

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 our vibrant region. Together may we all be stewards of the land.



"It falls on all people to continue the hard work of healing and reconciliation, each in our own way and where possible, together, in our families and communities, in the organizations we work and belong to, and as a nation."

– The Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action

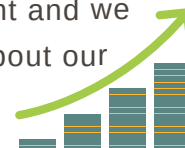


MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



During the past year we were successful at growing our capacity in support of our Mission despite the many challenges facing our community.

We continued to increase our donor base raising more than \$1 million. Our endowed funds now total in excess of \$4.3 million. This is an extraordinary accomplishment and we have many donors, volunteers and supporters to thank. You can find out more about our financial position here.



WBCF reached a fantastic milestone in 2020: we have granted over \$1 million to 36 organizations. Last year alone, we funded 21 different organizations. You can read more about these accomplishments in this report.

We experienced some of the direct benefits of our connection to Community Foundations of Canada and Edmonton Community Foundation. Through our affiliation with CFC we received just over \$191,000 to distribute as part of the Emergency Community Support Fund. This fund was targeted to support non-profit organizations serving vulnerable populations as they manage the impacts of Covid-19. In addition we received over \$17,000 from the Rapid Response Fund from our alignment with Edmonton Community Foundation.

We marked another milestone in the past year, hiring our first Executive Director Gaylene Weidlich. Gaylene has enabled us to continue to progress the growth of the Foundation and is helping to ensure we maintain our relationship with both our donors and the organizations that gain our support.

As we celebrate our fourth year, we are very pleased to welcome two new Directors – Emma Thorpe and Shaun Moore to our Board. We are fortunate to have a strong Board, and with the addition of our new members we are well positioned to effectively further the mission of the Foundation.

On behalf of the Foundation and the community we serve, thank you to all our donors. Together, we are investing today, for a stronger tomorrow.

Tony Mankowski

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The people within the communities of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo never cease to amaze me. Your generous support has been extremely important as we continue to cope with the pandemic.

According to Merriam-Webster, **Philanthropy** is defined as: "goodwill to fellow members of the human race; *especially*: active effort to promote human welfare." During this year, so many of you stepped up donating your time through volunteering or donating to grow the endowment funds that will multiply the support we can give in the coming years.

Thank you.



This past year has also highlighted for many the extreme disadvantages and intersectionality--the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups. WBCF is committed to working towards a better future for all. *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are not just buzzwords.*

Collaboration: to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor; to cooperate with an agency with which one is not immediately connected.

We continue to work very closely with FuseSocial and United Way FMWB. We are proud of the relationships built and look forward to the many projects and initiatives that will have collective impact not only for our respective organizations but for the whole community.

WBCF values collaboration and we are always looking for opportunities with other organizations and community members to reach common goals.

Gaylene Weidlich (she/her)



GRANTING & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Granting streams included the WBCF Community Grants; Environmental Grants; and the COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). These provided support to thousands of residents when they needed it most.

Grants in excess of \$480,000 supported local organizations dealing with poverty; supporting youth, seniors and families; providing health and sport services; and projects to improve the environment.

2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Centre of Hope
Northlife Soup Kitchen
King's Kids Promotions
FMPSD School Lunch Programs
FM Rotary Music Festival
Girls Inc. of Northern Alberta
KidSport Wood Buffalo
Big Brothers Big Sisters WB

The HUB FRC
Cancer Society
Northreach Society
Ft. McMurray SPCA
Habitat for Humanity WB
Ft. McMurray Golden Years
McMan Youth Family & Community Services
Willow Lake Metis & The Resilience Institute

Local HERO Foundation
St. Aidan's Society
Waypoints Community Services
Keyano College
CNIB

CENTRE OF HOPE: OUTREACH MOBILE SERVICE UNIT, STREET REACH PROGRAM

The program supports our most vulnerable population, reaching out to them and providing services where and when needed. Demand for the program has increased dramatically during COVID, similar to when the community experienced crises like the fire and flood.



GIRLS INC. OF NORTHERN ALBERTA: REACHING SMART

The Reaching SMART workshops are designed to teach girls western STEM and Indigenous land-based learning through hands-on activities promoting critical thinking and problem solving. Topics challenge girls to relate their learning to their own lives, and emphasize the role they can play in leading society towards a sustainable future.





GRANTING & COMMUNITY IMPACT

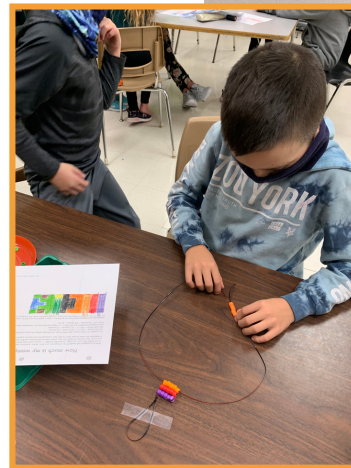
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS WOOD BUFFALO: COMMUNITY MENTORING SERVICES

Current stats; 263 Children/ youth served (since January 2020)

42 Children/youth waitlisted 31 Children/ youth in process.

Goal – Run 12 programs in partnership with FMCSO, FMPSD and Northlands School Division. October – June 2021. Serving a total of 135 children/ youth this school year for site based school programming.

These pictures are from the Full Circle Indigenous Mentoring program at Father Beauregard school in Abasand. The activity pictured is wampum belt making.



“I love the Go Girls program, it’s cool that it is virtual and still fun! My mentor Lauren has helped me realize I can do anything I want to as long as I work hard and try my best”

– Go Girls Mentee – Age 11

“I am so happy there is Full Circle this year at my school. I was lonely and sad because of this pandemic, and seeing my mentors and doing fun things with them makes me happy”

- Full Circle Indigenous Mentoring Mentee, Age 9.



GRANTING & COMMUNITY IMPACT

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND: COVID RESPONSE

Over \$191,000 was provided in immediate funding to local organizations such as:

***Local HERO Foundation:
Medevac Pilot Proficiency
Training and Pilot Travel.***

“
"The Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) grant supported the unforeseen costs related to staff travel for work and the expense of extra Local HERO flight hours for recertification training. The vulnerable populations of remote areas in the Rural Municipality of Wood Buffalo experienced no gap in service and the team had peace of mind with travel and training problems solved."

- Andrea Montgomery-Spring
Local HERO Foundation



PARTNERS

To our partners and donors -- from the strong and mighty monthly donors; our dedicated fund holders; and the amazing support of corporate donors: your support strengthens the social fabric and quality of life in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo.

Thank you!



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE DONATIONS



Our donors are extraordinary! Many donate through their workplace or the WBCF website either monthly or on an occasional basis. Every dollar counts and is multiplied over time as the fund earns interest and grows.



John & Leslie Wilson

“ Leslie and I are proud to be involved with the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation as founders. As long time residents and business owners in the region, we are committed to supporting the community through non-profit organizations, sports, social programs, health care and continuing education. ”



The Ball Family

“ Our family believes it is always important to be grateful for what you have. Our good fortune came from our hard work in Fort McMurray, so we wanted to give back both in volunteer time and in financial resources. ”

THE FUNDS THAT CREATE THE IMPACT

Employing WBCF's endowment model ensure your gift not only meets the immediate needs of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo, but creates sustainable, long-term funding that goes back into the community annually.

RICHARD L. GEORGE FAMILY FUND

CORMIER JACKSON FAMILY FUND

JOHN WILSON FAMILY FUND

LITTLE FAMILY FUND

BALL FAMILY FUND

TERESA & MARK SHAW FAMILY FUND

POWELL FAMILY FUND

NABHOLZ FAMILY FUND

MIKE & ANNETTE MACSWEN FUND

DR. LAWLEY FAMILY FUND

KEARNEY FAMILY FUND

ERSKINE FAMILY FUND

WOOD BUFFALO COMMUNITY FUND



DID YOU KNOW?

WBCF can accept many types of donations: real estate, life insurance, bequests, stocks, etc!



DID YOU KNOW?

An endowment fund can be created immediately or over time -- up to 10 years!