



**WOOD BUFFALO  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**



# **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

[WWW.WBCFOUNDATION.CA](http://WWW.WBCFOUNDATION.CA)



## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Wood Buffalo Community Foundation recognizes that we live, work and serve communities on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and traditional meeting grounds 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. Together may we all be good stewards of the land.

## WBCF MESSAGE

We are excited to announce that we have over \$5.3 million in endowed funds. The generosity and dedication of our donors and community partners has made this possible -- Thank You!

WBCF established the first (of what we hope will be many) Agency Endowment Funds in 2021. The grants from these Funds provide sustainable, unrestricted funding for the respective social profit organizations and their programming.

Throughout the pandemic, we quickly shifted and were able to access and facilitate supportive granting initiatives in addition to the Community Grants. Strong relationships with Edmonton Community Foundation and Community Foundations of Canada have been instrumental in achieving this. Highlights of our granting can be found in this report. Special thanks to the Grants Committee volunteers for inclusive and diverse conversations and decision-making; and for contributing their time and dedication.

Since our very first beginnings, Sandy Carkener has been instrumental as the volunteer Board Secretary. We extend our utmost gratitude for her years of service and support. Thank You !

As we celebrate our fifth year, we are very pleased to welcome a new Director – Joshua Gogo to our Board as Treasurer. We are fortunate to have a strong Board, and with the addition of Joshua we are well positioned to effectively further the mission of the Foundation.

On behalf of the Foundation and the communities we serve, thank you to all our vital donors and community partners.

Together, we are investing today for a stronger tomorrow.



Tony Mankowski  
Board Chair



Gaylene Weidlich  
Executive Director



## OUR PROFILE

Since 2017, we have valued collaboration and creative solutions to issues facing our communities. We continue to build relationships with individuals, families, and organizations locally and across Canada to increase our impact through endowments and granting for Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo.

We offer a variety of Fund types including endowments for general community support; donor directed funds that support a specific social profit(s); donor advised which support general causes such as youth, homelessness, or arts and culture, etc. And, most recently, we have added the ability to accept spend-down funds.

As a community foundation, we are flexible in how we receive donations (stocks, life insurance, real estate, bequests, etc.) and in specific requests from donors as to how those donations are to be used.

WBCF is proud to be a part of over 200 community foundations across Canada. This network allows us to tap into national funding programs and an array of community-centric approaches to build communities where everyone belongs.



## **2021 GRANTS**

### **COMMUNITY GRANTS \$200,000**

Pastew Place: Pre-Treatment/Client Coordinator

St. Aidan's House Society: Seniors Outreach & Advocate Program

The HUB Family Resource Centre: Rural Community Outreach/ HUB on Wheels

King's Kids Promotions Outreach: Great Bannock Bake-off Event in Fort Chipewyan

### **DONOR DIRECTED GRANTS \$3,678.75**

Centre of Hope

King's Kids Promotions Outreach

Northlife Church: Soup Kitchen

Ft. McMurray Rotary Music Festival

FMPD: In-school lunch program

### **SHELL ALBIAN SANDS ENVIRONMENT GRANT \$3,357**

Willow Lake Métis Nation and The Resilience Institute:  
Developing an Indigenous Guardian Program

This Grant is generously provided by Edmonton Community Foundation each year. Thank you.

# GENDER EQUALITY

The Gender Equality Fund is a national funding program provided by CFC, The Equality Fund and the Government of Canada. We were one of only 3 community foundations in Alberta that took part in this initiative in 2021.

Continued funding for diverse and impactful gender initiatives will be critical to building a more inclusive society.

The three pillars within this initiative were:



## **GENDER-LENS INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE**

WBCF is a relatively small and young organization. As such, we are able to discuss and incorporate gender-lens ideas and policies from the committee to Board level. The information we have learned through this program will continue to inform our decisions.

## **GENDER-LENS GRANTMAKING**

\$55,000 was granted to support initiatives for gender equality, described in the following pages. They supported our regions youth with many positive outcomes.

## **GENDER-LENS INVESTING**

The first step is identifying what we have; the next step is improvement. With the assistance of ECF, we identified that less than 7% of our investments are gender-diverse. We will continue to work to increase these investments.



# GENDER EQUALITY

## POWER OF STORIES / MIND+BODY, GIRLS INC OF NORTHERN ALBERTA

This project provided vital and direct support towards gender equality by preventing, addressing and breaking the cycle of violence, silence and stigma around the wellbeing of 520 girls ages 6-14 socially, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.



"Our participants have shown growth in comfort with reaching out to the resources in their community. When given scenarios regarding the topics discussed they excitedly share the multitude of resources ranging from their friends and family, counsellors, teachers, other local organizations, and Girls Inc of Northern Alberta.

In replacement of a cancelled workshop in Fort Chipewyan (due to Covid restrictions), we focused on accelerating virtual program/kit deliver to the rural hamlet, engaging elder and



community members into program planning as well as addressing topics identified as urgent and of most interest from the participants -- such as 'life cycle balance', 'wholistic wellbeing', 'period poverty', 'moon time' etc."

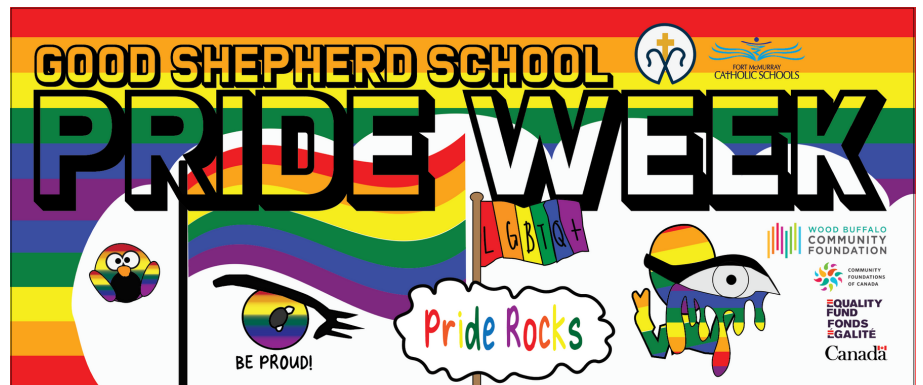
"She misses the classes so much and as her parents we are grateful to see some positive education and culture been set into her. Appreciate your help! Please forward our deepest gratitude and thank you to all the coaches."

- Parent

# GENDER EQUALITY

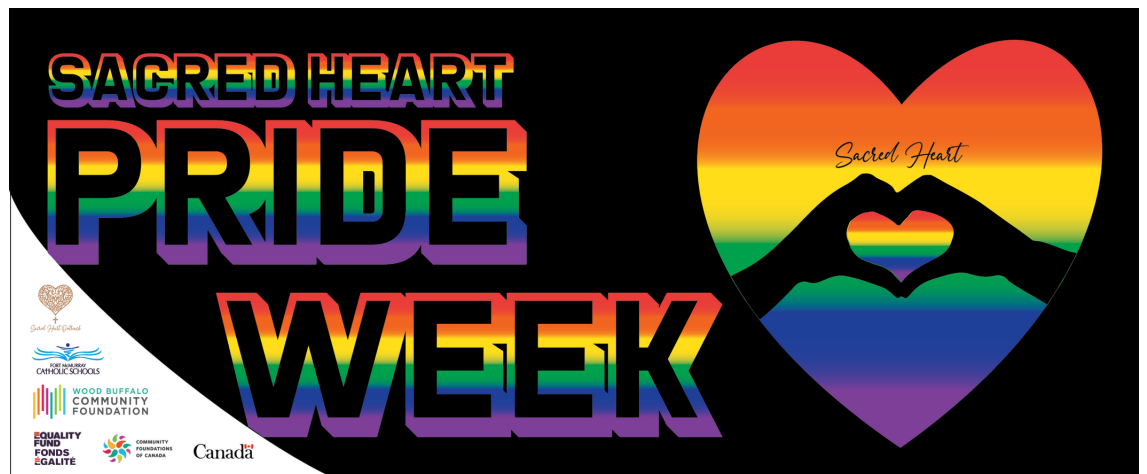
## BREAKTHROUGH 2020, FT. MCMURRAY CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

This project was designed to increase school-based supports for GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance) groups by increasing knowledge about, inclusion and celebration of LGBTQ2S+ and gender minorities in Catholic schools. We built capacity with our staff to support safe, affirming and welcoming places for our LGBTQ2S+ students and families.



"I'm really happy to see all these new people coming out and throwing old traditions and discriminatory cultures out the window - I really like seeing all the young people representing groups and communities without any shame, it really makes me feel empowered and glad to be a part of the LGBTQ+ community."

-Holy Trinity GSA student, grade 9





# CHCI

We partnered with the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta to be the Hub Leads for the northern Alberta region (Edmonton north). Northern Alberta was allocated \$1 million for CHCI programs; over \$136,000 was granted for initiatives in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo:

Digital solutions for the Wood Buffalo Regional Library; Anzac Internet Cafe, and Micro-Community Gathering Spaces for Fort McMurray 468 First Nation



“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the closures affecting in-person library services, we heard from patrons that they relied on our public computers to work on résumés and job applications, complete important paperwork, and access the online world. Our team realized we needed to expand the technology we offer for home use. The Tech to Go collection contributes to bridging the digital divide in our region and gives community members access to technology at their point of need. We are grateful to the Government of Canada and the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation for their support.”

-Melissa Flett, Director  
Wood Buffalo Regional Library

# LIST OF FUNDS

## **DONOR DIRECTED**

Little Family Fund  
Teresa & Mark Shaw Family Fund  
Dr. Lawley Family Fund

## **DONOR ADVISED OR FIELD OF INTEREST**

Erskine Family Fund  
Ball Family Fund  
Cormier Jackson Family Fund  
Powell Family Fund  
Nayef and Petek Mahgoub Fund

## **WOOD BUFFALO COMMUNITY FUND**

Richard L. George Family Fund  
John and Leslie Wilson Family Fund  
Kearney Family Fund  
Nabholz Family Fund  
Mike and Annette MacSween Fund  
Kearney Family Fund  
Galachiuk Family Fund

**NEW**

## **AGENCY ENDOWMENTS**

St. Aidan's House Society Fund  
Arts Council of Wood Buffalo Fund  
WBCF Operating Fund

# AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

*"The beginning is the most important  
part of the work."  
-Plato*

The start of something great -- Agency Endowment Funds (AEF). An AEF is an endowment fund that is set up by a social profit. Each year, the Fund grants out directly to the organization for their needs. And, anyone can donate to these Funds!

Highlighted here are two of these Funds that took the chance in 2021 to begin their journey to long-term sustainability.

## **ARTS COUNCIL WOOD BUFFALO FUND**

Providing a gift to this Fund will enhance the sustainability of Arts Council by supporting the Arts Inc initiative and ongoing programs such as Artist in Residency, Seniors & the Art of Conversation, the Buffys / Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Awards, the Rural Arts Support Program, and the new Arts Inc., Arts Incubator

## **ST. AIDAN'S HOUSE SOCIETY FUND**

Age Friendly communities help our seniors live fuller, more active and healthier lives. Age friendly communities help prevent the neglect and abuse of older adults and increase the safety and wellbeing of seniors. An age friendly community fosters inclusion, fights ageism and provides equal opportunity for participation in community life. Gifts to this Fund support these initiatives.

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



## SOCIAL PROFITS

Building and refining relationships with social profits is critical to the success of our region. Through initiatives like "The Tomorrow Project" with FuseSocial and United Way, WBCF is understanding the needs of our communities and how we are all working together to address common issues.

## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS THAT VALUE COLLABORATIONS



"These collaborative efforts (with agencies & organizations) allow us to reach an increasing number of seniors and positively impact them."  
-St. Aidan's, Seniors Outreach

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & VITAL IMPACT

The importance of community connections has certainly been highlighted throughout the pandemic. We are seeing how vital these programs are to mental health and a feeling of belonging.



- The Great Bannock Bake-Off

## FLEXIBLE AND OPEN PARTNERSHIPS

When a local organization reached out to us with a problem, we were able to help!

Pastew Place had a surplus from a previous grant and we were able to shift that funding for their new AHS accreditation process. The accreditation was required in order for Pastew Place to continue operations.

Flexibility and open communication builds trust between funder and the funded social profit. These are the early steps towards Trust Based Philanthropy.

# FOLLOWING UP:

In 2020, WBCF provided funding for the Centre of Hope's new Outreach Mobile Service Unit for their Street Reach Program.



Massive shutdowns and other setbacks due to Covid drastically delayed the delivery of this unit.

WBCF was kept informed during this process and we were able to shift reporting requirements and deadlines.



We are pleased to report that the Centre of Hope has received their vehicle and has put it to good use!

The Street Reach program supports our most vulnerable population, reaching out to them and providing services where and when needed.

# VOLUNTEER

## VITAL VOLUNTEERS

We could not do any of what we do without our volunteers! Your dedication to serving Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo is unwavering.

WBCF extends heartfelt gratitude to:

### **GRANTS COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Tom Lawley	Graig Walsh
Liana Wheeldon	John Evans
Melissa Blake	Sara Loutitt
Anna Seinen	Michelle Velez (2022)
Tammie Tuccaro	Cynthia Shelley (2022)

Special Thanks to Tracey Ball, Andrea Hine, and Jennifer Turner for their volunteer service to the Grants Committee; also Thank You to Tammie Tuccaro and Mitch Bowers for their support on the CHCI committee.

### **2021 WBCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Tony Mankowski, Chair	Nayef Mahgoub
Kathy Schleen, Treasurer	Shaun Moore
Anna Seinen, Secretary	Emma Thorpe
Melissa Blake	
Tony Aruleba	Maureen Cormier Jackson (Past-Chair)
Brenda Erskine	

Special Thanks to John Evans for his service to the WBCF Board of Directors.



## VITAL PARTNERS

Relationships with our partners are vital to our growth and learning.

We value all the contributions and support that these organizations have provided.

Thank you!



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA



SUNCOR  
ENERGY  
FOUNDATION





## THE FOUNDERS CIRCLE

We wish to acknowledge and thank our Founders Circle Members who played a critical role in the establishment of our community foundation. Please visit our website for a full list and a few of their reasons "Why".



## FINDING THE "WHY"



Strong communities are built when everyone has a voice and opportunity to give to the causes that are important to them.

What causes or charities are important to you? How can we help you achieve your community-giving goals?





## **BECOME A COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR TODAY!**

Contributions can be made online; by etransfer to [donations@wbcfoundation.ca](mailto:donations@wbcfoundation.ca); or connect with us to arrange a specific gift such as a stock transfer, bequest, real estate, etc.

And remember: it's easy to get started on your own endowment fund today for community support tomorrow!

[WWW.WBCFOUNDATION.CA](http://WWW.WBCFOUNDATION.CA)