







Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)


Farris' CSR program is a philosophy that supports local community events and charities that have a connection to our firm, employees, and clients. In addition to financial contributions, Farris lawyers and employees often participate in such events providing both leadership and support. Our firm is among the leading law firm community contributors in the Province. Some examples include the following:


 Farris lawyers take on Pro Bono cases from organizations such as Pro Bono Law BC, the Salvation Army, and the Court of Appeal Pro Bono Program. In April 2008, with the encouragement and support of Farris' Trial Experience Program, one of our Associates, Shannon Salter, was recognized by Pro Bono Law BC. Our lawyers also volunteer with the Law Courts Education Society, the UBC Law Students Legal Advice Program, and the Civil Chambers Duty Counsel Project.


 In September 2006, Farris donated \$1 million to The University of British Columbia (UBC) Faculty of Law. This was the largest gift ever made by a law firm at the time and it will support the Faculty of Law to replace the current building with a new structure on the existing UBC Law School site.


 Over the past 5 years, Farris and its employees have contributed nearly \$600,000 to the United Way and its member agencies. In 2007, Farris was once again the highest contributing law firm in Vancouver. Recently, Farris was the recipient of an Award of Excellence due to the fact that for 15 consecutive years we have achieved "Gold" level status (equates to 80% of payroll for one day).

 In Kelowna, where Farris has an office, we are a lead sponsor of the Lawyers Without Rights Exhibit and panel discussion, organized by the Okanagan Jewish Community. Our sponsorship includes financial support and Farris senior Partner, Mitchell Gropper, Q.C., travelling to Kelowna to moderate the panel discussion on the 1933 Nazi campaign to restrict Jewish participation in various professions, especially within the judicial system. The event commemorates the lawyers who were persecuted and describes the consequences of their accompanying isolation and fate.

 The Farris blood donor program was established as part of the Canadian Blood Services/ Annual Vancouver Legal Community program. Farris has actively been involved now for 10 years, with the firm receiving an award in 7 of the 10 years.

 Farris has been an avid supporter of the St. Paul's Hospital Lights of Hope annual fundraiser for the past 8 years, contributing \$10,000 annually. Since its inception in 1998, the campaign has raised more than \$10 million for equipment, research, and patient care.

 Over the past 3 years, Farris has contributed \$15,000 to Arts Umbrella, a non-profit centre for arts education for young people. Arts Umbrella reaches tens of thousands of young people annually, and the Granville Island facility alone hosts more than 260 classes each week.

 In June 2008, Farris raised over \$15,000 (a record for the firm) at the 10th Annual TD Bank Dunk Tank charity fundraiser. It was our 10th year of participation (we've been there from the start) with Farris Partners Gordon Love and Bob Sloman doing their part again on the hot seat. The event brings out "celebrity" participants from the downtown business community and proceeds go to Canuck Place and Ronald McDonald House. Our firm's contributions are made in memory of one of our past staff members, Kirsten Stazyk.

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 We sponsor and run a clothing collection program for Dress for Success, whose goal is to solve the catch-22 that confronts disadvantaged women trying to enter the workforce.

 Our firm supports the following events: BC Cancer Foundation; Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital; British Columbia Paraplegic Association; The Weekend to End Breast Cancer; Central City Foundation Downtown Eastside; and Cypress Mountain Relay for Life. Farris also supports its employees in The Vancouver Sun Run; Climb the Wall for Clean Air; Science Fair Foundation Fun Run; Easter Seals 24 hour relay; Run for the Cure; and Bowl for Big Brothers. Recently, Anne Gallagher was the leading individual fundraiser in the Climb the Wall event, primarily raising monies from colleagues in the firm; Melissa Proctor, Janine McRae and Maggie Basa raised both money and awareness at the Safeway Father's Day Walk/Run For Prostate Cancer. Even the firm's 2007 Christmas cards were sourced from the students at Capilano College's IDEA Program with an order for over \$5,000.

 The firm has consistently supported Kelowna Minor Baseball, Ballet Kelowna, the Central Okanagan United Way, Okanagan Symphony, and the KGH Foundation. Recently, an agreement was signed with the University of British Columbia to establish an award in Legal Studies and we support the Okanagan Bar Association Endowed Entrance Award.

 Recent internal initiatives include Farris introducing an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), whereby employees have confidential access to qualified counselling professionals who help resolve personal and work-related problems before they affect health, family, or the ability to work. Farris also introduced a fitness subsidy program for its employees encouraging them to participate in fitness activities.

Our philosophy is to support local community events and charities that have a connection to our firm, employees, and clients. Our efforts have been recognized when, for the second straight year, Farris won the Corporate Social Responsibility Award at the Legal Marketing Association's HELM Awards.



Recent photos of Farris lawyers and staff participating in Climb the Wall for Clean Air, Science Fair Foundation Fun Run, and the TD Bank Dunk Tank charity fundraiser.

Our People on the Board of Directors for CSR Organizations

- ACT – Autism Community Training (Alison Narod)
- Arts Club Theatre Company (Mitchell Gropper, Q.C.)
- BC SPCA (Marylee Davies)
- British Columbia Achievement Foundation (Keith Mitchell, Q.C.)
- British Columbia Innovation Council (Hector MacKay-Dunn, Q.C.)
- Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver (Mitchell Gropper, Q.C.)
- Leading Edge Endowment Fund (Hector MacKay-Dunn, Q.C.)
- LifeSciences British Columbia (Hector MacKay-Dunn, Q.C.)
- National Research Council of Canada (James Hatton)
- Pacific Parkinson's Research Congress (Gordon Love)
- Pacific Parkinson's Research Institute (Gordon Love)
- Royal Roads University (James Hatton)
- Tennis Canada (Hector Mackay-Dunn, Q.C.)
- UBC Law Alumni Association (Marylee Davies)
- Vancouver Foundation of Art, Justice and Liberty (Christine Oberti)
- West Vancouver Soccer Club (Bob Sloman)
- Women in the Lead (Geoffrey Lewis)