



Yellowknife  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



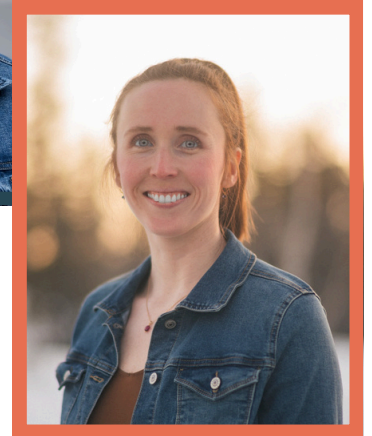
Published October 2025

# Leadership Message

2024 was a year of change and growth at the Yellowknife Community Foundation. We said goodbye to Sophie Kirby, who served as Executive Director for three years, and welcomed Korry Garvey as her successor. We also launched our first territory-wide fundraising campaign, with a goal of raising \$3 million for the Northern Legacy Fund by 2028. As part of this campaign, we participated in Giving Tuesday, raising over \$17,000. Our lead sponsor, Rio Tinto Diavik, not only matched this amount but contributed even more, greatly increasing the impact of the campaign.



Laurie Gault,  
Board Chair



Korry Garvey,  
Executive Director

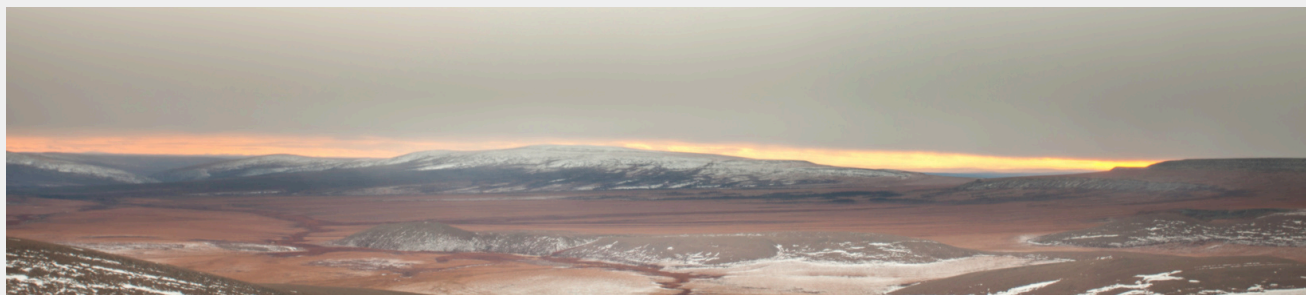
In 2024, we supported 47 Northern students through student awards and provided grants to 32 projects. For the second year in a row, we also delivered post-emergency funding to communities affected by climate emergencies through our Resilient Communities Fund, including Fort Good Hope, West Point First Nation, and Behchokq. And beginning next year, we will be able to give directly to non-profit organizations whether they are registered charities or not, thus easing the way to apply for funding.

Two new funds were established, and the Foundation received over \$500,000 in donations, many made in memory of loved ones, strengthening our ability to serve the community. The Yellowknife Community Foundation is financially healthy, and we will continue to seek out new opportunities to grow both our revenues and our granting, ensuring the

long-term vitality of the organization.

In the spring, our two staff members travelled to Winnipeg to learn and connect with other Community Foundations across Canada. This information sharing has resulted in identifying efficiencies in our operations and keeping abreast of the latest philanthropic practices around governance, equity, reconciliation, and social justice, to name a few.

We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers, supporters, and donors this year, and throughout our 32-year history. Together, we have grown to an asset base of over \$8 million. Whether through a \$1 gift or a \$1 million donation, every contribution has made a difference. We look forward to continuing our work with communities across the Northwest Territories.



# 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

# Our Funds

The Foundation continues to grow and provide impact to our communities. See below for our fund balances as of December 31 2024.

<b>Administration Funds</b> Funds to offset the costs of operating the Foundation	\$496,433
<b>Student Award Funds</b> Funds created to enable deserving studies to continue their education	\$1,846,298
<b>Yellowknife Community Fund</b> Collective pool of donations for community program and activities in the Yellowknife area	\$2,416,756
<b>Resilient Communities Fund</b> To support communities across the Northwest Territories in long-term recovery efforts to rebuild after emergency response and environmental crisis	\$185,053
<b>Northern Legacy Funds</b> Collective pool of donations and funds for community programs and activities across the Northwest Territories	\$562,704
<b>Field of Interest</b> Funds identifying an area of interest to target supports	\$1,453,998
<b>Designated Funds</b> Funds that are specified to a particular qualified donee	\$126,104
<b>Hybrid Funds</b> Funds that have two different fund types within their Fund (e.g. student award and field of interest)	\$751,193
<b>Small Grants Funds</b> Funds that provide small grants to residents of Yellowknife to improve their community.	\$209,650
<b>Pending Funds</b> Funds that have been donated, but are waiting to be allocated to a specific fund	\$148,398
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,196,587</b>

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](http://ykcf.ca).

# New Funds

In 2024, the Midnight Sun Aviation Fund and the Explorer Hotel Contribution were established. A full list of our funds is included on our website.



# Community Impact - Student Awards

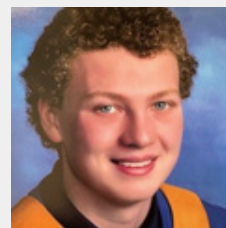
In 2024, we provided \$83,200 through 47 student awards!



Cheyenne  
Fontanilla, Adolf  
Duesterhus STEM  
Fund



Elaine Cronk, Con  
Employees'  
Benevolent Fund



Cohen Shaffer,  
Dustin  
Pidborochynski  
Memorial Fund



Effie Lockhart,  
David Sutherland  
Memorial Fund



Tai Leatham, Fine  
and Performing  
Arts Fund



Rian McIsaac,  
Fine and  
Performing Arts  
Fund



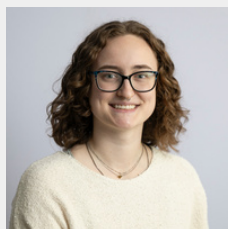
Joseph Curran,  
Eugène Roach  
Memorial Fund



Nicole Lindsay,  
Haylee Carlson  
Memorial  
Legislative  
Assembly Fund



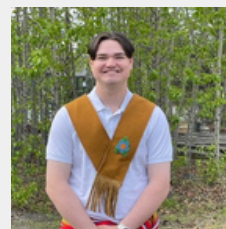
Lucas Huber-  
Pilgrim,  
Gary Robinson  
Memorial Fund



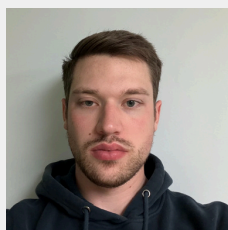
Niav Cudmore-  
Lynagh, Gary  
Robinson  
Memorial Fund



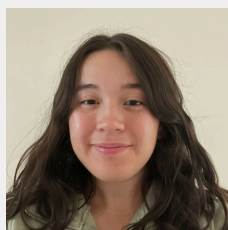
Hannah Vu,  
Jenny Gamble-  
Fournier  
Memorial Fund



Fraser Dumont,  
John  
Tumchewics  
Memorial Fund



Bryce Smith, John  
Tumchewics  
Memorial Fund



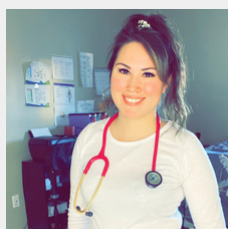
Teresa Martin,  
Lilly Borges-  
Oldham  
Language Fund



Jaedenz White,  
Pat McMahon  
Memorial Fund



Caitlin Seymour,  
Sharon Morrison  
Memorial  
Indigenous  
Education Fund



Josephine Martin,  
Sharon Morrison  
Memorial  
Indigenous  
Education Fund



Johanna Stewart,  
Rio Tinto Diavik  
Diamond Mine  
Community  
Scholarship Fund

## Community Impact - Student Awards



Bryce Smith,  
Travis Booker  
Memorial Fund



Jackson Bowden,  
Travis Booker  
Memorial Fund



Hillary Huynh,  
Rio Tinto Diavik  
Diamond Mine  
Community  
Scholarship Fund



Fraser Dumont,  
Travis Booker  
Memorial Fund



Travis Jerome,  
Friends of Fred  
Carmichael  
Student Award  
Fund



James Rose, Rio  
Tinto Diavik  
Diamond Mine  
Community  
Scholarship Fund



Amber Aleekuk,  
Friends of Fred  
Carmichael  
Student Award  
Fund



Caitlyn Esau,  
Friends of Fred  
Carmichael  
Student Award  
Fund



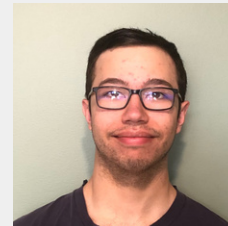
Lauren Seabrook,  
Butler-Hushagen  
Health Education  
Fund



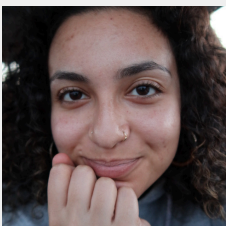
Thomas Gagnon-  
van Leeuwen,  
David J. Ramsden  
Memorial Fund



Samantha Kenny,  
Jerry and Monica  
Loomis Sahtu  
Education Legacy  
Fund



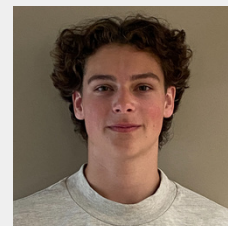
Shawn Dragon,  
Doug  
Bothamley  
Memorial Fund



Mariam Osman,  
Aurora College  
Scholarship



Caitlin Seymour,  
Elaine (Sweet)  
Whitford Fund



Callum  
MacLean,  
Randy McBride  
Hockey Project  
Fund



Anonda  
Canadien, Enough  
Talk, Hurry Up  
and Do It Already  
Arts Fund



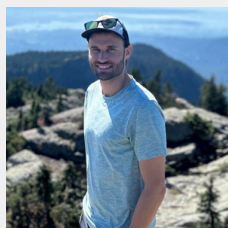
Luke Vandervalk,  
Jonas Konge  
Memorial Fund



Jackson Bowden,  
Northern  
Aviation  
Scholarship Fund



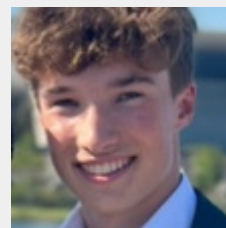
## Community Impact - Student Awards



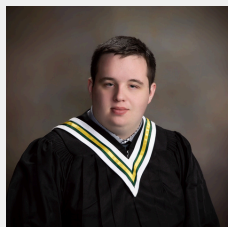
Scott Dowler,  
Luke Charpentier  
Memorial Fund



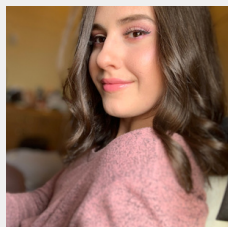
Alexander  
Ketchum, Wally  
12Million Arts  
Fund



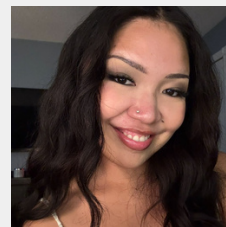
Cole Clinton,  
United Soccer  
Coaching Fund



Bradley  
Hazenberg, Lena  
Gosselin  
Memorial Fund



Chloe Duval, Alice  
and Randy  
Daniels Music  
Fund



Danielle Pike,  
George Cleary  
Memorial Fund

### An Excerpt from NNSL: DEGREES OF SUCCESS: Norman Wells student shares tips for navigating university in southern cities

Written by Tom Taylor // NNSL // March 25 2025

Danielle Pike has big plans for her life after university, but admits leaving her hometown of Norman Wells to pursue her education was challenging at first.

"It was extremely difficult, my first year at university," the 23-year-old said. "I didn't do well at all that first year, academically and mentally, just leaving from such a small community."

Pike started her post-secondary education at the University of Alberta (U of A) in Edmonton — a city of over million people, and a big change from the town of about 700 that she grew up in. She immediately struggled to navigate her new environment, finding it difficult to do important tasks like buying groceries, and as her stress mounted, her grades began to slip.

Eventually, her grade point average got low enough that she was forced to withdraw from her program. For some students, that might have been the end of the road, but Pike didn't give up. She soon returned to her studies through U of A's transition year program, which is designed "for Indigenous students who may not be prepared to enter a faculty through the regular admissions route," according to the school's website. Completing that program set Pike up to continue pursuing a degree at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver.

"[The transition year program] really did help me to find the resources I needed to support my learning with tutors and writing mentors," she said. "That program did set me up for success for UBC."

Pike is pursuing a bachelor of education at UBC, with the aim of teaching Indigenous students. When she's obtained her degree, she hopes to return to the North to teach for a while, and beyond that, she aims to become a university professor.

# Community Impact - Grants

In 2024, we granted a total of \$241,750 to organizations and individuals in the NWT!

Fund		Impact
	Program / Initiative	Awarded
Yellowknife Community Fund - Community Enrichment	Dechinta Initiatives – An exhibition and workshop series	\$20,000
	Habitat for Humanity NWT – Support to build 2 duplexes	\$15,000
	YWCA NWT – Staffing and supplies at Lynn’s Place second stage housing	\$15,000
	Makerspace YK – Workshops and courses in woodworking and digital fabrication	\$15,000
Community Impact Fund - Organizational Capacity	Yellowknife Women’s Society – Northern Leadership Development Program at Aurora College	\$5,000
	Folk On The Rocks – Board development training	\$5,000
	Western Arctic Moving Pictures – Policy development and training for board	\$5,000
Helen and John Parker Community Fund	Northern Arts and Culture Centre – 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary, volunteer and artist development	\$12,000

# Community Impact - Grants

Fund		Impact
	Program / Initiative	Awarded
Resilient Communities Fund	Charter Community of K'asho Got'ine – Emergency management training	\$15,000
	West Point First Nation – Restoration of traditional camps	\$15,000
	Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation – Housing resilience	\$15,000
	Behchoko – Emergency plan revision and staff training	\$13,000
Albert and Hilya Hall Seniors Enhancement Fund	Avens - A Community for Seniors – A series of outings for seniors	\$3,000
Barb Bromley Fund for Seniors and Elders	Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories – Let's Sing Program	\$3,200
	Folk On The Rocks – Warm The Rocks AVENS	\$2,500
	Yellowknife Seniors Society – Group fitness games	\$1,300
Chris Argue Memorial Fund	Elaine Weng – Adaptive paddling experience	\$1,500
Elliot Michael Brown Fund	Marie Auger – Dough laminator	\$5,000

## Community Impact - Grants

Fund		Impact
	Program / Initiative	Awarded
Holy Family Lutheran Legacy Fund	YWCA NWT – Food security program for transitional and emergency housing	\$10,000
Eva Henderson Memorial Fund	Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories – Care partner and family support groups	\$2,000
Gary Robinson Memorial Fund	Supporting Wellbeing - Makeway Charitable Society – On the land training program	\$8,000
Mary Beth Miller Memorial Fund	Effie Lockhart – Nordic sports competitions	\$1,000
Get Her Elected Fund	Equal Voice Foundation – NWT chapter	\$2,000
Gladys and Albert Eggenberger Agricultural Fund	Hay River Community Garden Society – The collective chicken coop	\$12,000
Maureen Tonge 'Living Your Legacy' Fund	Northern Youth Leadership - MakeWay Charitable Society – Youth "Connecting On the Land in Denendeh" (COLD) forum	\$3,500
Sharon Morrison Memorial Indigenous Education Fund	Dene Nahjo - MakeWay Charitable Society – Hide tanning mentorship camp	\$3,000

## Community Impact - Grants

Fund	Impact
	<div>Program / Initiative</div> <div>Awarded</div>
NWT Mining Heritage Fund	<div>Yellowknife Historical Society – Support for the ongoing operation and maintenance of new museum</div> <div>\$1,000</div>
Walter Gibbons Memorial Fund	<div>Yellowknife Historical Society – Maintenance of the Walter Gibbins mineral collection</div> <div>\$1,500</div>
100 Knifers Who Give a Damn, Flow-Through Fund	<div>Ecology North – New fridge and Earth week activities</div> <div>\$7,350</div>
	<div>Yellowknife Historical Society – Barrier-free access to museum</div> <div>\$7,575</div>
	<div>Yellowknife Seniors' Society – senior's programs</div> <div>\$8,325</div>
	<div>Yellowknife Women's Society – Washer and dryer for women's centre</div> <div>\$8,000</div>



Pictured:

Landon Kowalzik from 100 Knifers, Jessica Mitchell from the Yellowknife Women's Society, and Alexander Weir from the Yellowknife Community Foundation, at the 100 Knifers event in December 2024 where the Yellowknife Women's Society was selected as the recipient of funds



# Showcasing Community Impact



**DECHINTA**

Centre for Research and Learning

## **Celebrating Indigenous Knowledge Through Art and Land-Based Learning**

Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning brought powerful energy to the Yellowknife Visitors Centre with their exhibition and workshop series, Dechinta Means Bush: Collaborations with the Land. Hosted in partnership with the Yellowknife Artist Run Community Centre (YK ARCC), the exhibit featured artwork from Dechinta students and alumni, showcasing the beauty and depth of Indigenous land-based education. Dechinta staff member Kynyn Doughty recalled the pride and joy felt during the exhibit's opening day. As Dene drummers played, the small room came alive and everyone began dancing together in celebration. The moment captured what Dechinta is all about: bringing people together through culture, land-based learning, and Northern Indigenous knowledge in a way that feels joyful, meaningful, and connected.

Recipient of the Yellowknife Community Fund



# Showcasing Community Impact

## Qmunity Camp, NWT

Qmunity Camp NWT was established in 2019, and brings together campers from all across the North who identify as 2SLGBTQIPA+ and/or questioning. Programming is rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.



"As a young 2SIQTIP Leader in the North, I often feel very isolated by my broader community. Hosting the first 2SIQTIP Gathering in March of 2024 was the first time I had ever been fully immersed in a space full of folks who identify in a way similar to mine and who feel that pain and sadness in the same way I do. It was liberating and greatly impacted my sense of self and belonging. It's funny how everyone expects me to be this uber-confident Two Spirit boss lady, but I'm just like these kids [who attended the Gathering]. My heart yearns for community in the same ways theirs do. My spirit longs for elders who see and value me. ....I'm continuously humbled, honoured, and in awe that I get to do this [important work] and get paid for it!" Lindsay Debassige, Qmunity Camp Director

Recipient of the Yellowknife Community Fund



## Northern Birthwork Collective

Recipient of Yellowknife Community Fund

The Northern Birthwork Collective is a group of birthworkers, parents, and community members who come together to support and stand beside pregnant people in the NWT. In 2023/2024, they offered one-on-one doula care, helping people feel truly heard, supported, and less alone in their journeys. They also hosted community sharing circles that grew into something special. They were warm, welcoming spaces where people could open up, share their stories, and feel a sense of belonging. The strong response to these circles showed just how deeply they were needed, and how powerful it can be to come together in community.



## Annual Connections and Appreciation Barbeque

On July 25<sup>th</sup> 2024, the Yellowknife Community Foundation held its annual appreciation barbeque at the Baker Centre. It is a cherished tradition that brings together fund holders, donors, sponsors, community partners, grant recipients, student award recipients, board members, and staff.

The evening started with many farewells and introductions. The community gave their heartfelt thanks to former Executive Director Sophie Kirby, as well as outgoing board members Paul Gillard, Jason Snaggs, and Elizabeth Doyle. At the same time, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Korry Garvey, along with Administration and Grants Coordinator Alexander Weir, and new board members Patrick Wrigglesworth, Roman Asmundson, and Megan Holsapple.





# Rio Tinto

## Diavik

Closing responsibly, Closing with care

The Northern Legacy Fund is an endowment fund that will support a range of community needs across the Northwest Territories, with the flexibility to adapt as those needs change over time.

The Northwest Territories is home to passionate people and organizations working hard to strengthen their communities. Built to last, the Northern Legacy Fund will provide grants every year, without ever running out. Funding will go toward the priorities that communities identify as most important, ensuring we support what's needed most, now and for generations to come.

## Our goal: to raise \$3 million by 2028.

We announced a fundraising campaign for the Northern Legacy Fund in 2024, with support from our lead sponsor, Rio Tinto Diavik Diamond Mine. As Diavik prepares to close in 2026, their support shows a commitment to leaving something positive behind for the North.



Pictured: Amanda Annand (Diavik), Laurie Gault (YKCF), Gaeleen MacPherson (Diavik), Korry Garvey (YKCF), and Stephanie Harris (Diavik), during the Northern Legacy Fundraising Campaign Launch in November 2024



# Why do people give through the Foundation?

## The Explorer Hotel

In 2024, the Explorer Hotel turned 50 years old. As a way to give back to their community, they did 50 good deeds by donating to charities and having their staff volunteer at community events.



As their 50<sup>th</sup> good deed, the Explorer Hotel committed to donating \$50,000 to the Northern Legacy Fund - \$1,000 for every year they have operated. This contribution will help the Northern Legacy Fund grow, so the Explorer Hotel's generosity can continue supporting communities across the NWT year after year.

The Explorer Hotel's Doug Cox, left, with Yellowknife Community Foundation representatives Korry Garvey and Laurie Gault. Photo: Stacy Roteliuk



Pictured: Albert and Hilya Hall



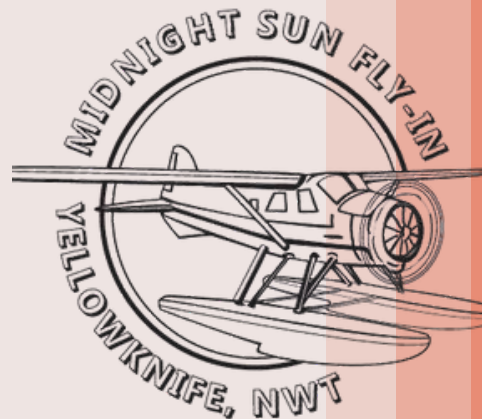
"Our parents were a very active, outgoing couple who loved to participate in the community through volunteering and recreational activities, even in their senior years. Establishing a fund with the Yellowknife Community Foundation was the ideal way to continue that legacy by supporting recreational activities for seniors in Yellowknife. Seeing the various ways in which the fund is being put to use, and hearing the positive impact that the fund is having on the lives of seniors has been extremely gratifying." Tom Hall

Tom and his family established the Albert Hall Seniors' Enhancement Fund in 2013, after the passing of his father. The fund was renamed the Albert and Hilya Hall Seniors' Enhancement Fund to honour Tom's mother Hilya as well, after she passed in 2024.

# Why do people give through the Foundation?

## The Midnight Sun Fly-In Association

The Midnight Sun Fly-In Association established the Midnight Sun Aviation Award in 2024 when it closed its doors as an organization. The Fund offers a scholarship to students pursuing education as a pilot or in the aviation field.



"We felt it is important to contribute to the aviation industry, because it is such an important part of our lives in the Northwest Territories. All of the people over the years that have helped with the fly-ins, we all felt that creating a scholarship was a good idea, and the best thing to do with the money we had left as we shut down our organization." Yvonne Quick

Yvonne Quick came up with the idea to start a local Fly-In Association when talking with the Economic Development Officer at the City of Yellowknife in the early 1980s. She convened a group of pilots and started the Midnight Sun Fly-In Association, which invited pilots from all over North America to fly to Yellowknife every two years to gather, share stories, and create friendships.



Yellowknife  
Community  
Foundation  
representatives  
Korry Garvey and  
Laurie Gault with  
Ellie Rivera

In 2024, Ellie Rivera hosted a Halloween party and raised over \$1,000 for the Yellowknife Community Fund! Community-led fundraising initiatives like this make a real difference, helping support Yellowknife organizations through grants for years to come. You can host your own event or fundraiser too and make a lasting impact in your community.

## Our Volunteers

We are grateful to our dedicated volunteer board of directors for their guidance and support. Many of our directors also contribute their time and expertise by serving on our committees.

### 2024 Board of Directors



**Laurie Gault**  
Chair



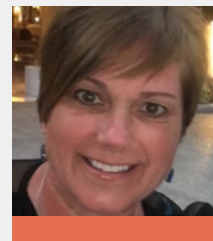
**Sara Brown**  
Vice-Chair



**Robin Greig**  
Past Chair



**Roman Asmundson**  
Treasurer



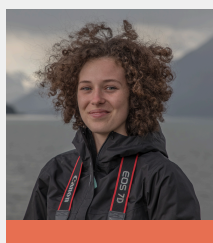
**Marta Moir**  
Director



**Lana de Bastiani**  
Director



**Stephen Dunbar**  
Director



**Meaghan Brackenbury**  
Director



**Megan Holsapple**  
Director



**Patrick Wrigglesworth**  
Director

### 2024 Student Award Review Committee

Amanda White

Ashley Gillis

Beverly Pilgrim

Dian Papineau-Magill

Erin Dean

Zainab Oladipupo

Melanie Gentles

Miranda Bye

Narlie Dapilos

Perez Oyugi

Sara Komarnisky

Val Janz

Iris Kehler

Isabella Zytaruk

Lea Lamoureux

Lisa Marie Van de Water Harvey

Janat Ibrahimi

Bianca Romagnoli

Rosella Stoesz

### 2024 Investment Committee

Charles Dent

David Gilday

### Longstanding Volunteer

Alexander Legaree

### 2024 Nominations Committee

Deputy Mayor Garrett Cochrane, City of Yellowknife

Christina Duffy, Law Society of the NWT

Matthew Miller, NWT Teachers' Association



## Our Staff & Support



**Korry Garvey**  
Executive  
Director



**Alexander Weir**  
Administration  
and Grants  
Coordinator



**Sophie Kirby**  
Support

## In Memory



We were deeply saddened by the passing of Ian Legaree in early 2025. Ian played an extraordinary role in shaping the Yellowknife Community Foundation over three decades. He was not only a member of our original Board of Directors in 1993, but also part of the City of Yellowknife's early committee that first explored the idea of creating a community foundation. Ian remained on the board of directors for most of the next 30 years with breaks in 2001-2003 and 2013-2014, and he concluded his final term on the board in 2023.

Ian helped transform a small, volunteer-led community foundation with a handful of donors into a thriving organization with thousands of donors that has granted over \$3 million to students and community organizations in Yellowknife and across the Northwest Territories. Ian was present for the Foundation's first grants awarded in 1996, celebrated its milestone of reaching a million-dollar asset base in 2005, and supported the creation of over 30 student awards; achievements he was deeply proud of.



Ian Legaree, centre right,  
during a Yellowknife  
Community Foundation  
board meeting



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**Yellowknife Community Foundation**

### **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.