

# urban matters

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Urban Matters CCC is a social enterprise incorporated as a Community Contribution Company in British Columbia. BC is one of the few jurisdictions in Canada offering this form of business incorporation model; developed specifically to generate new opportunities and outcomes in the social and community serving sectors. We chose this hybrid incorporation model specifically to attempt to penetrate new and emerging space between for-profit and not-for-profit businesses; an approach we feel is necessary to tackle many of the social issues our communities are struggling with.

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## WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION COMPANY UNIQUE?

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Well, it's in the details. The model is based upon a standard business incorporation, with a few unique characteristics that aim to respond to an emerging demand for socially focused investment options and enterprises. These characteristics can however, create profound opportunities to look at social and community problems differently, and to activate new and more sustainable investment approaches. Notably, a CCC differs from a standard business incorporation by:

- > Conducting business and earning revenues for social and community focused purposes and being accountable by publishing an annual report.
- > Requiring, upon dissolution, distribution of all assets, to community focused charitable organizations...

Most notably, CCC's have a cap on the amount of profits that may be distributed to shareholders; an effective ceiling on profitability. A maximum of 40% share value can be distributed to shareholders on an annual basis, with 60% to be reinvested in social outcomes and causes.



## THE SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

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With that established, what have we been able to accomplish from a social and community impact perspective?

Well the bulk of the progress we've achieved in fiscal 2015 relates to establishing the organization itself, an appropriate governance model and basic operating policies and parameters, a sustainable revenue model, and an early stable of pilot projects and initiatives. Urban Matters' community mandate is as follows:

**Urban Matters CCC exists to develop unique approaches and solutions in cornerstone focal areas of water, food, housing and livelihood, for populations that are not being served by the market economy (in Canada).**

Our theory of change lies in 'how' we will live up to that strategic outcome statement. Our approach primarily relates to creating sustainable social enterprises and initiatives that spawn other social enterprises (ie. consulting work, collective impact initiatives and social change labs) with partner organizations and individuals that are ready, credible and able to affect change.



Considering this, notable progress has been made in areas of:

- › **Exploring and Piloting Aboriginal Community Development** - For the past 18 months we have been attempting to initiate pilot projects that provide responsive needs-based community development support in Aboriginal communities. How can we bring all society has to offer to the table and provide Aboriginal communities with unbiased support driven by their needs?
- › **Enhancing Livelihood Outcomes for Aboriginal British Columbians** - Over the course of 2015 we have been working with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to bring the language and opportunity of social enterprise into the context of improving Aboriginal employment outcomes. Initially this was born of the Aboriginal 5x5 Jobs Strategy adopted in BC. What has emerged is an Aboriginal social enterprise skill development program, an independent Aboriginal venture itself, that is gaining momentum and will launch officially later in 2016.
- › **Exploring and Positioning in Affordable and Social Housing** - Affordable and social housing is an awkward and challenging multi-jurisdictional issue in most communities. Lots of dialogue is focused, at this preliminary stage, on building broad-based understanding of the issues.

Our efforts in penetrating this dialogue have been varied, focusing on pre-market or the social side of housing and homeless, consistent with our overall strategic goals. What has resulted is a series of efforts ranging from supporting Aboriginal and Metis Social Housing organizations in Saskatchewan, to convening the Mayors Task Force on Affordable Housing in Penticton.



## THE FINE PRINT

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So with that comes our annual disclosure statements, in legal ease for clarity, and coincident with our 2015 fiscal year end (December 1st 2014 to November 30th 2015). Each and every year, Urban Matters CCC must disclose:

1. The remuneration and position held of each person whose remuneration during that year was at least \$75 000, or, if there are more than 10 persons whose remuneration during that year was at least \$75 000, the remuneration and position held during that year of each of the 10 most highly remunerated persons

Urban Matters CCC held no positions in fiscal 2015 for which the remuneration exceeded \$75,000.

2. The financial position of the company in that year by attaching to the report the financial statements prepared in relation to that year

Urban Matters CCC essentially broke even in fiscal 2015, its first full year of operations, showing a final financial position of -\$478. *Further statements are attached.*

3. The following information about dividends declared in relation to shares of classes or series of shares:

- i. For each of those classes and series of shares, the aggregate amount of the dividends declared in that year in relation to shares of that class or series of shares...

Urban Matters CCC did not declare any dividends in fiscal 2015

- ii. The identity of all entities that hold or beneficially own shares of that class or series of shares

Urban Matters CCC did not declare any dividends in fiscal 2015.

4. The amount prescribed for a transfer of all money and other assets transferred to a single transferee during a financial year, whether by way of one or more than one transaction in that financial year, is \$10 000.

Urban Matters CCC did not transfer any money or other assets in fiscal 2015

And that's all the ground that needs to be covered with respect to disclosure.

## WHAT'S UP FOR 2016?

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What's Up for 2016?

Simply stated we're one year better positioned to advance on our strategic goals. We've made some mistakes and learned a lot, we've developed sustainable and promising pathways toward community impact and change too, and developed some promising partnerships and collaborations.

Watch for us in a community near you!

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