



YELLOWKNIFE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

In 2023, the Northwest Territories faced many overwhelming challenges, with wildfires displacing over two-thirds of NWT residents from their homes. Despite these concerns, 2023 was a year that showcased remarkable resilience in Yellowknife and throughout the NWT.

At the Yellowknife Community Foundation, we witnessed an outpour of support. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to provide support to 22 projects through grants, and support 31 individuals through student awards. Two new funds were established, and the Foundation received over \$500,000 in donations, many given in memory of loved ones, enhancing our ability to serve the community.

In 2023, the Foundation focused on strengthening our structure with a five-year Strategic Plan to guide us toward our envisioned future. We are adapting to the ever-changing landscape of Canadian philanthropy by engaging in learning opportunities locally and through the Community Foundations of Canada network. Given our unique position working in the North, we are adapting the traditional Foundation model to work best for Northern communities. We are taking a proactive approach to broaden our reach and inspire more charitable giving across the territory.

This year the Foundation added a Grants and Administration Coordinator to our staff team, and we look forward to continued growth to meet community needs. As our staff team expands, our board is focusing on ambitious and important long-term goals while our staff handle day-to-day operations.

In 2023, we clarified the purpose of our Resilient Communities Fund which now supports communities to recover and rebuild after experiencing emergency response or environmental crises. This Fund received over \$130,000 from donors during and after the 2023 wildfire season alone!

We are fortunate to work with passionate board members and staff, and looking forward, we are excited to continue working with our grantees, student award recipients, donors, fundholders, and community partners, to contribute further to the charitable and non-profit sector in the territory. On behalf of the board and staff, we would like to thank you for making our communities a better place to live. Together we are realizing the Foundation's vision: to be a catalyst for sharing, supportive, and connected communities.



Laurie Gault,
Board Chair



Sophie Kirby,
Executive Director

Our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan

MISSION

The Yellowknife Community Foundation is a charitable organization that inspires and enables impactful giving in Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories. We strive to align donor interests and community needs through evidence-based grant-making, fundraising, strategic investment, public education, and community relations.

VISION

Our vision is to be a catalyst for sharing, supportive and connected communities.

VALUES

Generosity, Integrity, Learning, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Fiscal Prudence

GOALS

- Inspire and enable a broad range of people, organizations, and businesses to contribute to their community through charitable giving
- Transform our organization and practices to better represent, reflect, and serve our community
- Strengthen our ability to understand, communicate and respond to community needs
- Enable the Board of YKCF to focus on governance and strategic initiatives supported by policies
- Strengthen organizational capacity and resilience



Why do people give through the Foundation?



Maureen Tonge

Kirsten Tonge - Maureen Tonge 'Living your Legacy' Fund

Maureen moved to Yellowknife in August 1992 for "just for a few years" to teach Art and French at Ecole Sir John Franklin High School. It became her home and for 28 years she was a beloved teacher, mentor, and friend to her colleagues and students. In addition to her art, "Mighty Mo" developed a kundalini yoga practice of which she was very proud to introduce into YK1 curriculum, as well as to the entire community (and beyond).

She was a founder "soul" of Collective Soul Space where she introduced many Yellowknifers to this calling for physical and mental wellbeing. In creating this "Living Your Legacy" fund after Maureen's final transition on October 5, 2020 from brain cancer, her loving family wants to continue Mo's legacy in providing opportunities for promoting wellness and mental health for youth in the North.



Travis Booker

Booker family - Travis Booker Memorial Fund

Our Son Travis Booker loved the North. He was born and raised in Kelowna, BC and moved to Yellowknife in the fall of 2017 at 22 years old. It didn't take long for Travis to settle in and call Yellowknife home. His career in Aviation took him to the north however his love for the North kept him there while working for an amazing company, Acasta Heliflight.

It was our honor to team up with Acasta to create the Travis Booker Memorial Fund in 2023 with Yellowknife Community Foundation supporting us every step of the way. We plan to continue with Travis's Memorial Fund, helping assist others who are aspiring to enter the aviation field as the years go on, knowing we will have the support of the Yellowknife Community Foundation with us along the way.

Our Funds

The Foundation continues to grow and provide impact to our communities. See below for our fund balances as of December 31 2023.

Administration Funds Funds to offset the costs of operating the Foundation	\$568,834
Student Award Funds Funds created to enable deserving studies to continue their education	\$1,708,526
Community Impact Fund Collective pool of donations for community program and activities in the Yellowknife area	\$1,822,022
Resilient Communities Fund To support communities across the Northwest Territories in long-term recovery efforts to rebuild after emergency response and environmental crisis	\$221,860
Northern Legacy Funds Collective pool of donations and funds for community programs and activities across the Northwest Territories	\$245,473
Field of Interest Funds identifying an area of interest to target supports	\$950,039
Designated Funds Funds that are specified to a particular qualified donee	\$113,641
Hybrid Funds Funds that have two different fund types within their Fund (e.g. student award and field of interest)	\$722,105
Pending Funds Funds that have been donated, but are waiting to be allocated to a specific fund	\$1,170,599
Total	\$7,523,099

As the Yellowknife Community Foundation continues to grow, so does our list of annual donors! We have transitioned to publishing our annual donors list on our website. Please visit ykcf.ca.

New Funds

In 2023, the Travis Booker Memorial Fund and the Maureen Tonge 'Living your Legacy' Fund were established.

A full list of our funds is included on our website.

Check us out online!
[**ykcf.ca**](http://ykcf.ca)

Community Impact

In 2023, we granted a total of \$291,650 to deserving students and organizations in the NWT!

Fund	Impact								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="548 485 1040 537">Program / Initiative</th> <th data-bbox="1040 485 1479 537">Awarded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 537 1040 663">Student awards, scholarships, and bursaries to NWT residents</td> <td data-bbox="1040 537 1479 663">\$79,900</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 663 1040 1440"> Qmunity Camp NWT – LGBTQIA+ youth camp Food Rescue Yellowknife – site relocation and main tent replacement Yellowknife Women’s Society – Family Connections programming Yellowknife Seniors’ Society – Lunch with a Bunch and Special Events MakeWay Charitable Society – Northern Birthwork Collective Indigenous Birthwork Program </td> <td data-bbox="1040 663 1479 1440"> \$15,000 \$12,000 \$20,000 \$8,000 \$20,000 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 1440 1040 1858"> Home Base Yellowknife – Staff training Yellowknife Women’s Society – Train the Trainer Western Arctic Moving Pictures – Board Training and ED Coaching </td> <td data-bbox="1040 1440 1479 1858"> \$10,000 \$5,000 \$5,000 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Program / Initiative	Awarded	Student awards, scholarships, and bursaries to NWT residents	\$79,900	Qmunity Camp NWT – LGBTQIA+ youth camp Food Rescue Yellowknife – site relocation and main tent replacement Yellowknife Women’s Society – Family Connections programming Yellowknife Seniors’ Society – Lunch with a Bunch and Special Events MakeWay Charitable Society – Northern Birthwork Collective Indigenous Birthwork Program	\$15,000 \$12,000 \$20,000 \$8,000 \$20,000	Home Base Yellowknife – Staff training Yellowknife Women’s Society – Train the Trainer Western Arctic Moving Pictures – Board Training and ED Coaching	\$10,000 \$5,000 \$5,000
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Student Award Funds									
Community Impact Fund - Community Enrichment									
Community Impact Fund - Organizational Capacity									

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	Program / Initiative	Awarded
Resilient Communities Fund	Northern Arts & Cultural Centre – Performances in Hay River and Fort Smith for community spirit and wellbeing Town of Hay River – Music by the Wharf for community spirit and wellbeing	\$15,000 \$10,000
Albert Hall Seniors Enhancement Fund	AVENS: A Community for Seniors – Winter and Summer Cultural Experience	\$3,000
Barb Bromley Fund for Seniors and Elders	Western Arctic Moving Pictures – Film screening + panel at YKIFF	\$10,000
Chris Argue Memorial Fund	Hamlet of Fort Liard – Canoe lessons + camping trip	\$2,500
Elliot Michael Brown Fund	Jaylen Base-Smith – Indigenous Financial Coaching	\$5,000
Helen and John Parker Community Fund	Foster Family Coalition of the NWT – Going M.I.L.E.S. Conference	\$17,500
Helmets for Hardy	Yellowknife Denominational District Education Authority – Helmet giveaway	\$2,250
Holy Family Lutheran Legacy Fund	Food Rescue Yellowknife – site relocation	\$10,000
Lorraine Minish Cooper Garden of Hope Fund	City of Yellowknife – garden maintenance	\$3,500
Luke Charpentier Memorial Fund	Home Base Yellowknife – Youth employment program	\$4,500

Fund	Impact
Mary Beth Miller Memorial Fund	<p>Program / Initiative</p> <p>Hamlet of Fort Liard – Mountain bike camp</p> <p>Awarded</p> <p>\$1,500</p>
NWT Mining Heritage Fund	<p>Yellowknife Historical Society – Support for the construction of new museum</p> <p>\$30,000</p>
Walter Gibbons Memorial Fund	<p>Yellowknife Historical Society – Moving Walter Gibbons display to new museum</p> <p>\$2,000</p>

Showcasing Community Impact



Quote from Roslyn Firth, Manager of Recreation and Youth Programs – Hamlet of Fort Liard

“During the time of the pandemic, youth were less involved in physical activity, had little contact with their peers in other regional communities, and spent much less time outside... As planned, we had three canoeing guides travel to Fort Liard who are part of the Jackpine Paddle organization. These guides were experienced, skilled, program leaders who understood the unique challenges and opportunities youth in the NWT face. These guides were responsible for ensuring the safety of the youth during all aspects of the project. They were certified in wilderness first aid and whitewater rescue and experienced in leading canoe and kayak expeditions in remote parts of the Canadian North. Just as important, they related to the youth extremely well and made the experience fun and engaging both when the participants were on the water and off. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Due to very low water levels, the planned canoe trip down our local river was not possible, but the youth and instructors were on our local lake and in the river near the put-in point everyday. They also camped out beside the river and absolutely enjoyed the entire 'camp'.”

Recipient of the Chris Argue Memorial Fund



Quote from Bran Ramsey, Executive Director – Western Arctic Moving Pictures

“This funding allowed us to bring in an outside eye to observe what we were currently doing and make suggestions on how it could be better, and stronger. Working in a vacuum and doing things because we have always done them that way has been really inefficient. From this grant, we scrutinized our actions and got real-time, tangible feedback on how we could do better. To date, the board is much more functional and seem to understand their role a lot more clearly. Additionally, having outside support for my Executive Director role has really helped me understand the scope of my job and how to work with the board. We are continuing to work on our own to develop documents and policies that will be reviewed every year, and will be a go-to for how we operate now, going forward, and into the future.”

Recipient of the Community Impact Fund – Organizational Capacity

Yellowknife Women’s Society’s Family Connections Program

With support from the Yellowknife Community Foundation, the Family Connections Program expanded its arts and crafts offerings, giving families more creative activities to enjoy together. Transportation assistance was also provided to those families in need. In the “Little Chef” and “Cooking Circle” programs, children joined their parents in preparing meals, strengthening family bonds and teaching cooking skills.

Family Connections also brought in guest speakers to share knowledge with attending families. A new partnership with the Northern Birthwork Collective introduced resources on parental mental health and infant care. Collaborations with local groups like the City of Yellowknife and NWT Literacy Council helped serve more families and encouraged continued participation. Through these efforts, Family Connections made a positive impact and looks forward to supporting families further.

Recipient of the Community Impact Fund – Community Enrichment



AVENS - A Community for Seniors' Winter Cultural Experience

AVENS residents participated in four on-the-land cultural days with Beck Kennels. The days alternated between dog sledding on Grace Lake and net pulling on Great Slave Lake. Every session started or ended with a fish lunch. It was an exciting first experience for some, and for others, a chance to return to the past. Many of the residents' family members were able to join in on the trips. One resident said, "This is magical and I feel like I am on TV."

One resident spent her sled ride chatting with Grant Beck about the days of her youth and how her family lived by dog sledding. It was a very special and emotional outing for her. It had been years since she had last ridden. She was able to reconnect with her traditions, her land, and the memories of her family.

Recipient of the Albert Hall Seniors Enhancement Fund



Annual Connections and Appreciation Barbeque



The Yellowknife Community Foundation hosted our annual Connections and Appreciation barbeque on July 27th 2023 at the Baker Centre, with support from the Yellowknife Senior's Society and the Scouts. This is a great opportunity for donors and friends of the Foundation to connect and reconnect, and to also celebrate the accomplishments and hard work of our student award and grant recipients.

Our Volunteers

We thank our knowledgeable, passionate, and dedicated volunteer board of directors for their excellent guidance and support.

2023 Board of Directors

Laurie Gault, Chair

Paul Gillard, Vice-Chair

Robin Greig, Past-Chair

Matthieu Gauthier, Secretary-Treasurer

Lana de Bastiani, Director

Meaghan Brackenbury, Director

Sara Brown, Director

Elizabeth Doyle, Director

Stephen Dunbar, Director

Marta Moir, Director

Jason Snaggs, Director



Volunteer Spotlight

Alexander Legaree is our dedicated Communications Volunteer, and as of March 2023, Alexander has volunteered with us for 20 years!

The Foundation is extremely lucky for Alexander's expertise and guidance with all things communications (and he does all of this for us from Sydney, Australia!)

And a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated Investment Committee members, Charles Dent and David Gilday.

Our Staff

Sophie Kirby, Executive Director

Alexander Weir, Administration and Grants Coordinator

Rosella Stoesz, Support

A huge thank you to our former long-time Executive Director, Rosella Stoesz, for her years of dedication and service to the Foundation. Her contribution is immeasurable and we wish her the best in her retirement!

Land Acknowledgement

The Yellowknife Community Foundation's physical office is located in Sòmba K'è on Chief Drygeese Territory in Treaty 8, the traditional home of the Yellowknives Dene and the North Slave Metis, also known as Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.



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**Yellowknife Community
Foundation**