

Youth Leadership Society of BC

&

Steps Together Foundation

Digital Connectivity Summary Report
2020 & 2021

Ravi Safaya

Compiled By:

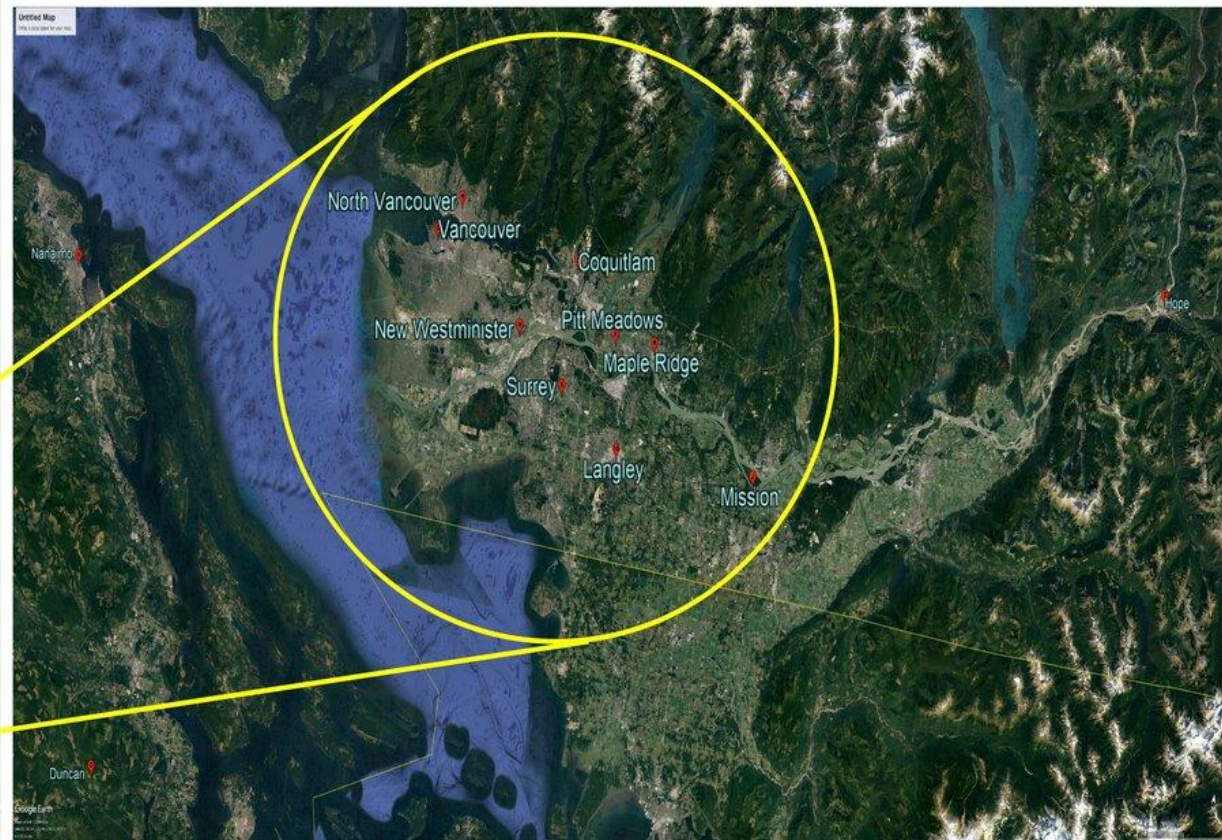
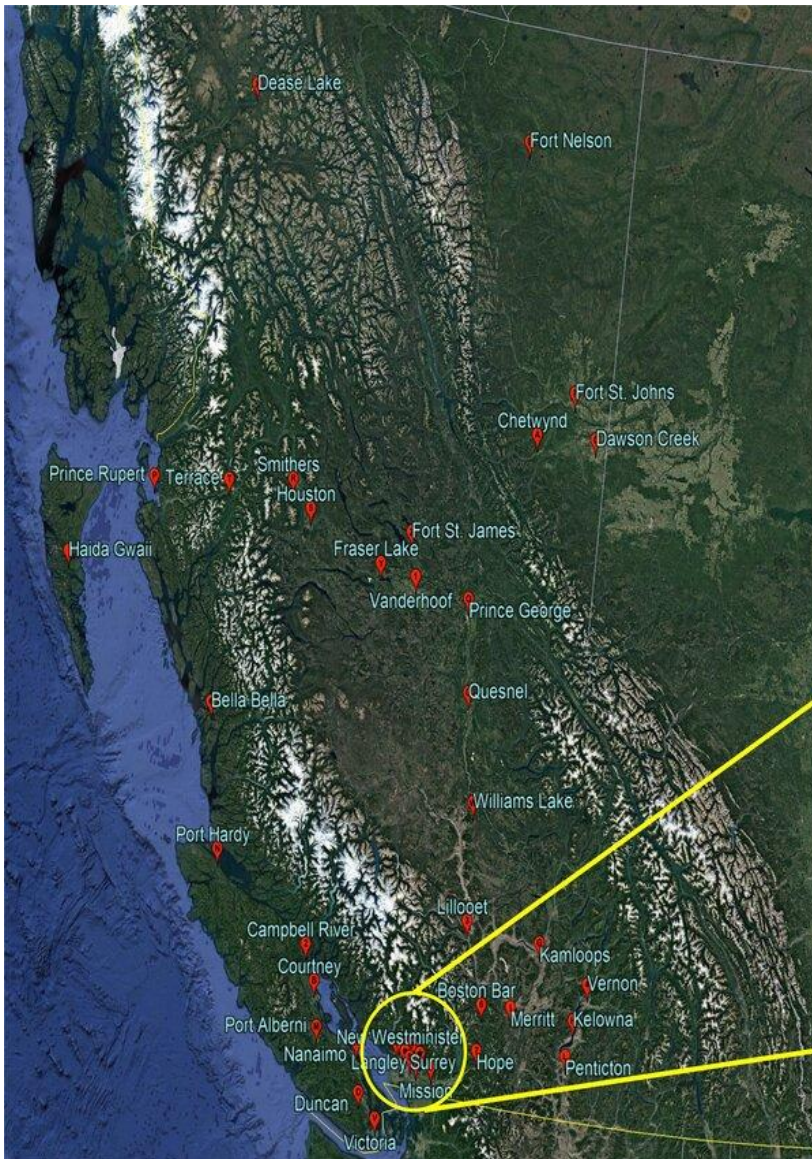
Priyanka Kaul (Project Manager)

Youth Leadership Society of British Columbia



STEPS TOGETHER FOUNDATION

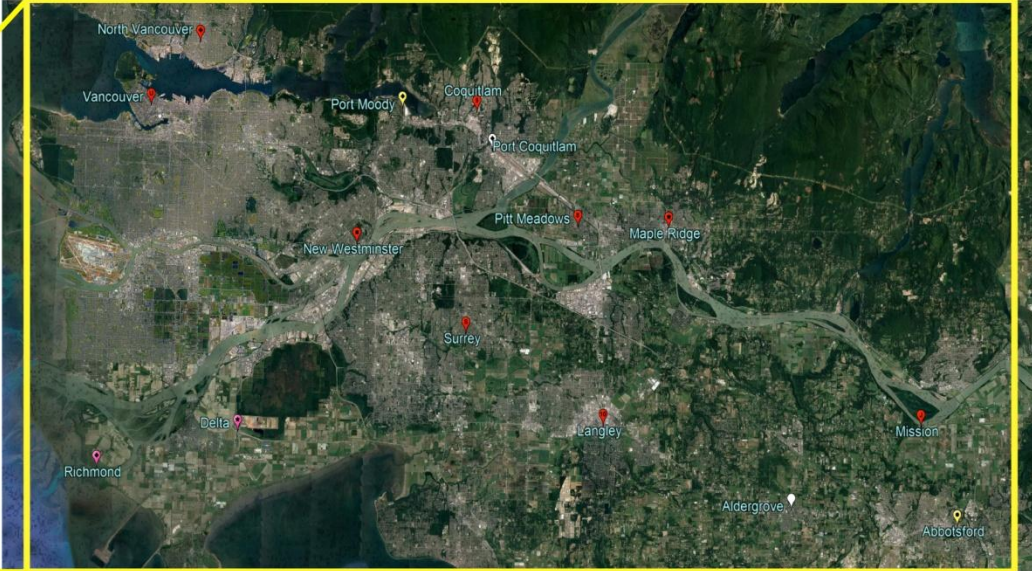
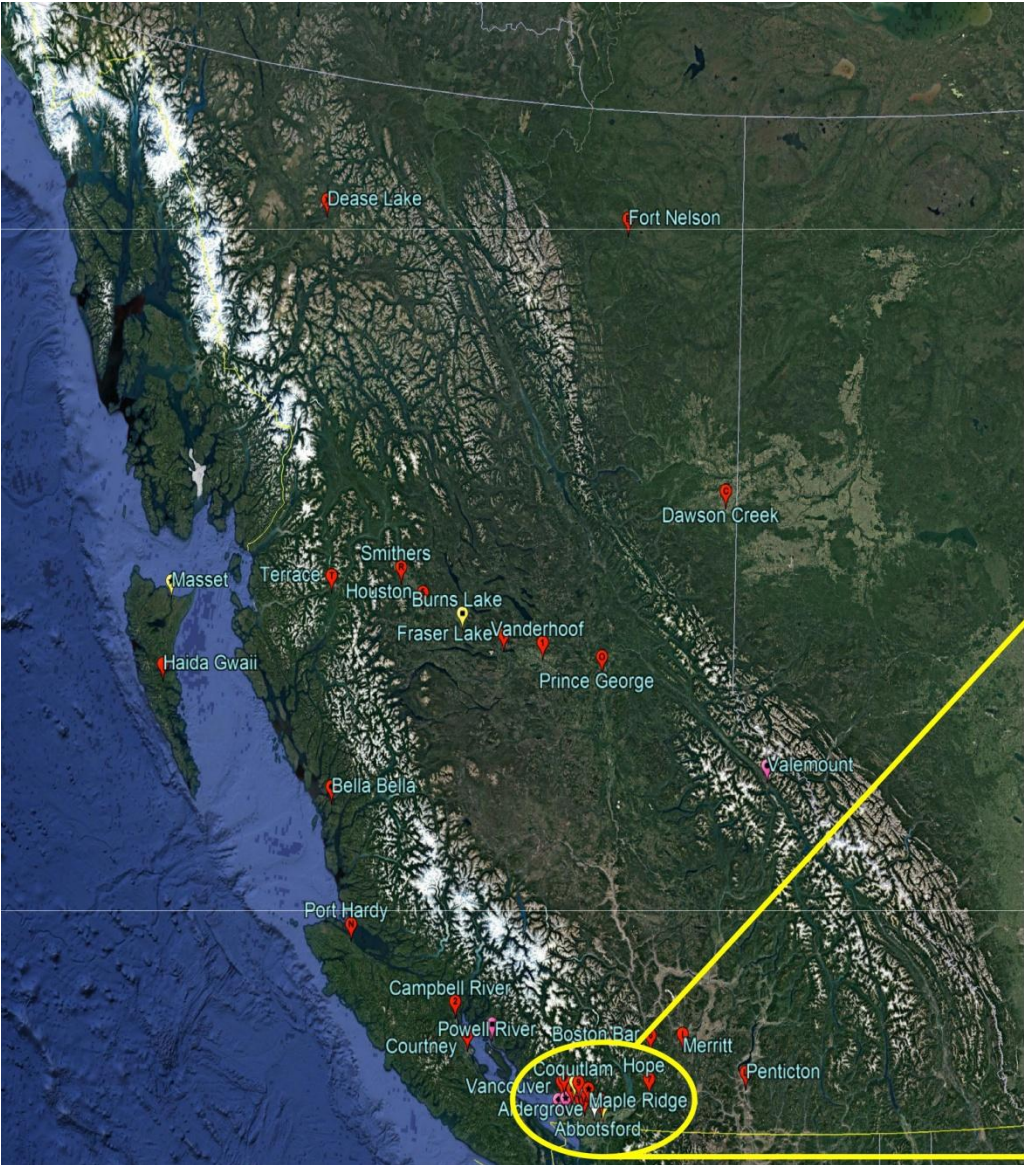
Cities (Friendship Centers, School Districts and other Organizations) Visited, Contacted or Collaborated with in British Columbia, Canada in 2020



Covid-19 Community Program Grants (Completed in 2020)	
Community Members donation for Front Line Worker Meals	\$3,500
Food Rescue Grant	\$15,000
Good Food Access Fund Grant	\$50,000
Canadian Red Cross Emergency Food Grant	\$99,626
Rising Youth Grants (Youth Members of YLSBC)	102,500
Total:	\$270,626

281 computers were donated to low income families and students across BC in 2020. These computers were distributed to Indigenous communities, School Districts and other local organizations that distributed the computers to the families in need.

Cities (Friendship Centers, School Districts and other organizations) contacted or collaborated with in British Columbia in 2021 thus far.



Covid-19 Community Program Grants 2021 (In Progress or Completed)	
Vancity Grant for Computers/Internet	\$10,000
Community Foundation of Canada (CFC) Grant for Computers/Internet	\$35,000
CFC Grant for Educational Supplies for Indigenous Communities	\$16,000
Good Food Access Fund (Completed as of June 15th)	\$100,000
Total:	\$156,000

Around 641 computers were donated and 49 Internet connections were set up for low income families from 26 Indigenous communities, BIPOC organizations, School Districts and other local organizations across 19 cities in BC by June 2021.

For more information and details please visit the Covid-19 response page of website at <https://www.vlsbc.org/covid19-response>

Selected Testimonials and Pictures

Hi Ravi,

Receiving a computer from you was really helpful, it's not only a financial help also made my daughter and myself to feel really happier as we haven't had any computer at home at the time and I was in my recovery from a health issue, we could have a computer easily from you. Thankyou so much for making us happy and hopeful.

Thanks.

Zahra

Hi Ravi hope you're doing well,

First, I would like to thank you for this opportunity that you provide us about the internet. My family and I took advantage of studying and doing more research by using the internet and also working from home. Below you can find one of my daughter projects that she made at school. All my family would like to thank you again, and wish you a blessed summer!!!!!!

Rajaa

Hi Ravi,

The computers that you provided to our low income single parent families helped a lot when school was primarily online during the pandemic. School-aged children, as well as their mothers who are upgrading their education were able to benefit from these computers, and it made a huge difference in their education experience during a pandemic. Thank you so much for all that you have done for our families at Semlin!

Kindly,

Nava



Hi Ravi,

I am sorry for late response.

My daughter, Barbara Alice Percival has benefitted from your program. My daughter is traumatized, considered crisis mode still, and uses the internet for numerous counseling zoom appointments and she just started an online day treatment program. My daughter is able to play

her Playstation and listen to music. As I am a single mom, who recently started working, I am very grateful for all help because your program helped cut costs down for us. Due to many expenses and moving into our own place March 2021, your program has helped us tremendously in all respects. The computer is working and that has helped my daughter, as we had no computer for awhile. Alice uses the computer for zoom appointments. Thank you for your program as it has made our lives better in respect to having extra money for food. I pray God blesses you for your wonderful work and program.

Sincerely,
Angela

Having moved internationally to Canada during the pandemic, we faced moving costs, very high flight costs, and the costs of setting up a new home all at once. We were also unprepared for the school system's reliance on technology for assignments and my children were not always able to access or complete their assignments as they didn't have access to a dedicated computer. YLSBC and TD Bank cooperated in giving my daughter a laptop and helping support our internet costs for a year. This support is critical for me as a single mother of three children who is studying full time, working part time, and unable to meet our current cost of living. I hope this is helpful.

Wishing you well,
Carmen

“It has been so great to see youth getting access to the tools they need to be successful. One youth in particular had just moved back home to Smithers to live with his grandma and was behind on schoolwork. He was able to get caught up with his new computer in the evenings after school.” We are pleased this youth in particular has been able to get caught up on school work since falling behind while relocating back to Smithers. He is also able to connect with his friends and family via zoom and messenger. Amazing resources to stay connected and build confidence while attending online classes.

~ Lisa Bradley (Program Youth Coordinator)



Hi

I just wanted to say "Thank you," for the computers and affordable internet. Having a son with a learning disability and being a single mom on a fixed income your generosity helps our entire family. As a parent it gives me the peace of mind that I can afford to keep him connected to his studies and be successful in his education, and the computer allows him to do his research, assignments, zoom meetings etc without the stress of feeling like he will lose connection or his work. Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity especially in a time that has been extremely tough.

Life your Best Life

Becky

We are very thankful for the support, which we received from your organization to newcomer family in Langley, Shekhi family, who has three kids in school, received two computers, having these technology devices made a big difference in family's live, after having this support, which help the whole family members to get many benefits, like, improving their English, doing their homework, communicating with others. Thanks a lot for your quick response to provide Shekhi family with the support, which they need.

Nadia

There were 8 computers distributed to youth for education and social purposes. Many youth that we assist are low income and with the Covid 19 pandemic this created more hardships including social isolation. Youth were disconnected from school, family and friends, social events and gatherings. To assist the youth and families, computers were distributed to support them through the pandemic. Youth were able to reach out and connect with their friends, family and community. Youth were able to attend online school, join in with online support networks, reach out to their youth worker and peer youth groups and attend online zoom workshops. As the ACYMH program stayed open during the pandemic, ACYMH set up 3 computers for youth to access at Kermode Friendship Society. Kermode provided a safe place for youth to get assistance with their mental physical emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

Thank you

Angela



I would like to express sincere thanks, on behalf of Bella Bella Community School for the donation of refurbished desktop computers. Bella Bella is a remote, First Nations community of approximately 1200 people. Not all families have computers for their homes. With the pandemic, we were forced to conduct student learning online. This posed a dilemma for some families as there was not always enough technology for all of their children. The donation of computers has made a world of difference for so many students, allowing more of them to have access to their online learning at home. The computers were also beneficial in allowing students to maintain contact with one another when we were in lockdown situations, contributing to maintaining positive mental health for them during this unusual time. These computers have made such a difference in the lives of our students and their families. We are grateful for your generosity, and concern for our students.

Ǵiáxsiǵa, for your consideration, have a wonderful day!

Jennifer Hafenbrack OCT, BEd. MSc.
Educator (HS Culinary Arts 8-12, Gr. 10 English First Peoples)
Bella Bella Community School
Bella Bella, BC

