



December 2020 UPDATE

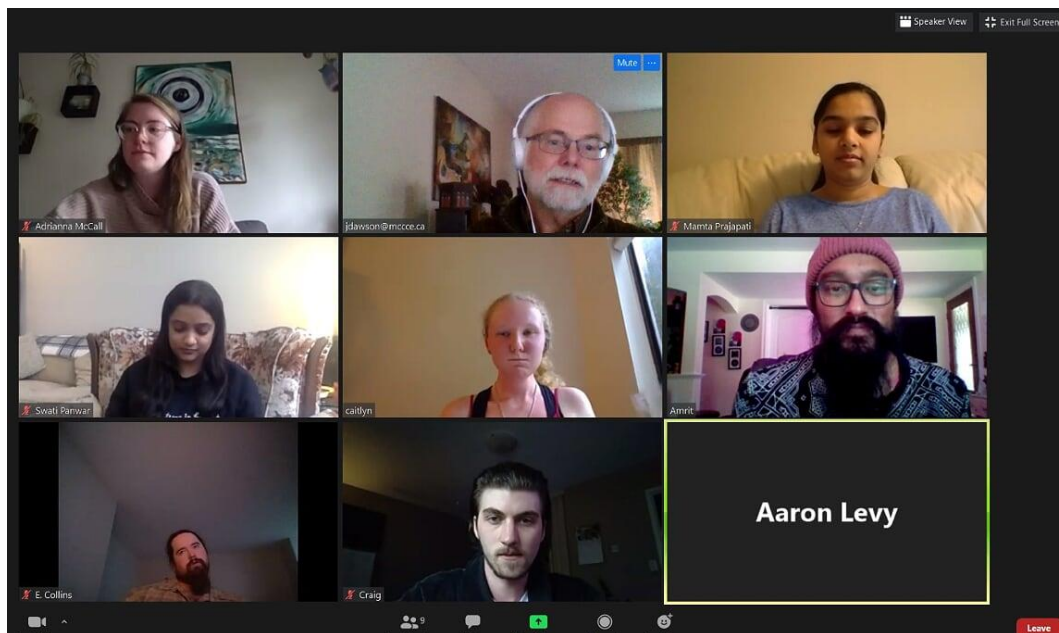
Dear Friends of Brooke,

We're writing to update you on what your contributions to the Brooke Forbes Legacy Fund made possible in 2020 and on discussions we're having about the future of the Fund and request your ongoing support.

As you know, the Fund was established in 2006 to honour our friend Brooke by carrying on the work she did introducing minority youth to audio production and the possibility of a career in radio.

This year, we concluded our two-year partnership with Agora Employment Essentials, a social enterprise set up by the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Agora used the funds to offer, in partnership with student radio station CIVL, a series of five story-telling workshops to fifty young people facing barriers to help them communicate with confidence and impact. Participants learned everything from how to find their story, to how to write, edit and record it. The stories were recorded at CIVL pre-COVID and participants were given tours of the station at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, B.C. The last few stories were recorded remotely. You can listen to one of the stories [here](#).

This is a screenshot of one of the pandemic workshops with the participants; John Dawson, the Program's Director (first row middle) and Amrit Saggi, a spoken word poet who was one of the instructors (second row on the right.)



The majority of the participants rated the workshops very highly. Here's what one of them wrote:

"I enjoyed the opportunity to develop my creative mind and nourish that creative process. It reinforced English writing skills that I haven't used in a while, and I have been wanting to improve on that. It was neat to have the chance to record our stories and develop our public speaking and storytelling skills."

Due to the challenges of mounting this kind of program during the pandemic, the Advisory Committee decided not to disburse funds for 2020-21. We also started a conversation about the future uses of the Fund and whether we could identify a partner and project that would be more long-term and still meet the basic goals of increasing access and exposure to a broadcasting career for minority youth. To that end, discussions have begun with a couple of journalism schools. We'll let you know of any changes.

In a "normal" year, we would have had our traditional Brooke Forbes Carport Sale in Vancouver. We were planning to have our 15<sup>th</sup> and last one this year and are still hoping to do that post-pandemic. Nonetheless, the Fund did grow due to some donations and the sale of a small part of a huge collection of CDs that's been donated to us by one of the Friends. (If any of you in Vancouver would like to peruse the collection in a COVID-safe environment, that can certainly be arranged.) The Fund now stands at slightly over \$70,000. If you'd like to help grow the fund, visit our [website](#) and click on the Donate! button.

Finally, a blast from the past and a treat for Friends of Brooke, given that there are not a lot of photos of her and very few of her at work. This is from 1981 or '82 in a CBC studio in Vancouver when Brooke was working on The Early Edition with host Bob Spence and yes, that is a cigarette Bob is about to light! Brooke was an Associate Producer on the show and did regular reports on air about the arts and culture scene in Vancouver.



In closing, we'd like to wish you all the best of the holiday season and as our Chief Medical Officer would say, "Be kind, be calm, be safe!" Next year looks promising!!

Cheers,

Joan Andersen (Chair), Joy Crysdale, Karen Levine and Sid Sawyer  
Brooke Forbes Legacy Fund Advisory Committee