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Impact Assessment at REFBC

A story-driven exploration of the factors, practices, and relationships that contribute to change.

Hello Jill,

How does change happen?

In recent years, we've seen how (seemingly) isolated events like a natural disaster or coronavirus pandemic can spark rapid, widespread change. We've also seen how the work of anti-racism and climate activists can build over time into powerful social reckonings.

Over the last few years, our team has worked to better understand the mechanics and influences that drive lasting, positive change.

At the end of a project that's received funding from REFBC, we ask non-profits ("grantees") questions about the challenges and barriers they faced, the approaches and deliverables that were most valuable, and other lessons learned over the course of their project. We call this work impact assessment.

For REFBC, these answers help test our assumptions, shape our thinking on how change happens, and inform future decisions about what (and how) we make funding choices.

Impact Report

In our first-ever Impact Report, released today, we've compiled impact assessment data into a story-driven exploration of the factors, practices, and relationships that contribute to change.

Impact 2020: What We've Learned So Far includes a recap of our theory of change, a summary of important takeaways, and a deeper dive into the relationships,

deliverables, activities, and outcomes that contribute to lasting impact.

Download the Report

Webinar: February 24

Curious about our process and findings? Join me and the other report authors for a lunchtime webinar on Feb. 24, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (PT).

Together, we'll dig into the findings, share stories from the field, and offer lessons learned for project teams (and funders!)

Register Here

No organization can tackle change alone. We are fortunate to work with many community partners, Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments, academics, non-profits, and other funders who share our commitment to building strong communities and protecting our land and water.

I'm looking forward to hearing your feedback on our findings.

With thanks and appreciation,



Leanne Sexsmith

Director, Strategic Programs & Partnerships
Real Estate Foundation of BC

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