



IMPACT REPORT

2023



Growing Together, Giving Back

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About the Squamish Community Foundation

Established in 2003, the Squamish Community Foundation (SCF) is an independent, charitable organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life for community members in Squamish. We facilitate philanthropy by partnering with donors and connecting them with community causes they value. As a Community Foundation, our focus is on building permanent endowments that address long-term community challenges as well as immediate needs. From the income earned on over \$1 million in endowment funds, we invest grants in people, groups, and community impact. With projects like Vital Signs we are also working to build community knowledge, engagement, and leadership.

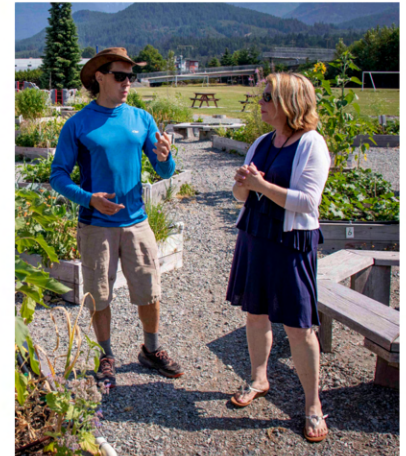


A Message from our Board Chair

We turned 20 in 2023! It was a year of celebrating the achievements and impact of the SCF in the past two decades while continuing to build our impact in the community.

This year we administered over \$362,000 in grants to community projects in Squamish, between our Annual Grants, Community Services Recovery Funds, District Of Squamish Community Enhancement Grants, KIA Communities in Motion, and Neighbourhood Small Grants. Thank you to our donors, grants committees and volunteers for your support, and to the dedicated non-profits doing amazing work.

Releasing the 2023 Vital Signs Report was a significant accomplishment for the SCF, made possible by the hard work of our Vital Signs Committee, staff, and Board of Directors. The feedback from the community so far has been amazing, and it is a document that people can be confident to use in the work we all do.

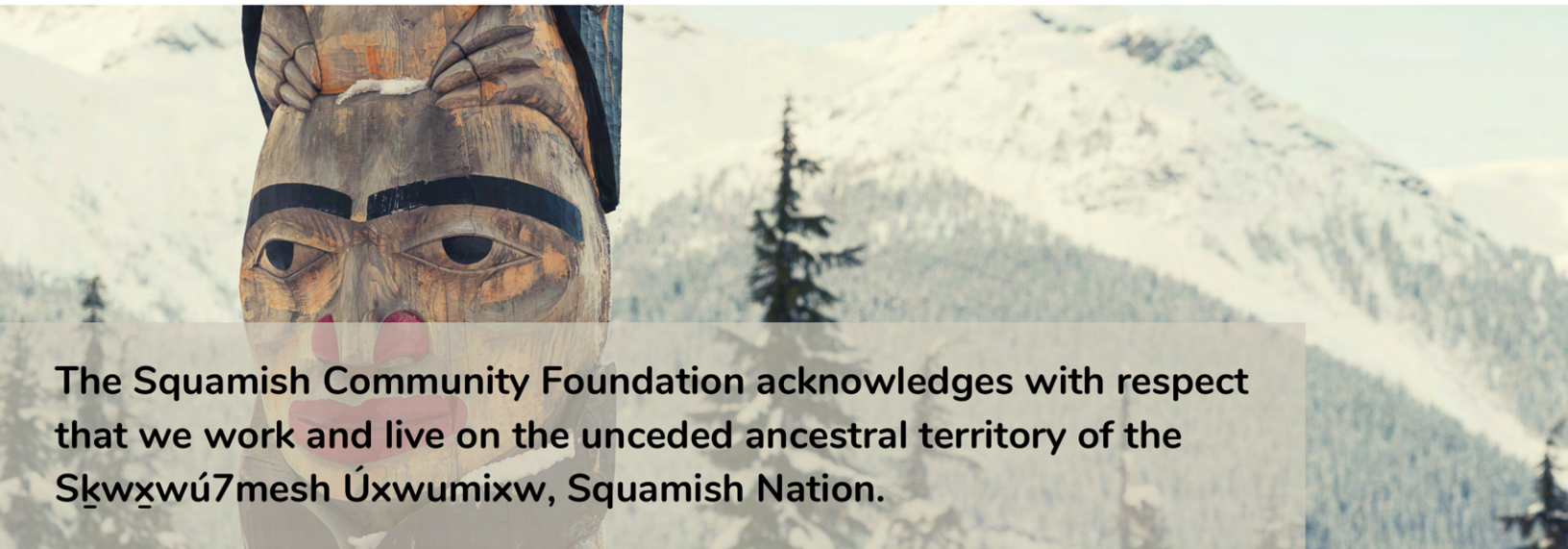


To celebrate our 20th Anniversary, we hosted our first Squamish Trivia Night, successfully raising over \$20,000 for SCF's Smart and Caring Fund. The Board of Directors and Executive Director created our 5-year Strategic Plan with the objectives to Grow our Brand, Grow our Funds, and ultimately Grow our Impact in the community. The finalized Strategic Plan will be released in 2024.

I am so proud of the work we have done this year as a Foundation and I'm excited for what the next year holds as we continue to build our profile and bring in donations to support the great work that Squamish is doing.

Suzie Soman

Board Chair, Squamish Community Foundation



The Squamish Community Foundation acknowledges with respect that we work and live on the unceded ancestral territory of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw, Squamish Nation.



A Special Milestone

20 Years of Community Impact

In 2023, the Squamish Community Foundation (SCF) celebrated 20 years of serving Squamish charities, non-profits, students, and neighbourhoods.

The SCF began in 2003 when a group of founding donors had the insight and community commitment to create the foundation and sponsor its growth.

The initial donations of 17 donors seeded the Smart and Caring Endowment Fund – our most flexible fund which allows the SCF to respond to some of Squamish’s most urgent needs and important causes through our Annual Grants.



Appreciating our Founding Donors, 2009

A phenomenal amount of positive action has taken place over the last 20 years thanks to the generous contributions from our donors and the work of so many dedicated community organizations. In that time, we have helped establish 14 Endowment Funds and administered over \$1,000,000 in community grants to a variety of local causes including health, environment, youth, music and arts, and more.

20th ANNIVERSARY TRIVIA NIGHT

To celebrate this important milestone, the SCF hosted their first ever Squamish Trivia Night. Over 75 people gathered at Westwinds, Squamish to enjoy a night of games, great food, and lots of laughs. The SCF raised over \$20,000 for the Smart and Caring Endowment Fund.

Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers for your support with this event.





2023

Annual Grants

Over \$31,600 in Endowment Fund distributions were shared with 13 organizations in 2023, including two scholarships totalling \$2,500 to students attending post-secondary institutions.

Funded by the income earned from our endowment funds, the Squamish Community Foundation awards Annual Grants to eligible organizations focused on causes that improve the lives and wellbeing of Squamish residents, including: Health and Social Development, Recreation and Sports Arts, Culture and Heritage, Children, Youth and Families, Environment, and Community Enhancement.

2023 Grant Recipients

- Squamish Food Bank Society: \$2,500
- Sea to Sky BC SPCA: \$1,500
- Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council: \$1,900
- Squamish First Nations 555 (Mt. Chaki Warriors 2023): \$2,000
- Squamish Climate Action Network: \$1,600
- Howe Sound Women's Centre Society: \$3,600
- Tantalus Wellspring Society: \$3,000
- Squamish Helping Hands Society: \$3,000
- MakeWay Charitable Society: \$3,500
- Whistler Adaptive Sports Program Society: \$1,900
- Squamish Hospital Foundation: \$1,840
- BC Cancer Foundations: \$1,380
- Arthritis Society BC & Yukon Division: \$1,380



Left: Invasive Species Council; Centre: Ron Anderson Scholarship Recipient; Right: Squamish Food Bank Society (photo: Nicole Gurney)

2023

Neighbourhood Small Grants



This year, \$17,400 in grant funding was shared with individuals interested in building community through the immensely popular Neighbourhood Small Grants program.

The Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) program is based on a simple, but powerful idea - that everyone is a valuable member of the community and that we all have something to share. Funded by the Vancouver Foundation and the District of Squamish since 2017, these grants have supported almost 200 Squamish neighbourhood projects that nurture our community.

In 2023, we saw social gatherings, a maker's market, a dance competition, gardening projects, a scavenger hunt, a pottery event, an adaptive bike fair, a Truth and Reconciliation Walk and Commemoration, and more.

What Our Grantees Are Saying...

"It encouraged people to step out of their comfort zones and interact with those they may not have otherwise met".

- Colin, Block Party

"I had one neighbour tell me it was the happiest she has seen her son in ages and thank you helping build a community for our families."

- Justine, University Heights Meet and Greet

"It's always fun during the BBQ but I think the best part is how friendly our street has become now that we all are taking opportunities to get together."

- Nicole, Read Cres. Meet and Greet

"I think anytime people come together to explore, create, and share; you cannot help but to get to know one another".

- Paula, Summer Sound Battle



Left: '30 Seniors Celebrating Their Accomplishments'; Centre: 'Soaking up the Social' BBQ; Right: Adaptive Bike Fair.

We Need Your Help...

While the NSG program has been highly successful, the pilot funding from Vancouver Foundation will come to an end after the 2025 granting season. The SCF is seeking support from local donors to help us continue the NSG program at its current funding levels or more for years to come.

To donate: visit SCF's Canada Helps donations page and select 'Neighbourhood Small Grants Fund' [www.bit.ly/CanadaHelpsNSG].

2023

Community Enhancement Grants

This year we administered \$98,000 in Community Enhancement Grants to organizations providing important services and activities to some of our most vulnerable community members.

Community Enhancement Grants (CEGs) are geared towards projects that seek to enhance the community of Squamish through programming that aligns with the overarching goals of the District of Squamish's Official Community Plan. In 2021 the SCF entered into a 4-year agreement with the District of Squamish to administer the CEGs.

2023 Grant Recipients

Brackendale Farmers Institute: \$2,650
 Community Christmas Care: \$4,000
 Easter Seals Summer Camp: \$3,000
 Good Wood Society: \$2,500
 Helping Hands Society: \$4,500
 Howe Sound Curling Club: \$4,000
 Howe Sound Women's Centre: \$10,000
 HSSS Grad Ceremony: \$1,908
 Pirates Swim Club: \$2,000
 Sea to Sky Hospice: \$1,500
 SECS: \$2,000
 Seniors Centre Society: \$3,000
 SGH Auxiliary Society: \$3,000
 Squamish CAN: \$3,000

Squamish Food Bank: \$11,500
 Squamish Minor Hockey: \$4,500
 Squamish Nonprofit Network: \$2,250
 Squamish River Watershed Society: \$3,000
 Squamish Search and Rescue: \$4,400
 Squamish Youth Triathlon: \$1,806
 Squamish BMX: \$1,000
 SSCS - Better at Home: \$2,000
 SSCS - Food Skills for Families: \$4,000
 SSCS - Healthy Pregnancy Outreach: \$6,000
 St'a7mes School and PAC: \$2,680
 Tantalus Wellspring Society: \$1,000
 Team Squamish Cycling: \$2,750
 Whistler Adaptive Sports: \$4,000



Left: Squamish CAN's Food Education Workshops; Centre and Right: Squamish River Watershed Society's Squamish Wild Program.



2023

Community Services Recovery Fund

Funding of \$171,000 was distributed to 13 community projects in Squamish through the Government of Canada’s Community Services Recovery Fund.

The Community Services Recovery Fund (CSRF) was a one-time investment of \$400 million across Canada to help community service organizations (charities, non-profits, Indigenous governing bodies) adapt, modernize and be better equipped to improve the efficacy, accessibility and sustainability of the community services that they provide through the pandemic recovery and beyond.

Community service organizations are at the forefront of addressing communities’ needs. Since the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have struggled with increased demand for their services, reduced revenues, declines in charitable giving due to the rising cost of living, and a greater need to make use of digital tools. Many organizations are struggling to recover and adapt their services to the changing needs of Squamish.

The CSRF was administered in partnership with the Community Foundations of Canada with support from Canadian Red Cross and United Way.



Project Recipients:

- Sea to Sky Hospice Society: Strengthening Internal Systems and Processes for Resiliency - \$15,000
- Squamish Volunteer Centre Society: Financial Resiliency - \$20,000
- Howe Sound Women's Centre: Rebranding Launch and Communication Strategy - \$20,000
- Between Shifts Theatre Society: Transition and Restructure from Volunteer Based to Co-operatively Run - \$15,000
- Squamish Search and Rescue Society: Communications/Fundraising Contact Data Base Creation - \$15,000
- Howe Sound Curling Club: Howe Sound Curling Club Organizational Recovery and Resiliency Project - \$10,500
- Squamish Rebuild Society: Major Construction Contractors Consignment Program - \$15,000
- Mamquam River Access Society: MRAS Policy and Procedures Manual Upgrade - \$10,000
- Squamish Climate Action Network Society: Strengthening Organizational Structures - \$10,500
- Squamish Seniors Centre Society: To Establish Our Internal Accounting System - \$10,000
- Squamish Arts Council: Squamish Arts Communication Plan and Arts Calendar - \$10,000
- Squamish Environmental Conservation Society: Cloud Storage Conversion and Website Refresh - \$10,000
- Squamish Hospital Foundation: SHF Social Media Engagement Initiative - \$10,000



New Funding in Squamish

Kia Communities In Motion

In partnership with Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) and the Squamish Community Foundation, Kia Communities in Motion provided \$44,250 in funding to the Skwxwu7mesh Uxwumixw Valley Garden Project by Squamish Nation.

Squamish Nation is reviving their Gardening Program by providing 50 Garden Boxes throughout the community. The boxes are delivered by the Elders to schools, youth groups and gathering spaces such as Town Halls to teach skills and bring the community together through a shared activity. Encouraging sustainable food practices and self-sufficiency are two important skills the Squamish Valley community teaches to promote food sovereignty through the Skwxwu7mesh Uxwumixw Valley Garden Project.

“With Kia Communities in Motion, we have a huge opportunity to bring our 50+ garden boxes back into action, working with skilled local gardeners to completely rework our food systems and processing. O’Siem.” says Christine Baker, Manager, Squamish Valley Operations.



Christine Baker with SCF Executive Director, Karen Clarke at the Skwxwu7mesh Uxwumixw Valley Garden Project.

Kia Canada, in partnership with Community Foundations of Canada and community foundations across Canada launched Kia Communities in Motion in 2022. This program is a grassroots initiative that will see Kia Canada invest \$1.4M over four years to support local projects that are building inclusive communities through innovative programming that encourages movement.



Taking the Pulse of the Squamish Community

Squamish Vital Signs

In July 2023, the SCF was proud to release the 2023 Squamish Vital Signs Report.

As Canada’s most extensive community-driven data program, Vital Signs leverages local knowledge to identify significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. The data measures overall vitality of our community and is used to support evidence-based, locally-relevant solutions. Vital Signs aims to inspire civic engagement, to provide focus for public debate, and to help a range of actors take action and direct resources where they will have the greatest impact.

The 2023 Squamish Report presents data on the following topics:

1. Diversity, Equity & Belonging
2. Environment & Sustainability
3. Food Security
4. Health & Wellness
5. Housing
6. Indigenous Rights & Steps Towards Reconciliation
7. Transportation
8. Work & Labour Market

As you read the report, we hope you reflect upon what makes Squamish strong and how you, as a member of the community, can contribute to its vitality and sustainability.

VIEW & DOWNLOAD THE REPORT



www.squamishfoundation.com/community

To request a printed copy, please email kclarke@squamishfoundation.com.



Squamish Vital Signs is a community initiative with many supporters and contributors. We would like to express our gratitude to the Vital Signs Steering Committee and volunteers, to the community members who provided valuable insight, and to our sponsors:





HOW TO

Create a Lasting Impact in Squamish

Donating is a great way to both give back to your community and leave a lasting legacy.

Whether you intend to donate in honour of a loved one or support a community initiative you're personally passionate about, let us help you create a personalized charitable giving plan that represents your vision and values. Donors can choose to contribute to one of our established funds, or set up an endowment fund specific to your personal or business goals. Below is a summary of the various donation options.

ENDOWMENT FUND SPOTLIGHT: MUSIC MAKING FUND

The Music Making Fund was established in 2018 by Meg Fellowes to support musical education and expression in Squamish, including activities and events with a focus on inclusivity and diversity.

“Happiness is being able to share my good fortune with current and future generations of Squamish people. I’m grateful to the Squamish Foundation for their management expertise and integrity which makes sharing easy and worry free” - Meg Fellowes.

Make a Personal Donation



One-time, monthly, or annually

OR



Bequest in my will

OR



On behalf of a loved one

With funds directed towards...



SCF's General Fund 'Smart and Caring'

OR



A Specific Cause

OR



SCF Operating Fund

and payment made via...

E-transfer, Canada Helps, Cash or Cheque

OR

Gifts of marketable securities or real-estate

Visit www.squamishfoundation.com/donate for details.

Establish an Endowment Fund

Suited to individuals/couples/families, organizations, or businesses looking to contribute \$10,000 or more.

Endowment funds are held in perpetuity with earnings contributed annually to community initiatives.



Directed to a specific field of interest, charitable organization, or general needs in the community.

OR



For my charitable organization specifically

Provide a permanent source of funding for your registered charity. Minimum donation is 20K.

Contact Karen Clarke, Executive Director
kclarke@squamishfoundation.com | 604-848-8683

We would like to thank our generous donors, big and small, without whom our community impact would not be possible.

Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors, volunteers and committee members for your ongoing guidance and expertise.


And finally, thank you to the passionate community organizations and individuals who work so hard every day to improve the quality of life for all residents in Squamish.

Contact

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 @SquamishCommunityFoundation

Registered Charity Number: 882548902RR0001

We're part of:

