children and youth. With a strong foundation, we are able to grow, prosper and lead happy lives as engaged citizens. EducationMatters actively pursues ways to provide additional and enhanced opportunities for Calgary students by seeking support from within the community. As our city, province and the world changes, so do the needs of elementary, middle and high school students.

Thanks to the support of donors like you, we were able to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of students this past year. We gave 28 grants for educational enhancements and provided 220 students with awards. With donor support, EducationMatters provided more schools with financial assistance to transform outdated libraries into modern, welcoming learning commons and helped to create memorial legacies that will benefit a variety of initiatives for years to come.

We look forward to moving ahead with new initiatives for an ever evolving population of students with increasingly complex needs. Thank you to everyone for generously supporting students and for helping to build strong communities.



## Ready to Learn

The addition of stationary bikes in the classroom has had an incredible impact on students. The bikes help reduce stress, improve behaviour and help to refocus students, ensuring they are prepared for success at school.

## Bowcroft School

### Spark Bikes: “In the Green Zone and Ready to Learn”

Tanya Bonham, a kindergarten teacher at Bowcroft School, is always on the lookout for new and innovative ways to encourage her students to personalize their learning experiences. She was ecstatic when a former colleague told her about Spark Bikes – a tool the Halifax Regional School Board incorporated into elementary classrooms to provide students with a way of managing stress or an abundance of energy that distracts them from learning. Tanya thought the bikes may be a good fit with Bowcroft School’s culture of self-regulation for students. She was right, and with support from EducationMatters, the bikes were brought into the classroom.

Bowcroft School serves a diverse range of students with complex needs, and uses a system of colour-coded behavioural “zones” to help students develop an awareness of their emotional state and identify when they need to take action to return to their “green zone.” When a student is feeling stressed or distracted, they simply hop on the bike for a few minutes to help refocus. The bikes are small, stationary, and silent. Students self-regulate their usage and manage their behaviour without being a disruption to the rest of the class or physically removing themselves from the classroom. The result is a more active, engaged student. “When they’re back in the green zone, they’re ready to learn,” says Tanya.

Spark Bikes have only been at Bowcroft School for a short time, and teachers and parents have noticed positive changes in students’ demeanor. Initiatives like these provide students with a tool to gain independence in their learning and the skills to acknowledge, identify, and regulate their behaviour.



## Leveraging Opportunity

By providing students with the tools they need to communicate and make connections with each other independently, time and resources can be reallocated to other learning areas, allowing teachers to continue to develop fresh and innovative approaches to the ELL curriculum.



## Belfast School

### Using Inclusive Technology to Leverage Learning

Every student wants to feel included in their classroom and the first day in a new school can be challenging. For students like Nandor, whose second language is English, the first day was especially daunting. He and his family came to Canada from Hungary earlier this year. Using special iPads, students quickly learned that Nandor loves sharks, and his favourite meal is spaghetti.

This technology breaks down the barriers between different learners and opens lines of communication between parents and teachers by offering a way to connect. Nandor met his first friend by using iPads equipped with a translation app, funded by EducationMatters' discretionary grant funds. The students, curious about their new classmate, spoke into the iPad, and then passed it to Nandor who could hear the translation. Students were excited that they could instantly communicate. With innovative language learning applications, students do not have to wait for translators and are empowered to take charge of their own learning.

After a few short weeks, Assistant Principal Jana El-Guebaly and her team witnessed the vocabularies and confidence of her 40 English Language Learners (ELL) expand significantly. In addition to the benefits in the classroom, children can continue learning at home by utilizing the same applications on their own personal devices, while teachers provide parents with real-time feedback on their children's progress.



## Better Together

Contributions like the grant to William Reid School really do make a difference – it's a direct investment in the future of our children.

The relationship between William Reid and Mayland Heights Schools grew out of similarities, but was strengthened by differences and what both saw as the opportunity to collaborate and inspire each other to make their communities better.

## William Reid and Mayland Heights Schools Supporting Schools

The story of how a great relationship began between William Reid (Grades K-4) and Mayland Heights (Grades K-6) Schools is unique. Both are French Immersion, encourage a culture of nutrition and healthy living, and both have student councils where students meet twice a month in a democratic process to develop innovative ways to make their schools and communities better.

Aliki Avdicos and Darcy Wiebe, principals at William Reid and Mayland Heights respectively, decided to bring their councils together so students could exchange ideas on improving quality of life and promoting healthy initiatives at their schools. This interaction inspired students at William Reid to hold a school-wide contest to collect new, reusable water bottles and gently used French books for their friends at their sister school, Mayland Heights.

Each year, William Reid School receives a donor supported grant from EducationMatters to enhance learning for students – be it to purchase innovative technologies or books to update their school library. In 2015, Aliki Avdicos and her staff found their school did not require the available funds from the grant but knew that Mayland Heights had a project in mind that could use some financial help. They were happy to direct the grant where it would have the greatest impact.

Mayland Heights used the funds to support Girl Power, an extension of the student voice council to empower female students to become advocates for their own learning. Each month, guest speakers visit the group to discuss issues they are facing and ways they can help improve their communities. Darcy has seen how his students benefit from the holistic support they receive from programs like Girl Power, and is grateful for community support.

## Building Connections

Students are forging stronger connections with their peers and their community, while developing a deeper sense of self, something especially meaningful for teenage students. Maskisinihêkwin project creator, Theresa McDonnell, is excited to see her students embrace the knowledge they have gained and cultivate the relationships they have built.



## Louis Riel School

### Maskisinihêkwin: Calgary Board of Education Moccasin Project

Every year, the Calgary Board of Education holds a system-wide pow-wow celebrating First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. When Theresa McDonnell, an Aboriginal Learning Leader, noticed many of her students were missing from the celebration, she discovered they were unable to attend because they did not have the traditional moccasins needed to participate. For Theresa, this presented an opportunity to provide an authentic learning experience while removing barriers preventing students from engaging with their community. With support from EducationMatters, Theresa was inspired to create Maskisinihêkwin, a project for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students at Louis Riel School to create their own moccasins.

Three times a week, students gather to learn from community members as they sew traditional Tsuu T'ina moccasins in anticipation of the next pow-wow. For these students, it's about the process rather than the end product. They have the opportunity and space to create, to celebrate their cultural heritage, and personalize their learning. Theresa and her colleagues have noticed the positive impact these sessions have had on their students.

"This project encourages a sense of community and learning as elders pass on their knowledge to their students," Theresa says, "...for so many [years] we did traditional instruction and learning inter-generationally and communally...opportunities like this, for students to learn in the way that has been done in their families for so long is really important." The Maskisinihêkwin project helps to connect students with their heritage in a simple, yet authentic way.





Peter Giang

Dr. Charles Samuels

## Lasting Impact

You can help have a lasting impact on Calgary's students by supporting the Pamela Jane Hardy Memorial Award.

To donate, visit [educationmatters.ca/pamela](http://educationmatters.ca/pamela)

## Pamela Jane Hardy Memorial Award

### A Lasting Legacy

Pamela Jane Hardy was a dedicated teacher and mathematician who excelled athletically. Her passion for teaching and regular time spent at her favourite dog park demonstrated her passion for learning and being physically active. After leaving the teaching profession in 2009, Pamela went to work with her husband, Dr. Charles Samuels, at the Centre for Sleep & Human Performance in Calgary's southeast. As in her teaching career, Pamela's engaging nature immediately had a positive impact on the team at the clinic.

Pamela passed away in 2014, but her life will have a lasting legacy through the Pamela Jane Hardy Memorial Award at EducationMatters. The award was established by Pamela's family to support a high school student who excels mathematically and athletically – two areas where Pamela was very passionate – in order to offset the cost of a university education.

The first recipient of the award is Forest Lawn High School student, Peter Giang. Peter's passion for volleyball, rugby and basketball in addition to achieving excellence in his academic studies make him an excellent fit for the award. Peter's dedication will support him as he progresses through the Bachelor of Commerce program at the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business.

According to Dr. Samuels, the competition for the award was significant. All applicants demonstrated a high degree of excellence in the areas most important to Pamela. Pamela's family looks forward to seeing the award grow and continue to have a lasting impact on Calgary's students.

In 2015  
donors provided more than

**\$1.2 million**

to support

Literary  
Initiatives

Financial &  
Basic Needs

Educational  
Technology

Healthy  
Living

Career &  
Life Skills

We distributed more than  
**\$400,000**  
in program grants



We provided over  
**\$400,000**  
in student awards

Supporting excellence  
in education since 2003

We granted almost  
**\$9 M**  
in program grants  
and student awards



We built endowment  
funds of  
**\$4.6 M**  
thanks to community support



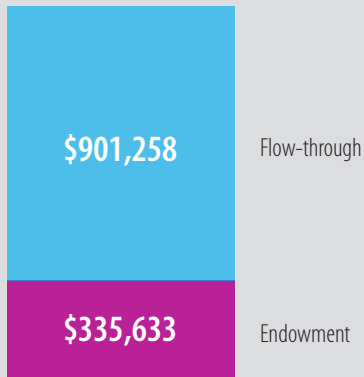
We secured over  
**\$12 M**  
in gifts  
from the community



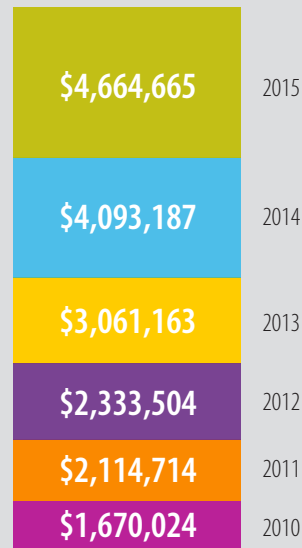
We supported  
an estimated  
**400,000**  
students and their families



### Gifts by Type

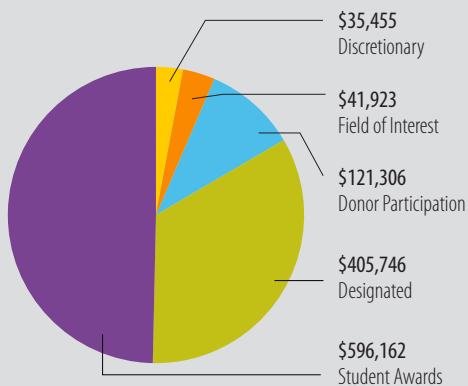


### Endowment Fund Market Values



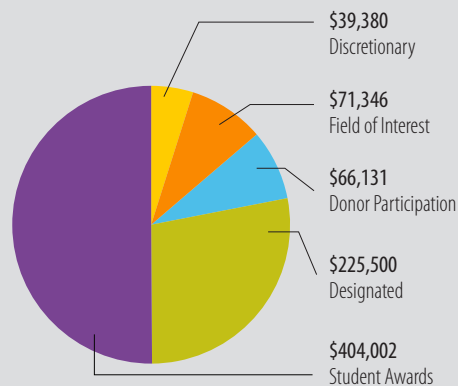
### Gifts by Fund Type

Total \$1,200,592



### Grants by Fund Type

Total \$806,359



# 2015

## Student Awards & Program Grants

Award	Disbursements	Award	Disbursements
Aaron Family Scholarship	\$900	Hopewell Scholarship	\$20,700
Aboriginal Students Awards	\$1,000	Hugh Robertson Science Award	\$500
Accomplished Angels Student Awards	\$15,000	Integro Legacy Post Secondary Scholarships	\$16,183
Arrata Family Award for New Canadians	\$2,000	Ivy & Len Freeston Student Award	\$1,000
Avis Hibbard Bursaries (Physical Education and Social Studies)	\$1,500	James Fowler School Award	\$400
Benjamin (Ben) Albert Awards	\$12,500	Jennifer Ellen Shepherd Memorial Award	\$6,250
Bennett Jones Scholarship	\$250	Jim Hoeppner Award	\$1,500
Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship	\$1,000	Joan Ethier Women in Science Scholarships	\$17,587
Bob Clarke Memorial Scholarship	\$175	John Bancroft Memorial Award	\$450
Bowness Historical Society Award	\$500	Keith Yu Memorial Scholarship	\$500
Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth Student Awards	\$2,635	Kermet Archibald & Jacoba Van Den Brink Entrance Bursaries at the Calgary Foundation	\$107,500
Calgary Entrepreneur Organization (CEO) Student Award	\$4,000	Laine McLeod Memorial Scholarship	\$500
Calgary Heritage Lions Club Scholarship	\$1,000	Marguerite Patricia P. Bannister Memorial Degree Awards at the Calgary Foundation	\$66,000
Calgary-Klein Student Award	\$1,500	Marjorie Taylor Memorial Scholarships	\$1,000
CBE Staff Association Awards	\$11,500	Mark Christie Memorial Scholarships	\$1,500
City of Calgary Degree Granting Scholarships	\$18,700	Marnie Whitehead Memorial Scholarship	\$450
City of Calgary Post Secondary Scholarships	\$5,100	Marofke Family Aberhart Music Scholarship	\$1,000
David E. Mitchell Award	\$2,000	Maureen Langston Memorial Award	\$500
David James Anderson Memorial Award	\$2,000	Maurice A. Spring Scholarships (Academic and Vocational)	\$4,000
Dom Chieffo Memorial Award	\$1,150	McKillop Student Awards	\$1,000
Doris Donald Memorial Bursary in Fine Arts	\$300	MW & JR Tebo Memorial Journalism Award	\$654
Dr. Gordon Higgins Student Award	\$500	Naomi Johnson Award	\$1,750
Durkie Arts Award	\$1,000	Pamela Jane Hardy Memorial Award	\$1,000
Dustin Peers Memorial Visual Arts Awards	\$4,500	Richard Dunn Music Scholarship	\$1,125
Dynacorp Fabricators Welding Scholarship	\$2,500	Rick Theriault Outstanding Athletic Contribution Award	\$500
E. George Brigden Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Ruth Ursula Leipziger Scholarship	\$1,000
Edith Berger Memorial Scholarship	\$500	Shawn Whitney Memorial Award	\$193
EducationMatters Career & Technology Studies (CTS) Scholarships	\$3,000	Southland Transportation Scholarship	\$2,000
EducationMatters Future Leaders Awards	\$2,000	Steven Irving Memorial Music Scholarships	\$1,500
Ena Paul Memorial Award	\$50	Susy Devlin Memorial Awards	\$1,200
ENMAX Environmental Scholarships (Leadership and Trades)	\$4,000	Teens Against Drinking & Driving (TADD) Award	\$350
F. Margaret Milligan Scholarship	\$500	Tenaris Merit Awards	\$7,000
Frank Whipple Memorial Bursary	\$1,000	Terry Allen Leadership Award	\$400
Gary Weimann Award for Community Service	\$500	Thomas Moore Memorial Bursary	\$1,000
George Morley Memorial Scholarship	\$250	Thomas Walter Morrish Memorial Scholarship	\$600
Green & Gold Awards (Academics, Athletics, Citizenship, Fine & Performing Arts, Chris Pfoh Memorial CTS and Malwyn Jones Memorial)	\$15,000	Tom Inkster Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000
Hal Winlaw Health & Nutrition Legacy Award	\$500	Verna Hart Toole Legacy Award	\$1,500
Haworth & Heritage Business Interiors Architecture/Interior Design Scholarships	\$1,000	Western Canada Leader of Tomorrow Award	\$1,500
Henry Wise Wood Class of 1970 Scholarships	\$1,200	William Aberhart Alumni Scholarships	\$3,600
Henry Wise Wood Warriors Legacy Endowment Scholarships (Academics, Citizenship/Community Spirit, Fine Arts and Most Improved Student)	\$2,500	William Keir MacGougan Memorial Bursaries	\$1,400
		<b>Total Student Awards Disbursed</b>	<b>\$404,002</b>



Program	Disbursements	Program	Disbursements	Program	Disbursements
A.E. Cross School: Opportunities in Business	\$5,000	Father Lacombe High School: Athletics Program	\$80	Twelve Mile Coulee School: Debate Club	\$2,030
Abbeydale School: Creating a Reading Movement	\$8,047	Forest Lawn High School: Alberta Skills Competition	\$900	West Springs School: G.R.O.W. Campaign	\$3,396
Alex Munro School: Outdoor Garden	\$318	Ghost River Rediscovery Society (GRR): Rediscovery		Western Canada High School: Debate Club	\$2,029
All Boys School: Literacy Program	\$1,900	with Schools (RWS)	\$4,000	Wildwood School: Literacy for ALL	\$6,167
Belfast School: Using Inclusive Technology		EducationMatters: Equipment Purchases	\$5,037	William Aberhart High School: Literacy Centre Project	\$6,167
to Leverage Learning	\$4,136	Henry Wise Wood High School: Alberta Skills Competition	\$260	Woodlands School: Health & Wellness Initiative	\$4,000
Bowcroft School: Sparks Bikes	\$7,500	Jack James High School: Outdoor Education	\$9,567		
Bowness High School: Athletics Program	\$1,670	James Fowler High School: Alberta Skills Competition	\$500		
Calgary Youth Attendance Centre/West View School:		James Fowler High School: Kaiti Perras Love of Dance			
First Nations Medicine Wheel Program	\$2,801	Memorial Fund Grant	\$3,434		
Calgary Youth Attendance Centre/West View School:		James Short Memorial School: Library Collection			
Keeping Youth in School	\$5,000	Replenishment	\$4,750		
CBE: Campus Calgary 2School Program	\$7,019	Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta (JASA):			
CBE: Entrepreneurial Artist Program	\$14,500	Entrepreneurial Artist Program	\$33,000		
CBE: Exploratory Programs – Student Transportation	\$4,900	Keeler School: Community, Sensory and Social			
CBE: Fuel for School Program	\$46,436	Interaction (CSSI)	\$4,000		
CBE: International Youth Leadership Summit 2015	\$10,073	Lester B. Pearson High School: CBE Pride			
CBE: Leader in Me Program	\$41,734	in the Properties Event	\$10,000		
CBE Leadership & Learning:		Lester B. Pearson High School: Financial Literacy Club	\$546		
Viviane Robinson Presentation	\$3,800	Lord Beaverbrook High School: Alberta Skills Competition	\$650		
CBE: Supply Chain Program	\$58,995	Louis Riel School: Technology Learning Fund for			
CBE Library to Learning Commons: Resource Books	\$4,731	Tomorrow's Leaders	\$20,000		
CBE Area V: Aboriginal Education – Maskisihēkwīn/		Mayland Heights School: Guest Speaker	\$818		
CBE Moccasin Project	\$6,800	National Sport School: Technology Resources	\$238		
Connaught School: ELL Literacy Through Music Program	\$1,900	Notre Dame High School: Athletics Program	\$200		
Connaught School: Vocabulary Books	\$2,231	Queen Elizabeth High School: Athletics Program	\$105		
Connaught School: Project Green Thumb (PGT)	\$6,500	Queen Elizabeth High School: Debate Club	\$2,029		
Dr. Oakley School: Enhancing Effective Literacy		Senator Patrick Burns School: SPB Courtyard Project	\$4,000		
Intervention for Students with Complex Learning		Sir John A. Macdonald School: Memorial Bench			
Disabilities (Phase 2)	\$9,469	for Jason Louie	\$318		
Ernest Manning High School: Alberta Skills Competition	\$130	Sir John Franklin School: Library Enhancement Initiative	\$7,000		
Ernest Morrow School: Engaging Students		Sir Winston Churchill High School: Athletics Program	\$255		
In Their Own Learning	\$3,197	Sunnyside School: Quest Theatre Residency	\$2,252		
Falconridge School: Authentic Experiences to Create		Thomas B. Riley School: Program Fees for			
Opportunity and Equity in Oral Language Development	\$3,000	Financial Need Students	\$2,842		

**Total Program Grants Disbursed      \$402,357**

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