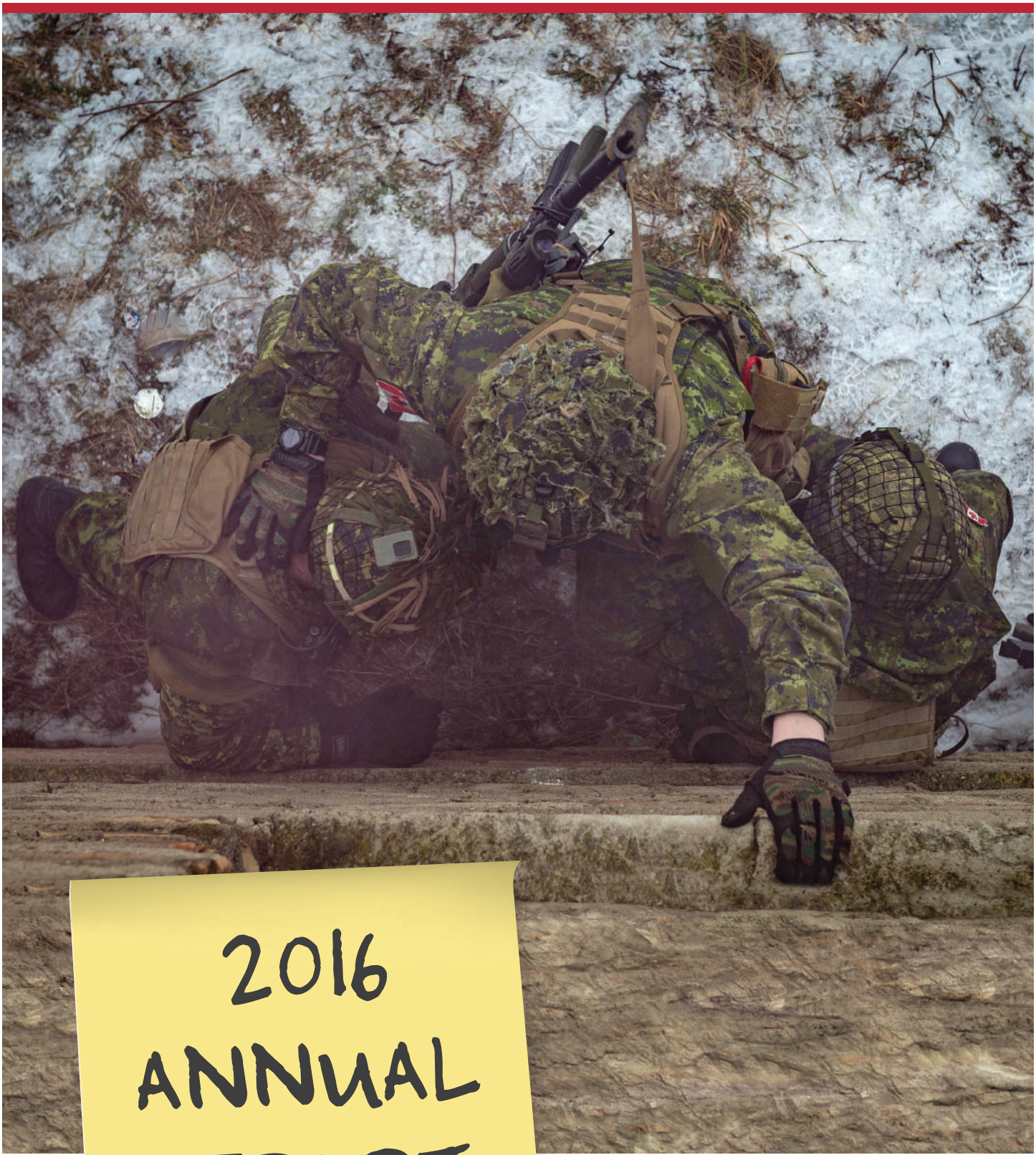
vtncanada.org



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

VETERANS TRANSITION NETWORK

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Dr. Mike Dadson
Executive & Clinical Director

Oliver Thorne
National Operations Director

Dace Marsh
Development & Comms Director

Dec 31, 2016 marked the end of our first strategic plan. Created in 2011, this 5-year plan laid out all of the major milestones required to expand our services to a national level. We're pleased to announce that we have accomplished every major goal over the last 5 years, thanks in no small part to the unwavering support of proud Canadians like you.

Through sticking with our core values of excellence, innovation, and access to all Veterans, we've delivered programs that overcame barriers of geography, gender, and language across the country.

So what's next for us?

In 2017 we'll be focusing on fulfilling our bilingual responsibility, which is a major undertaking which transforms every aspect of our delivery. This has been a work in progress for almost 18 months on the clinical side, and this year we face the transition of all our operational infrastructure, including personnel, program materials, and website. Our completion goal is to have our first program delivered in French by December 31, 2017.

In celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary, we will also be drafting our next 5-year strategic plan, which will continue to shape how we serve Canadian Veterans over the next 5 years. This plan will be drafted together with input from all our major stakeholders, including Veterans who have graduated through our program.

As an important program partner, we thank you for all the faith and support you have provided over the last five years. As we look ahead to the coming year, and the next iteration of our strategic plan, we are excited to share that journey here with you.

All the best in the next year!

MILESTONES

Programs

A group of Veterans on Prince Edward Island reached out to us, requesting a program in their area. Though we had no plans to expand to PEI this year, Atlantic Coordinator Doug Allen was able to pull together a VTP on short notice. Not only was this our first-ever P.E.I. program, but it was also our first program delivered to a pre-existing group of Veterans!

After 2 years of training and 1 year of filing provincial paperwork, we were finally able to deliver our first Quebec program! Lead by our clinical director Dr. Dadson & local psychologue Claudine Barrette, it continues our commitment to accessibility for our French-speaking Veterans.

MILESTONES

Clinicians

Until 2012, all our clinicians were trained at the University of British Columbia by the founders of our program model, Dr. Westwood and Dr. Kuhl.

In 2013, we launched our own national training plan as an organization; which this year hit the milestone of being the first program run entirely by local clinicians trained by us as an organization!

As the number of clinicians in our network increases, we've split our annual training sessions into west coast and east coast. In total, we brought together 23 of Canada's top military psychologists and counselors to collaborate and refresh their training in our program techniques.

Contact! Unload

UBC based theatre production Contact! Unload toured Ontario bringing the VTN to The House of Commons.

A Side Note

3M sent us an office supply drop inspiring the theme of this years Annual Report.

VTN IN THE MEDIA

Every year, some of our graduates speak publicly on their experiences with military transition, sharing their personal stories and the changes that happened through our programs. **Here are some moments from the past year:**

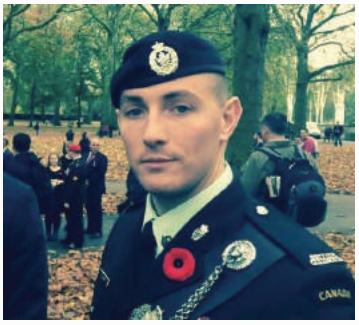
Long time Lead Two Clinician and current Canadian Armed Forces Reservist James Alexander appeared on Breakfast Television Vancouver. He discussed the significance of wearing the poppy as a 'civilian soldier' – someone who leads a daily career alongside military tasks.

Veterans Transition Network helps former soldiers adapt to civilian life

Remembrance Day

Lead Two Clinician and Atlantic Canada Operations Coordinator Doug Allen was featured in the Inverness Oran, a Cape Breton Nova Scotia newspaper. From Bosnia to Afghanistan, to his master's degree in social work and finally his clinical VTN work, Doug illustrated his journey and its parallels to so many of our struggling soldiers.

Program graduate, Former Western Ops Coordinator and current CAF Reservist Sergeant Steve Clews (now Regular Forces Officer Cadet) provided an interview for Roundhouse Radio, discussing VTN and his role in Contact! Unload. Steve's charismatic yet realistic storytelling has been an asset for the bigger cause of normalizing wounding and healing in soldiers everywhere.



Our National Operations Director Oliver Thorne took to CBC Television to speak about how Veterans' needs in transition have changed over the years. Oliver did a great job handling professional details while answering questions about how the work has affected him personally over the years.

STRATEGIC REFLECTION: **2012**

2016 marks the end of our Strategic 5 Year Plan and with that in mind, we would like to reflect on how far we have come by comparing our 2012 year numbers to our 2016 year numbers.*

Clinicians

7

Paraprofessionals

6

Genders

1

Served

3

Operations Team

3

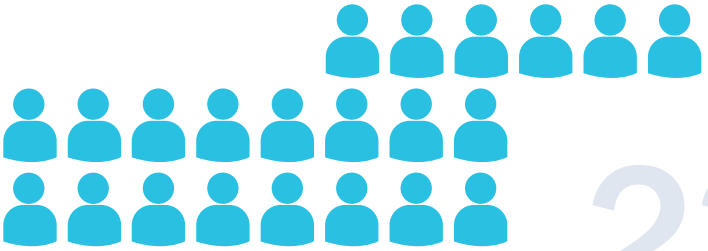
Programs

*Clinician and Paraprofessional statistics based on how many served in VTP's for applicable year.

2016

In the last 7 years, we have increased service delivery to Canadian Veterans 7 fold and delivery of Veterans Transition Programs 5 fold. Our clinician team has quadrupled and our Operations team has tripled.

Clinicians



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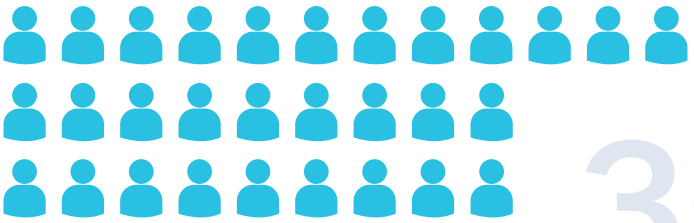
Paraprofessionals



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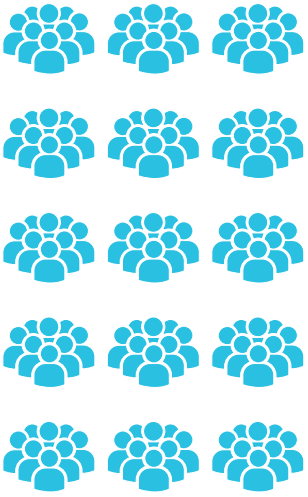
Genders

2

Served

15

Programs



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Operations Team

STRATEGIC REFLECTION: 2012

1

Provinces

12

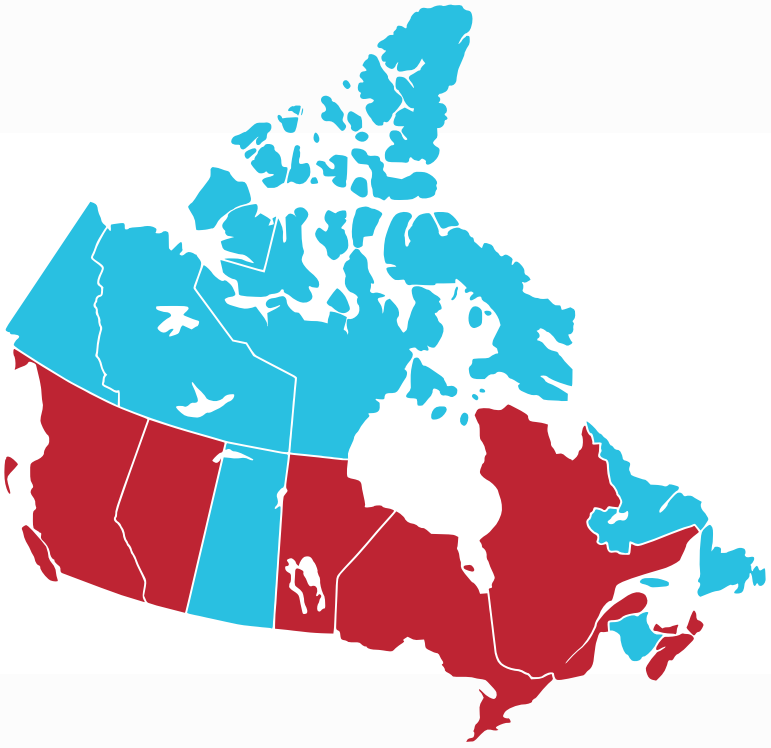
Veterans Served

The 2012 Strategic Plan was spearheaded by our Board Chairman Jake Jennings, who oversaw the entire 5 years.

Up until 2012, we were highly supported by the structure, name and administration of UBC, our place of founding and development. The beginning of the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan marked our independence from UBC and so called “spreading our wings” or “moving out of Mom and Dad’s basement”.

2016

Provinces



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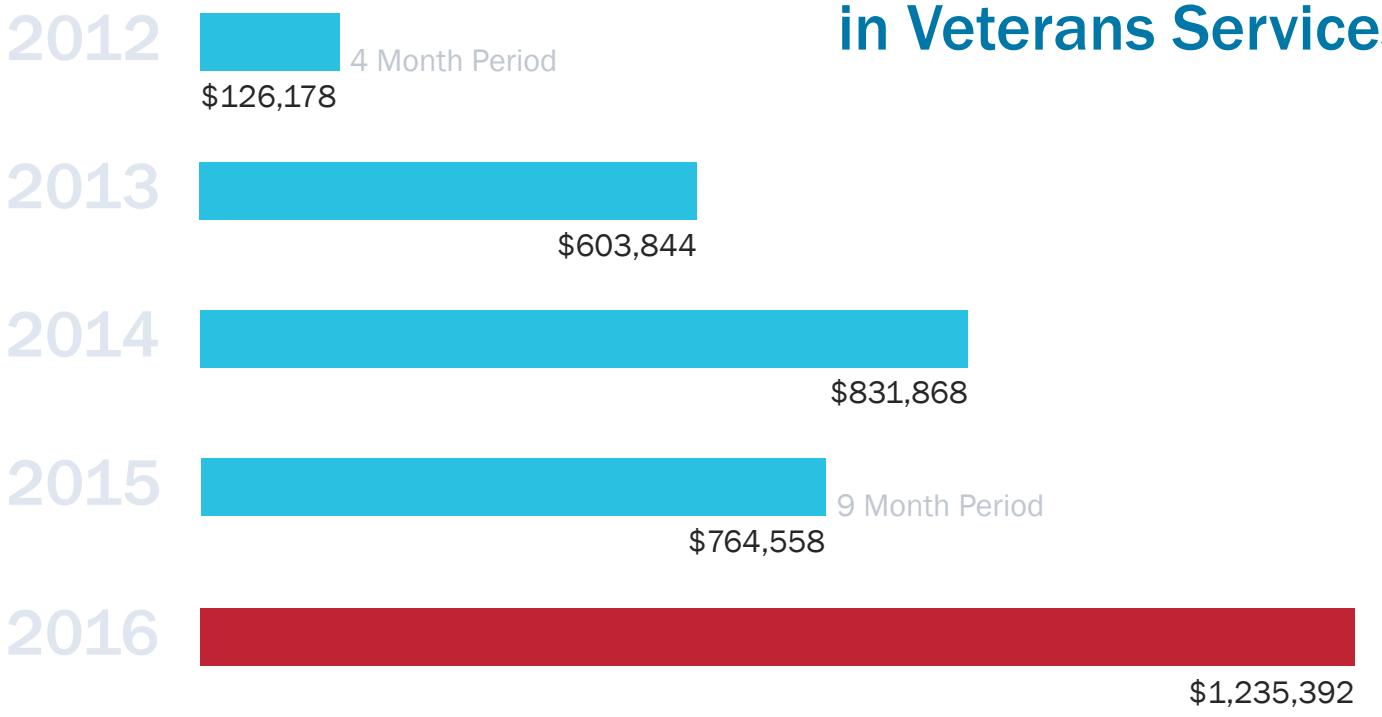
Veterans Served

At the end of this year, Jake Jennings handed over the role of Chairman to co-founder Tim Laidler!

We consider the end of our Strategic Plan to be a great success. We proudly dig our heels running forward into the next 5 years and are enthusiastic to report our achievements at the end of our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

2016 FINANCIALS

Dollars Invested in Veterans Services



Raised for Veterans' Care

$1,447,945

Spent Delivering VTPs

$1,456,528

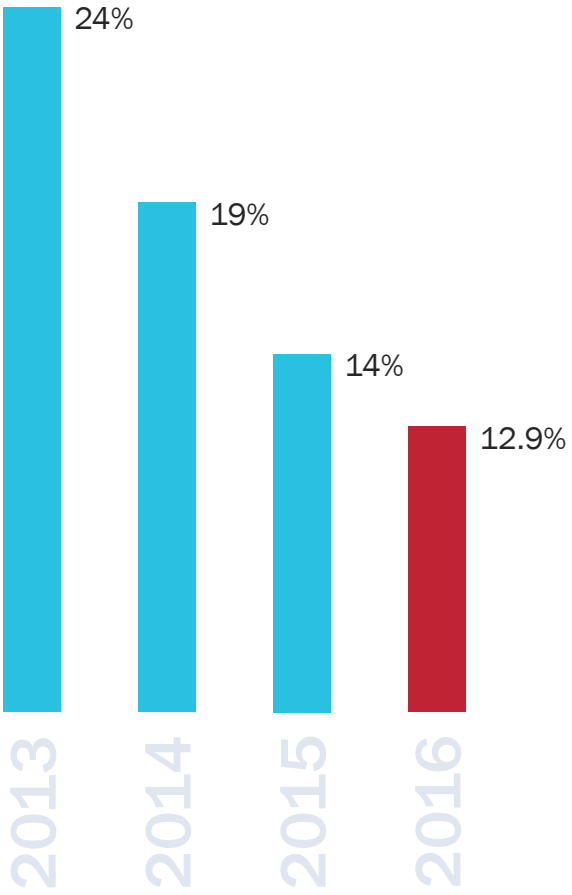
Breakdown of Dollars Spent Delivering VTPs

Program 84.8%
$1,235,392

Management and Admin 12.9%
$188,513

Fundraising 2.2%
$32,623

Management and Admin Costs



Our administrative costs continue to go down every year - this year 85 cents of every dollar raised was spent in the field.

Since our focus is on delivering these programs and not holding fundraising events, last year it only cost us a couple pennies to raise each dollar.

Full audited financials available at: **vtncanada.org/financials**

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

Without our major supporters, our programs simply couldn't run. These amazing groups made programs possible in these regions:

Trevor Street | James Nestmann | Karen VanDongen

These incredible people covered all the costs involved in changing a Veteran's life, either championing their own fundraisers or donating in remembrance of a loved one.

CREATIVE SUPPORTERS

Foothills Creamery released a limited edition camouflage ice cream over the summer, and donated the profits to our programs!

Luisa Marshall toured Legion Halls across Canada, performing a series of Tina Turner tribute concerts that sold out in many towns! A portion of the ticket sales from the tour went towards our programs.

These amazing companies ran our awareness campaigns again this year, bringing word of our programs to communities across Canada in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day.

CAPTIVATE | VISIO MEDIA | ihnMEDIA International Human Network

DONORS

Platinum Supporters $10 000+

Brenda & Ken Stewart
Dominion Civil Service War Veterans' Association
Echo Foundation
James Nestmann
Karen VanDongen
Royal Canadian Legion (BC/Yukon Command)
Royal Canadian Legion (Manitoba & NW Ontario Command)
Royal Canadian Legion (Ontario Command)
The Boeing Company
The Winnipeg Foundation
Trevor Street Personal Real Estate Corporation
True Patriot Love
Wounded Warriors

Gold Supporters $1000+

Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS)
BC Housing
Cadillac Fairview
Essential Needs Foundation
Foothills Creamery
Keller Williams Elite Realty
Luisa Marshall as Tina Turner PTSD Awareness Hope Beyond Thunderdome Tour
Matt Bastien Personal Real Estate Corporation
Munich RE
Sylvia Roberts
Vancouver Cathay NC Lions
William White

Silver Supporters $500+

Eugene Wessan
Gerald J Ross
Gertrude Bernice Cunningham
Glenn Brown
Gwynn Mann
Harvey Beck
Janet McLellan
Murray Kush
Vickie May

Bronze Supporters $250+

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Dennis Castaneda
Felesky Flynn LLP
Ken Lieuwen
KPMG LLP
Power Workers Union C.L.C
Scott Compton
Sharon Bartley
Stephen Driscoll
Telus
Trevor Gosling

Community Supporters $100+

Adam Schell
Alix Anderson
Allayne Evans
Bert Duncan
Bill McMullen
Brenton Bartel
Brian Ticoll
Bruce Oattes
Carol & Neil Trembath
Caroline Rose Bell
Cecilia Ellis
Christina Parente
Dale Lee
Darrin Gunn
David Grass
Deborah Yohnke
Diane Ritchie
Diane Shepherd
Elizabeth Thirlwell
Enghouse Transportation
Erwin Hymer Group North America
Eugene Lau
Ian Hale
Jan and Dave Banks
Jen Sing
Jim Parker
Joan Gray
Julian Riley
Karen Brown
Liam Donegan
Lois Matte
M Karmazenuk
Margaret Cornish
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Matthew Vosper
Michael Woodend
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Paula MacRobert
Scott Walker
Stephen Button
Susanna Letwin
Tasneem Azim
Terry Streete
Toni Lindschinger
Trevor Mckim
Wendy Moore

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