



Press Release

CIBC Wood Gundy Investors Donate Cash for Local Kids in Need *Donation of \$7542 To Schools Foundation From Miracle Day Fundraiser*

Nanaimo, BC – January 22, 2013 The Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation (NLSF) recently received a generous donation from investment advisors at CIBC Wood Gundy. The \$7542 donation will go towards the Foundation's Student Support Fund.

The Student Support Fund is a direct-to-student fund that allows teachers and staff to confidentially and anonymously provide vulnerable children with shoes or coats, more school supplies if needed, to cover band or athletic fees, and other necessities to help keep them in school through the remainder of the year. The program started in the District's high schools four years ago and was extended to the elementary schools three years ago.

The funds are commissions donated by the seven investment advisors at CIBC Wood Gundy's Nanaimo branch through the national Miracle Day initiative, which happens in December. This brings the branch's donation to the Foundation to over \$15,000 since 2011.

"There is a real need which many people don't experience or run into on a daily basis," said Nathan Thornton, Vice President, CIBC Wood Gundy. "The NLSF is able to give support to some of the most vulnerable students, really giving them a chance for success in the future. The team here feels connected to helping where it is needed the most in our community."

The Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Foundation raises funds and works in partnership with teachers, administrators and counselors in School District 68 to deliver support programs that better the lives of students in need. Supplies and programs that are not covered by the school board budget are supplemented through the Foundation. In 2011/12 the Foundation invested over \$480,000 back to local students through various programs, including food programs, elementary music, student support fund, scholarships, awards and bursaries, and the Mini-O track meet for special needs students.

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Fred Kolodrubsky and Erin van Steen from the Foundation with the CIBC Wood Gundy team.