



# Funding for Outdoor Play in Canada

Environmental Scan & Summary Report

LAWSON  
FOUNDATION



## Contents

Introduction .....	3
Key Findings .....	4
How We Studied the Funding Environment for Outdoor Play .....	5
Who Funds—or Could Fund—Outdoor Play? .....	6
What Drives the Funding of Outdoor Play? .....	7
Themes and Trends .....	9
Tell Us More: More Data, Better Storytelling .....	9
Identify Common Goals: Outdoor Play as Both a Means and an End .....	10
Consider the Community Level .....	11
Address Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) .....	12
How has COVID-19 Affected the Funding Environment? .....	12
Collaborating through Networks to Advance Outdoor Play .....	13
Conclusion .....	14
Notes .....	15
Appendix: Potential Funders of Outdoor Play .....	16

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### Acknowledgements

*The Lawson Foundation and Outdoor Play Canada projects and activities encompass all traditional territories of the Indigenous Nations of Turtle Island, within the land we now call Canada.*

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Outdoor play is essential for healthy child development, with positive impacts on every aspect of health: physical, mental, social, and environmental.<sup>1-5</sup> And yet, children are spending more time indoors and less time in outdoor play.<sup>2</sup>

**Outdoor Play Canada** and its partners are concerned about this trend. In 2015, they developed and released the **Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play** to highlight the unequivocal benefits of outdoor play and the risks of keeping children indoors. This statement, which has since amassed over 400 supporters, has had a significant and sustained impact across Canada:

- It informed a British Columbia Supreme Court decision on outdoor play.<sup>6</sup>
- It has spawned many research projects and outdoor play programs and interventions, in Canada and internationally.<sup>7-9</sup>
- It led the Lawson Foundation to adopt outdoor play as a strategic impact area and to commit \$10 million (to date) to projects dedicated to increasing children's outdoor play.<sup>10,11</sup>

Together, these events have galvanized those with a passion for outdoor play and provided them with a common direction and purpose: promoting the healthy growth and development of children through play in harmony with the outdoor environment.

Actions to further this purpose require funding, and funding for this rapidly expanding and important sector remains limited. To explore why this is the case and what might be done to increase funding opportunities, the Lawson Foundation carried out the following steps:



**1. Conducted an environmental scan to identify current, and learn about potential, funders.**



**2. Led an informal survey of grant seekers to gather intelligence.**



**3. Conducted targeted, in-depth interviews with 16 current and potential funders identified through steps 1 and 2.**

This report shares the findings of this work, in particular the themes and trends that emerged from the interviews with funders. Those funders are quoted throughout. If you are a grant seeker, this report will help you better understand some perspectives, priorities, and aspirations of funders at this time. If you are a funder, this report will make you more aware of outdoor play as an issue that connects and overlaps with so many others, and of the different ways your funding can have an impact. Critically, this report aims to stimulate conversation between funders and grant seekers to increase their connections and collaboration, so that the vital work of engaging children in outdoor play can flourish.





## Key Findings

- Funding of outdoor play is driven by interest in an issue, interest in a community, and/or the passion and commitment of an individual champion. Issue-focused support is most common and tends to be the most stable over time. Champion-dependent support is common but vulnerable.
- Community engagement and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) are areas of opportunity. Outdoor play can be a means to strengthen and empower communities, but a narrow focus on infrastructure is insufficient. Grant seekers whose projects make play more accessible can use the JEDI outcomes of their projects to develop relationships with new funders.
- Outdoor play has intrinsic value, and it can serve as a vehicle to address issues in many areas, from health and education to the environment to JEDI. Grant seekers must help funders identify the linkages and overlap between outdoor play and their core issues and impact goals.
- More data and better storytelling about the outcomes and value of outdoor play would help attract new funders while giving current funders a deeper understanding of the impact they are making. Robust data and evaluation are needed to identify and scale up the most effective models for outdoor play.
- COVID-19 has shifted funders' priorities and opened new areas of interest. It has also increased the general public's appreciation for, and interest in, the outdoors. Outdoor play can help mitigate the pandemic's negative effects and contribute to recovery.
- Networks that bring funders and grant seekers together can facilitate collaboration and the sharing of resources.

# How We Studied the Funding Environment for Outdoor Play



## Environmental Scan

Imagine Canada's [Grant Connect](#) provides data, including gift records, programs, and priorities, for Canadian grantmakers across sectors. In our scan of Grant Connect, we looked for funders:

- who supported one or more areas or issues related to outdoor play (e.g., children and youth, parks and recreation, environment, conservation, outdoor education, physical and mental health);
- with median gifts above \$10,000.

We also looked for funders whose donation records and/or program descriptions demonstrated a potential interest in outdoor play—for example, a funder in “conservation” who also made significant gifts to “children and youth.” We supplemented our scan of Grant Connect with information from other publicly available sources, such as grant seeker and funder websites and press materials. See the Appendix (page 16) for a list of all the potential funders of outdoor play we identified.



## Survey

An informal survey of grant seekers was used to gather intelligence. It was created in Survey Monkey and publicized via Outdoor Play Canada's newsletter (400 recipients) and social media channels. The survey was open from February 8 to February 21, 2021, and garnered 80 responses (50 English, 30 French). This self-selected sample of outdoor play grant seekers was not representative: some groups were over-represented (e.g., early childhood educators in Quebec) and others were under-represented or not represented at all (e.g., there were no respondents from Saskatchewan or Manitoba).



## Interviews

Targeted interviews were conducted with 16 current and potential funders of all types: public and private foundations, corporations (a maker of outdoor gear, a natural resources development firm, a financial institution, an insurance company), government departments, and research agencies.

# Who Funds—or Could Fund—Outdoor Play?

**Outdoor play is a relatively specialized funding area. A search for “outdoor play” in Grant Connect returned only three results.**

Current funders of outdoor play are often more interested in, or more aware of, different but related issues; their support of outdoor play is secondary or tangential. For example, makers of outdoor equipment who partner with environmental organizations to increase children’s access to outdoor experiences are also increasing opportunities for outdoor play. Funding the greening of an urban schoolyard creates both more green space and more opportunities for high-quality play.

The following three types of funders support outdoor play and related issues:

## Foundations

**Philanthropic foundations** are registered charities that make grants to charitable organizations.

Foundations are either public or private.

- Public foundations are governed by a board of directors with a majority at arm’s-length (i.e., unrelated to one another). Public foundations receive their funds from a variety of sources at arm’s-length including individuals, corporations, and governments, and they may continue to solicit donations to the endowment (i.e., the investment fund that supports the foundation in the long-term).
  - A community foundation is a public foundation that responsively serves a particular geographic region.
- Private foundations are controlled by a single donor or a board of directors with a majority who are not at arm’s-length (i.e., they may be related to one another or have controlling interests) and their funding is usually generated by an individual, a family, or a corporation.
  - Family foundations or trusts typically generate their funding from a single donor or family and may grant in areas of interest to the benefactor(s).

## Corporations

Whether or not they have a foundation, corporations make financial gifts and/or they may sponsor organizations and events through their marketing departments. Corporations often choose their areas of interest based on the needs of the communities where they do business, where their employees live, or employee engagement programs.

## Governments

Federal, provincial/territorial and municipal funding is often related to the priorities of the government of the day, and the need to respond to public concerns. Agencies within government often have a well-defined mandate and may issue requests for funding proposals.

# What Drives the Funding of Outdoor Play?



## Issues

Based on our findings, the largest driver of investment in outdoor play, and in related issues or causes whose outcomes overlap with outdoor play, is sustained interest in an issue. Funders who aren't funding outdoor play directly are instead supporting outdoor play as the means to an end, such as increasing opportunities for recreation and physical activity, supporting environmental conservation and stewardship, strengthening mental health, and more.

The issues of interest to foundations are related to their mandate or dictated by their priorities. A community foundation's granting priorities may be driven by the interests of its donors, the needs of the local community, or the needs of a specific demographic group (e.g., single parents, Indigenous youth). Corporate foundations may have priorities related to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations, such as mitigating the environmental impacts of their operations.

Governments and government agencies act primarily for the sake of public health and the public good.

### Issues that Connect to Outdoor Play

The following issues have goals that overlap with those of outdoor play:

- **Environment** (conservation, stewardship, outdoor education, greening spaces)
- **Education** (school playgrounds, outdoor learning, early childhood education)
- **Children and Youth** (as a demographic group)
- **Health and Wellbeing** (physical and mental)
- **Sports and Recreation** (parks, playgrounds, recreation programs)
- **Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)** (meeting the needs of underserved communities, anti-racism initiatives, accessibility)

The potential funders of outdoor play identified through our scan (see Appendix, page 16) demonstrated an interest in one or more of these issues.



## Communities

Many funders are motivated by a desire to support a community and the people who live there; the community's interests and needs become the issues of interest. Community foundations support community interests by definition, while corporations do so out of a desire to be good corporate citizens in the communities and regions where they do business. This desire leads banks, for example, to sponsor local hockey teams, breakfast programs, or access-to-arts programs. Corporations are also driven by employee giving and engagement. While issue-focused support for outdoor play tends to be the most stable over time, funding motivated by community engagement is an area of opportunity. Many private foundations are also particularly interested in communities.



### Champions

Much of the current funding is directed or highly influenced by a champion of outdoor play—someone in a corporation, foundation, or government agency who recognizes and understands the benefits, short-term outcomes, and long-term impacts of outdoor play.

Champions can play a crucial role in generating interest and investment. Their deep understanding and commitment are tremendous assets. If a funding agency changes priorities, for example, a champion of outdoor play for healthy child development in the agency can work with grant seekers to connect new priorities back to shared outcomes of outdoor play.

However, our interviews revealed concerns about “champion dependence” among all types of funders. Funding for outdoor play that is too reliant on the presence and efforts of a champion is vulnerable. When the champion moves to a new role within the organization or leaves the organization altogether, the focus on outdoor play may be diminished or lost. A champion who leaves a funding agency, for example, takes their deep understanding and concern with them. Their successor may interpret past investments in outdoor play more narrowly—as investments in recreation, or physical activity, or a different issue—and they may think more narrowly going forward.

Champion dependence in government is particularly problematic:

**“We need to position [outdoor play] as a priority within government. We have lots of champions, great work, but you take 3 or 4 key people away from the equation, what is the lasting policy or sustainability that is going to move the work forward once key people move on? I think we need policy, and we need to establish this as a priority across governments in a more coordinated way.”**

Working with champions to build support for outdoor play within teams and across partners may help to increase long-term investment in the sector.

### FUNDERS

**Q** What drives your funding of outdoor play?

**Q** If you are a champion for outdoor play at your organization, what made you a champion? How do you share your passion with others? Do you engage in efforts to intentionally mentor future outdoor play champions? What would help you to share that passion and bolster support for outdoor play in your organization?

### GRANT SEEKERS

**Q** What do you know about your funders’ interests and motives? How, and how well, does your project or program satisfy those interests and motives?



# Themes and Trends

The vulnerability of relying on champions to generate interest and investment in outdoor play was one of the themes that emerged from our interviews with funders. Other themes we identified include:

## Tell Us More: More Data, Better Storytelling

**“To draw more funders in, an outcomes-based story needs to be articulated. Data and storytelling are both needed.”**

What is outdoor play, and why is it so important? There is not enough awareness or understanding of either the nature of outdoor play or its intrinsic benefits and value, both in the short-term and the long-term. Funders who are champions of outdoor play emphasize that it is “more than plunking down a play structure,” and they identify one challenge as “really reaching those people who don’t yet appreciate how important [outdoor play] is to child development.”

**“A mind shift, a cultural shift needs to happen at the adult level to understand value of outdoor play.”**

Many of the funders interviewed (corporate funders in particular) expressed a desire for more quantifiable data and research on the social, economic, and health impacts of outdoor play. Specific areas mentioned include impact on school readiness and achievement as well as “dose-response” research (to understand how much time and what types of play opportunities have the greatest impact).

**“You can have great qualitative feedback, but in the future, will they be healthier, do better in school?”**

Program evaluation was also an area of interest. Funders want to know that the programs they fund are effective. A shared framework for evaluation and outcome mapping would help funders identify and compare potential impacts of projects.

**“In our experience with outdoor play, we don’t fund as much as we did. Part of our challenge is some of those evaluation pieces and figuring out impacts, especially as an environmental funder. Our outcomes are environment and nature connection and if we are comparing a project of 12–13-year-olds planting trees vs. four-year-olds playing on a log, it is a harder outcome to map.”**

Telling the complete and compelling story of outdoor play would help to attract new funders to a wider range of projects while giving current funders a deeper understanding of the impact they are making, particularly if their support of outdoor play is secondary to other interests. Better storytelling, more impact data, and robust evaluation frameworks and tools can help to cultivate and strengthen interest in outdoor play across teams and organizations, making funding for outdoor play more stable and less reliant on an individual champion.

Finally, several interviewees raised the need to invest in scaling up existing models from the pilot stage, and robust data and evaluation are required to do this. Good data combined with good storytelling will bring stakeholders together to identify, fund, and grow the best-researched models for outdoor play to benefit healthy child development.

## FUNDERS

**Q** What else do you need to learn about outdoor play to increase your support? Could you provide funding to fill some of the research and knowledge mobilization gaps identified in this report?

## GRANT SEEKERS

**Q** What do you know about the impact of your projects or programs? What data do you collect and share with your funders? How do you use data and research to tell the story of outdoor play?

## Identify Common Goals: Outdoor Play as Both a Means and an End

Funders may perceive outdoor play as a means to an end or an end in itself. Both views are legitimate and deserve attention.

**“We have learned that other funders do not tend to understand the intrinsic value of outdoor play nor value the right to play as guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, play is the fundamental developmental process of childhood with both intrinsic value and significant outcomes. The question is: Are we going to fight to raise awareness of the importance of play? Or are we going to frame outdoor play as a means to specific outcomes that are attractive to funders? I think we need to do a bit of both—awareness raising and framing.”**

Raising awareness of the intrinsic value and benefits of outdoor play is necessary to raise the profile and understanding of outdoor play, particularly among policymakers, parents, and the general public. It is also necessary to educate new foundations and other funders about the importance of play for healthy child development. However, the extent to which outdoor play intersects with other issues, from health and wellbeing to environmental conservation, creates many possibilities for engaging the interest of new funders and of a broader range of funders and partners, thus increasing the pool of potential funding.

Funders who are not interested in outdoor play for its own sake need help identifying the linkages and overlaps between outdoor play and their core issues and impact goals. Grant seekers can more successfully appeal to such funders by making and highlighting those links—by showing funders exactly how outdoor play can help them achieve their goals and objectives. For example:

- Access to green space is a vehicle to promoting/supporting physical and mental health among youth through outdoor play.
- Children who engage in nature-based experiences through outdoor play become better stewards of the environment in adulthood.
- Outdoor play can be an accessible and equitable means of recreation. Outdoor play can be integrated into a continuum of recreation opportunities which includes organized sports and structured activities.

## FUNDERS

**Q** When you define your funding areas, how do you think about impacts on children and their developmental needs in the short and long term?

## GRANT SEEKERS

**Q** How do you position outdoor play to your funders: as an end, a means, or both? Is there a funder with whom you might change your approach? What new potential funders might you approach and how?

## Consider the Community Level

**“Cities being livable places is really the conversation that can be leveraged to get attention to [the issue of outdoor play]. Building more sustainable human-scale neighbourhoods is impossible without parks and green spaces, places for the kids to play.”**

**“If you build it, they don’t come. It is a lack of understanding of the opportunity.”**

These quotes illustrate two contrasting points: Outdoor play can be a means to strengthen and empower communities, and many funders are building playgrounds, greening schoolyards, and expanding opportunities for recreation and outdoor education for this reason. But it isn’t enough to build a structure or provide an opportunity; more is needed to maximize the use or uptake of any infrastructure created. Adults need to understand the value of play, practitioners need training to facilitate play, children need permission to play, and parents need support to become comfortable with granting that permission.

**“Every community group that wants to engage in this work is starting from scratch. There aren’t these universal resources to support community organizations who want to engage in this space.”**

Specific ideas and needs shared by the funders we spoke to include building infrastructure according to universal design principles (to make it accessible for all ages and abilities), offering a continuum of play options (from child-directed free play to structured games and sports), and having trained facilitators for outdoor play in municipal spaces.

**“More flexibility in delivery of programming outside, from the type of programs to where you can program. One of our big projects last summer before lockdown was [in partnership] with the City to bring outdoor play to more neighbourhoods and more kids that need it, utilizing non-traditional spaces, green space in front of community housing.”**

Municipalities are important partners in creating sustainable outdoor play opportunities. Municipalities are prominent stakeholders in the infrastructure of outdoor play, but they are also responsible for by-laws and permit requirements that can help or hinder outdoor play initiatives. The City of Calgary ([Play in the City of Calgary](#)) was identified by several interviewees as a leader in implementation when it comes to outdoor play, as well as a leader in working to quantify the economic impact of the [active economy](#).

Service clubs (e.g., Rotary, Lions, Optimist) and neighbourhood associations also promote play in their communities, but some of the small, local organizations working to break down barriers to outdoor play are not registered charities and may not be eligible for funds from government agencies or foundations.

## Address Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)

**“Inequities are top of mind. It is THE conversation.”**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought issues of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion to the forefront, and it is an area more funders of all types are seeking to address, whether through existing programs or new programs. For example:

- A financial institution with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) programs that address youth living in poverty is partnering with non-profits that provide play opportunities.
- A larger community foundation is transforming its discretionary granting to centre justice and equity.

Grant seekers whose projects make play more accessible to children and youth—with disabilities, in underserved and racialized communities, and/or living in poverty—can use the JEDI outcomes of their projects to develop relationships with new funders.

## How has COVID-19 Affected the Funding Environment?

The COVID-19 pandemic caused several funders to suspend programs that support outdoor play in 2020 and it is not yet clear if they will re-engage. Meanwhile, some foundations are moving to more trust-based philanthropy: they have made reporting requirements more flexible and are working collaboratively with grantees to adjust how grants are managed and monitored.

For many funders, the pandemic spurred a shift in priorities: some supported urgent needs, such as food security; others turned their attention to issues accentuated or exacerbated by the pandemic, such as poverty and systemic racism. As the pandemic wanes, there is an emerging emphasis on mitigating its negative effects and investing in recovery. This includes supporting children's mental health following a year of school disruption and social disconnection.

**“What is very prominent right now, people are freaked out by downstream impacts of COVID, [like] mental health. We are starting to see data around youth isolation, lack of friends, academic scores going down. We know outdoor play contributes long term. To me, that is an opportunity—prevention or mitigation of the downstream impacts of COVID.”**

The mental and physical health of children and youth have become prominent issues for governments in particular. Even if austerity budgets are part of government planning post-pandemic, the need to invest in recovery remains for the sake of present and future generations. Investing in outdoor safety, outdoor community access and infrastructure, and outdoor play opportunities for everyone can help make populations healthier and can protect and strengthen communities in case of a future pandemic.

The pandemic has given families, practitioners, decision makers, and the general public a renewed appreciation for the outdoors and a greater awareness of the inequities of access to outdoor spaces and equipment. It has also increased public interest in outdoor education, nature schools, and other opportunities to get outside.

“From a positive perspective, a lot of families are facing the same pressure, same reality. It is easier for other people to understand each other’s cases and situations and that creates that common narrative.”

“There has been a real light shone on this during COVID. Look what happened when you couldn’t go to a playground, when they were cordoned off with yellow tape. Even your traditional playground when it was cordoned off, we realized how much we needed it, the value and the benefit.”

Our collective experience during the pandemic has created a fertile environment for the story of outdoor play as an end in itself to take root. Outdoor play can also be positioned as a means to improve youth mental health, increase physical activity, and contribute to post-pandemic recovery. Both perspectives provide opportunities to engage with new funders, re-engage funders who have paused work in this area, or tap into emerging investment areas with funding partners.

“With the current pandemic, people are in need of positive stories, and outdoor play has the potential to be that type of story.”

### FUNDERS

**Q** How have your funding priorities and practices been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?

### GRANT SEEKERS

**Q** What new opportunities have you seen for engaging with existing funders?

**Q** Where do you see overlap between your projects and goals and the emerging issues or trends discussed above?

## Collaborating Through Networks to Advance Outdoor Play

Networks that bring funders and grant seekers together facilitate all of the actions discussed in this report. Resources created for and by the network—to support community engagement, for example—can be shared by all for their mutual benefit.

[Outdoor Play Canada](#) is such a network, with a growing body of research and resources to share, but is not as well known as it needs to be. The US-based [Blue Sky Funders Forum](#) is another network that Canadian stakeholders can learn from. It was established in 2014 to inspire and increase philanthropic investments and



the community of funders supporting equitable access to meaningful outdoor experiences and connections to nature. One of the Forum's key initiatives is [Rethink Outside](#), a narrative campaign with a vital message: connecting people with the outdoors is not “nice to have,” it is absolutely necessary. Rethink Outside is an example of what a shared framework for messaging on outdoor play could look like.

Smaller local or regional networks can also do much to increase awareness of, and opportunities for, outdoor play. For example, the [Ottawa Sport Council](#) is a multi-stakeholder advocacy group that works with the City of Ottawa Recreation, Culture and Facility Services Department to develop and implement the city's municipal sport strategy. This group was identified by one interviewee as an effective funder-convening network and coordinating body. The City of Calgary and Atlantic Canada were also cited as examples of regions where stakeholders have a collaborative approach.

Overall, greater cohesion and coordination between stakeholders engaged in outdoor play, including grant seekers and funders, could help move this work forward. In the fall of 2021, Outdoor Play Canada will release the *Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report*, sharing the outdoor play sector's priorities. That report can serve as a tool to foster collaboration among all stakeholders.

### FUNDERS AND GRANT SEEKERS

- Q** Think of past partnerships and collaborations. Which were most successful and why? What lasting impacts and relationships did they produce?
- Q** What network(s) do you already belong to? What do you get from the network and what do you give?
- Q** How could we increase collaboration between funders and grant seekers in Canada?

## Conclusion

In the early stages of gathering information for this report, we focused on the many issues that intersect or overlap with outdoor play. As the data collection progressed, it became clear that while many funders are motivated by issues, others are motivated by community needs or are champion-driven. Our investigation also revealed funders' needs, gaps in understanding, and opportunities for growth.

The benefits of outdoor play are far-reaching, never more so than now. Outdoor play can address urgent concerns amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, themes emerging in its aftermath, and, above all, the perpetual need to support the healthy development of children. We hope the insights and questions shared here enable stakeholders to more effectively engage with existing partners and cultivate new partnerships, and that increased investment brings the benefits of outdoor play to all children in Canada.

“It's not just nice to get kids outside. We actually have a duty.”

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# Appendix: Potential Funders of Outdoor Play

The information in this table was compiled in May 2021 from publicly available sources, such as websites, press materials, and donation records in the Imagine Canada Grant Connect database. This table is subject to change and it may not represent all available funding. “Potential funders” means funding priorities may be under development, or outdoor play may not be explicitly articulated as relevant to existing funding areas. However, as noted in this report, funders and outdoor play champions need to communicate and collaborate to deepen understanding of outdoor play and develop synergistic priorities.

Grant seekers may wish to purchase licenses to use [Grant Connect](#) or [Ajah](#) to customize searches for outdoor play funding.

*Please note that grant seekers should carefully investigate the mission, areas of focus and funding criteria (including geographic scope), application process, and timelines of potential funders before contacting them. Funders may not accept unsolicited proposals.*

## Foundations and Corporations

[Alberta Blue Cross](#)

[BCAA Play Here](#)

[BMO Financial Group and BMO Fountain of Hope](#)

[Burns Memorial Fund](#)

[Butler Family Foundation](#)

[Canada Post Community Foundation](#)

[Canadian Tire JumpStart Charities](#)

[Canfor](#)

[Cascades Inc.](#)

[Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation](#)

[Chamandy Foundation](#)

[Charitree Foundation](#)

[Chawkers Foundation](#)

[CIBC Children's Foundation](#)

[Citi Foundation](#)

[Clif Family Foundation](#)

[Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc.](#)

[Community Foundations of Canada \(national\)\\*](#)

[Cowan Foundation](#)

[Desjardins Group and Desjardins Foundation](#)

[Dream Catcher Charitable Foundation](#)

[Environment Funders Canada](#)

[Environmental Awareness Fund, Government of Yukon](#)

[FCC AgriSpirit Fund](#)

[Federated Cooperatives Ltd \(Community Investment Fund and Community Spaces Funding\)](#)

[GoodLife Kids Foundation](#)

[Gosling Foundation](#)

[Honda Canada Foundation](#)

[Intact Financial Corporation and Intact Foundation](#)

[Jays Care Foundation](#)

[Lawson Foundation](#)

[Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation](#)

[Lyle S Hallman Foundation](#)

[Manulife Canada](#)

[Max Bell Foundation](#)

[McLean Foundation](#)

[Methanex Corporation](#)

[MLSE Foundation \(Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd.\)](#)

[Molson Foundation](#)

[Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation](#)

[Mountain Equipment Co-op](#)

[N7 Community Giving](#)

[Nestle Canada](#)

[Ontario Trillium Foundation](#)

[Parks Foundation Calgary](#)

[Patagonia Outdoor Clothing & Gear](#)

[RBC Foundation](#)

[Richardson Foundation](#)

[Resolute Forest Products](#)

[Rick Hansen Foundation](#)

[Saputo](#)

[SaskEnergy](#)

[Schad Foundation](#)

[Scotiabank](#)

[Scotts Canada Good For Grow](#)

[Scoular Foundation](#)

[Six Rivers Fund](#)

[Sun Life Financial](#)

[Suncor Energy Foundation](#)

[TD Canada Trust](#)

[TD Friends of the Environment Foundation](#)

## Foundations and Corporations, con't

[The Keg Spirit Foundation](#)

[The North Face](#)

[The North West Company](#)

[Tree Canada](#)

[Western Financial Group](#)

[Westminster Savings](#)

[Windsor Foundation](#)

\* To find a community foundation within your community, please visit

<https://communityfoundations.ca/find-a-community-foundation/>

## Government of Canada Funding

[Canadian Institutes of Health  
Research-Institute of Human  
Development, Child & Youth Health  
\(CIHR-IHDCYH\)](#)

[Canadian Institutes of Health  
Research-Institute of Population  
& Public Health \(CIHR-IPPH\)](#)

[Infrastructure Canada](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada,  
Centre for Chronic Disease  
Prevention and Health Equity, Health  
Promotion and Chronic Disease  
Prevention Branch \(PHAC-CCSDH\)](#)

[Supporting Black Canadian  
Communities Initiative](#)

[Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council \(SSHRC\)](#)

[Government of Canada \(Research  
Funding and Awards\)](#)

## Provincial/Territorial Government Funding

Some provincial/territorial governments have centralized information about funding opportunities which may include outdoor play. For jurisdictions not listed, please search through the relevant government departments.

[Alberta](#)

[British Columbia](#)

[Manitoba](#)

[Northwest Territories](#)

[Ontario](#)

[Prince Edward Island](#)