



Brooke Forbes
legacy fund

May 2021 UPDATE

Dear Friends of Brooke,

We're excited to be writing to you with this update on the future of the Brooke Forbes Legacy Fund.

In our last update, we indicated that we were exploring various options for a new home for the Fund. We were looking to support an ongoing program that would increase exposure and access to careers in audio production for minority youth.

As you know, the Fund was established in 2006 in honour of our friend Brooke to carry on that very same work. For six years, in the eighties, she ran radio camps for high school students at the Canadian Broadcasting Centre in Toronto. Brooke was not fond of getting her picture taken, but just recently, we found a photo of one of the radio camps she ran.



Over the past 15 years, through the Brooke Fund, more than 100 youth who were Black, Indigenous and other People of Colour (BIPOC) learned to tell stories and record, edit and present them. The Fund was used to train refugee youth from social housing at a community radio station, Indigenous interns at CBC Vancouver, minority youth at CBC Toronto, a South Asian intern at a South Asian radio station, unemployed youth and at-risk youth living in the Jane-Finch area who were part of the non-profit Leave Out Violence program there. We partnered with AGORA Employment Essentials, CBC, Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, Humber College, MOSAIC, Pathways to Education, RAYCAM Community Centre and the Urban Native Youth Association. We heard so many authentic stories including those about the immigrant and refugee experience; life as a young single Dad; opportunities for Indigenous youth; racism, verbal and sexual abuse; and the jobs youth dreamed of having one day.

After exploring several different options for the future of the Fund, we determined the best home for it was at Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication. It will be held there as the Brooke Forbes Award for Internships in the field of Audio Production. The Fund will financially support audio production internships for BIPOC journalism students. This suggestion came from the journalism faculty who said that unpaid internships are often a barrier for BIPOC students. In addition, Carleton will use the Fund as a recruiting tool for BIPOC students, which supports a commitment made to students by faculty in a June 2020 open letter. That letter promised to address concerns about the lack of diversity and inclusion in the program.

We are very pleased to have found such a good fit for the Brooke Forbes Legacy Fund. Susan Harada, a former colleague at CBC and now a professor at Carleton wrote, "This will help our BIPOC students immensely, providing the support they need to pursue internship opportunities. Hopefully it will help kickstart careers and we will all be the better for having them out there doing journalism, leading the conversation."

We have transferred \$80,000 to Carleton and we anticipate that eligible students will receive up to \$4,000/year to support their internships. The Fund will be spent down over at least five years. There was \$850 left over after the transfer and those funds have been donated to Vancouver Co-operative Radio where Brooke got her start in radio.

If you would like to extend the life of Brooke's project by donating to the Fund at Carleton, click on [this link](#). Carleton will be keeping us informed as to who the recipients are and what they accomplished during their internships. We will do our best to pass that information on to you.

Thank you for all your support over the last fifteen years. It has been so rewarding to see the impact of Brooke's legacy, made possible through your generosity. We are confident this impact will continue with the Fund's new home at Carleton University.

Cheers,

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