

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



PRINCE GEORGE  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
all for our community.



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## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I reflect on this year I am filled with gratitude and pride in reflecting on the achievements and growth of the Prince George Community Foundation. This year has been marked by significant milestones and new opportunities that have strengthened our commitment to creating a positive and lasting impact in our community.

### Community Impact and Granting Highlights

Our grant programs reached great heights this year, supporting a diverse range of projects and initiatives that uplift our local organizations and, by extension, the people they serve. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the tireless work of our grant recipients, we were able to fund programs focused on youth development, environmental sustainability, mental health, and more. Each grant we awarded was a testament to the strong partnerships we’ve cultivated with local non-profits, and the positive results we’ve seen reaffirm our commitment to the causes that matter most to our community. It was our honor to grant out over \$1MM this year.

### Strengthening Partnerships

In 2024, we deepened our collaborations with local organizations, businesses, and government partners, reinforcing our role as a trusted community leader. These partnerships allowed us to amplify our impact and expand our reach. We also celebrated receiving an award from the PG Chamber of Commerce, a meaningful recognition of the work we do in partnership with our community.

### Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we do so with a renewed focus on sustainable growth, community partnerships, and impact-driven initiatives. We remain committed to creating meaningful change and look forward to the coming year with optimism and enthusiasm for all that we can accomplish together.

Thank you to each of you—our board members, staff, donors, fund holders, volunteers, and community partners—for your unwavering support and belief in the work we do. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of those in Prince George and Northern BC, and we couldn’t do it without you.

With warm regards and heartfelt appreciation

Zahid Islam  
President,  
Prince George Community Foundation



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Prince George Community Foundation acknowledges that we live, work, and serve on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. These lands have been a gathering place for generations, rich with the languages, histories, and cultures of the Lheidli T'enneh people.

## ALL FOR OUR COMMUNITY

In alignment with our commitment to Prince George, the Foundation embraces the responsibility of supporting our community's future. We strive to build a vibrant and resilient community, and we work toward this vision by pursuing strategic goals that ensure a lasting, positive impact on the well-being of those we serve.

### Mission

Enrichening and strengthening our community through purposeful giving and impactful grants

### Vision

We are committed to inspiring a culture of giving in our community, shaped by impactful grants and a connected community.

### Values

Empowerment, Inclusivity, Innovation, Impact, Locally Focused, Collaboration

## OUR KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT





## COMMUNITY STORIES



We were honored to once again take part in **Miracle Theatre's** incredible work to uplift our community. This year, their production of *A Comedy of Tenors* raised an astounding **\$180,025.00** to fund the City's first Wildfire Structural Protection Unit. We are deeply moved by the community's generosity and the continued dedication shown through Miracle Theatre. Thank you to all the sponsors, donors, and theatregoers who made this achievement possible!

This past April the Foundation welcomed community foundation's from around Northern BC for a two-day **Legacy Giving Seminar**. We were excited to welcome Paul Nazareth, MFA-P, Vice-President, Canadian Association of Gift Planners and a true leader in gift planning to lead two sessions: one for Community Foundations and one for local Prince George charities. Thank you to Scotiabank, RBC Dominion Securities - Travis Stringer and UNBC for making this possible.





## COMMUNITY STORIES CONTINUED

The Prince George Golf and Curling Club hosted the **24th Annual FARR/WIC Golf Tournament**. With beautiful weather, 130 enthusiastic golfers, and the unwavering support of our sponsors and partners like the PG Golf & Curling Club, FARR Fabricating, and Western Industrial Contractors, it was a truly successful event. Looking forward to next year's tournament!



This past November, the Foundation was honored to be part of ***A Night to Honor Shirley Bond***. The evening highlighted the impact that Shirley has made in the Prince George community, and the province of BC, and gave guests an opportunity to say thank you. Guests enjoyed a delicious 4-course meal, speeches from Lt Governor Janet Austin, past Premier Christy Clark, BC Lion's Senior Vice President George Chyaka and more. All proceeds from this event went to the *Bill Bond Memorial Fund* with the Foundation to support heart health in our community.

# COMMUNITY STORIES CONTINUED



We are beyond honored to share that the Prince George Community Foundation has been recognized with the **Excellence in Not-for-Profit and Community Service Award** at the 2024 **Business Excellence Awards!** This award is deeply meaningful to us as it reflects the heart of what we do—bringing people together to make a lasting impact in our community. It’s a celebration of our donors, partners, volunteers, and everyone who believes in the power of giving back. Thank you to the Prince George Chamber of Commerce for this incredible recognition and to our amazing community for inspiring us every day.



On November 10, 2024, the Foundation was pleased to partner with Prince George Cougars, Inland Truck & Equipment and Link Belt for the **PG Cougars Mega 50/50 Jackpot**. The total jackpot was **\$126,440.00**, with proceeds going to Prince George Firefighters Charitable Society, RCMP Victim Services, and Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation.



## COMMUNITY STORIES CONTINUED



### PGCF Brings the Magic of Paris to Festival of Trees!

This year, the Prince George Community Foundation was thrilled to participate in the annual Festival of Trees with a stunning Paris-themed tree! Inspired by the elegance and charm of the "City of Light," our tree featured glittering Eiffel Tower ornaments, a sought-after trip to Paris, and a touch of holiday magic that transports you to the streets of Paris.

We're honored to be part of this cherished community tradition, celebrating the joy of the season while supporting healthcare initiatives in our region.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the PGCF!





# CELEBRATING NEW FUNDS

The Foundation is excited to announce new funds that have been created over the past year:

## Chuck Chin Legacy Fund

Honoring Chuck's memory, this fund supports the PGSS hockey program by helping underprivileged players with fees, equipment, and transportation. A lasting impact for the love of the game!



## Prince George 2022 BC Summer Games Society

Creating a legacy from the 2022 BC Summer Games, this fund supports local youth athletes. Half aids travel for provincial and national competitions, and half boosts training with Engage Sport North.



## Kris Yip Memorial Fund

Honoring Kris Yip's passion for cycling and heart health, this fund supports local initiatives while raising awareness about heart disease—an invisible threat that can impact anyone. A lasting legacy for a beloved member of our community.



## PGCF Legacy Award

This \$2,000 annual award supports SD57 grads pursuing post-secondary education. Honoring leadership, integrity, and community impact, it celebrates those making a difference.



#FutureLeaders #CommunityProud

## Miracle Theatre Fund Flow Through

This year's Miracle Theatre production, A Comedy of Tenors, funded a Structural Protection Unit for Prince George—helping safeguard homes and structures from wildfires.



## Trelle Morrow Memorial Fund

Honoring Trelle Morrow's legacy, this fund supports local history programs at the PG Public Library, student aid for history studies at UNBC, and arts & culture grants through PGCF.



## Prince George Rotary Flow Through Fund

Supporting Rotary's annual Hoop-A-Thon, this fund helps youth at risk and families in need. Players shoot free throws, pledges roll in, and lives are changed—all right here in Prince George!



## THANK YOU NOTES FROM SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY RECIPIENTS

THANK YOU FOR SELECTING ME AS THE GRADUATE CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THE SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS SCHOLARSHIP. I SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS GENEROUS AWARD POSSIBLE. I AM TRULY GRATEFUL FOR THIS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THAT WILL ASSIST WITH MY POST-SECONDARY PURSUITS.

MY POST-SECONDARY PLAN IS TO COMPLETE THE BIOMEDICAL PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA. BIOMEDICAL WILL HELP PUT ME ON THE PATH TO MEDICAL SCHOOL WHILE ALLOWING ME TO LIVE IN THE COMFORT OF THE NORTH.

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY OF THIS BURSARY. I AM COMPLETING MY EDUCATION DEGREE IN THE PURSUIT OF BECOMING AN ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER. AFTER STUDYING CLASSICAL MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA I KNEW I WANTED TO BRING MUSIC INTO CHILDREN'S LIVES IN WAYS THAT WILL GROW THEIR LOVE FOR THE ART AND SHOWS THEM HOW TO INCORPORATE IT IN THEIR LIFE. I AM HONOURED TO ACCEPT THIS BURSARY, IT WILL HELP ME REACH MY GOAL OF SPREADING JOY THROUGH MUSIC.



I would like to give a huge thank you for awarding me the Dr. Amanda Asay Memorial Bursary. It truly means a lot to me, as it will help me through my university years. I will be working towards a bachelor of Arts-English degree, a minor in Commerce/Business, and earning my Bachelor of Education to achieve my dream job, an Elementary School Teacher.

I am writing to express my gratitude for being the selected graduate to receive the Pre 1950 School Endowment Fund Scholarship. I am honored and beyond appreciative of your generosity and support. This scholarship will ease my financial burden and allow me to focus more on my studies, and less on financial concerns. I am currently pursuing a degree in university studies at the College of New Caledonia, but am hoping to take interior design in the next school year. This scholarship will help me achieve my academic and career goals. Your support is not exclusively financial but also a source of motivation for me to strive for my best. I am committed to making the most of every opportunity I come across, and giving back to my community just like you've done for me.

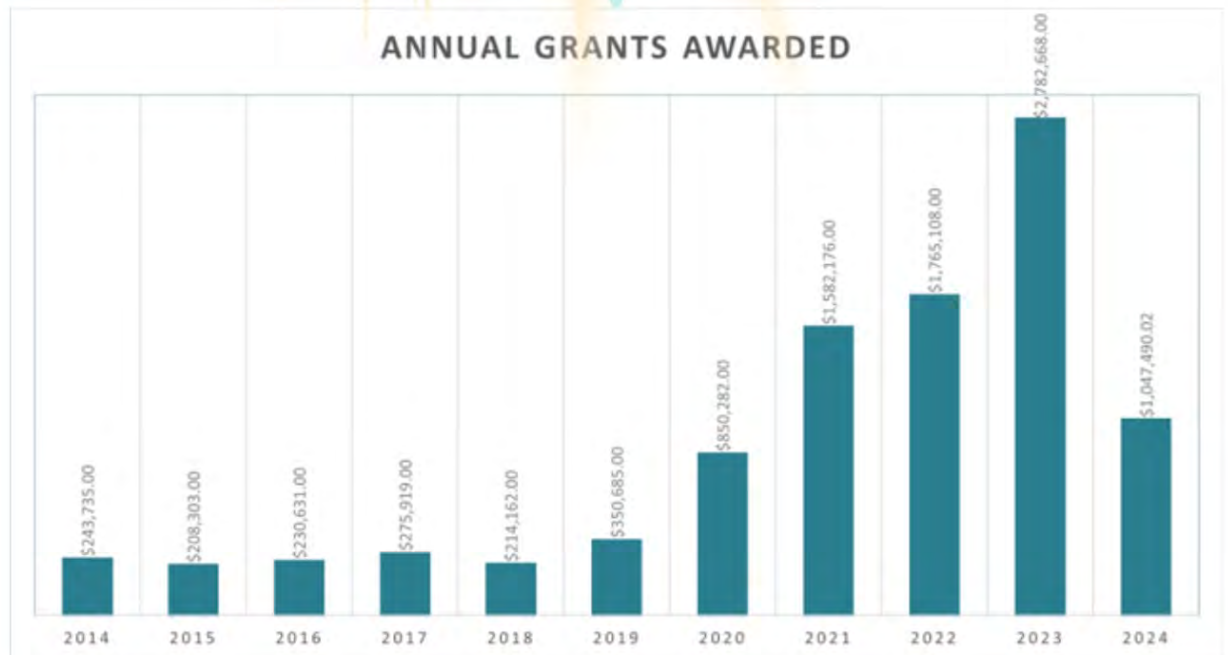


# INCREASING COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO CAUSES

Community organizations are essential contributors to our community's well-being, influencing our quality of life in diverse areas such as arts, culture, and poverty alleviation. A thriving community is inconceivable without the dedicated efforts and impact of numerous charities. These organizations often serve as crucial pillars for our most vulnerable citizens, shedding light on inequalities and advocating for innovative programs.

It is a privilege for us to contribute to community-driven projects each year through our grant programs, aligning with our commitment to support and enhance the initiatives that make our community vibrant and resilient.

**\$1,047,490 Million**  
in grants given last year!





# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## HOPE AIR IS NOT AN AIRLINE, IT'S A LIFELINE.

For many low-income Prince George residents, accessing critical medical care means facing overwhelming barriers—



traveling long distances, financial strain, or delaying vital treatments. Hope Air has been able to provide over 1,300 travel arrangements in 2023, helping families in our community reach essential care far from home.

Hope Air ensures that no patient in financial need has to cancel or delay care, offering flights, accommodations, and meals. Together,

we're making healthcare accessible and easing the burden for Prince George families during their most challenging times.

## BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR SENIORS

A vital pilot project is bringing technology training to seniors in our community, addressing a growing need for digital literacy. This initiative has created a welcoming training lab equipped with computers, desks, and supplies, and recruited skilled volunteers to provide hands-on instruction.

This program, created by Spruce Capital Seniors Recreation Society, goes beyond teaching seniors how to navigate the online world—it restores confidence, independence, and connection. By



empowering seniors to book appointments, manage tasks, and engage with family via video calls, this project strengthens their mental well-being and reduces isolation, ensuring seniors in Prince George feel connected and capable in today's digital age.

# COMMUNITY IMPACT CONTINUED

## CREATING ACCESSIBLE ARTS FOR ALL

Thanks to Theatre North West and a grant from the PGCF, a transformative project is making a local venue more inclusive. The addition of an Assistive Listening System and portable Stage T-lift will remove barriers for patrons with hearing impairments and mobility challenges.

This initiative ensures crystal-clear sound for all and provides Prince George's first fully accessible stage, opening opportunities for artists and audiences alike. PGCF is proud to support this vital step toward a more inclusive and vibrant arts community.



## CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY

REAPS is launching the Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden—a space to educate and inspire sustainable food production and environmental stewardship.



Featuring food gardens, composting displays, and resources on soil health, regenerative gardening, and pollinator-friendly planting, the garden provides hands-on learning for all. Produce grown will be donated to local social

service organizations, supporting those in need while promoting sustainability.

This innovative project, which not only enriches environmental education but also strengthens the bonds of community care.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Zahid Islam  
President



Stephanie Mikalishen-Deol  
Vice-President / Grants Chair



Philip Foucher  
Treasurer



Rahim Somani  
Secretary



Catherine Pennington  
Past President



Dave Scouten  
Fund Development Chair



Mayor Simon Yu  
(City of Prince George)



Chief Dolleen Logan  
(Lheidli T'enneh)



Corey Naphtali  
Director



Tino Mbara  
Director



Roberta Stewart  
Director

# STAFF



Mindy Stroet  
Director of Development



Rae-Ann Noonan  
Director of Operations &  
Finance



Reza Poudeh  
Finance Assistant



Sandra Blackwell  
Fund Development Coordinator



# VOLUNTEER

## VITAL VOLUNTEERS

We could not do any of what we do without our volunteers! Your dedication to serving Prince George Community Foundation is unwavering.

### Life Members

Esteemed and admired individuals, acknowledged in perpetuity for their invaluable contributions, whether through in-kind services or financial support

Murry Krause - Founder  
Dr. Lance Morgan  
Noreen Rustad  
Jan Christiansen - Founder  
Leonard Zirnhelt  
George Paul - Founder  
Les Waldie  
Tom Steadman - Founder  
Ron East - Founder  
Bill Stewart  
Jim Imrich  
Dr Charles Jago  
Brian Brownridge  
Elizabeth MacRitchie  
Henry Novak  
Dr. Jack McKenzie

### Honorary Members

Prominent and respected individuals who have made significant long-term contributions and advocacy for the benefit of the Foundation.

Don Bassermann  
Colin Kinsley  
Bev Christensen  
Todd Whitcombe  
Judy Jackson  
Dick Voneugen  
Ray Noonan  
Teresa Saunders  
Kathy Nadalin  
Al LeFebvre  
Selen Alpay  
Ted Price  
Anne Laughlin

## PGCF extends heartfelt gratitude to:

#### Investment Committee

Phil Foucher - Chair  
Chair Zahid Islam - Vice Chair  
Alain LeFebvre  
Bill Stewart  
Michele Santos  
Corey Naphtali  
John Illes  
Jim Martin  
Ray Noonan  
Tara Szerencsi

#### Fund Development Committee

Dave Scouten - Chair  
Zahid Islam- Vice Chair  
Noreen Rustad  
Tanner Moulton  
Jameel Sayani

#### Grants Committee

Stephanie Deol - Chair  
Tino Mbara - Vice Chair  
Bill Stewart  
Ed Dylke  
Norm Lee  
Dr. Todd Whitcombe  
Kelsey Yarmish

# Looking Forward...

## Celebrating 30 Years of Community Impact in 2025!

In 2025, the Prince George Community Foundation marks a remarkable milestone—30 years of giving back to our community! Since 1995, we've been proud to connect generous donors with causes that matter, fostering a stronger, more vibrant Prince George for generations to come. This milestone is not just about looking back; it's about celebrating the future we're building together.

Stay tuned for special events and campaigns throughout 2025 as we honor this incredible journey and the people who made it possible—you!

Here's to 30 years of generosity, growth, and a thriving Prince George!

W E L C O M E



Gary Wilson



Anika Lachapelle



Kelli Moorhead

We are thrilled to welcome Gary Wilson, Anika Lachapelle, and Kelli Moorhead to the Prince George Community Foundation Board of Directors! Each brings unique expertise and passion for community building, and we are excited to have them join us in creating a stronger, more vibrant Prince George. Welcome aboard!



We are excited to announce that **Rae-Ann Noonan** will be stepping into the role of **Executive Director**. For over 7 years Rae-Ann has co-led the Foundation, and with her extensive experience and deep commitment to our mission, Rae-Ann is well-positioned to lead the Foundation into an exciting future of growth and community impact.

Together, we'll continue to make a meaningful difference in our Community.

# Your Fund Options:

**Bursary / Scholarship Fund** - Support students in our region as they advance their education

**Agency (Charity) Fund** - Charities can create their own source of stable, long-term funding

**Community Fund** - Give back to where you live by supporting one of our many Community Funds

**Discretionary Fund** - Donors can rely on the Foundation's expertise to respond to the community's changing needs

**Donor Designated** - Donors designate a favorite charity to receive annual support, forever

**Field of Interest** - Donors can pick one of the 6 categories to support and the Foundation will match grants to that field of interest; Social Services, Environment, Education, Arts and Culture, Health, Sports and Recreation







PRINCE GEORGE  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
all for our community.

## ***All For Our Community***

*Being part of a community is so much more than sharing space or living in the same area. It is about creating and cultivating a sense of belonging. It is about understanding, acknowledging, celebrating and leveraging our differences to give rise to a greater collective strength and vitality. It is both supporting and challenging those around us and inspiring an ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for all.*



## **Become a community contributor today!**

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

It's easy to start your own Fund today for Community support tomorrow!

**WWW.PGCF.CA**

# REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Prince George Community Foundation collaborates closely with partner foundations throughout Northern B.C. These alliances enable foundations across the region to pool resources, enhance operational efficiencies, leverage financial returns, exchange knowledge and insights, and pursue collective opportunities.

Burns Lake Community Foundation

- Dick & Marilyn Nourse Legacy Fund

Chinook Community Society Endowment Fund

City of Williams lake Endowment Fund

Fort St. James Community Foundation

- Helweg Family Fund
- Randy Sulyma Endowment Fund

Fraser Lake Community Foundation

Kitimat Community Foundation

Mackenzie Community Foundation

McBride Community Foundation

Regional District Fraser Fort George

- Salmon River & Lakes Community Endowment Fund
- Chilako River-Nechako Community Endowment Fund
- Hixon-Woodpecker Community Endowment Fund
- Willow River-Upper Fraser Community Endowment Fund
- Crooked-River Parsnip Community Endowment Fund
- Robson Valley-Canoe Community Endowment Fund

South Cariboo Community  
Enhancement Foundation (100 Mile)

Terrace Community Foundation

- Dare to Dream Fund
- Bill and Helen McRae Fund
- Dr. Colleen Froese Fund
- Dreger Fund
- Lemiski and Schmidt Families Fund
- Norm Parry's Visionary Fund
- Rose Thomas Bouquet of Talent
- Schmidt Guys Outdoor Fund

Valemount Community Foundation

Vanderhoof Community Foundation

- Andros Family Fund
- LaForge Family Fund
- Nechako Valley Search & Rescue Fund
- Vanderhoof Hospice Society

Wells Community Foundation

# THANK YOU

*On behalf of the Prince George Community Foundation, we extend our deepest gratitude to all of our Partners, Donors and Supporters.*

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



*KPMG stands as a beacon of community collaboration, proudly partnering with the Prince George Community Foundation. Together, we're dedicated to nurturing a thriving community where services and events are accessible to all, thanks to our collective efforts*  
~ Corey S. Naphtali, KPMG Partner.

*Unity is strength! We celebrate our partnership with the Prince George Community Foundation, in helping foster a vibrant, inclusive community. Together we are making a lasting impact.*  
~Selen Alpay, Owner Canadian Tire



*As Scotiabank proudly stands with the Foundation, we reflect on the transformative journey we've witnessed. For 29 years, the Foundation's dedication has sparked positive change, touching countless lives across various sectors - from health and youth programs to sports and the arts.*  
~ Ray Noonan, District Vice President North BC & Yukon Scotiabank

## COMMUNITY FRIENDS

Aberdeen Helicopters  
Access Engineering Consultants  
Allpoints Fire Protection  
Assman Funeral Chapel - Dignity Memorial  
Aztech Fire Safety Planning  
Canadian Western Bank  
CBIG  
Central Builders Supply  
Colliers Project Leaders Inc.  
Dr. Ozcan  
DWB Consulting Services Ltd.  
Enbridge

Fieldhouse Capital Management  
Formula Contractors  
Four Rivers Co-op  
Hub International Brownridge  
Inland Truck & Equipment  
IREN  
Kopar Administration Ltd.  
Link-Belt  
Local Rental Solutions  
LOMAK  
Monogram Commutations  
Muirhead Financial Services  
Northern Lights Estate Winery  
PRD Construction Ltd.

Prince George Cougars  
Prince George Portable Toilet Services Ltd.  
RBC Dominion - Travis Stringer  
RE/MAX Aaron Switzer  
Scouten Engineering  
Sun Life Financial - Linda Rempel  
TC Energy / Coastal Gaslink  
TDB Consultants  
W.R. Ventures Ltd.  
Wood Wheaton Supercentre  
Yeti Refrigeration Ltd.  
Zenco Hydrovac





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#102-1584 7th Avenue  
Prince George, BC V2L 3P4  
250-562-7772