



IMPACT REPORT JULY 2023



RONALD S
ROADBURG
FOUNDATION



The Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation is a private charitable foundation, established in 2021 through the estate of the late Vancouver businessman Ronald S. Roadburg.

The Foundation is rooted in a strong sense of community and responsibility, engaging in an array of philanthropic initiatives in British Columbia, across Canada, in Israel, and around the world.



Thematic Priorities

Honouring Ronald S. Roadburg's life and wishes, the Foundation established three main priorities:

- » Strengthening and securing communities — principally the Jewish community but also other at-risk communities;
- » Supporting populations disproportionately affected by circumstance or inequities;
- » Addressing complex social challenges — with an initial focus on addiction and climate change.

To date the Foundation has committed approximately \$75 million across our priority areas, including numerous grants representing multi-year commitments. We are very excited about the quality of our grantee organizations and the critical work they are doing and are pleased to share examples of the philanthropic investments we are making in this report.

Donations that address more than one category of priority are of particular interest to us.

The Trustees and staff acknowledge the great responsibility that the Foundation's resources have provided and are blessed to have the opportunity to do this important work.

For more information, see our website at roadburgfund.org.

Strengthening and Securing Communities

The Foundation is committed to strengthening and securing communities by investing in critical community infrastructure and organizations, supporting programs to build tolerance and social cohesion, build social and economic capacity, and foster dialogue and understanding within and between disparate communities.

The Greater Vancouver Jewish community is working to advance **JWest** — an expansive plan to redevelop the current Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver site to house a new community centre, a new home for the King David High School, and residential towers with a significant affordable housing component. The Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation and the Al Roadburg Foundation have partnered together to offer a matching challenge gift of \$36 million to spur the next phase of fundraising for this momentous community project.

Through our support of **Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's** Annual Campaign we are funding an expansion of the Federation's security program to increase protection of every Jewish organization and

facility across the Lower Mainland and throughout British Columbia. As part of this initiative the Federation's Cybersecurity Subcommittee offers free cybersecurity training to every Jewish organization in Vancouver, and this offer is now being rolled out to all Jewish organizations in Canada.

“With the new resources from the Foundation we can better leverage resources from the Security Community Network, and strengthen and expand our Community Security Program to cover all Jewish communal institutions in the Lower Mainland and other parts of BC.”

JASON MURRAY, CHAIR, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER VANCOUVER'S SECURITY COMMITTEE

With our support the city of **Kiryat Shemona** on Israel's Lebanese border is experiencing growth after many years of stagnant population. With a population of 21,000 the town has been marked by the threat and reality of attacks from Lebanon, coupled with a lack of social mobility opportunities. This is changing as neighbouring Tel Hai College works towards university status and as the Upper Galilee Panhandle region develops as an agritech research and development hub. There hadn't been a new neighbourhood built in Kiryat Shemona for decades, until the recent development of the Yuvalim neighborhood adjacent to Tel Hai. Already 2,500 people are living in the neighbourhood, which will ultimately

house 10,000. The Foundation is funding construction of the new **Roadburg Community Centre** in the neighbourhood, making this the third community centre in Kiryat Shemona connected with the Vancouver Jewish community, joining the Arthur and Ancie Fouks Community Centre and Beit Vancouver Youth Centre.

"This new community center will serve children, adolescents, young adults and the entire community. It will help build our new community in the Yuvalim neighborhood and help strengthen our community's resilience."

MAYOR AVIHAI SHTERN, KIRYAT SHEMONA



▲ RSRF Director Stephen Gaerber at the cornerstone laying ceremony for the Ronald S. Roadburg Community Center in Kiryat Shemona, May 2023.

Bar Ilan University's Azrieli Medical Faculty in Safed is Israel's newest medical school. Established in 2011, this promising new centre of excellence is part of a broad national initiative to strengthen Israel's northern region and close gaps in health care resources and outcomes between the north and centre of the country. While the percentage of graduates staying in the north after completing their studies is slowly increasing, the school is eager to reach 50% retention in communities across northern Israel. The Foundation is supporting the new ROM Galil 2.0 program, which will provide its participants with connections to medical facilities in northern Israeli

communities, as well as financial incentives to help attract and retain a greater percentage of graduates to settle in the north.

"We are very excited to move forward with this transformational project, partnering with the Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation to help narrow the health care gap in Israel's northern periphery."

PROFESSOR ARIE ZABAN, PRESIDENT,
BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY

Education is one of the most powerful tools to mitigate extremist influences and is key to fostering tolerant, open-minded, and peaceful societies for the future. The **Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se)** works with countries on reforming their educational curriculum to achieve strategic outcomes in peace and tolerance. They research textbooks, teachers' guides, and curricula, which too often include negative influences and encourage skewed historical narratives, inequalities, hatred or even violence. Using UNESCO-derived standards of peace and tolerance to analyze these materials, IMPACT-se assesses whether young people are being educated to accept others — be it their neighbours, minorities, and even their nation's enemies.



▲ Azrieli Medical Faculty student in clinical training at one of the affiliate hospital's emergency room.

IMPACT-se has proven its ability to work with education officials from numerous countries to affect educational policy and content development, resulting in the eradication of antisemitism, racism, and homophobia from school textbooks. This has positively changed the way millions of school children perceive Jews, minorities, and others through their daily school education. Their work has helped deliver tangible and measurable change in curricula in countries including UAE and Saudi Arabia. Our Foundation is supporting IMPACT-se as they expand their work to countries with strong trade and economic assistance relationships with

Canada, and enlist Canadian officials in helping facilitate positive changes in educational approaches.

“IMPACT-se looks forward to working together with the [Foundation] on a multi-year program to align the curricula of countries that are recipients of Canadian aid through UNESCO-derived criteria of peace and tolerance, and in particular to ensure these citizens of the future are not subject to antisemitic teaching.”

SHEILA RAVIV, CHAIR, IMPACT-SE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“By taking the time to understand who we are as an organization and what our needs are, they have supported us to develop a Master Site Plan that will sustain and improve our operations over the next several decades.”

TRILBY SMITH, BOARD CHAIR, HABONIM DROR CAMP MIRIAM

The Foundation has also focused on capacity building investments to help organizations break through to new levels of operations and excellence in

serving the community in our home region of British Columbia’s the Lower Mainland. In our first year we provided capacity building grants to **Habonim Dror Camp Miriam, L’Chaim Adult Day Care Centre, the Jewish Seniors Alliance, Or Shalom Synagogue, Tikva Housing Society** and the **Vancouver Jewish Film Centre.**

At the same time, the Foundation is supporting the **Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver’s** Regional Communities Initiative, strengthening outreach and community organizing in the growing communities outside Vancouver’s boundaries.

Strengthening and Securing Communities



▲ Tel-Hai College in the Upper Galilee region of Israel is on the cusp of attaining university status, which will be a major boost to the region's social and economic development.

Tel-Hai College in Kiryat Shemona in the Upper Galilee of Israel is transitioning to become Israel's 11th fully registered university. As part of the transition, we have committed to fund the construction of a new Computer Sciences building on the campus, a top priority to help Tel-Hai continue as a major driver of social and economic development in Israel's north.

“The new Computer Sciences building will house our expansion, draw quality faculty and students, and facilitate new research and industry ties, leading to direct impact on the region's economic advancement. Tel-Hai is honored to have such a meaningful partner for regional development.”

**PROFESSOR ELIEZER SHALEV, PRESIDENT,
TEL-HAI COLLEGE**

In November 2021 the Israeli government took a significant step towards narrowing the socio-economic gaps between Arab municipalities and the overall Israel population by approving Resolution 550. This resolution pledged a substantial funding stream of 30 billion Israeli shekels (approximately \$10.8 billion CAD) to help support the development of Arab municipalities. However, many of these municipalities, with populations of less than 25,000 residents, lack the professional human resources and managerial processes to access these funds effectively. Recognizing this critical challenge and opportunity, our Foundation and several other funders have joined forces with **JDC-Elka** to support **Mawared**, an initiative that

recruits, trains, and places financial integrators in Arab municipalities. By the end of this year 57 towns will have Mawared Integrator positions filled. This not only adds much needed resources to the towns but also professionalizes and strengthens their administrations, enabling them to put this financial support to work in meeting their residents' needs.

“The Mawared Initiative exemplifies the transformative power of collaboration and focused investment. By empowering Arab municipalities, we are making significant strides towards an inclusive and prosperous society for all.

ORI GIL, DIRECTOR GENERAL, JDC-ELKA



▲ Mawared Resource Integrators National Network 2023

Supporting Populations Disproportionately Affected by Circumstance or Inequity

The Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation is committed to supporting populations disproportionately affected by circumstance or inequities. Our initial efforts towards this core priority are aimed at improving education and outcomes for Indigenous communities and people seeking refuge from the war in Ukraine.



▲ *A Joint Distribution Committee volunteer helps an elderly woman evacuate from Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine.*

Russian's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine created a massive humanitarian crisis. Individuals and families displaced by the war have sought refuge in other parts of Ukraine, neighbouring countries, and around the world. The Foundation has provided grants to various Canadian and international agencies to strengthen crisis response capacity in Ukraine and surrounding communities where refugees are living, and to assist with the resettlement of refugees. These funds are supporting the work of the **American Joint Distribution Committee**, the **Jewish Agency for Israel**, **Chabad**, **JCC Global**, and the **Canada-Ukraine Foundation**.



▲ Student from northern BC participating in the Learning Buddies Network's expanded educational mentoring program.

Learning Buddies Network (LBN)

helps elementary school students develop essential literacy and math skills through free one-on-one, after-school tutoring by high school and university student volunteers. Following LBN's transition from in-person tutoring to online learning necessitated by the COVID pandemic, the Foundation's grant has helped the network to triple the number of volunteer tutors and children being helped in one year, expanding beyond the Lower Mainland to help students and train tutors in First Nations' communities in urban and remote

areas, with further expansion planned in remote Indigenous communities in BC.

"I truly appreciate the program. With the sessions [our daughter] was in she learned to have more confidence in reading to us.

PARENT OF A LBN BELLA BELLA PARTICIPANT

Addressing Complex Social Challenges

The resources entrusted to the Foundation afford us the ability to try to help address complex social challenges, and there are few more complex challenges than where we've chosen to focus on initially — addiction and climate change. Through innovative new approaches and capacity-building, we hope to make an impact in these areas and open new pathways to change.

Years of mismanagement and development approaches have contributed to environmental disasters and the dislocation of indigenous communities throughout the province. Working through the **World Wildlife Fund Canada** our Foundation is supporting two Indigenous-led projects in B.C. that will use traditional knowledge to restore critical habitats. The Katzie First Nation, with WWF support, is renewing

wetlands and riverbank vegetation in the Lower Fraser watershed. The Secwepemcúl'ecw Restoration Stewardship Society is restoring forest ecosystems in the BC interior. Both projects will result in the creation of resilient ecosystems that support Indigenous communities and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.



▲ Katzie First Nation stewardship staff with World Wildlife Fund Canada partners

“This commitment represents the largest single pledge by a non-government organization to Indigenous-led restoration in our history of working with First Nations, Metis and Inuit in Canada. We are all very proud of this new partnership and will honour the trust you have put in us by leveraging its power to encourage others to join this very important work.”

MEGAN LESLIE, CEO, WORLD WILDLIFE FUND CANADA



▲ Canopy Planet is working globally to shift market demand from wood-based resources by focusing on Next Gen sources for the paper, packaging, and textiles that fill our homes and offices.

Every year 3.2 billion trees are cut down to make paper packaging or fabrics such as rayon and viscose. Many of these trees come from the world’s most ancient and endangered forests, including here in British Columbia, and they are integral to sustaining life on earth. Our Foundation is supporting **Canopy Planet** to work with fashion brand and retail partners they work with to ensure that their viscose doesn’t arise from endangered forests. Altogether more than 900 fashion, food, beauty, publishing, and printing company partners work with Canopy to transition cloth and packaging from viscose or paper derived from

endangered forests to Next Gen or more sustainably managed forest and other plant fibre. This unique approach is catalyzing market forces and innovative solutions to keep vital forests standing.

“Global markets are looking for innovative, low-carbon paper, packaging, and textiles and Canada has incredible potential to lead production of these Next Gen solutions. Not only will it enable us to conserve forests at scale; we’ll build a just and green economy for the 21st century.

NICOLE RYCROFT, FOUNDER AND CEO, CANOPY PLANET



▲ RSRF brought together the top professionals from the Israel Center for Addiction and the Road to Recovery Initiative (from left, Dr. Shauli Lev-Ran, co-founder of ICA; Cheyenne Johnson, CEO of the BC Centre for Substance Use, Dr. Seonaid Nolan, Project Lead for Road to Recovery at St. Paul's Hospital, and Professor Ariel Kor, Co-Founder and Chair of ICA.

There is growing awareness that three years of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a global mental health crisis, with close linkage to increasing rates of substance use. Moreover, Vancouver is sadly the epicenter of Canada's opioid crisis.

Our Foundation is partnering with Providence Health Care, the BC Centre on Substance Use, the BC Government, the Diamond Foundation, and other donors to develop 95 new beds at St. Paul's Hospital for detox and stabilization services through the **Road to Recovery (R2R)** Initiative. R2R is aimed at reducing wait times and creating a seamless transition between these crucial treatment resources and community recovery resources. We were introduced to R2R, a partnership between Providence

Health Care and the BC Centre on Substance Use, by our colleagues at the Diamond Foundation. R2R began as a vision for a full continuum of substance use care within a single setting at St. Paul's Hospital, to enable people to access the evidence-based addiction care they need, when they need it. Critically, R2R will introduce new province-wide coordinating mechanisms between the healthcare system and community-based long-term treatment and recovery resources. We are grateful for the opportunity to help bring this new evidence-based model of care forward, with the first new beds coming online this fall at the current St. Paul's. The full treatment capacity will be fully incorporated into the new St. Paul's Hospital, now under construction and opening in 2027.

“The Road to Recovery will close gaps that currently stand between people in crisis and the care they deserve. It is crucial for the one in six people at St. Paul’s Hospital who experience substance use disorder. Providence Health Care is so grateful to the Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation for their generous support.”

**FIONA DALTON, PRESIDENT AND CEO,
PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE**

In the same way that the Road to Recovery initiative works at the intersection between clinical treatment, clinical research, and clinical training, we found that addiction services in Israel were similarly poised for a significant breakthrough by the **Israel Center on Addiction (ICA)**. Formed only five years ago, ICA works on these three clinical areas in an outpatient setting, as well as in advocacy and prevention work. Although Israel

is not experiencing the same crisis around toxic street drugs we’re seeing in British Columbia, the country is dealing with alarmingly high rates of addiction. The Foundation is supporting the renovation of existing dilapidated buildings on the Hebrew University campus to house new headquarters, including a professional education centre, a community training clinic, and offices. This will be the first such centre focused on addictions in Israel.

“ICA was born out of a desperate need to give a voice to the voiceless, to shatter the stigma surrounding addiction, stigma that breeds shame and silence. We are proud and grateful to partner with the Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation to spearhead a national change in the field of addiction in Israel.”

DR. ARIEL KOR, CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, ICA



▲ With the renovation of the first new Road to Recovery unit almost complete, St. Paul’s Hospital is focusing on staff recruitment and training in advance of the unit opening in September 2023.

Following are the organizations that have received support from the Foundation to date. Click the links to visit each organization's website and explore their work:

[American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee \(and JDC ELKA\)](#)

[Azrieli Faculty of Medicine of Bar Ilan University](#)

[BC Cancer Foundation](#)

[Canada-Ukraine Foundation](#)

[Canadian Friends of Hebrew University](#)

[Canopy Planet](#)

[Chabad Lubavich of British Columbia](#)

[Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy](#)

[Coast Mental Health](#)

[Congregation Beth Israel](#)

[Cystic Fibrosis Canada](#)

[Eastern Galilee Regional Cluster](#)

[Firehall Arts Centre](#)

[Global JCC](#)

[Habonim Dror Camp Miriam](#)

[Hillel BC](#)

[Honest Reporting Canada](#)

[Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education \(IMPACT-se\)](#)

[Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development](#)

[Israel Center on Addiction](#)

[Jewish Agency for Israel](#)

[Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver](#)

[Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver](#)

[Jewish National Fund of Canada](#)

[Jewish Seniors Alliance](#)

[JFS Vancouver](#)

[King David High School](#)

[Kiryat Shemona Municipality](#)

[L'Chaim Adult Day Centre](#)

[Learning Buddies Network](#)

[Louis Brier Jewish Aged Foundation](#)

[Metro Vancouver Alliance](#)

[Michal Sela Forum](#)

[Organizing for Change](#)

[Or Shalom Synagogue](#)

[Rick Hansen Foundation](#)

[Shalom Hartman Institute](#)

[St. Paul's Foundation](#)

[S.U.C.C.E.S.S.](#)

[Tel-Hai College](#)

[Tikva Housing Society](#)

[Tzafon Medical Center](#)

[Umm el Fahem Art Gallery](#)

[University of British Columbia](#)

[Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre](#)

[Vancouver Jewish Film Centre](#)

[Vancouver Talmud Torah](#)

[World Wildlife Fund Canada](#)

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