



## WOOD BUFFALO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It's hard to believe this is only Wood Buffalo Community Foundation's second annual meeting, and our first annual report. Two years ago, we were a start-up organization, thrilled to have achieved charitable status and incorporation – no easy feat. I'm pleased to report that by the end of our 2018 fiscal year, we had raised had \$2,382,746 in Endowed Funds. You can find out more about our financial position here [www.wbcfoundation.ca/annual-general-meeting](http://www.wbcfoundation.ca/annual-general-meeting).

Our grants committee set priorities for the 2018 grant cycle, reviewed over 30 grant applications, and provided recommendations to the Board on granting almost \$250,000 to seven local charities. You can read more about those charities in this report.

The mandate of WBCF goes beyond raising money for endowments and sharing the wealth. In October we were proud to join the United Way and FuseSocial in announcing a collaboration project to help strengthen the Social Profit Sector of Wood Buffalo. This is exciting work and you'll hear more about progress over the coming year.

To close off an exciting year of firsts, WBCF spent a few days in December reflecting on what we had accomplished, and what we need to focus on in the next three years. Our 2019 Strategic Plan identifies four strategic directions and ten strategies for the 2019 to 2021 planning period.

We are especially pleased to welcome three new Directors -- Tony Aruleba, Nayef Mahgoub, and Shoaib Syed -- to our Board. We are also recruiting a temporary Manager for a six-month term. I know I speak for all of our current directors in welcoming fresh ideas, energy and skill sets.

Finally, without our donors we would not exist. On behalf of the Foundation and the community we serve, thank you to our Founding Circle members. Together we are investing today for a stronger tomorrow.

*Shelley Powell*  
June 20, 2019

## THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDERS CIRCLE

### DIAMOND > \$1 MILLION

Suncor Energy Foundation  
Syncrude Canada Ltd.

### PLATINUM \$500,000 – \$1 MILLION

Richard L. George Family

### GOLD \$100,000 – \$499,999

Eric and Diane Axford  
John and Leslie Wilson  
Kevin and Lori Nabholz  
Mark and Ruth Little  
Mike and Annette MacSween

### SILVER \$50,000 – \$99,999

Linda and Gord Ball  
Mark and Teresa Shaw  
Maureen Cormier-Jackson  
Tony and Monica Mankowski

### BRONZE \$25,000 – \$49,999

Cathy Glover  
Glen and Kathy Finnson  
Marlie and Steve Burt  
Paul Galachiuk and Tami Tranquada  
Steve and Mary Williams

### COPPER \$10,000 – \$24,999

Brenda Erskine  
Cliff and Ginette Britch  
Dr. Tom and Elaine Lawley  
Mike and Jill Agnew  
Paul and Colleen Kearney  
Ron and Paula Genereux  
Shelley and Chris Powell

### COMMUNITY < \$10,000

Anna Sienen  
Bill Martin Photography  
Caleigh Rhind and Philip Wortman  
Deprise Hutton  
Emma Erskine  
Helen Davies  
John Carruthers  
John Kuefler  
Kathryn Hawkesworth  
Kathy and Dave Schleen  
Kim and Lee Nordbye  
Laurie Lee  
Martin Garber-Conrad  
Tracey Ball  
Tracey Wolsey  
Wood Buffalo Pest Control Services

# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

FOUNDERS CIRCLE MEMBERS TALK ABOUT WHY THEY DONATED



“The region has had its challenges over the last decade, but it was very good to us and we want to try and help make it a great place for those who follow us. **KEVIN AND LORI NABHOLZ**”

“When I heard about the WBCF launching I knew that this was my opportunity to give back to the community. It was my chance to make a difference and invest in the future of our region. My hope for Fort McMurray is that the community continues to invest, connect and support each other. There is no place like home. **DEPRISE HUTTON**”



“The WBCF has provided many of us with an opportunity to support the community in a tangible way, to show our appreciation for the benefits we derived for being citizens of Wood Buffalo, and thus enhancing life in some small way for the existing and future citizens of Wood Buffalo. **CLIFF AND GINETTE BRITCH**”

“We are proud to support WBCF given our long affiliation and fondness for this community. We are so fortunate to have built a successful family, career, and network of lifelong friends there – a truly special place! **ERIC AND DIANE AXFORD**”



“I was often introduced as being from Fort McMurray, even though I was never a resident. It made me feel proud to think that I was involved enough in the community that you thought of me as one of your own. I've always believed that this was the most unique community in Canada, with the potential to fundamentally innovate new ways of working together and providing service to families and community members. I want to be sure that those opportunities exist in the future, regardless of the swings in the economy. **CATHY GLOVER**”

# WHAT DOES YOUR DONATION SUPPORT?

The Wood Buffalo Community Foundation has been building its endowed funds to help strengthen the social profit sector in the Wood Buffalo Region. In our first granting year we provided nearly \$246,000 in funding to support these local organizations in continuing valuable community projects and programs:

**PASTEY PLACE DETOX CENTRE** used a WBCF grant to pay for a facilitator for its Day Program, helping clients understand the impact of addiction, physically, psychologically and spiritually. The program looks at relationships, families, relapse prevention and goal setting.

I JUST WANT TO TAKE THE TIME  
AND THANK THE PEOPLE HERE AT THE CENTRE  
FOR ALL THE SUPPORT THEY HAVE SHOWN ME. I  
WAS HERE FOR ALMOST THREE WEEKS DETOXING  
AND WAITING FOR TREATMENT AND ONLY REALIZED  
A FEW DAYS AGO THAT IT'S RUN BY ALL FEMALES.  
SOLID FEMALES WHO DON'T TAKE SHIT AND  
HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH TELLING ME STRAIGHT.  
YOU ALL ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL AND HEART  
WARMING. I COULD NOT HAVE LASTED WITHOUT  
YOU. LOUS TALKS AND JOKING GAVE ME HOPE  
AND A NEW OUTLOOK ON LIFE. I WILL BE  
FOREVER THANKFUL AND NEVER FORGET YOU ALL.  
I WILL SHOW MY APPRECIATION THROUGH PRAYER  
AND SOBRIETY AND CHANGE OF LIFE FOR THE  
BETTER. WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS THE LOVE I  
HAVE FOR YOU ALL.

FOREVER GRATEFUL

*"The cornerstone of my recovery is in line and built with granite, and for this I thank you. You make me feel like I have direction and purpose, and for this I thank you. In this house of warmth and compassion I begin to feel human and my journey begins, and for this I thank you."*  
– Client

**NEAFAN** (North East Alberta Fetal Alcohol Network) used WBCF funds to buy bus tickets, helping over 50 rural clients and their families access rural outreach and supports in Fort McMurray.

*"Thank you so much, I used to freeze trying to hitchhike back to Janvier"*  
– Client

*"I feel so much safer, I met {while hitchhiking} a very creepy man that made me feel very scared."*  
– Client

*"It's obvious the depth of impact of these simple tickets. It's incredible to see Clients utilize the tickets to improve their lives and that of their family."* – Staff

**THE HUB FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE'S PARENT COACHING PROGRAM** used WBCF's grant to increase access to parenting programs and supports, particularly in the rural areas.



*"I learned some new ways to approach my children when it comes to managing their behaviour(s). Having realistic expectations for each child and explaining to them clearly what the rules are and the rewards for following and consequences if not followed."*  
– Parent of three (Janvier)

*"I learned different strategies to deal with disobedience and learned how to reward and recognize good behaviours. This program was very educational. I would love to have you back in the Conklin community."*  
– Parent of one (Conklin)



## WHAT DOES YOUR DONATION SUPPORT? *continued*

THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF RMWB used WBCF's grant to provide socio recreational programs for youth on the autism spectrum, and respite for parents.

*"One 11-year-old who was reluctant to attend on his first day and was more than a little cranky with staff, returned for his second session and greeted the Leader with a huge smile and a hug and told her this was the "best group ever" and he was glad he came!"*

*"After a 9-year-old attended for the first time in May his mother called the Program Director the next day and told her 'for the first time in years my husband and I could go out for lunch together and N. enjoyed the program so much he wanted to come back today!'"*

LEGACY COUNSELLING CENTRE used a WBCF grant to offer free counselling to couples experiencing economic difficulties, and to train counsellors in the Gottman method.

*"The Gottman Couples Therapy Training has been extremely beneficial: It has offered practical tools to work with couples who present with a wide variety of marital issues including trust, conflict, lack of intimacy, communication issues, etc. This training has given me research-based, comprehensive assessment tools and practical interventions to meet couples exactly where they are at."*  
- Counsellor

Transportation funding from WBCF ensured all local Grade 9 students were able to attend SAFE COMMUNITIES WOOD BUFFALO'S P.A.R.T.Y. program which educates youth on the dangers of impaired, distracted and fatigued driving while encouraging them to make safe choices and smart risks.



*"I'm glad I learned what I did today"*  
- Student

*"I really liked the hands-on activities, they felt very real"*  
- Student

*"I believe that this program is very important, and it promotes being an active citizen"*  
- Student

WBCF funding helped KIDSPORT WOOD BUFFALO pay registration fees for over 60 local kids who otherwise might not have been able to afford the fees. The program's goal is to get all kids off the sidelines, and into the game.



Go to [www.wbcfoundation.ca/about-grants](http://www.wbcfoundation.ca/about-grants) to find out more about how WBCF supports the social profit sector

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

c/o Redpoll Centre at Shell Place, 1 C.A. Knight Way,  
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 5C5

[www.wbcfoundation.ca](http://www.wbcfoundation.ca) | @wbcfoundation