



## West Vancouver Community Foundation chooses new CEO, plans to double grants

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017, West Vancouver, BC*—Strong business skills – check. Deep understanding of social responsibility – check. Years of experience in fundraising and philanthropy – check. Roots in West Vancouver’s community – check.

Adine Mees brings all that to her new role as chief executive officer of the West Vancouver Community Foundation, which she takes up next week.

“Working with the West Vancouver Community Foundation means actively participating in the daily life of this incredible community. Great communities don’t simply happen; they are intentional and they require sustained effort and support. I am excited about beginning that work, meeting with people and community groups and working with them to understand where we can collaborate and have an impact,” she says. “And I am absolutely thrilled to be working in West Vancouver. It’s my home. I was born here and my husband David and I have raised our family here.”

The West Vancouver Community Foundation provides financial support to community projects in health, education, the arts, the environment and social services. It also offers scholarships and awards for students by managing more than \$13 million in assets and a long list of endowment funds. It has granted \$2 million to community projects and \$220,000 in student scholarships since it was founded in 1979.

Going forward, the foundation intends to grow its assets to \$30 million over the next eight years, allowing it to give away \$1 million annually. Along with new financial targets, the foundation is now leading key community discussions.

Last year, its first *Vital Signs* report cast light on what it means to be vulnerable in West Vancouver—housing security for seniors and others, marginalized new residents, readiness of young children to successfully begin school, mental health and addiction issues, and the absence of the 20- to 44-year-old cohort in West Vancouver—the ‘missing middle.’

Mees’ skills and professional background position her very well to meet new financial targets and to lead the discussion on community issues. Her most recent role was president and CEO of the Minerva Foundation. Prior to that, she spent a decade as president and CEO of Canadian Business for Social Responsibility, which advances corporate citizenship and sustainability. She’s also held senior roles with Citizens Bank of Canada and Vancity.

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Mees says her immediate priorities are having conversations with the key stakeholders connected to the foundation so that it can begin growing its profile and adding to its good work right away. Further down the road, she sees strategic growth leading to an increased scope for the foundation.

“In very broad strokes, my long-term goals are growing our endowments and their potential impact by working with all stakeholders and residents of West Vancouver by engaging them very broadly and strategically. We intend to provide the residents of West Vancouver with the resources they need to become active and engaged community champions and philanthropists.”

Find out about the foundation’s vision, mission, how to donate and how to apply for grants at [westvancouverfoundation.com](http://westvancouverfoundation.com).

Image: Adine Mees, chief executive officer of the West Vancouver Community Foundation

This image is also available in high-resolution upon request.

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### Media Contact

Jeff McDonald, Director of Community Relations & Communications  
District of West Vancouver  
c: 604-396-3692 | d: 604-925-4736 | e: [jmcdonald@westvancouver.ca](mailto:jmcdonald@westvancouver.ca)