



The Muttart Foundation

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MUTTART FOUNDATION GIVES IMAGINE CANADA FINANCIAL BOOST

Imagine Canada, a leading pan-Canadian umbrella organization for the voluntary sector, has received an unexpected \$200,000 boost through a grant from Edmonton's Muttart Foundation.

The grant, initiated by Muttart's Board of Directors, is intended as support for Imagine Canada's general operations.

"Our Foundation has long been a strong proponent and supporter of organizations that serve the charitable sector," said Muttart President Joy Calkin. "Imagine Canada's recently released plans to strengthen its connections to the sector and its services to the sector persuaded our Directors that we should support these goals."

The Foundation did not seek or wait for an application before making the grant, Dr. Calkin said. "We were aware of some of the financial challenges facing the organization, and we are critically aware of the need for the organization to succeed," she said.

Dr. Calkin said there are more than 83,000 charities in Canada and another estimated 87,000 not-for-profit organizations serving their communities. The potential influence of such large numbers – along with those who support them – is immense, she said, adding that the potential can be realized only when they work together on issues of common concern.

"This is the critical role that Imagine Canada can and must play," Dr. Calkin said. "It must serve as the hub, speaking out as a voice for the sector, and providing organizations with information and support.

Don McCreesh, volunteer Chair of the Board of Directors, Imagine Canada, thanked the Muttart Foundation for its vote of confidence: "These funds will enable us to effectively implement our new governance model which clarifies that we serve both the sector as a whole and our members. We have been encouraged by the positive response of senior sector leaders who have affirmed our role: looking into and out for Canada's charities and nonprofits.



Investing in Communities for 50 Years

Established in 1953 by Merrill D. Muttart and Gladys E. Muttart

Dr. Calkin said that the Muttart grant was intended to help ease some of the financial challenges facing Imagine Canada, particularly as it embarks upon a search for a new CEO. “The focus of Imagine’s Board of Directors must be on the future,” she said.

Muttart also hopes to work with other funders to ensure a solid financial base as a new CEO takes office. “Many funders across the country – whether private foundations, community foundations, United Ways or governments – have consistently stressed the need for a strong voluntary sector. Supporting infrastructure organizations such as Imagine Canada will help us toward that goal,” Dr. Calkin said.

This latest grant brings to almost \$1.5 million the funding that Muttart has provided to Imagine Canada and its predecessor, the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy.

Muttart has also provided support to other infrastructure organizations, including the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, the Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks, Volunteer Canada and local volunteer centres, among others.

The Muttart Foundation was founded in 1953 by the late Gladys and Merrill Muttart. Its funding priorities include Strengthening the Charitable Sector and Early Learning and Child Care.

Imagine Canada is a pan-Canadian registered charity with offices in Toronto, Ottawa and Calgary. It was founded in 2005 to promote strong and sustainable charitable and nonprofit institutions. Its predecessor organizations were the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and the Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations. Its research and knowledge resources, and public policy activities promote a strong voluntary sector, and facilitate increased philanthropy and public engagement.

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