



WOOD BUFFALO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We are very much in our infancy as a foundation with this being only our second annual report. I am pleased to say we are progressing in our mission: To enhance the quality of life in our region through grants and partnerships that improve the capacity and sustainability of our community.

We raised another million dollars in donations in 2019, bringing our endowed funds to almost \$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](#).

We completed our second granting cycle, distributing local grants of \$200,000 to five organizations working to address sustainability of the social profit sector through collaboration or social enterprise; solving root causes through systems change; and, providing wellness support for individuals and families experiencing crisis.

We have continued to make progress on the Collaboration Initiative, a strategic partnership between the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation, United Way of Fort McMurray and FuseSocial. We're working to minimize duplication and create efficiencies among our organizations. This is a very exciting initiative that could establish a successful framework for other social profit organizations.

In 2020 we are participating in two special short-term initiatives to support local social profit agencies in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Aligning with the Edmonton Community Foundation in the Rapid Response Fundraising effort will allow us to access additional provincial funds. And we are partnering with Community Foundations Canada and the United Way to distribute the federal government's Emergency Community Support Fund. At the same time, we are accepting applications for our annual granting program.

As we celebrate our third year, we are very pleased to welcome three new Directors - Kathy Schleen, Melissa Blake, and John Evans to our Board. I would also like to thank our Manager Sharon Heading for her support during her tenure and would like to welcome Gaylene Weidlich as our new Manager. 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

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Our donors deserve a huge thank you from Wood Buffalo Community Foundation and from all our grantees.

Here's a quick snapshot of our year:

- Total donations received in 2019 – \$1,099,327.94
 - Includes a \$500,000 match from the Suncor Energy Foundation and a \$250,000 gift from Syncrude Canada Ltd.
- Endowed funds as of the end of 2019 – \$2,884,620
 - An additional \$600,000 received in late 2019 will be added to our endowment funds in 2020
- **Individual Donors** – 35, including three Corporate donors and one small business
- Multi-year donors with commitments from two to six years – 16

“ We have lived in the region for over two decades, raising our family and growing with the community. We want to give back as we have benefited from our time here. Hopefully our donation will, in some way, help others realize their goals and aspirations.

MIKE AND JILL AGNEW ”



“ At the WBCF launch event, a speaker from Community Foundations of Canada told a story of a mother who was not well off, but wanted to support her community to be a better place to live so her children could continue to grow up in a great community. After hearing about her local community foundation, she donated \$1.00 cash directly into the hands of the leader. It was all she had.

What I learned from this wonderful story is that anyone can make a difference in their local community. This is why I give to the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation – so that my children can live in a sustainable, thriving community. **ANNA SEINEN** ”

“ 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. I was extremely happy to be on the founding board for the Foundation and to have our family fund in the Founders Circle. I believe the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation will grow into a tremendous resource for the entire region, with everyone's help. **LINDA BALL**

The Wood Buffalo region and Fort McMurray have always had a special place in my heart. I was born and raised here and come from a legacy of Fort McMurray proud family and friends, all whom treasure their lives here and the sense of community and enrichment that comes along with it. The Wood Buffalo Community Foundation is an important resource for initiatives aimed at helping the region to be prosperous and fulfilling for all who choose to come here. Knowing that my donation today contributes to grants available to the Wood Buffalo region for many years to come is reassuring and, given what we have all been through these past few years, it is very much needed.

TRACEY BALL ”



Photo credit to Susan Lumsden

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 2019, we granted nearly \$200,000 in funding to support local organizations in continuing valuable community projects and programs:

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION WOOD BUFFALO REGION was awarded the 2019 Grant for Peer Support Program. Here is what they had to say:

"The grant dollars we received from the WBCF provided us the opportunity to train and employ individuals (Peers) with lived experience with mental health/addiction and/or caregivers of such individuals as active peer support workers in our Welcome Centre and Recovery College.

*With the generous investment from the WBCF, we were able to employ Peer Support workers that co-delivered 107 courses totalling more than 520 classes to students. During this grant cycle, the Recovery College saw more than 700 unique individuals." - **CMHA WB***

*"I was isolated before and now I have friends who I hang out with weekly." - **Student***



"Nice to come here and meet people 'like me' and who have gone through things that they don't know how to deal with."

- Student

*"It's the learning we get from each other, having peers in the room and sharing stories and learning new skills." - **Student***

ST.AIDAN'S HOUSE SOCIETY was awarded the 2019 Grant for their Senior Outreach & Advocate Program. Here is what they had to say:

"Our WBCF Funding started April 1, 2020. Of course, this was while the world was being shut down, people were being shut in and this pandemic was taking the lives of many people; particularly the older adult population. As an agency that was already deeply concerned with the impacts of isolation on seniors, we braced for what we knew would be a rapid decline in senior health outcomes, an increase in mental health and well-being concerns and an uptick in elder abuse. We knew immediately, we would need to find new and innovative ways of supporting older adults and at an unprecedented volume. The WBCF immediately recognized unprecedented times would require flexibility as agencies responded to changing needs and priorities. We are so grateful to WBCF for their funding, their commitment to agencies and their vision of effectively addressing complex community issues."
- Luana Bussieres

ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS SUPPORTED IN 2019

Canadian Mental Health Association
Peer Support Program

Pastew Place Detox Centre
Program Facilitator position

Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
Interpretation and Translation
Unit Social Enterprise Project

FuseSocial
Leadership & Education for the
Wood Buffalo Social Profit Sector

St. Aidan's Society
Senior Outreach Coordinator

WHAT DOES YOUR DONATION SUPPORT? *continued*

PASTEY PLACE DETOX CENTRE was awarded the 2019 Grant for their Program Facilitator Position. Here is what they had to say:

"Words cannot express our appreciation for all that you have done with funding our Program Facilitator position. The reason we were able to continue to offer this program was because of the WBCF and your belief in our ability to positively impact the lives of those suffering from addiction.

The goal of our Day Program is to educate individuals on addiction and how it impacts all aspects of their lives. We also give our clients hope and help them believe they have the power to change and to live the healthy life they deserve.

Because of your generous contribution we were able to educate 254 individuals through our Day Program. We sent 167 of these clients into residential treatment facilities across the province. Every single client we sent to treatment was a client who went through our Day Program first."

- Amber Fort, Executive Director

I JUST WANT TO TAKE THE TIME
AND THANK THE PEOPLE HERE AT THE CENTRE
FOR ALL THE SUPPORT THEY HAVE GIVEN ME. I
WAS HERE FOR ALMOST THREE WEEKS BEFORE
AND WAITING FOR TREATMENT AND ONLY REALIZED
A FEW DAYS AGO THAT ITS RUN BY ALL FEMALES.
SOLID FEMALES WHO DONT 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 SOKINS. GAVE ME HOPE
AND A NEW OUTLOOK ON LIFE. I WILL BE
FOREVER THANKFUL AND NEVER FORGET YOU ALL.
I WILL SHARE 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

FILEY LEARNER
JUST GRABBED MY 50 MOUTH
CAP ON THE 20TH. ITS ALL
THANKS TO DETOX, THE KNOWLEDGE
YOU FEED US, AND THE DETERMINATION
AND WORK I PUT IN, ITS ALL
ABOUT DEDICATION AND DISCIPLINE.
MADE A GREAT MIDDAY, THANKS
FOR EVERYTHING.

MAUGS & LOUS,
R ☺

A THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTS COMMITTEE

The WBCF Grants Committee consists entirely of community volunteers. In 2019, there were four board members on the committee including co-chairs Brenda Erskine and Anna Seinen, committee members Dr. Tom Lawley and Tony Arubela. Community members Tracey Ball, Deborah Kitching, Linda Thompson-Brown, Cecilia Mutch, John Evans, Liana Wheeldon and Graig Walsh made up the rest of the committee.

We would like to thank our 2019 Grants Committee members for their expertise and their commitment to our community. They are selected for their broad knowledge in their fields of work, aligning closely

with the WBCF's granting objectives. The intimate community knowledge these volunteers bring to the table is invaluable when making granting recommendations to the board. Each member of the committee spends about 60 hours defining the grant cycle target areas and reviewing grant applications to come to a recommendation.

As of 2019 we have successfully completed two full granting cycles, providing valuable dollars to enhance the quality of life in our region and to improve the capacity and sustainability of our community.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The Wood Buffalo Community Foundation (WBCF) is committed to protecting the privacy of its donors, volunteers, award applicants and recipients, employees, and other stakeholders. The Foundation values the trust of these stakeholders and of the public, and recognizes that maintaining this trust requires that the Foundation be transparent and accountable in how it treats the information that is shared with it.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

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

www.wbcfoundation.ca | manager.wbcf@gmail.com | [@wbcfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/wbcfoundation)