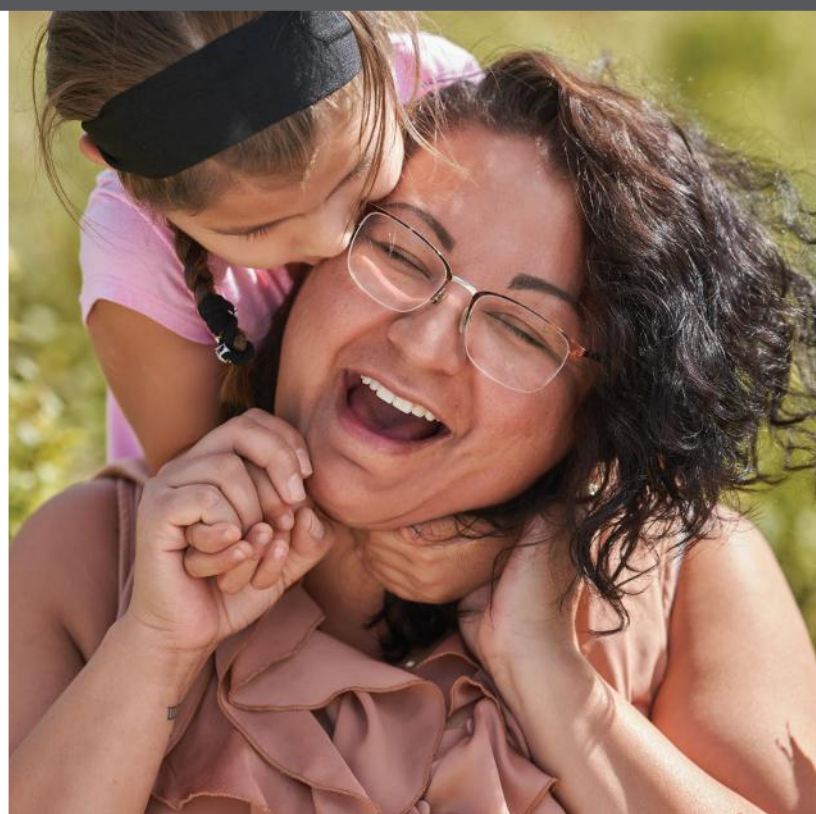


WOOD BUFFALO
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Wood Buffalo Community Foundation recognizes that we live, work and serve communities on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and traditional land of the Cree, Dene, and Métis people. We honour and acknowledge the Indigenous ancestors who marked these lands for generations and whose languages, histories and cultures continue to influence this vibrant region. May we work together to be good stewards of this land.





OUR VISION

Healthy and vibrant communities, enabled by long-term social investment.

OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life in our region through grants and partnerships that improve the capacity and sustainability of our community.

OUR VALUES

- Collective Action
- Understanding Our Community
- Integrity
- Diversity and Equity
- A Culture of Innovation
- Accountability

OUR TIMELINE

2016

Economic downturn & wildfire devastation prompts discussion; committee formed

2017

WBCF launches with multi-year commitments from Suncor Energy Foundation and Syncrude Canada

2018

First granting year, with \$245K to seven local charities

2019

WBCF grants eight charities, totaling over \$200K

2020

WBCF grants over \$1M and endowment reaches \$3.6M

2021

Endowment funds reach \$5.3M, thanks to the full commitments from Suncor Energy Foundation and Syncrude Canada

2022

FMWB Ukrainian Support Fund provides \$48,000 to Ukrainians for immediate help

2023

Granting to local charities reaches \$2.2M since launch

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

from the Board Chair and Past Chair

It is with immense pride and gratitude that we present the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation's annual report. Within these pages, you will discover the impact we have collectively made in our region in 2024.

Our community's strength lies in its people – individuals who are passionate about making a difference and who care about where they call home. This report demonstrates the dedication of our volunteers, whose efforts have translated into meaningful change and furthered our journey toward a stronger community.

We are also deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors. Your contributions, both large and small, have enabled us to address critical community needs and create opportunities for growth and prosperity. Your belief in our mission empowers us to build a more resilient Wood Buffalo for everyone.

This past year, we welcomed four new Board members, who bring our organizational leadership to a full complement. Our Board is rooted in our community, offering us unique insights into the needs and issues Wood Buffalo faces, and ways to further our funding to local charities doing good work.

We launched the inaugural Community Partners program, which links local businesses with our foundation, enabling us to further grow our endowment and the impact we have in our region.

We also distributed more than \$470,000 to local organizations through grants and funding that will empower these groups to offer services, supports and programming to people in the community who need it most.

As you explore this report, we hope you will be inspired by the progress that reflects the spirit of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo. We are committed to fostering a culture of philanthropy that ensures a bright today and future for our region.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for believing in the power of community.

Together, we are making a lasting difference.



Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, C.M.,
Chair



Tony Mankowski,
Past Chair

COMMUNITY IMPACT



\$471,019

total granting to charities in 2024

2024 WOOD BUFFALO COMMUNITY GRANTS

Community Grants are a key WBCF initiative, focused each year on a different theme that aligns with emerging issues in the community. In 2024, Community Grants were targeted on mental health, and addictions recovery supports. Like many communities across the country, mental health and addictions continue to challenge people in the region, stemming from years of natural disasters, economic downturns and changing societal hurdles, including the global pandemic.



**Thank you to an anonymous donor who gifted \$200,000
in partnership for the Community Grants.**

Individual Donor Funds - Community Grants

Galachiuk Family Fund

Kearney Family Fund

Nabholz Family Fund

Powell Family Fund



Community Grants are possible through the Wood Buffalo Community Fund and individual Donor Funds.



Wood Buffalo Community Foundation invests where we live, helping local social profits continue their good work to address pressing community needs, like mental health. This funding will have a real impact in the lives of many people, ensuring they have the supports they need to thrive.

*- Nicole Bourque-Bouchier
Chair, WBCF*



2024 COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

Community Outreach Program

Some Other Solutions

Indigenous Reflections, Elder Mentoring Program

Nistawoyou Friendship Centre

The Regulated Classroom

Fort McMurray Catholic School Board

Program Director

Golden Years Society

Pre-Treatment Program

Pastew Place Detox Centre



 granted **\$294,000** to support local mental health and addictions recovery.



This funding will have a profound impact on our Child and Youth Program, allowing us to expand our outreach and provide essential services such as mental health support, mentorship, and cultural programming. This funding will help build resilience and foster a sense of belonging among our youth, strengthening the future of our entire community.

- Ping Zhang, Executive Director, Some Other Solutions

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

Generosity and support from individuals and companies across the region raised over \$157,000 in response to the fire in Fort Chipewyan. After community conversations, 100% of funds raised paid for pantry restock kits to support community members returning home, as well as a community healing event.

 **\$157,000** raised for the
Emergency Relief Fund



DONOR GRANTS & FUNDS

Donor Directed and Donor Advised Funds

Donor Directed and Donor Advised Funds grant funds to specific charities or causes based on the donor's wishes. Centre of Hope, Northlife Church's soup kitchen, Oilsands Rotary Music Festival and others receive annual grants that can be used as specified or as unrestricted funding.



Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)

Ball Family Fund
Cormier Jackson Family Fund
Erskine Family Fund
John Wilson Family Fund
Nayef and Petek Mahgoub Fund
Powell Family Fund
Richard L. George Family Fund

Donor Directed Funds

Efu Family Fund
Little Family Fund
Teresa and Mark Shaw Family Fund
Dr. Lawley Family Fund

Benefits of giving with Donor Advised Funds

Donor advised funds are simple and flexible ways to give to the causes you care about, with more of your gift going directly toward good work in the community.

You can donate almost any type of asset, from cash to artwork, and direct it to a cause or registered Canadian charity.



Since 2017,
WBCF has flowed
\$2.9 million through
47+ local charities

Driven by a
\$6 million endowment



Agency Endowment Funds

A social profit can create an endowment fund specific to their organization's purpose. Once the endowment is established, the granting dollars from this fund go directly to the social profit. And, as the fund grows, the grant funding to the organization increases. Many social profits use this for sustainable operational funding.



Non-Endowed Funds

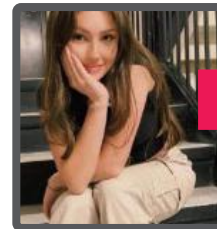
Non-endowed funds are used for emergent situations and changing issues in the community, allowing WBCF to respond to the needs today, while investing in tomorrow.

 Emergency Support Fund
FMWB Ukrainian Support Fund



WBCF has secured
\$577,382
in non-endowed
funds

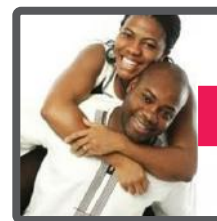
Scholarships



 Brandy Simon
Brighter Days
Memorial
Scholarship



 Fred Arbter
Memorial
Scholarship



 Efu Family Fund

Endowment funds offer unmatched flexibility.

In an endowment fund, the principal investment stays intact, while the interest earnings are used for charitable grants to nonprofits. They are held permanently, empowering donors to create lasting legacies for today, and forever.

VOLUNTEERS HELP OUR COMMUNITY THRIVE

The Wood Buffalo Community Foundation is driven by the passion and commitment of many volunteers—people who love Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo and want to see it thrive.

From our Community Grants Committee, who help review and assign annual funding to local charities, to our Board of Directors, who guide the strategic vision and operations of the foundation, WBCF is thrilled to welcome community members from across the region to support our vision of a healthy, vibrant community for everyone.

2024 Board of Directors

We are pleased to welcome four new Board members to the organization, bringing our organizational leadership to a full complement. WBCF's Board is community-rooted with a breadth of backgrounds that offer us the expertise needed to ensure we support our region to grow and prosper.



Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, C.M.
Chair



Tony Mankowski
Past Chair



Sherill Hynes
Treasurer



Maureen Cormier Jackson
Founding Chair



Cheryl Alexander



Ryan Coish



Benjamin Gill



Colin Hartigan



Nayef Mahgoub



Shaun Moore



Cynthia Shelley-Lewis



Emma Thorpe

2024 Community Grants Committee



Miranda Beaton



Rasha Hassan



Mariko Kerr



Michelle Velez



Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, C.M.



Cynthia Shelley-Lewis



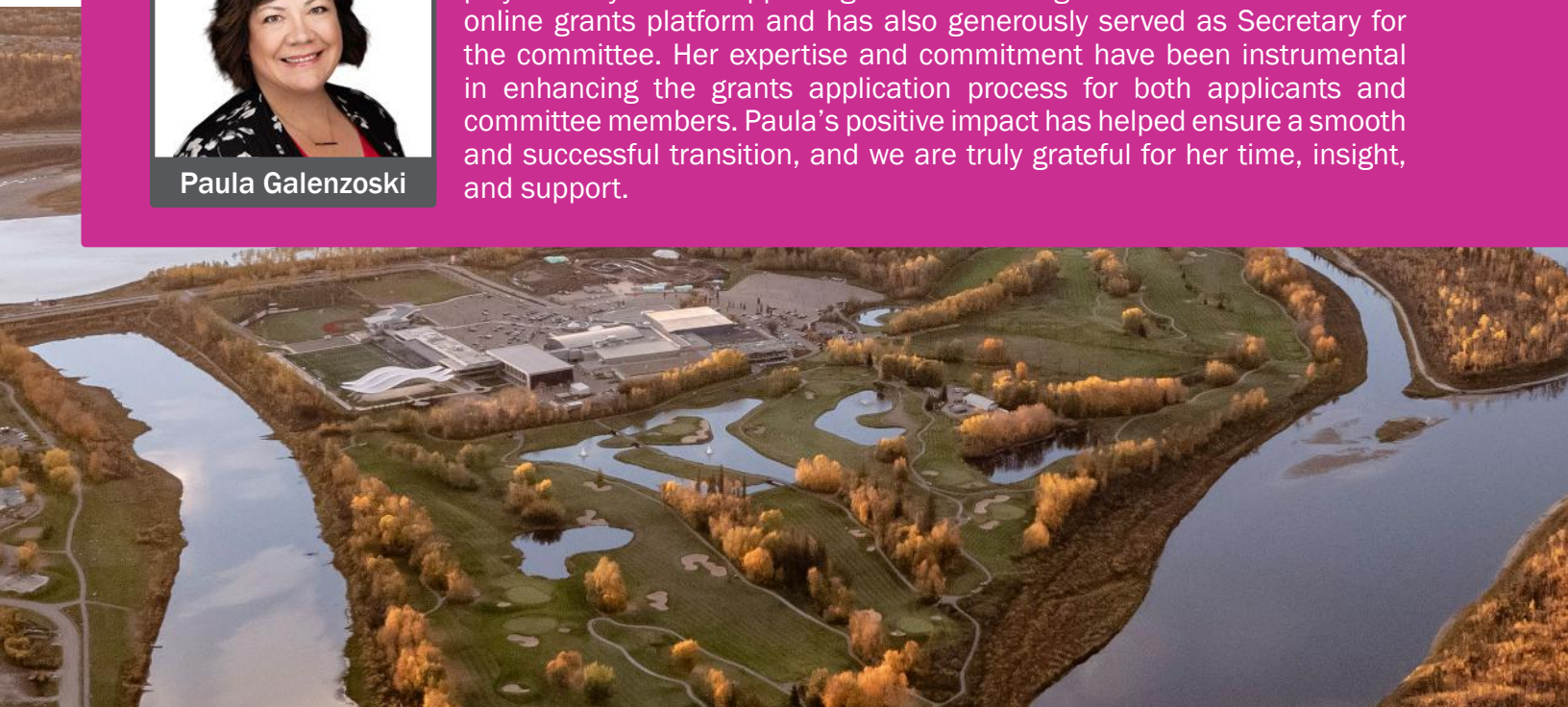
Katie Erb

Seforsa O'Neil



Paula Galenzoski

WBCF would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Paula Galenzoski for her dedicated volunteer contributions to the Grants Committee. Paula played a key role in supporting the team through the transition to the new online grants platform and has also generously served as Secretary for the committee. Her expertise and commitment have been instrumental in enhancing the grants application process for both applicants and committee members. Paula's positive impact has helped ensure a smooth and successful transition, and we are truly grateful for her time, insight, and support.





more than a
DONATION



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