# **IMPACT REPORT**

BRANDS FOR CANADA FOR FAMILIES. FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.



**A SUSTAINABLE** WORLD WHERE SURPLUS GOODS ARE PURPOSEFULLY **USED TO ELIMINATE POVERTY AND INEQUALITY.** 

# **OUR MISSION**

DISTRIBUTE SURPLUS CLOTHING AND LIFE ESSENTIALS TO THOSE IN NEED CONNECT DONORS WITH COMMUNITIES IN NEED PROTECT
THE
ENVIRONMENT
BY DIVERTING
SURPLUS
GOODS FROM
LANDFILL
SITES

PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS RAISE AWARENESS OF POVERTY ISSUES, CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a phenomenal year!

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We checked and double-checked and the retail value of basic-needs items we distributed this past year rose to an incredible record \$65 million! That is a dramatic increase from \$52 million last year. We gained several new product donors and our existing donors really stepped up to the plate!

Brands for Canada continues to help people who have abuse in their background, people living with physical, mental or developmental disabilities, immigrants, refugees and those experiencing homelessness. The number of people we are helping is growing annually and we continue to increase the number of distribution partners across the country. The statistics on poverty now indicate that one in seven people in Canada is living in poverty. Brands for Canada continues to help individuals and families facing detrimental financial challenges by providing new, not used, essential items such as clothing, personal care products and household goods. These items contribute to an improved quality of life and sense of well being. Thanks to our partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police, we were able to reach many more remote First Nations communities. Please look at our distribution list further down in this report. Also check out our annual participant numbers to see the impact of our work!

Our recycling, debranding and converting programs have grown twofold and this has resulted in a dramatic impact upon the environment. Sustainable practices within the clothing industry are imperative now that we know how much damage textiles cause through incineration and landfilling.

Our newest program, the Converter Program, saw significant growth last year with several of our existing and new donors opting to put their unusable items into the Converter technology for recycling.

Companies donating to Brands for Canada demonstrate their commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility by supporting local communities and contributing positively to society, which in turn enhances their brand reputation. Through our growing partnerships with retailers, we continue to divert more and more items from landfill every year.

BFC was featured as a charity of choice for several events: The Apparel Textile Sourcing Show, the Porche Club of Canada Picnic, Seneca Polytechnic's Sustainable Fashion Exhibition, the First Class Realty Awards and Gala, and the Bell for Better Employee Giving Campaign.

A highlight of our year was when our major and very loyal funding partner, the Sprott Foundation, came to our location for a tour and meeting. We were thrilled to meet the board of directors of this most supportive and progressive foundation. We were even more thrilled that they renewed their support. We would not be here today without them!

Lastly, our programs and services, as incredible as they are, could not be delivered without our amazing staff team, board of directors, volunteers and supporters. It takes all of us working together to make such a significant contribution to the people in our own community that need our help. We are doing it with an amazing return on investment (donation). Our sincere thanks to all of you who have been an integral part of our success this year!

### THE IMPACT

AT BRANDS FOR CANADA, WE:



RECEIVE UNSOLD GOODS



REDIRECT
GOODS THAT
WOULD
OTHERWISE
END UP IN
LANDFILLS

\$65,000,000

(retail) worth of goods were distributed to Canadian families through our partners this year.

1,543,653LB

of textile waste were diverted from landfill this year.



TRAIN
PEOPLE FACING
BARRIERS
TOWARDS
FINDING
SUITABLE
EMPLOYMENT

1,602

individuals took part in our two training programs this year.

IAN WEBSTER

HELEN HARAKAS

President of the Board

Executive Director

OUR IMPACT IN 2023-24 200+ BRAND PARTNERS

4,430 VOLUNTEER HOURS

125 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PARTNERS

1,602
JOB SEEKERS HELPED

1,200 SCHOOLS COLLEGES &

200
CHARITIES

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

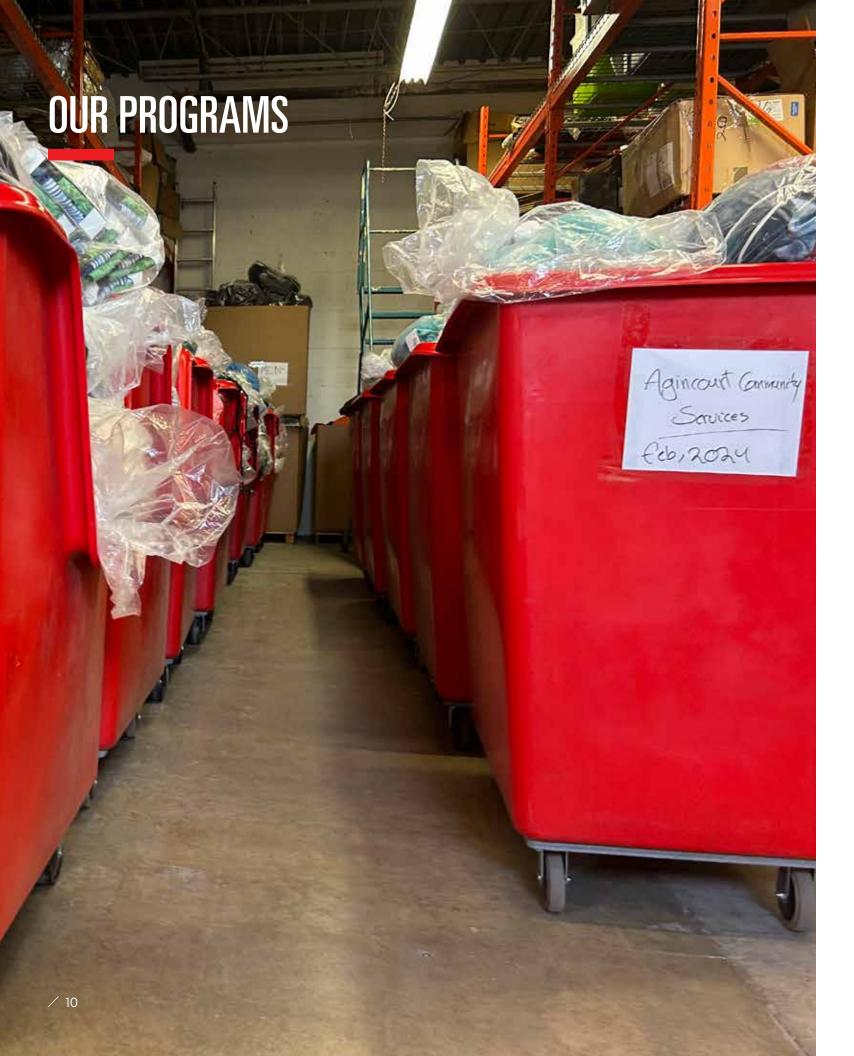
\$65,000,000 VALUE OF RETAIL GOODS

42 RECYCLING PARTNERS

321,326,280 GALLONS OF WATER SAVED 993,998
ITEMS
PROCESSED

395,815 PEOPLE HELPED

1,543,653 LBS KEPT OUT OF LANDFILL





At Brands For Canada we engage all key sectors of our community to work together. We work directly with our community partners, charities, schools, retail brands, corporations, government, foundations, community organizations, local leaders and the Canadian public. We have now

co-created the complete sustainable and cost efficient service for all Canadians.

Our three main BFC programs work as one in a continuous cyclical sustainable service model that supports Canadians and protects our environment.

### BRAND DONATIONS

### What we do:

Receive
donated surplus and
unsold goods from
200+ brands

Redirect
100% of goods from landfills

**Distribute** \$52+ million anually





1M+

students & families



national reach

Our warehouse is the heart of our distribution program. Every week generous donors send skids of brand-new clothing and basic-needs items to be sorted, de-labelled, counted and given out to those who need them the most. The items are sent to social service agencies and schools for direct distribution.

Our Distribution Program is supported by both job-training participants and volunteer groups. Without these two essential groups, we could not do what we do. Training participants in the warehouse are referred to us by partner employment agencies. Volunteers from corporate and community groups come in weekly to help with sorting, counting, de-labelling, organizing and shipping.

### National distribution

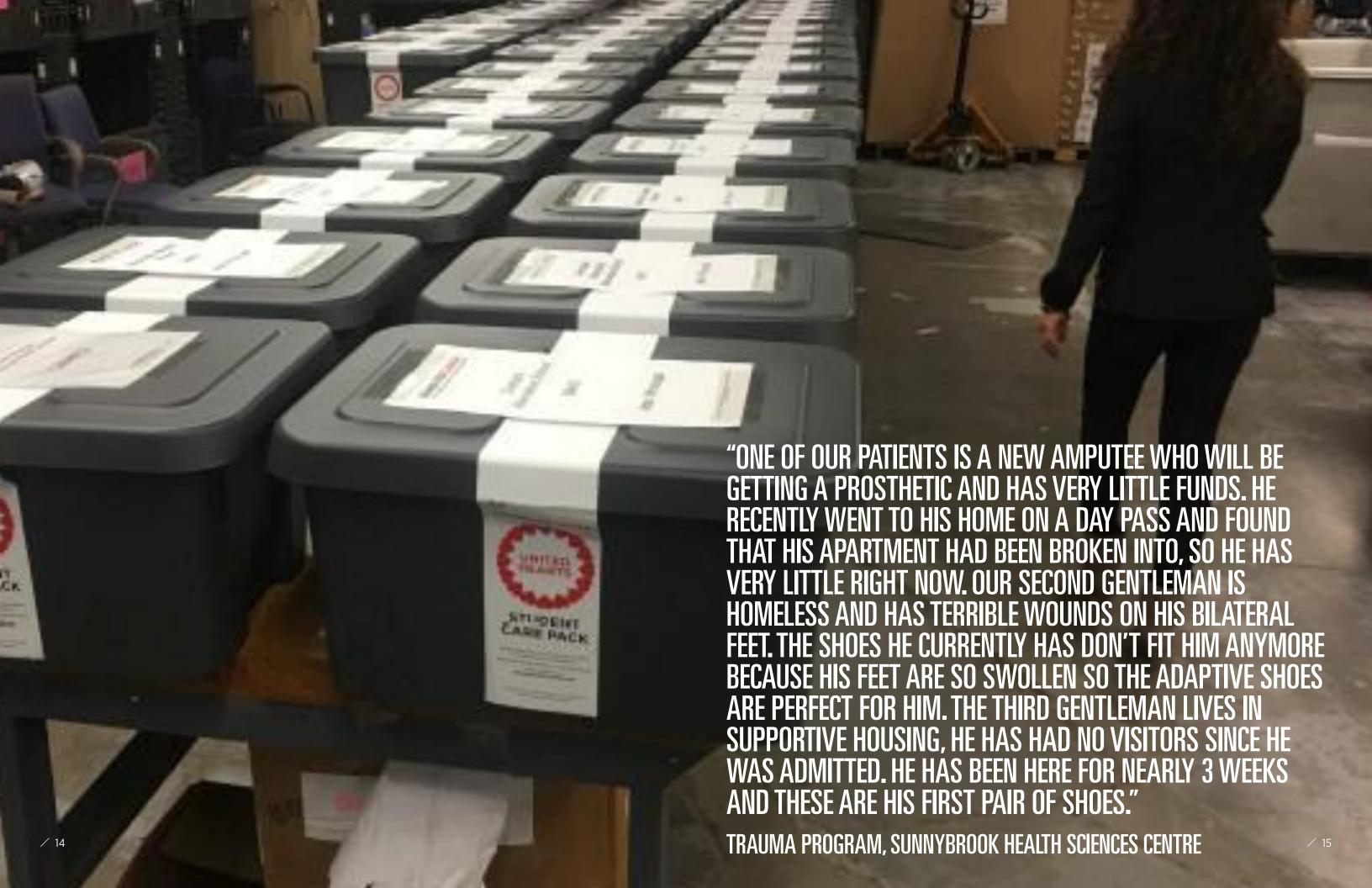
BFC works across the country with programs in the Greater Toronto Area, Peel Region, Niagara Region, Ottawa, Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal, Halifax and many other smaller communities. BFC's network of partner agencies is continually growing. Over the past two years, BFC's list of national lead partner agencies, and their associate agencies, has grown to more than 200!



Generously supported by The Sprott Foundation







### **RECYCLING**

The BFC recycling program was created to provide a complete sustainable service for our Brand and community partners. We process new, used and damaged goods and keep them out of landfills. Our main recycling services are:

**De-brand**To maximize
reuse in Canada

Recycle
New, used and
damaged textiles

Repurpose
by converting textiles
into a sterile, reusable
composite





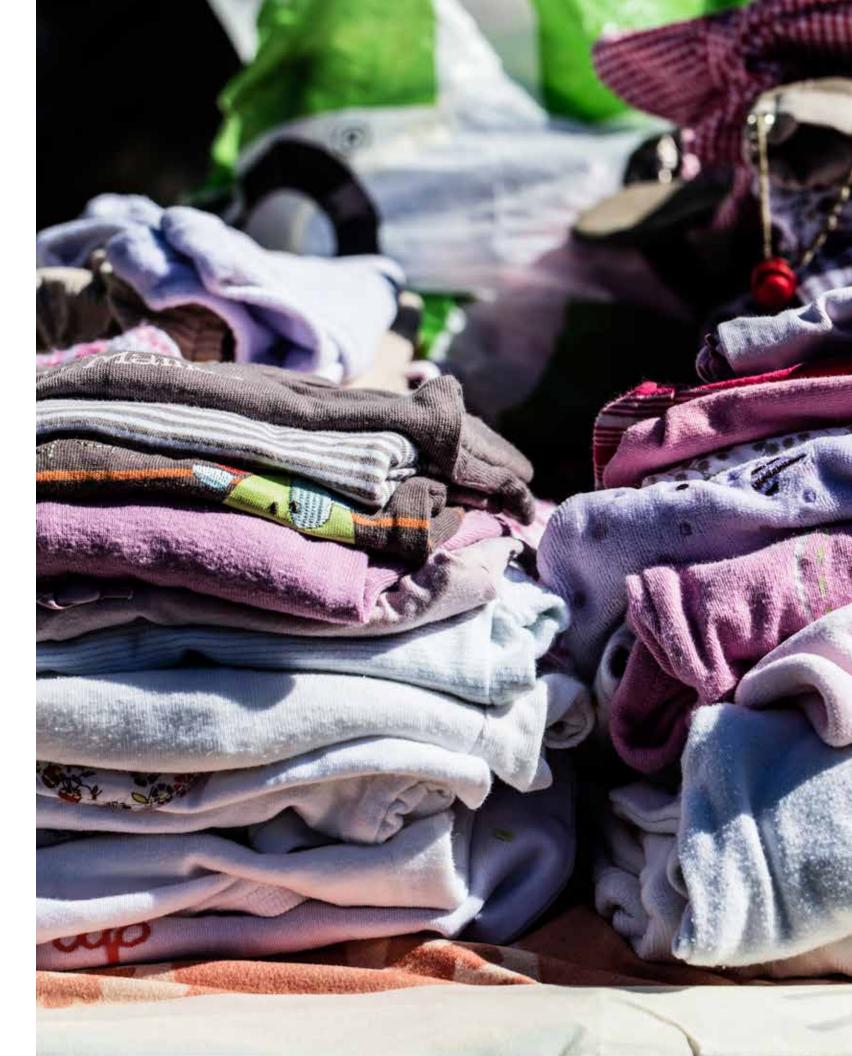


We de-brand, recycle, and repurpose new, used and damaged textiles in large volume for our product donors.

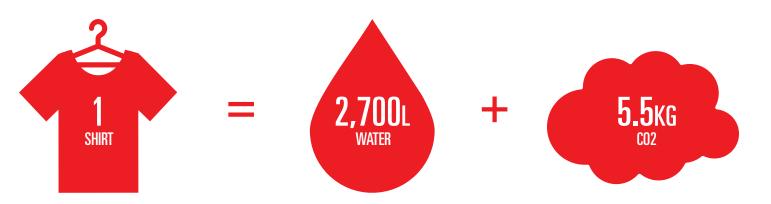
Donations of brand returned and damaged items are sorted into categories. These goods are then prepared for local donations, repairs and repurposing. Items that are designated as waste (landfill) are sent to our Conversion Program, a partnership with Synergy Waste Systems, where they are converted into a sterile composite and repurposed in the construction industry.

Generously supported by The Sprott Foundation









### How much goes into a shirt?

Growing enough cotton to produce a single shirt requires 2,700 liters of water, or about the amount of water a person would drink in 2.5 years.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to water usage in growing cotton, both natural and synthetic cloth and clothing production emits substantial amounts of CO2 and other greenhouse gasses. For instance, each kilogram of polyester production results in the equivalent of 5.5 kilograms of CO2 emissions. (4.3 kilos for cotton, Ibid).

Even as a piece of clothing is used and washed, this creates further environmental impacts, amounting to about a third of a garment's total environmental impact over time.<sup>2</sup>

### Brands For Canada Environmental Impact

Because the surplus goods that we provide to our community partners and their clients are new, they can be used in the way that they were originally intended, and not incinerated or landfilled.

All together, we estimate that our annual clothing donations resulted in enough energy and material savings to provide for up to 900 average Canadians' total consumption this year.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, it is estimated that the clothing industry uses more than 2,000 chemicals in the production of clothing. When these items end up in landfills or are incinerated, the toxins go into our atmosphere and into our earth.

Drew and Yehounme 2017: World Resources Institute. https://www.wri.org/blog/2017/07/apparel-industrys-environmental-impact-6-graphics

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  ~31%, Rana et al 2015, p. 153, citing Jungmichael 2010

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 317.7-428, based on same calculations as above

### **EMPLOYMENT**

### Leading edge programs for vulnerable people looking for work







1.5M

clothing provided



97%

client satisfaction

BFC is committed to training and providing sustainable work for people who need help connecting to employment.

BFC offers multiple employment programs. These include:

### Suitable Impressions Workshop

Clothing, personal image and first impressions training for youth and others facing barriers to employment. Suitable Impressions serves hundreds of clients each year.

### The Edge Program

An intensive 4-week, soft skills development program for people living with disabilities. The program features in-class or virtual training, personal coaching sessions, and provides new professional clothing and accessories. Upon graduation, participants are supported in their employment search by working with a job developer.

### Toronto Employment & Social Services Placements

On-site, full-year placement in our admin offices, programs or warehouse.



"THIS IS A WONDERFUL PROGRAM DESIGNED TO BUILD ON YOUR CAREER/EDUCATION GOALS. THEY FOCUS ON HELPING YOU BECOME YOUR BEST POSSIBLE SELF AND ARE ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND WORK AS A TEAM TO HELP YOU COMPLETE YOUR GOALS."

**EDGE PARTICIPANT** 

### **FINANCIALS**

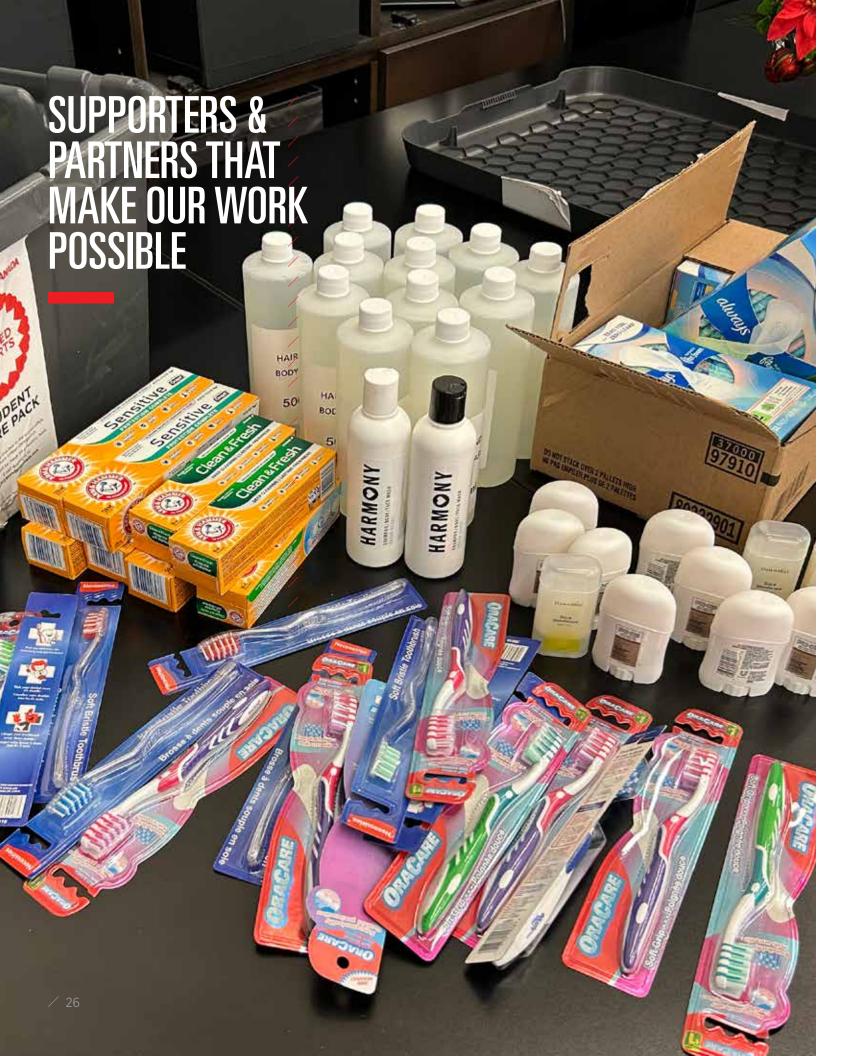
### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

Revenue	2024	2023
Project grants (note 5)	\$2,164,960	\$ 3,117,702
Interest	\$148,335	\$8,786
Donations (note 6)	\$112,075	\$186,544
Ontario Works Employment Basics	\$97,899	\$55,351
Agency application fees	\$57,459	\$68,100
Special events	\$30,233	\$16,767
Total	\$2,610,961	\$3,453,250
Expenses		
Warehouse and program	\$813,173	\$898,213
Occupancy	\$277,195	\$279,103
Personnel	\$47,969	\$23,729
Salaries and benefits	\$936,699	\$798,891
Public awareness	\$191,031	\$162,113
Office and general	\$47,260	\$35,260
Special events	\$24,533	-
Professional fees	\$16,268	\$17,709
Insurance	\$16,021	\$15,248
Minor office equipment	\$7,932	\$19,347
Website	\$7,891	\$1,948
Total	2,385,972	\$2,251,561
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	\$224,989	\$1,201,689
Net assets, beginning of year	\$2,772,793	\$1,571,104
Net assets, end of year	\$2,997,782	\$ 2,772,793

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

Assets	2024	2023
Current assets	-	-
Cash	-	\$61,804
Guaranteed investment certificates (note 3)	\$3,575,035	\$3,999,997
Amounts receivable	\$34,673	\$5,532
HST rebate recoverable	\$53,317	\$53,317
Prepaid expenses	\$22,085	\$18,530
Total	\$3,685,110	\$4,139,180
Liabilities & net assets		
Current liabilities	-	-
Bank indebtedness (resulting from outstanding cheque\$)	36,195	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	19,725	50,414
Deferred contributions (note 4)	631,408	1,315,973
Total	687,328	1,366,387
Net assets	2,997,782	2,772,793
Unrestricted	\$ 3,685,110	\$ 4,139,180

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# THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS GROUP OF SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS.

OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS (\$1,000+)

- / Elaine Osin
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- / Families of Humbervale Montessori School
- / Humbervale Montessori School
- / Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation
- / Involute Fine Arts Inc.
- / L'Oréal Canada
- / Jas Jhooty
- / Jo's Snowflake Fund (Toronto Foundation)
- / J.P. Bickell Foundation
- / Joel Mechanical Inc
- Sprott Foundation
- State Street Trust Foundation Canada
- / Toronto Foundation
- / Anonymous Donors

### OUR PRODUCT PARTNERS/ DONORS

- / Abuse Hurts
- / Air Canada
- / Aldo Shoes Group
- / Anita Canada
- / Aritzia
- / Artessa
- / Athletic Knit
- / Bell Canada
- / Bluenotes
- / Brave Soles
- / Brenda Beddome
- / Church & Dwight Canada
- / City Serve
- / Deciem
- / Elena Jara
- / Freeman Fashion Agencies
- / GOJ
- Greater Toronto Airport Authority
- / H&M
- / Hanes
- / Henkel
- / Hil-Jay Fashions
- / Ikea
- / Julia Moore
- / Justice Fund
- / Lee Me Boutique
- / Lee Moreira
- / Lenovo
- / Lice Squad Canada
- / L'Oréal Canada
- / M. Lamanna Fashion
- / Mitzva Knitters
- / Mizuno
- / Moonbun
- / Moores
- / Morega
- / Neil Rabovsky
- / New Era
- / Next
- / Northern Reflections
- / Northland Floral
- / NUAMA
- / Parkhurst
- / Periphery

- / Philosockphy
- / Scholars Hall
- / Shirley Curson-Prue
- / Silverts
- / Snug as a Bug
- / Sock Rocket
- / Stitch It
- / Sun Youth Organization
- / Swing Junior Apparel Inc.
- / Ted Baker
- / The Bishop Strachan School
- / The Candi Factory
- / The Kersheh Group SCI
- / The Sterling Hall School
- / Thigh Society
- / TJX
- / Tom Manimanakis
- / Tru Earth Detergent
- / Unisync Group Ltd
- Violet's of Strathroy
- / Viral Clean
- / VistaPrint
- / World Vision Canada
- / York School
- / Yorkdale Shopping Centre
- / Your Space

And many other anonymous donors

### OUR LOCAL PARTNER AGENCIES

- 22 Division: Toronto Police Service
- 51 Division: Toronto Police Service
- / Access Point Danforth
- / African Refugees in Vaughan
- / All People Church
- / Agincourt Community Services
- / Artists to Artists Foundation
- / BGC Kiwanis
- / Black Coalition AIDS Prevention
- / Blythwood Road Baptist Church Out of The Cold
- / B'nai Brith Canada
- / Bowmore Road Public School
- / Braeburn Boys and Girls Club and Family Services
- / Breakaway Addiction Services
- / Caldwell Family Services
- Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
- Canadian Mental Health Association Safe Bed Program
- / Casey House
- / CAYR Community Connections
- Change your way of thinking
- / Crescent Village Trust
- / Delta Family Resource Center
- / Department of Family Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital
- / Dixon Hall
- / East Scarborough Boys & Girls Club Corvette Family Resource Centre
- / Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women Newcomer Settlement (NSP)
- / Ernestine's Women's Shelter
- / Esperance Charitable Fund
- / Etobicoke Muslim Community Organization
- Exploring Partnership Opportunities for a Worthy Cause
- / Faith Sanctuary Hope Ministry
- / Flaunt It
- / Fred Victor Centre
- / Free for All Foundation
- / Friends of Rudy
- / FU Proiect
- / GLE Movement
- Graduation Coach/Durham DSB
- / Haven Toronto
- / Heron Road Community Centre
- / Hidaayah House
- / Homeless Connect Toronto
- / Ignite Durham Learning Foundation
- / Immediate Relief Program Volunteer, Lakeside HOPE House

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- / Indigenous Policing Bureau Ontario Provincial Police
- / Jane Alliance Neighbourhood Centre
- / Jessie's The June Callwood Centre for Young Women
- / John Howard Society of Toronto Post Incarceration Housing
- / Keep 6ix
- / Kickback
- / KIP Canada
- / Learning Enrichment Foundation
- / Malvern Family Resource Centre
- / Man Dem Cycling Club
- / Marc Garneau C.I.
- / Margaret's Housing & Community Support Services East Drop-In Centre
- / Margaret's Housing Respite Centre
- / Men of the North
- / More Than Child's Play
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- / Native Clan Organization
- / Ontario Provincial Police
- Our Place Community of Hope
- / Pathways
- / People's
- / Playforever
- / Restoration Christian Ministries
- / Rexdale Community Health Centre
- / Rhema Christian Ministries
- / River-Oak Parent Child Centre inc. Parent Resources
- / Rotary Etobicoke
- / Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation
- / San Romanoway Revitalization Association
- / Say Ministry Church of God
- Scarborough Youth Outreach
- / Seaton Traveler Hostel
- / Seneca Polytechnic
- / Settlement Assistance & Family Support Services
- / Sheen for She Foundation
- / Silent Voice Canada Inc.
- / Sistering Outreach
- / Somali Together
- Sound Times Support Services Peer Support Self Help
- / Sprint Senior Care
- / St. Andrew Church
- / St. Felix Centre
- / St. Michael's Hospital
- / Stolen from Africa

- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- / Sprint Senior Care
- ✓ Syme Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre Harm Reduction Program
- / Syme Woolner Neighbourhood Services Jane's Drop-In
- / TCCAA
- / The Learning Enrichment Foundation
- / The Beautiful Foundation
- / The Common Table
- / The Holistic Empowerment Ministries
- / The Housing Help Centre
- / The Scott Mission Women & Family Ministries
- / The Women's Centre of Halton
- / Toronto Community Hostel Shelter Program
- / Toronto District School Board
- / Toronto Youth Cabinet
- Transforming Style
- / UBUNTU Neighbourhood Organiztion
- / University of Toronto St. George Campus
- / University of Toronto Scarborough Campus
- / Ve'ahavata
- / VSB Workshop
- / YWCA Focus
- / YWCA MOTS

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### OUR NATIONAL PARTNER AGENCIES

### Alberta

- / Carya Calgary
- / Portail de I 'Immigrant Association (PIA)
- / Women in Need Society
- / Women's Centre of Calgary
- North East Family Connections Society
- / Wood's Homes
- / Centre for Newcomers
- / Calgary Drop In Centre
- / Jasper Place Wellness Centre
- / Edmonton's Food Bank
- Edmonton Emergency Response and Newcomers Services
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)
- Goodwill Industries of Alberta
- / Lil' Bear Resources
- Odyssey House
- / Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association Odyssey House
- / YWCA Lethbridge and District
- / Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society
- Central Alberta Outreach Centre

### **British Columbia**

- Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society
- / Family Services of the North Shore
- / Richmond Family Place Society
- / Marpole Oakridge Family Place (MOFP)
- / MPFCS
- / Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society
- / Family Services of Greater Vancouver
- / Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society
- / Federation of Community Social Services of BC
- / John Howard Society Victoria

### Manitoba

- / Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Winnipeg
- / Dakota Ojibway Child Family Service
- / Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba
- / Sixteen 13 Ministry
- / Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba
- / Youth for Christ Winnipeg Inc
- / IRCOM Manitoba
- / Elmwood Community Resource Centre

### **Nova Scotia**

- / Youth Art Connection
- / EFRY Mainland NS Youth Programs
- Coverdale Justice Society
- / Shelter NS Housing Hub
- Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre
- Phoenix House Youth Programs
- / Mainline
- / EFRY, Truro Office Youth Drop In/Girl Code/Queer Code
- / United Way Cape Breton

### **Ontario (Non GTA)**

- / Tri-County Women's Centre
- / ROCK Missions
- / Wesley
- / City of Ottawa
- / Gifts in Kind Canada
- / 6 Nations of the Grand River
- / John Howard Society Durham
- / Links for Greener Learning St. Catharines
- / Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre Ottawa

### **OPP Distribution Remote Communities**

- Kenora Saakaate House (Women's Shelter Domestic Violence)
- Kenora Homeless Shelter
- / Makawa Patrol
- / Treaty three Police Service
- / Wabaseemoong Independent Nations
- / Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy narrows)
- / Sexual Assault Centre
- / Local Community Shelter in Kenora
- / Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nations (Grassy Narrows)
- / Naotkamegwanning First Nation (Whitefish Bay)
- / Wabaseemoong Child Welfare Authority (Whitedog)
- / Northwest Angle #33
- / Dalles
- / Kejick Bay
- / Shoal Lake
- Saakaate House Women's Shelter Makawa Patrol Kenora
- / Kenora Homeless Shelter
- / Northwest Angle 33/37
- / Rat Portage
- / Shoal Lake 40
- / Washagamis Bay

- / Youth Hub Kenora
- / Healthy Babies Program
- / Eelunaapeewi Lahkeewiit
- / Moravian First Nation

### Saskatchewan

/ Men of the North

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Anthony Furey Director** 

Executive Director, The Stronach Foundation

**Sahar Ziaey** Director

Corporate Partnerships Officer, Doctors without Borders

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**Inga Skaya** Edge Program Director

Tanya Syrokomskaya Finance Manager

Martha Bado Gonzalez Logistics and Warehouse Manager

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Julia Alexander Edge Program Co-Ordinator

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Sopigha Sribaskaran Job Developer & Facilitator

Siofra Burgoyne EDGE Program Senior Job Developer and Facilitator

Oral Campbell Warehouse Assistant



United in Change P.R. Marketing & Media,

Program Development & Sustainability

**Eko Nomos Inc** Program Evaluation

**Synergy Conversion** Product Recycling and Conversion

**Jas Jhooty** Fundraising Support

**Vivian Zheng** Strategic Initiatives

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### **GET INVOLVED!**

### DONATE

Give money to support our programs, donate products, designate BFC as charity of choice at an event or through workplace giving.

### **VOLUNTEER**

Individuals, corporate groups, schools and community groups help us sort, de-label, and pack new clothing and basic-needs items for our clients.

### **MENTOR**

Support a participant in our job training program.

29 Connell Court, Unit 3, Toronto, ON M8Z 5T7 416.703.8435 brandsforcanada.com

