

MIGHTY STRIDES START WITH YOU

BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, ONE OF THE TOP TEN PEDIATRIC HOSPITALS IN THE WORLD



14,000+

PATIENT VISITS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE

16,000+

HOURS IN THE OPERATING ROOM

46,000+

VISITS TO LEDCOR CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY
AT BC CHILDREN'S

1,500+

RESEARCHERS

245+

CLINICAL TRIALS UNDERWAY TO
DEVELOP NEW TREATMENTS AND
TRANSFORM CARE

70%

OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AT
BC CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE
ARE ALSO CLINICIANS

Every year, our donor community supports priority needs of BC Children's Hospital and Research Institute. From innovative research and programs to critical equipment, your generosity is taking health care for kids from great to mighty. Thank you.

“THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT. AS A PROGRAM DIRECTOR I’M ABLE TO SEE HOW QUICKLY DONATIONS ARE TRANSLATED INTO PROJECTS, EQUIPMENT AND RESEARCH THAT TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF CHILDREN.”

– ANALYN PEREZ, PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF ONCOLOGY, HEMATOLOGY & BLOOD AND MARROW TRANSPLANT, BC CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

“IT IS REALLY VERY GRATIFYING AND HUMBLING TO SEE THE SUPPORT THAT IS OUT THERE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR OUR RESEARCH. YOUR COMPASSION IS DRIVING US TO GIVE BETTER, HEALTHIER FUTURES FOR KIDS.”

– DR. JAMES LIM, ASSOCIATE, DIRECTOR,
MICHAEL CUCCIONE CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM AT BC CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

TOGETHER, WE ARE MIGHTY

Thanks to you, BC Children's Hospital continues to make strides to ensure every child and their family in British Columbia and the Yukon has access to the health care they need, and more communities are represented in crucial health care research.

Breaking Language Barriers in Research

More than 26 per cent of people in BC speak a language other than English or French as their first language.¹ Dr. Quynh Doan, senior executive director of the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, is leading an initiative to help patients and families from diverse linguistic backgrounds participate in research.

Many studies do not accommodate families who speak different languages, offering project guidelines, documents and surveys only in English. With a project made possible thanks to donor support, Dr. Doan aims to break this language barrier.

Her team is working with patient partners and community groups to translate materials into simplified Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic and Spanish (four of the most commonly spoken languages in BC after English) that researchers can share with families who are willing to participate in research. The project also focuses on actively recruiting patient families with limited English proficiency. Dr. Doan says it best in describing why this work is so important:



“IF WE AREN'T INCLUDING ALL VOICES EQUITABLY, THE SOLUTIONS THAT COME OUT OF OUR WORK WILL ONLY IMPROVE THE LIVES OF SOME. THIS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH. WE KNOW WE CAN, AND MUST, DO BETTER TO ADDRESS HEALTH INEQUITY THROUGH INCLUSIVE AND FAIR-MINDED RESEARCH.”

— DR. QUYNH DOAN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
RESEARCH INSTITUTE CHAIR AND CONGDON FAMILY HOSPITAL
CHAIR IN RESEARCH AT BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

1. See website for more information:
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Choose-B-C/Explore-British-Columbia/Language-in-B-C>

CULTURALLY SAFE HEALTH CARE

BC Children's Hospital is committed to improving the quality of health care for Indigenous families and fostering an environment where people feel safe when receiving health care.

Indigenous Health Program

The Indigenous Health Program advocates for and provides support services to Indigenous patients and their families receiving care at BC Children's Hospital—offering access to cultural resources, and connection with Elders who provide emotional and cultural support.

One initiative the hospital has taken is the addition of a senior professional practice lead, who has been working to improve the health care environment of Indigenous children and the broader community through a range of projects. This has included improving education to care teams, focusing especially on preventing anti-Indigenous racism in the emergency room, reviewing standards of practice and policies at the hospital, and developing crucial guides for how to promote Indigenous health at BC Children's.

The hospital is also improving collaboration and connection with Indigenous communities and leaders. "This year's highlight was connecting with Elders of the three sovereign nations on whose territory BC Children's operates," said Jackie Norman, Indigenous project manager. "The Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh Nations—noting their strengths, skills, teachings, knowledge and wisdom, and what they can offer to our patients, families and staff."



SACRED SPACE AT BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



**“WE APPLY AN INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SAFETY LENS
AND FOCUS ON THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF PATIENTS
ACCESSING CARE AT BC CHILDREN'S.”**

– DAWN TISDALE, DIRECTOR, INDIGENOUS HEALTH PROGRAM,
BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & WOMEN'S HOSPITAL + HEALTH CENTRE

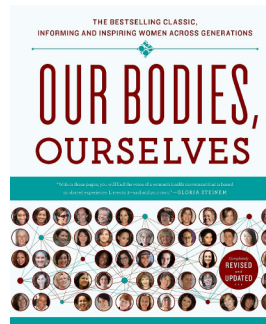
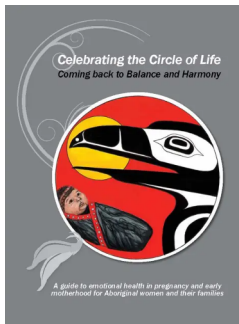
EMPOWERING FAMILIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Thank you for helping BC Children's Hospital ensure families have the information and tools to support the health and well-being of their children.

The Family Library

When a family is navigating their child's health, it's important for them to have access to resources that are vetted, free and accessible from anywhere.

The BC Children's Family Library exists for just this reason, offering families the ability to access health information including books, ebooks, games and teaching tools. Last year the Family Library loaned more than 1,000 resources, helping families make informed health care decisions for their kids.



SmartParent

Becoming a new parent is both an exciting and challenging time, and BC Children's researchers want to help ensure parents have the guidance and community they need to raise a little one.



Developed with support from generous donors, SmartParent is a Canadian parenting support program that helps ensure new parents have evidence-based information about critical aspects of infant care—ultimately improving long-term health outcomes for children.

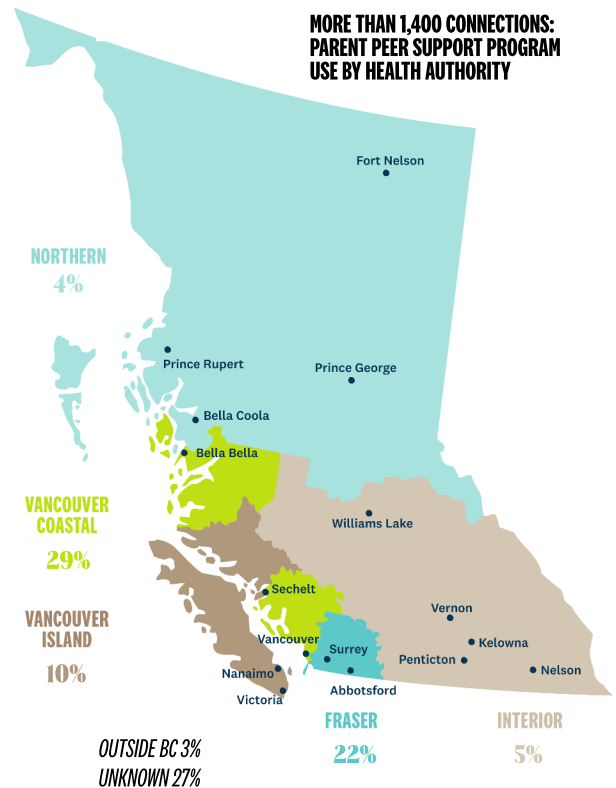
SmartParent is Canada's first education program for new parents delivered via text message and is available free of charge. The program has over 900 registrants from the Northern Health and Fraser Health regions. Thank you for helping to ensure families have the information they need to give their children the very best start in life, no matter where they live.

HERE FOR EVERY CHILD IN BC

Your support of BC Children's Hospital goes far beyond its walls, reaching more than **97,000** children and youth living across British Columbia and the Yukon. Kids and families have relied on the hospital's range of programs, including its Family Library, online resources like LearnDiabetes, an educational tool for kids and families living with diabetes, and crucial remote and virtual support such as the Parent Peer Support program. Thank you.

The Parent Peer Support program, through the Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre at BC Children's, is a province-wide initiative that is making an enormous difference in the lives of families whose kids are experiencing mental health challenges.

Parent Peer Support workers give non-judgmental, compassionate support, drawn from their own lived experience as family members of a child or youth with mental health challenges. Every year, these dedicated individuals connect with families and caregivers who are seeking guidance and resources to better support the mental health of their children. In 2023, Parent Peer Support workers made more than **1,400 connections** with families and care teams. Thank you for supporting immeasurably valuable programs like these that bring expert support to families throughout BC.



“IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I VOICED ALL OF MY FEARS AND CONCERNS AND YOU WERE AMAZING AT LISTENING AND PROVIDING FEEDBACK THAT BOTH REASSURED AND CALMED ME.”

– PARENT OFFERING FEEDBACK TO A KELTY CENTRE PARENT PEER SUPPORT WORKER

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Thank you for supporting critically needed equipment and technology at BC Children's Hospital. From high precision neurosurgical instruments to crucial medical monitoring equipment and life-supporting ventilators, donors support over 1,000 tools and technologies that health care teams are using to save and change lives every day.

An example of equipment your generosity supported has recently helped change 8-year-old Zakai's future. When Zakai needed eye surgery, specialists relied on a new **synoptophore**—a tool used to look closely at the eye, to help guide the procedure. Emily, Zakai's mom, shares how an operation at BC Children's in 2023 changed the way her son saw the world.



Zakai's story

Zakai had been living in a world of double vision his whole life, and we didn't even know it. There were things in Zakai's life that we hadn't been able to explain. He didn't want to play catch, and he wouldn't pour milk over his cereal.

He had trouble reading, and he didn't want to learn how to ride a bike. We never knew why, until one day we noticed something looked strange about his eyes.

We were referred to BC Children's and after a range of tests, our ophthalmologist Dr. Jane Gardiner diagnosed Zakai with a rare condition that caused his eye muscles to be misaligned. Surgery was needed.

I remember before the procedure I said to Zakai, "Hey, buddy, you've got this. Give me a high five." When Zakai totally missed my hand, I asked him, "Do you see two hands instead of one?" Zakai looked up at me and said, "There's always been two of you."

I realized then that this operation was not just going to change the way Zakai's eyes looked, but transform the way he experienced the world.

Since his surgery, Zakai is flourishing in every aspect of his life. It was incredible how the change was instant. Two hours after the procedure, he was home and could see clearly for the first time. His reading is improving, and he wants to try sports and play catch. He now gives high fives wherever he goes—confident and happy in himself. It is just amazing how that single procedure has made such an enormous difference to how Zakai will grow as a kid and a person.

To everyone at BC Children's, including generous donors, I want to say thank you.

— EMILY, ZAKAI'S MOM

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— EMILY, ZAKAI'S MOM

SUNNY HILL HEALTH CENTRE

Thank you for supporting Sunny Hill Health Centre at BC Children's Hospital, the province's only pediatric acute rehabilitation and developmental assessment centre. Every year, thousands of children and their families, from 250 communities across BC, come to Sunny Hill seeking assessments, diagnoses, rehabilitation, and—above all—hope. Donor generosity helps support programs, advanced equipment, healing environments and talented care teams to provide kids the best care. Thank you.

200+

KIDS AND YOUTH HELPED BY
THE MOTION LAB EVERY YEAR FOR
FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT ASSESSMENTS

100+

KIDS AND YOUTH ADMITTED TO
ACUTE REHABILITATION INPATIENT UNIT
EVERY YEAR

3,000+

CHILDREN ASSESSED EVERY YEAR FOR
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL CONDITIONS
INCLUDING AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Dedicated care teams at Sunny Hill help kids like Sailor. Active and fun-loving, Sailor is playing para hockey and speeding down Cypress Mountain thanks to the remarkable care and customized equipment provided at Sunny Hill.



**“THE WORK AND COMMITMENT
OF TEAMS AT BC CHILDREN’S
HAS OPENED AN ENORMOUS
WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY FOR
SAILOR. THANK YOU.”**

– ASHLEY, SAILOR’S MOM

MIGHTY EXPERTS AT SUNNY HILL

An important way your generosity is making a difference at Sunny Hill is by supporting programs and fellowships that are training the next generation of specialists. Fellows are health-care professionals or research scientists who undergo additional training to gain the expertise and advanced skills they need to provide the highest level of care to children and their families. One example is the Developmental Pediatrics Fellowship, awarded this year to Dr. Natalia Diaz Pinzon.

Through this fellowship, Dr. Diaz Pinzon is able to pursue her commitment to improve the developmental health of children across BC.

By giving talented and passionate individuals opportunities to receive expert training in child health, you are making a difference that will be felt by kids and families for years to come. Thank you.

WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIAN?

Developmental pediatricians are doctors who specialize in child development. They evaluate and treat children with a wide variety of developmental, learning and behavioural conditions, which can include assessing and supporting a child's motor skills, speech, social interaction skills and attention.



“THIS PROGRAM HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM STAFF WITH EXTENSIVE CLINICAL, ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE. HERE AT SUNNY HILL, I FEEL I AM MORE ABLE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO KIDS. TO THE DONORS WHO HAVE MADE THIS POSSIBLE, THANK YOU.”

– DR. NATALIA DIAZ PINZON,
DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICS FELLOW, BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

MIGHTY DISCOVERIES

Because of you, researchers at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute are changing lives. From driving innovations in cancer and cardiology treatments to training the next generation of research superstars, your generosity is having a profound effect on the health of kids now and in the future. Thank you.

Seed Grants

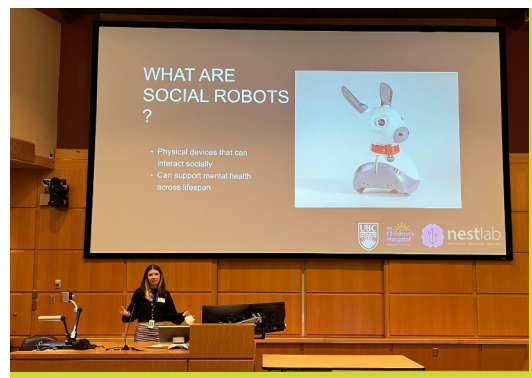
Your donations support research in many ways, including the provision of seed grants. These grants serve as the first building blocks for new projects, helping researchers to later qualify for additional funding. Last year alone, because of your generosity towards seed grants, researchers were awarded more than **\$67 million in external funding**, launching major projects that are working to improve treatments and care for kids in BC and around the world.

Summer Studentships

Thank you for helping to encourage students to pursue careers in health research with the Summer Student Research program. In 2022, **123 students** from **19 universities** led research projects to pursue new discoveries and innovations to transform the lives of children and families.

Trainee Boost Awards

Your support is also helping trainees at BC Children's to undertake high-impact health research projects as they build their careers. Projects include exploring the genetic factors involved in juvenile Huntington disease, studying whether pet-like social robots impact the mental health of kids and families in hospitals, and improving access to genetic counselling. Thank you for supporting the research superstars of tomorrow.



“THE TIME I SPENT IN THE LAB MADE ME REALIZE THAT RESEARCH IS A REWARDING WAY TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE.”

**– KATARZYNA KABACINSKA,
TRAINEE BOOST AWARD RECIPIENT**

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

With more than 1,500 researchers, many of whom are health care professionals, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute is truly a world-class hub for research in pediatric health. We are proud to share highlights of the ground-breaking work taking place at the Research Institute. Thank you for helping to make this transformative work possible.

**FOR EVERY \$1 DONATED, INVESTIGATORS RECEIVED \$5
IN EXTERNAL GRANTS TO FURTHER THEIR RESEARCH.**



Click or scan below to learn more about the innovative research donors make possible.

[BC Children's Hospital
Research Institute:
A year of innovation
and breakthroughs](#)



[Working to make
childhood cancer
recurrence a thing
of the past](#)

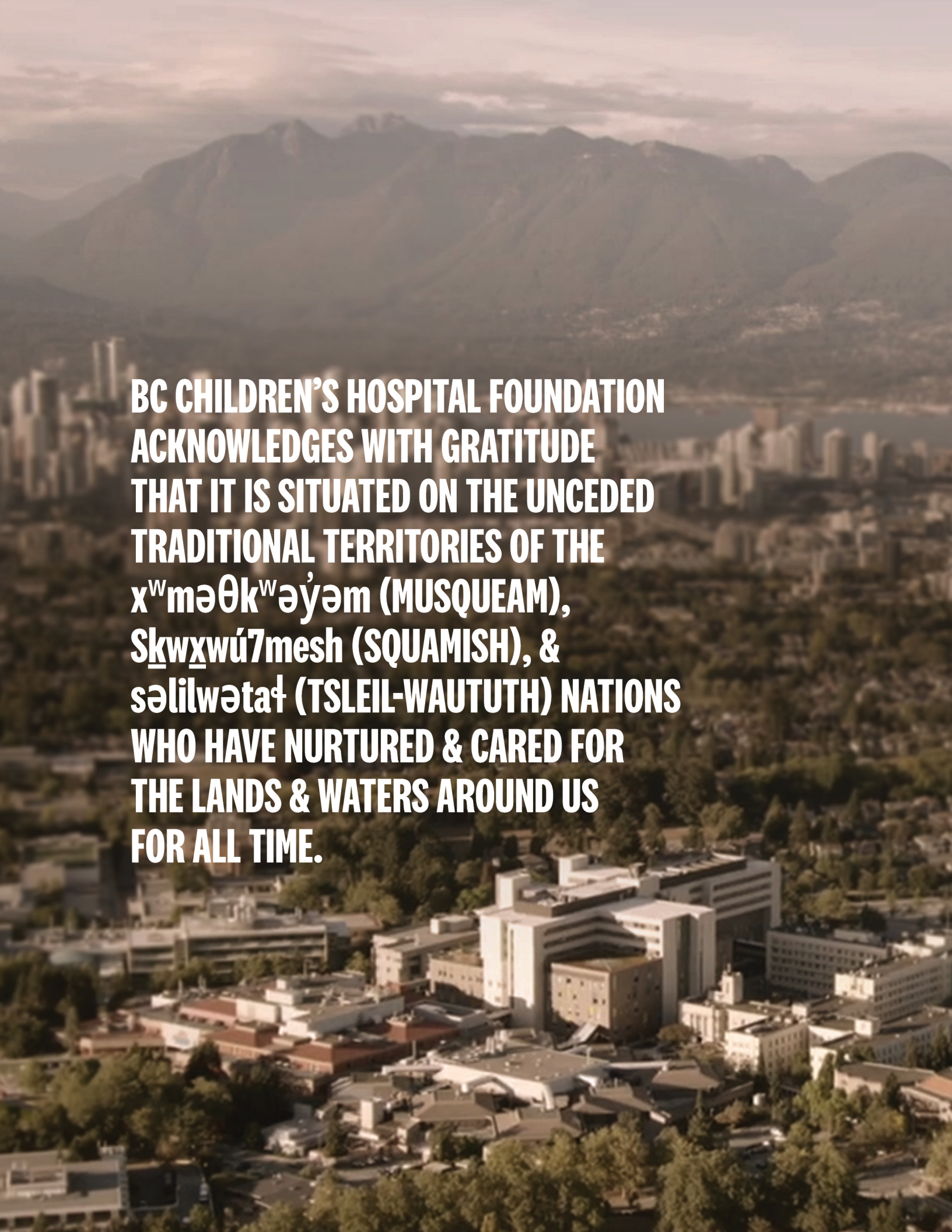


[Uncovering the origins
of type 1 diabetes](#)



[Video games can
trigger deadly
heart rhythms in
at-risk kids](#)



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Vancouver, with a dense urban area in the foreground and a range of mountains in the background under a hazy sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GRATITUDE
THAT IT IS SITUATED ON THE UNCEDED
TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE
x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (MUSQUEAM),
Skwxwú7mesh (SQUAMISH), &
səlilwətał (TSLEIL-WAUTUTH) NATIONS
WHO HAVE NURTURED & CARED FOR
THE LANDS & WATERS AROUND US
FOR ALL TIME.**