



BC INTERIOR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

EXTRAORDINARY CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2026

We help ordinary people, make an extraordinary difference.

Dear Friends,

This Valentine's Day, we are celebrating something powerful: the deep care people have for this community.

Every day, we see what happens when generosity meets opportunity. We see students encouraged to pursue their passions. We see families and neighbourhoods better prepared for wildfire season. We see ordinary people choosing to invest in something bigger than themselves.

Last fall, our Board came together to reflect on the future of the Foundation. We asked

important questions about how we remain strong, responsive, and worthy of the trust placed in us. Our commitment is clear. We will steward community generosity thoughtfully, make informed decisions, and ensure that giving continues to create real and lasting impact across our region.

Philanthropy is not only about dollars. It is about belief. It is about neighbours helping neighbours. It is about choosing to care.

We are currently welcoming applications from individuals who would like to contribute their time and expertise by serving

on our Board or Committees. If you know someone who believes in thoughtful, community-led philanthropy and wants to help shape the future of our region, we would be pleased to hear from them. Submissions must be received by February 28.

Today, we celebrate the people who show up for this community in quiet and meaningful ways. Together, we are building something lasting, something resilient, and something extraordinary.

With gratitude,
Wenda Noonan, Executive Director

FROM THE 2025 RON C. WELLS GEOLOGICAL AWARD RECIPIENT

Grateful for the Opportunity That Makes Learning Possible

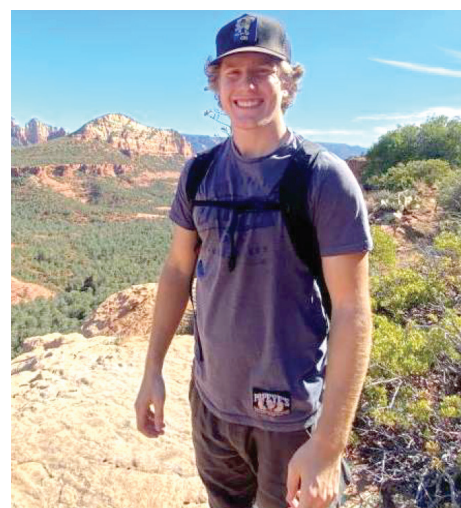
"I am reaching out to express my gratitude and say thank you for awarding me the Ron C. Wells Geological Award for this coming winter semester.

To be completely honest, I was unaware that I had been considered for an award, so it made it an even more pleasant surprise.

I did work very hard this past year and have become increasingly passionate for geology, and am super excited to continue for my last year of school. This award will make school that much less stressful, as I'm sure you know that living in Victoria is not cheap. I am already very privileged to be in the position I am and to study at a great school like UVic, and I try to remind myself how lucky I am.

I chose UVic because I heard great things about their natural science programs. I was split between geology and engineering when I arrived, but really enjoyed my first year geo courses and knew that it was where I would likely have the most success."

*Malcolm Smith, Science, Fourth year
Hometown: Kamloops, BC*



BC INTERIOR
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Forever Giving. Forever Grateful.

Have You Thought About the Legacy Your Fund Will Leave?

By creating a fund with the BC Interior Community Foundation, you can turn generosity into something lasting. Many donors choose to establish an endowed fund, which means the original gift is invested and protected, and a portion of the earnings is granted each year to support the causes they care about. In this way, one act of generosity can continue to create impact for generations.

Some people establish a fund during their lifetime and add to it over time. Others include charitable giving in their estate plans, creating a legacy that will continue to grow and grant long after their lifetime. For some, a fund honours a loved one. For others, it reflects a passion for education, the environment, arts and culture, or community well-being.

There is no single path or timeline for giving. What matters most is that your generosity reflects your intentions, whether that is supporting a specific cause, responding to emerging community needs, or building

something flexible for the future.

If you have ever wondered what creating a fund might look like, we would be happy

to talk. There is no obligation and no urgency, just a conversation about how your generosity could make a lasting difference.

Charitable Gifts of Securities

Many donors choose to support their fund through gifts of appreciated securities, which are one of the most tax-effective ways to give. Eligible securities include publicly listed stocks, bonds, mutual fund units, and exchange-traded funds on approved stock exchanges in Canada and internationally.

Because gifts of securities are exempt from capital gains tax, more of your gift can go directly to the causes and communities you care about. This favourable tax treatment has made gifts of securities an increasingly popular option for charitable giving.

Securities can be donated during your lifetime or through your estate, offering flexibility while supporting thoughtful charitable and financial planning. There are also several ways securities can be used as part of your giving:

Employee stock options: Once stock options are exercised, shares can be donated directly to a charity. This allows you to avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value of the securities.

Estate gifts funded with securities: If you have included a charitable gift in your will, you may wish to allow your executor or trustee to fund that gift using appreciated securities, helping maximize available tax benefits.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTING PROGRAM

Supporting Wildfire Prevention in the North Thompson Valley

Funding from the our Community Impact Granting Program is helping residents in the North Thompson Valley take practical steps to protect their homes from wildfire. Through a grant from the Foundation's Environmental Impact Fund, Blackpool Fire Rescue completed its Home Sprinkler Protection Initiative, serving Blackpool, Little Fort, Upper Clearwater, and Clearwater.

The initiative provides affordable sprinkler kits designed to reduce the risk of ignition from wind-driven embers during a wildfire. By increasing humidity around homes and nearby structures, these systems help lower fire risk and complement existing FireSmart measures. Installing the kits before wildfire season also improves emergency response readiness.

Foundation support helped keep the kits accessible while maintaining high-quality

equipment. In some cases, kits were donated to homeowners unable to safely install them on their own, ensuring protection was available regardless of physical ability or financial means. The project also created opportunities for fire crews to connect with residents and share FireSmart education during the off-season.



A public FireSmart demonstration shows how structure protection sprinkler kits help safeguard homes from wildfire.

This project highlights the power of discretionary funds and how they allow the Foundation to respond quickly to emerging needs in our communities. Supported by donor generosity through funds like the Environmental Impact Fund, Community Impact Granting turns collective giving into timely, preventative action. Because of these flexible funds, communities across the Interior are better prepared to protect homes, reduce environmental risk, and build long-term resilience.