



# OUR IMPACT

2019-20 Annual Report





# MAKING AN IMPACT TODAY AND TOMORROW

## Shaping Canada's Abilities Community.

For more than half a century Vecova has served persons with disabilities and the greater Calgary community. Like many Calgary success stories, ours has an inspiring beginning, unprecedented growth and expansion and a future that will see greater societal impact.

We marked our 50th anniversary in 2019, and we held a celebration where important figures from Vecova's past and present shared their memories from their time at Vecova and their hopes for Vecova's future. All around Calgary, monuments lit up in gold to show their support for Vecova, like the Calgary Tower, Olympic Plaza, the Downtown Calgary Association's Galleria Trees, TELUS Spark and East Village Calgary's Reconciliation Bridge.

## Catalysts of Change.

Our bold approach has led to tremendous growth for Vecova over our first 50 years. In 2019-2020 we continued to push our limits and challenge ourselves to do better. We embraced the power of curiosity and continued to seek and engage the community in our transformative journey. This way, we were able to set a bold new direction where diversity drives innovation. We are building a culture where differences are valued. We are Vecova. Exploring ability and possibility. And, we are just getting started!

*- Joan Lee, CEO of Vecova*

## OUR STRATEGY AND PLANS

In 2019-2020 we implemented strategies to pursue growth, deliver innovation and drive efficiencies. We focused on our sustainability by defining our policy priorities and engaging community to refine Vecova's future to actively transform our world.

## OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In 2019-2020 we provided a wide range of programs and services in the Calgary, Bighorn Municipal District, Rocky View County Municipal District and Banff National Park region for persons of all abilities. We created and implemented new programs and services to meet the changing needs of our consumers, so they may reach their potential.

## OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2019-2020 we built a deeper and stronger connection with community to enact positive action. Together, we created new strategic ways to design real-life solutions that achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

### Our Mission

Building the capacity of persons with disabilities and enriching communities through leadership, innovation and collaboration.

### Our Vision

Persons with disabilities are valued and integral members of society.



# OUR **IMPACT** ON THE **COMMUNITY**

## Our strategy and plans.

Every good vision needs a plan. Our strategy outlines our overall direction as an organization and our areas of operation. This year we made tremendous progress towards our three-year Strategic Plan. We invested time to refine our strategic direction, and outline our dreams, goals and ambitions as a Centre for All Abilities.



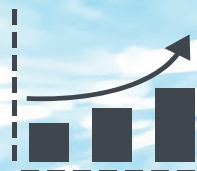
**GOAL  
ACHIEVED**  
New Brand Identity and  
Strategy.



**GOAL  
ACHIEVED**  
New Policy Priorities.



**GOAL  
ACHIEVED**  
New Capital Facility Design  
and Plans.



**GOAL  
ACHIEVED**  
New Operational Business  
Plans.

“Ability is how we connect and  
contribute to the world.”

- Donovan Tymchyshyn,  
Chief Strategy Officer

We are Vecova.  
Exploring ability and possibility.

Vecova created a new Brand Identity and Brand Strategy that will be implemented in 2020-2021. It is how Vecova will identify, live and share its Brand Promise to the community. It defines who Vecova is, why it does what it does and its unique value and importance to the communities it serves. It’s a social contract between Vecova and its consumers, employees and the community.



Inclusion. Innovation. Impact.



# Actively transforming our world.

Vecova in 2019-2020 reset its policy priorities, realigned its organizational and business goals and began the process to align its programs and services with the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals to create a more sustainable future for all.



**GOAL 3**  
*Good Health and Well-being.*



**GOAL 4**  
*Quality Education.*



**GOAL 8**  
*Decent Work and Economic Growth.*



**GOAL 11**  
*Sustainable Cities and Communities.*



**GOAL 12**  
*Responsible Consumption and Production.*

“Vecova was started by incredible people who were passionate about inclusion.”

- Joan Lee, CEO of Vecova

## Centre for All Abilities

Vecova in 2019-2020 completed the Design Development for its new Centre for All Abilities and showcased its plans with the community. The Centre will be a welcoming space where everyone will feel a sense of belonging and community.

We believe diversity drives innovation. A strong nonprofit sector, which includes social infrastructure, is critical to Calgary’s economy and our reputation as a community that values and embraces diversity.

Inclusion matters. For everyone.





# OUR **IMPACT** ON THE **COMMUNITY**

**Helping people of all abilities reach their potential.**

Every program and service needs to change and evolve. Our approach recognizes that individual needs change over time and that supports must change as well. In 2019-2020 we:

- Expanded program and service offerings to support more consumers.
- Adapted and created programs and services to meet the changing needs of consumers and create a sense of belonging.

## **Immigrant Leadership Program:**

*Vecova partnered with Anthony and Holmes to create and pilot a new Leadership Program for Immigrants.*

**Housing Services:** *Vecova expanded its Home Sharing Program so one or two individuals can share a home with a family/individual who provide individual support.*

## **Adapted and Specialized Programs:**

*Vecova partnered with Parkinson Association of Alberta on a Gentle Fitness Program that provides exercise and physical activity to improve many Parkinson's symptoms.*

## **Mental Health Services:**

*Vecova expanded its Mental Health Education Series to reach more professionals on important topics such as dissociative disorders.*

**Discover,  
gather and create!**

*Vecova launched Explore Abilities – a new program for persons with disabilities who seek new community activities like music and sports. Participants can learn a new skill while socializing in a positive environment.*

**“Vecova supported  
me so I could  
become more  
independent.**

**Vecova helped me  
get a job and a nice  
apartment so I can  
live on my own in  
the community.”**

**- Gwyn**



# Reduce waste through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

Calgary’s only nonprofit social enterprise Bottle Depot and Bottle Pick-Up Service is supported by 54,000 consumers.



**15,800,000**  
Number of containers processed



**808,000 kilograms**  
Amount diverted from the landfill



**5,260,000 kilowatts**  
Amount of energy saved



**1,500,000 kilograms**  
Amount of greenhouse gas emissions reduced



# Helping youth find their careers.

Vecova’s Youth Transition and Work Experience Program partners with businesses like Clothesline in Cochrane to support high school students like Kierra to learn new skills, gain independence and become a part of the community.

On June 26, businesses from Airdrie, Cochrane, Chestermere and other locations within the Rocky View School Division were recognized at the Woodside Seniors Club in Airdrie for their support in providing work experience programs or job shadow opportunities for the partnership between Vecova and the Rocky View School Division with funding from Alberta Works.

**“Vecova has lifted a great weight off our shoulders and also provided Jason a great opportunity to move forward in life.”**

- Marc, parent of a teenager in Vecova’s Youth Transition and Work Experience Program





# OUR **IMPACT** ON THE **COMMUNITY**

## Our work in the community.

Vecova is proud to collaborate, partner and engage with various stakeholders in the community. We build on existing relationships, actively seek out new partnerships and endeavor to enhance Vecova's role in the community.

This year we celebrated events like World Alzheimer's Day, Humainologie's Empathy Week, National Accessibility Week and so many more to raise awareness that one in seven Albertans have a disability.

We engaged with other community, industry, academia and government leaders in events like March of Dimes Canada's Breaking the ICE Alberta Conference, the University of Calgary's Advancing Social Prosperity Panel, the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute Community Town Hall and so many more to provide valuable insight on how diversity drives innovation.

Vecova partnered with organizations like the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (NTG) Canadian Consortium, Innovate Calgary, Muscular Dystrophy Canada and more to work together to have greater impact.

### We are better together.

On July 20, Vecova participated in Tim Hortons and Special Olympics Canada's Global Day of Inclusion. Lorna Ludwig, Vecova's Community Engagement Manager was excited to run into Bill, Jerry, Maura and Cleo at her local Tim Hortons where they talked about inclusion.

They all agreed with Jerry, who said, "being a part of the things you like to do with others is an important part of inclusion. From being valued at work, or connecting with others while out and about, your differences shouldn't keep you from others."

**Jane's Walk:** May 3 - Vecova hosted a walk for the community to highlight Vecova's history and impact on Calgary.

**Women's Economic Council of Canada:** June 10 - Vecova participated in a roundtable to build the capacity of women to improve their socio-economic outcomes.

**Paint in the Park:** July 27 and 28 - Vecova partnered with the Canmore Museum and Geoscience Centre's Art in the Park market on a guided art activity for persons of all abilities.

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities:** December 3 - Vecova presented at City Hall on the importance of Wellness, Movement and Speaking Out.

**"As we spent time together, I was reminded of our common thread: Vecova! Vecova's people, services, programs and community reach - all work towards our vision of inclusion."**

- Lorna Ludwig



# OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Individuals

Scott Bietz  
Arley Cocks  
Talib Daredia  
David Dausereau  
JT Dhoot  
Jose Domene  
Mary E. Ellis  
James Faraday  
Steve Gaal  
Theresa Ganske  
Valerie Hamilton  
Matthew Hammett  
Masaki Hayashi  
The Holmes Family  
*in memory of  
David Holmes*  
Margaret Hovany  
Donna Johnson  
Noboru Kamitakahara  
Bentall Kennedy  
Mark Kirtland  
Joan Lee  
Simona Lupas  
Dave MacKillop  
Yvonne Martodam  
Robert McKercher  
Michael Milutinovic  
Stephanie Moon  
Patrick Otakpor  
Kaitlyn Pecson  
George Schlosser  
Ivan Sierralta  
Britt Simmons  
Robert Smart  
John Speer  
Garett Ursu  
Doug Walker  
Bridget Warner

Roger Woodgate  
Wilhelm Zinkhofer  
George Zvanchuk

**Businesses**  
ATB Financial  
BFL Canada Insurance  
Services Inc.  
Calgary Centre for Global  
Community  
Chapel of the Bells  
Computer Modelling Group  
Ltd.  
Coronation Place  
Crave Cupcakes  
Enterprise Rent A Car  
Canada Foundation  
GoodLife Fitness  
InjaNation Fun & Fitness  
Lynx Ridge Golf Club  
Matador Pizza & Steakhouse  
McInnis & Holloway Funeral  
Home  
Mount Pleasant Court Condo  
Corp.  
Moxies CDT  
Northland Village Mall  
Place 800  
Play it Again Sports  
Savoy Apartments  
Second Cup  
Shell Centre  
Stuart Olson Construction Ltd.  
Temple Child’s Way Daycare  
The Derrick Gin Mill & Kitchen  
The Kahanoff Centre  
The Orange Tree Inc.  
The Vistas of Tuscany condos  
Tribeca Condominium

XPAN Interactive Ltd.  
Qualico Communities

Partnerships

Calgary Airport Authority  
Rocky View School Division  
University of Calgary

Foundations & Service Clubs

Allardyce Bower Foundation  
Calgary Children’s Foundation  
Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation  
Hillhurst Rebekah Lodge #116  
McConnell Foundation  
McKenna Family Fund  
Melton Foundation  
Students’ Union - University of Calgary  
TELUS Community Foundation  
The Calgary Foundation  
The Foundation for Seniors’ Care - Hearts of Excellence  
Turner Family Foundation at The Calgary Foundation  
Stella McCraig Memorial Fund at The Calgary Foundation

Government

Government of Canada  
• *Canada Summer Jobs*  
• *Canadian Employer Wage  
Subsidy*  
• *Enabling Accessibility Fund*  
Government of Alberta  
• *Community and Social  
Services*  
The City of Calgary  
Canada-Alberta Job Grant

Fundraisers

Stroopwafel Fundraiser:  
*Hosted by the Naked  
Leaf Kensington and  
Ariette van Pelt and  
Tanja van de Kamp*

Award Winners

Critical Mass: *Social Leader*  
Inter Pipeline: *Valued  
Supporter*  
The Salvation Army  
Community Services  
(Calgary): *Volunteer  
Champion*  
Rocky View School  
Division: *Inspiring Partner*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Ivan Sierralta  
*Board Chair*



Joan Lee  
*Chief Executive  
Officer*



Meredith  
MacDonald  
*Vice Chair*



Donald Dart  
*Treasurer*



Michelle  
McKenna  
*Secretary*



JT Dhoot  
*Board Member*



Neil Mackie  
*Board Member*



Robert  
McKercher  
*Board Member*



Steve Twible  
*Board Member*



Don  
Verdonck  
*Board Member*

## LEADERSHIP

Joan Lee  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Scott Bietz  
*Director of Employment Services*

Tom Naested  
*Director of Wellness Services*

Yvonne Martodam  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

Simona Lupas  
*Director of Development*

Karyn Richardson  
*Director of Human Resources &  
Organizational Risk*

Donovan Tymchyshyn  
*Chief Strategy Officer*

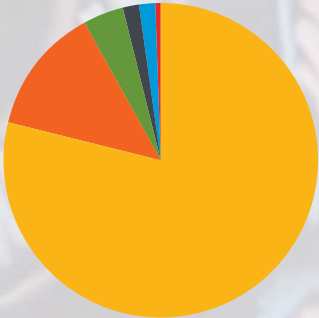
Karen Miles  
*Director of Living Support Services*

David Walsh  
*Director of Finance*

## FINANCIALS

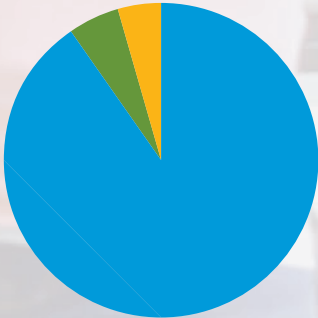
Revenue

- Government of Alberta: 78.97%
- Net sales: 13.17%
- Provincial, municipal and other grants: 4.15%
- Rentals: 1.77%
- Fundraising: 1.41%
- Other income: 0.54%



Expenses

- Direct and supervisory: 90.5%
- Infrastructure: 5.1%
- Facility maintenance and capital: 4.4%



Vecova® Centre for Disability Services and Research is a registered charitable organization:  
CRN 119286912 RR0001





Visit us online at [vecova.ca](https://vecova.ca)

Join the conversation:



3304 33 Street NW, Calgary, AB, T2L 2A6 | (403) 284-1121 | [vecova.ca](https://vecova.ca)

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