

Annual Report 2020-2021

Empowerment Through Opportunity



 missionpossible



Working Works

Dear Friends,

For years, we at Mission Possible have trusted that “Working works”. Never has that wisdom been tested as much as in this past year. The challenges and complexities our country faced due to COVID-19 were uniquely acute in the Downtown Eastside. From the reduction in support services to the increased threat of illness and death, collective anxiety in our community was at an all-time high.

Yet even as the 65 individuals who began work with us faced these challenges, they showed resilience and tenacity. By coming to work with a positive attitude, they gifted themselves a reality beyond infection rates and ICU counts. Having the structure of a work week, and a focus on serving the community, our employees not only gained a paycheque, but the sense of hope and purpose we all needed to face these difficult days. Having a job was literally life-saving.

This work made a difference in the larger community as well. Throughout 2020 and 2021, Mission Possible was highly involved in the COVID-19 response in the Downtown Eastside. We took part in safety campaigns to promote health and wellbeing in the community. We also worked with the City of Vancouver to provide additional street cleaning services and to monitor and clean the temporary washroom facilities established throughout the downtown area. These opportunities helped us build new relationships within the community as well as strengthen existing ones.

We were fortunate to not have a single transmission of COVID in our entire organisation thanks to the diligence of our team around safety protocols. We are also very grateful to the organisations and individuals who supplied Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as it allowed us to work safely and also re-distribute to our community members!

Moving ahead, we’re excited to welcome 100 more people into our Employment Readiness Program this year! And because of the generosity of supporters who gave to our vehicle campaign, we’re looking forward to growing our fleet of work trucks as well!

We could not provide these life-changing opportunities to our community without you! We are so thankful for the donors, customers, and employers who have partnered with us. We’re eagerly looking ahead to what the future holds, and thank you so much for your support during this last year.

Gratefully,

Matthew Smedley
Executive Director & CEO



Renato's Story

Big Changes in a Big City

Five years ago, Renato was struggling with his mental health and used substances to cope. When a friend offered him a place to stay in the interior of BC, Renato took them up on that offer as he needed a change. During his time there, he had some success, but he felt stuck in the town. As a result, Renato felt incredibly isolated and sunk deep into depression.

With the help of COVID relief payments, Renato was able to relocate to Vancouver. "I was really in a bad place," Renato shares, "but fortunately I was able to get out of there, and get the help that I needed in making a really good start here. And I'm doing well."

Soon after arriving in Vancouver, someone who lives in his building introduced Renato to Mission Possible. He started working with MP five days a week. His determination and positive outlook aided him in moving up from the Clean Team to the Core Team, where he worked closely with the landscaping team.

Renato states:

"I feel like I'm finally ready to focus on working as well as continuing on with sobriety. I feel more confident in my sobriety and I've been very methodical with getting better. I try not to take any risks so I'm not going backwards. It really is going really well."

Renato's favourite part about his time with Mission Possible was the camaraderie on the team. He also credits having steady employment for giving him "a sense of renewal and fulfillment."



He's proud of how much he has accomplished in such a short time. At MP, Renato learned that he really enjoys working, with the added bonus of making extra money on top of his disability payments.

After four months at MP, Renato has taken on a position with Atira Women's Resource Society as a full-time Building Custodian where he completes maintenance repairs at single room accommodations. Happy in his new job, Renato is thankful to Mission Possible for helping him build confidence in his abilities, and for giving him the opportunity and support to start employment.



A Look Into Our Year

Employment Readiness Program

Even with a four-month pause in the program, 65 people began their journey back to employment this fiscal year. We were able to support these individuals with a combination of in-person and remote coaching sessions. Despite the ongoing uncertainty throughout the year, with the adaptability of our team and support of our community, Mission Possible was able to be a place of refuge and stability for those in the DTES.



Women's Track

Women's Track also launched this year. This important program creates unique opportunities tailored specifically by and for women. Our team of female supervisors leads all programming in this track, which helps create a safe space for women who may be facing gender-based barriers to work.



MP Maintenance

Our MP Maintenance crews experienced an increase in demand for their services and appreciated the opportunity to keep working during the pandemic. Throughout the fiscal year, they completed more than 6,000 jobs in the Vancouver area and 2,100 in the Lower Mainland!



MP Neighbours

With most community gathering spaces closed and so many more residents on the street, the MP Neighbours team added additional shifts to help support the neighbourhood. Handing out Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sharing up-to-the-minute information with community members, MP Neighbours helped ensure that people in Vancouver's DTES were safe and had what they needed to protect themselves from COVID-19.



“

Mission Possible lifts their workers rather than tears them down and when you value someone like that, that person will be raised up to feel that they are human. A lot of people with addictions or people who are homeless don't feel like they're valuable or worth anything. Feeling worthy is a learned behaviour.

Sylvia, Graduated Associate

”

Food Security

At Power Breakfast, our meal output tripled from last year; and our volunteers, community partners, and Power Breakfast team worked hard making and packing hot meals every Saturday. In our warehouse, we were able to provide daily lunches to our associates before and after their shifts, thanks to the Christian Leaders Fund. We were also able to keep our community pantry stocked with fresh produce and other staples, thanks to the Food Stash Foundation and the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Heppell's Potato Corp, Sunrise Market and JJ Bean have also provided much needed support which we greatly appreciate.



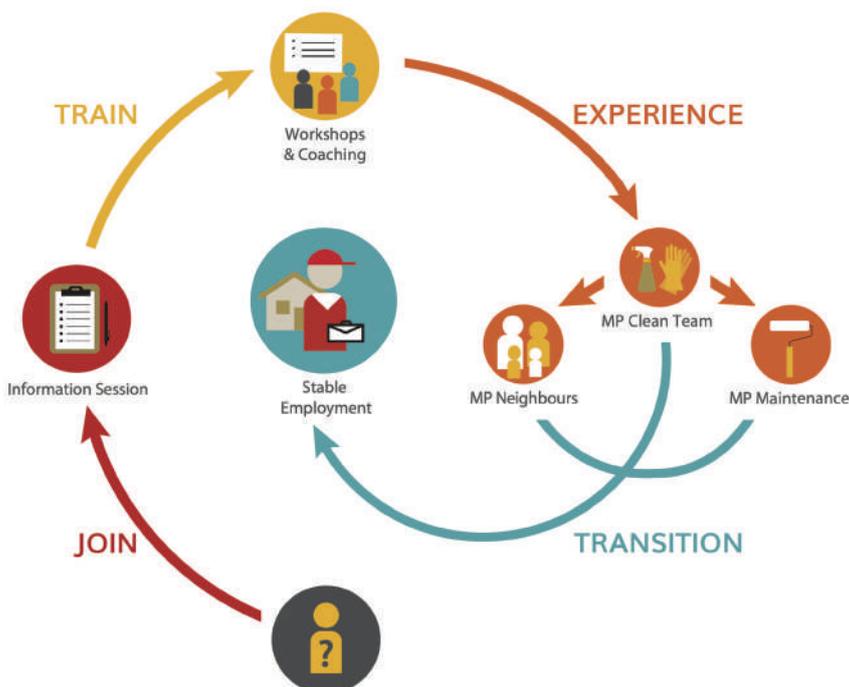
MP Moves

Throughout the COVID chaos and the challenge of implementing changing Provincial Health Orders as B.C. adapted to new information, and ensuring the safety of our crews, we moved into our awesome new space! Once we settled across the street, we were able to restart the Employment Readiness Program in August 2020. This much larger space created room for us to grow our number of staff while continuing to meet the increasing demands for our program. We extend a special thank you to our "MP Moves" supporters!



Volunteers

Due to generous donations and committed volunteers, we were able to serve 150 additional meals at our Power Breakfast for a total of 250 meals distributed every week. We would especially like to recognize the 19Twenty Church and the Trinity Baptist Church for their consistent support in providing volunteers and food donations.



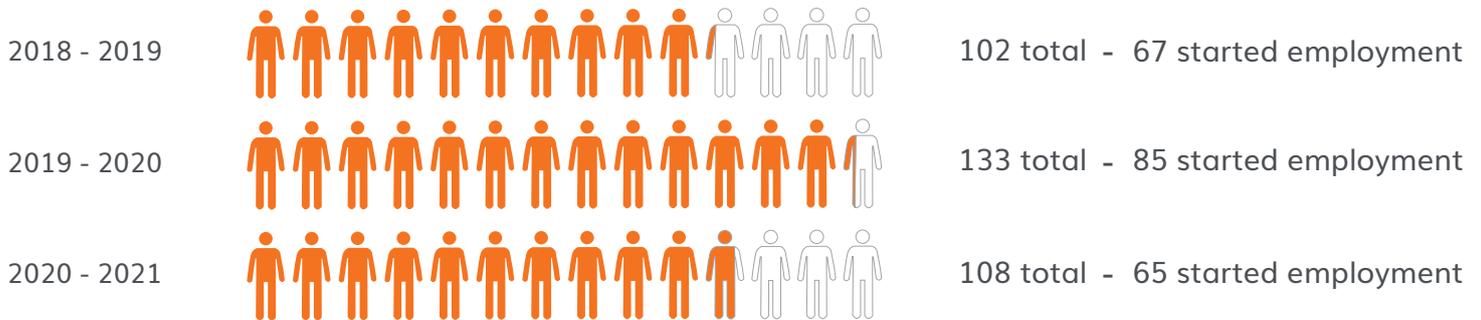
Our Transformational Model

These highlights are some of the ways that MP is continually refining and innovating to ensure the best support and outcomes for our participants. Our program will continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of our community.



Impact Numbers

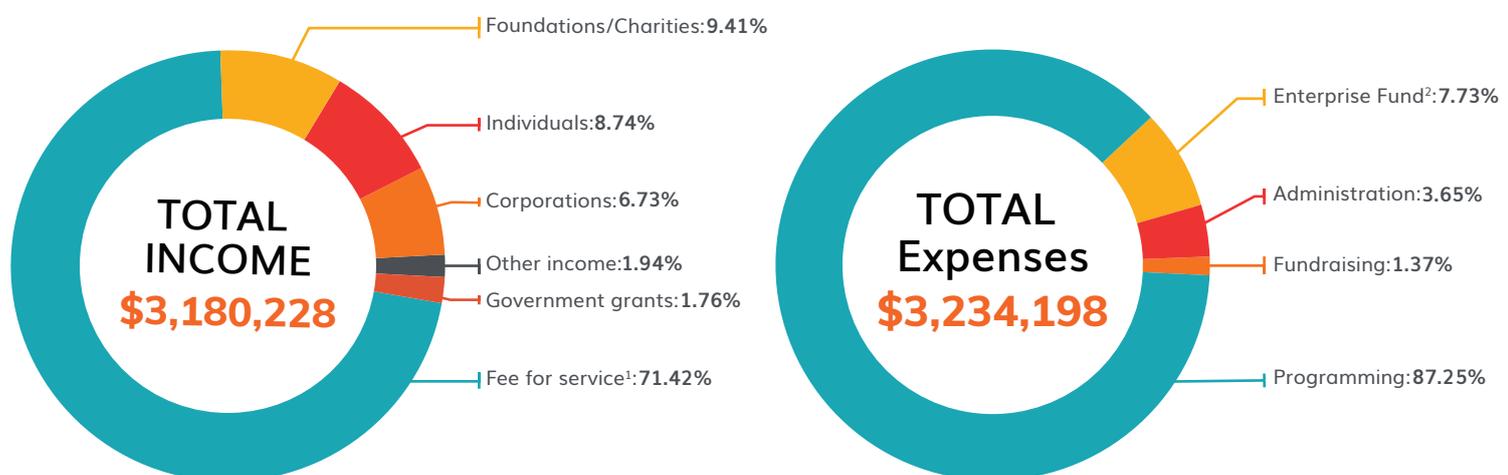
Associates on payroll



Stats



2020-2021 Financial Overview



(1): Includes \$728,186 contract from the City of Vancouver for micro-cleaning.

(2): Enterprise funds raised and set aside for future strategic initiatives.

Thank You!

Board

- Pam Ryan (she/her) - Chair

"On behalf of the board, I'm humbly grateful to everyone who chooses to be part of making Mission Possible possible. In a challenging year we showed resilience, compassion and community because of everyone involved. We particularly acknowledge our partners, who despite their own challenges, decided to invest in Mission Possible. Thank you for believing in our vision, strengthening our foundation, and making a difference in your community."



- Kris Alexander (he/him) - Vice Chair

- James Struthers (he/him) - Secretary

- Jonathan Gibson (he/him) - Treasurer

"Committed donors and partners are the crucial foundation of Mission Possible's financial stability. Your ongoing support enables Mission Possible to carry on its meaningful work and expand through future supportive enterprises."

- Nicole Gilewicz (she/her)

- Gordon McCann (he/him)

- Maksim Mihic (he/him)

“

Mission Possible has given me a sense of community because I feel like I'm part of an organisation that appreciates my efforts. As simple as it is, picking up litter from the street on the Clean Team, you just get a warm feeling. It's been a real feeling of belonging to the human race again.

Thomas, Current Associate

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How to Help



Hire a MP Graduate
Contact hire@mission-possible.ca



Become a MP Maintenance Customer
Get a free estimate www.mpmaintenance.ca



Fund the Opportunities
Donate at our website www.mission-possible.ca

Thank you for helping us change lives!



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