



Helping You Help Us
A Partnership in Caring

Our History

The Kinsmen Foundation of BC has been a 'leader' in the support of people with severe physical disabilities for over 60 years. As we look to our 60th Anniversary celebrations, we pause to review our past:

1940's

Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs assist the Red Cross in providing short-term loans of basic medical equipment. The Kinsmen Club of Vancouver purchases and donates the land to Dr. Strong to provide the site for the future G. F. Strong Regional Rehabilitation Centre. The First Office of BC Polio Fund is opened at Hornby & Smithe and Bruce Grey, a Kinsmen from West Vancouver Kinsmen Club is first President of the Kinsmen Foundation.

1950-60's

In response to the Polio Epidemic service clubs (Kinsmen) raised funds for iron lungs and other equipment in BC - In 1952 BC Polio Fund officially incorporated as a Foundation-forerunner to the Kinsmen Rehabilitation Foundation of BC. Also in 1952 the Kinsmen officially endowed a Chair in Neurological Research at UBC and provided the funding for the Kinsmen Tower. In 1955 the Foundation changed its mandate from finding a cure for polio to rehabilitation for the support of those who were afflicted with Polio. On the May long-weekend in 1968, the Kinsmen and Kinettes of District Five resolved to make the Foundation it's District Project, and the name Mother's March was changed to Kinsmen's Mother's March. At this time, the President of the Foundation was also added to the District Council as a member of the District Board.

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1970-80's

More funding for equipment is necessary for survivors of polio and other disabilities. Service organizations like Kinsmen provide funding to disability groups, governments, hospitals, George Pearson Centre and G. F. Strong Regional Rehabilitation Centre. In 1973 the Kinsmen Rehabilitation Foundation moved to its new office and building on West 12th Avenue in Vancouver.

The need for all types of Assistive Device equipment became more widespread and apparent. More service organizations helped the Kinsmen to raise funds independently for people with disabilities. New programs were being developed recognizing the need for more expertise and consumer information including:

- Technology for Independent Living (TIL) - Kinsmen Foundation providing environmental controls and communication devices
- Disabled Living Resource Centre - Kinsmen Foundation Offices - technical aids equipment information and displays
- I Can Talk Too Program - Funding assistance from Kinsmen to Sunnyhill Hospital providing communication aids for children
- Computer Comfort Program - Funding from the Kinsmen Foundation provided to the Neil Squire Foundation.
- Other Organizations -- The Kinsmen Foundation provided funding and assistance to such organizations as Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Muscular Dystrophy (MD), BC Paraplegic Association, BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities, Spina Bifida, Red Cross, Cerebral Palsy Association of BC, CKNW Orphan's Fund just to name a few.

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1980's

The Red Cross responds to a Ministry of Health request to develop a proposal for an equipment loan program for clients living in care facilities. The Ministry declines to fund the project. The Kinsmen Foundation provides early equipment to help the Red Cross start up the program.

The Kinsmen Foundation was actively involved with a number of organizations working on advocating for people with disabilities. At this time there were a number of reports completed, that were never acted upon by government. Reports like the Blair Richardson Report identifying the need for the Health Ministry to be involved in provisions to chronically disabled or chronically ill adults and children. This report was shelved without any recommendations acted upon or those of the Community Care Consultation and Mandate Review Project.

Finally in 1989 following the Assistive Devices Task Force Report that focused on communication aids and computers and delivered by TAIGRE (Technical Aids Interest Group in Rehab and Education) made some headway and SETBC (Special Education Technology BC) was established with support from the Kinsmen Foundation, and government finally agreed to support the programs.

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1990's

[Technology for Independent Living Program \(TIL\)](#) is now funded by the Ministry of Health. The Kinsmen Foundation transferred the program to the management of the BC Paraplegic Association until its own organization could be developed. That organization [\(BC association for Individualized Technology\) BCITS](#) now houses the TIL program and the [Provincial Respiratory Outreach Program.\(PROP\)](#) PROP came to BCITS on the strength of the client's respect for the culture of the TIL program. It is still supported in a big way by the Kinsmen Foundation

1992

Continuing Care funds the [Aids to Independent Living Program](#) at the Kinsmen Rehabilitation Foundation of BC. The program provides long term loans to low income seniors in the Lower Mainland Region of BC.

1994

The [Aids to Independent Living Program](#) transfers from the Kinsmen Foundation to the Red Cross. The Kinsmen Foundation ceases to provide long term equipment loans to British Columbians

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2001

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2003

[Provincial Equipment and Assistive Devices Committee \(PEADC\)](#) established, with Kinsmen Foundation as a participating partner.

2009

Establishment of the [BC Personal Supports Council and Personal Supports Network](#). Also establishment of the Equipment [Assistive Technology Initiative \(EATI\) Program](#) with Super Navigators providing the kind of information and assistance to help those most in need of support these programs were supported by the Kinsmen Foundation.

Going Forward

The Foundation has had to rely on the support of their Kinsmen, Kinette Clubs and Kin Clubs as well as individual donors to provide funding for them to continue to carry out their mission of service to the severely physically disabled adults of British Columbia and Yukon.

With the ongoing cutbacks in healthcare and increased competition in the field of fundraising and non-profits, it has been a real challenge to the Foundation to maintain its ability to meet these needs. Thanks to the ongoing and increasing support of our Kin Family, we have been able to provide a great deal of support to many of our Province's severely physically citizens.

The Foundation Board of Directors would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Kinsmen and Kinettes of British Columbia and Yukon for their continued faith and support of their Foundation, the Kinsmen Foundation of B.C.

Without your continued support, we would not be able to continue the excellent work of the Foundation. As we celebrate 60 plus years of serving the needs of disabled people, we encourage one and all to support the Kinsmen Foundation of BC & Yukon's "Going Strong" Campaign. We invite everyone to go to www.goingstrong.ca for more information on how you can help.

What Can Kinsmen Do for the Foundation ?

- ❖ Ask the President to put the Kinsmen Foundation of BC on your General Meeting agenda as a Standing Item.
- ❖ If you publish a Club Bulletin or Newsletter, ask your Editor to provide space on a quarterly basis as News items are issued by the Kinsmen Foundation .
- ❖ Ask you President to have a project, big or small, to support the Kinsmen Foundation through a financial contribution. Every dollar makes a difference!
- ❖ Ask your President to have a member of the Kinsmen Foundation Board of Directors attend a General Meeting of your club as a Guest Speaker to provide your members with an update of activities being undertaken by your Foundation.
- ❖ Ask your Club Executive to participate in the Annual General Meeting of the Kinsmen Foundation of British Columbia held each October
- ❖ Ask your Club Executive to appoint a Kinsmen Foundation Champion.

Kinsmen Foundation Champion -What Do I Do ?

- ❖ The Kinsmen Foundation has asked that the Clubs appoint a Kinsmen Foundation Champion in order to try to develop support at the club level for the Kinsmen Foundation
- ❖ It is hoped a Kinsmen Foundation Champion will:
 - ❖ provide a point of contact between the club and Kinsmen Foundation for educational materials, applications, information for the public, etc.
 - ❖ allow the flow of project ideas between the Club and the Kinsmen Foundation.
 - ❖ Be a point of contact for Client Service in your community
 - ❖ participate in client service at the local level.
 - ❖ Promote the Kinsmen Foundation of British Columbia in your local community

For Additional Information

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