



SQUAMISH  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2025



*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 \$1.9 million in endowment funds, we invest grants in people, groups, and community impact. With projects like Vital Signs & Annual Living Wage Reports, we are also working to build community knowledge, engagement, and leadership.

# A Message from our Board Chair



**2025 has been our busiest year yet! The SCF had a highly productive year as we continued to build our impact in the community.**

As 2025 draws to a close, I am proud to reflect on another year of growth and collaboration at the Squamish Community Foundation. Entering the second year of our strategic plan, our focus remains clear: **Grow Our Brand, Grow Our Impact, and Grow Our Funds**—work that is only possible through the commitment of our board, partners, and community.



This year, our board and governance committee made meaningful progress on policy development, financial oversight, and advancing work that will allow us to expand granting opportunities in the future. Our granting committees were especially busy, awarding nearly \$43,000 through our annual grants to 13 community projects and 2 scholarships, and supporting 49 neighbourhood initiatives through the Neighbourhood Small Grants program.

We also continued to show up as a community leader—participating in the Squamish Living Wage process, hosting meaningful community events, and supporting local organizations through partnerships and sponsorships. These efforts reflect our belief that strong communities are built through connection, inclusion, and shared responsibility.

I am grateful for the dedication of our staff, board members, volunteers, and donors, and I extend heartfelt thanks to those completing their board terms this year. A special thank you to our Executive Director, Karen, for her leadership and commitment to the Foundation’s mission.

I am excited about what lies ahead and confident in our collective ability to continue growing our impact for the benefit of Squamish.

*Suzie Soman*

Board Chair, Squamish Community Foundation

The Squamish Community Foundation acknowledges with respect that we work on the unceded ancestral territory of the Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw, Squamish Nation.



# 2025 Squamish Living Wage Report

The Squamish Community Foundation released our first ever Squamish Living Wage Report - a significant achievement.

The Squamish Community Foundation first partnered with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – BC Office and Living Wage BC to calculate the living wage for Squamish in 2023 then again in 2024 and 2025. The updated 2025 Squamish Living Wage Report was released in November. The SCF will continue to release the Living Wage Report annually.

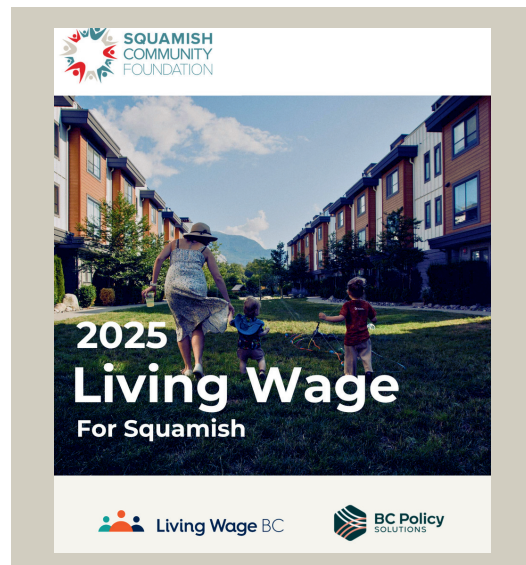
The living wage is the hourly amount that each of two working parents with two young children must earn to meet basic expenses. In this calculation, basic expenses include rent, childcare, food, and transportation after government taxes, credits, deductions, and subsidies are taken into account; the living wage does not include debt repayment or savings.

As costs continue to rise, particularly for housing and food, Squamish’s living wage has been calculated at \$28.00 per hour for 2025; a 4.63% increase from the living wage of \$26.76 for 2024.

## [VIEW & DOWNLOAD THE REPORT](#)



<https://www.squamishfoundation.com/community/#living-wage-in-squamish>



The Squamish Community Foundation worked in partnership with the CCPA-BC Office and Living Wage BC to produce the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Squamish Living Wage Reports. Thank you to the Living Wage Committee, CCPA-BC and Living Wage BC for all their efforts. We would also like to thank Carol Coffey, Director at Large, for her work on the 2025 Living Wage Report.



# Food For Thought

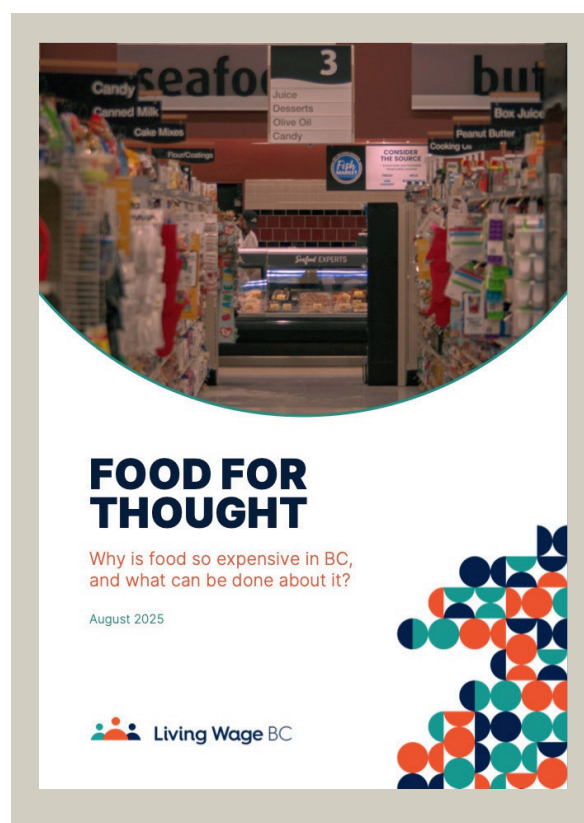
## Why is food so expensive in BC, and what can be done about it?

Living Wage BC published Food for Thought: Why is food so expensive in BC, and what can be done about it? in August 2025.

Funded by Vancouver Coastal Health, the report explores the root causes like climate change, supply chain disruptions, and corporate concentration in the grocery sector.

These forces are making the food system more fragile and less fair. Though province-wide in scope, the report reflects Squamish perspectives collected through Kitchen Table Talks with local partners, including: Squamish Helping Hands Society, Squamish Senior Living Society, Squamish Climate Action Network, Howe Sound School District #48, Squamish Welcome Centre, and Sea to Sky Community Services.

The Squamish Community Foundation helped bring local participants together for the Kitchen Table Talks, and Living Wage BC created sessions for seniors, people living with disabilities, migrant and low-wage workers, and new parents.



### READ THE FULL REPORT

<https://www.squamishfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Food-For-Thought-FINAL.pdf>



# Communities For Climate Resilience

**COMMUNITIES**  
FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Communities for Climate Resilience (CCR) is a Community Foundations of Canada led initiative designed to help community foundations step confidently into climate leadership and strengthen community resilience.

The Squamish Community Foundation is proud to be participating in the Community Climate Resilience (CCR) initiative, announced in 2025. Our participation began in October 2025 and continues through September 2026. Recognizing the growing impacts of climate change on the well-being, safety, and prosperity of our region, we are committed to strengthening our role as a trusted community partner. Through CCR, we are integrating climate considerations into our granting, investments, and leadership work, while building practical, actionable plans to support long-term resilience in Squamish.

## Gender Equality In Action



The Squamish Community Foundation is proud to be part of Community Foundations of Canada's Gender Equality in Action initiative running from March 2025 until March 2026. GEA is a national learning program designed to strengthen how community foundations advance equity and belonging. Building on the momentum of the Communities for Gender Equality program, this opportunity deepens our commitment to shifting power to women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people, and to creating a future where everyone can thrive. Through this focused learning journey, we are strengthening our internal capacity so we can better support inclusive leadership, equitable granting, and meaningful community impact.



# Annual Grants

\$42,900 in Endowment Fund distributions were shared with 13 organizations in 2025, including two scholarships totalling \$3,000 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, Music Education and Community Enhancement.

## 2025 Grant Recipients

- Arthritis Society of BC & Yukon - \$1960
- BC Cancer Foundation - \$1960
- General Hospital Auxiliary Society - \$2,500
- Indigenous Women Outdoors/Starfish Canada - \$3,000
- Nature Squamish  
**(Squamish Environmental Conservation Society)** - \$2,300
- PearSpace Support Services Society - \$6,100
- RW McIntosh Scholarship - \$2,000
- Ron Anderson Scholarship - \$1,000
- Sea to Sky Hospice Society - \$3,000
- Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council - \$2,150
- Snichim Foundation/Peernet - \$3,000
- Squamish Hospital Foundation - \$2560
- Squamish Helping Hands Society - \$5,000
- Squamish CAN/SD #48 - \$3,000
- Whistler Adaptive Sports Program Society - Squamish - \$3,500

“Funding from the Squamish Community Foundation Annual Grant helped support much needed recreational programming in Squamish. Our 2025 summer programs included hiking, two-wheeled biking, adaptive cycling, kayaking, paddle boarding and an adaptive sports Try-It Day.”  
**Whistler Adaptive Sports**



Left: Invasive Species Council; Centre: Robert W. McIntosh Memorial Scholarship Recipient; Right: Pearl Space Music: Rhythm and Resilience

2025

# Neighbourhood Small Grants



**Neighbourhood  
Small Grants**

This year, \$21,700 in grant funding was shared with 49 applicants 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 over 250 Squamish neighbourhood projects that nurture our community.

In 2025, we saw pizza parties, numerous block parties and community potluck events, BBQ's, a Friends Weekend, an Outdoor Community Library, Intergenerational cul-de-sac Community Garden, Bike Tours, Community Neighbour Halloween Parties and more.

## What Our Grantees Are Saying...

"It was great to see neighbours from the newer area and the older area connect. It was also lovely to see young ones hanging out with the teenagers. I think the event was a success for bringing everyone together after summer when the neighbourhood could feel a little quiet."

- Justine , Kids only Movie Night

"A great opportunity to meet neighbours and garage sailors and raise money for the Squamish Food Bank"

- Valley Drive Complex Wide Garage Sale and BBQ

"Older generations shared their stories with younger ones, children got to play together. We had lawn games out, treasure hunt and goodie bags. Single people and younger couples would exchange their contacts, recipes for the meals, and found out they had lots in common! Everyone agreed it's hard to meet your neighbors in everyday life as we all have our commitments and circles of friends/family. Yet there is a huge importance of building a community together and having a sense of belonging". -

-Barbora, Neighbourhood Party

## Enhance the NSG Program

To continue to enhance the NSG program funding levels for years to come the SCF Established the Neighbourhood Small Grants Fund.

Make a donation to the  
Neighbourhood  
Small Grants Fund



Left: Valley Drive Garage Sale and BBQ | Centre: Kids only Move Night | Right: Kintyre Loop - Montrose Neighbourhood Block Party



2025

# Community Enhancement Grants



In 2025 we administered \$107,185 in Community Enhancement Grants to 30 local organizations providing important services and activities to some of our most vulnerable community members.

The SCF has administered the Community Enhancement Grants (CEGs) for the District of Squamish since 2021. 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.

## 2025 Grant Recipients

- 4<sup>th</sup> Squamish Scout Group - \$2,000
- Evens Lake Forest Education Society - \$2,000
- Howe Sound Secondary School - \$2,000
- Howe Sound Secondary School Grad - \$2,085
- Howe Sound Soccer Society - \$1,000
- Indigenous Women Outdoors Society - \$2,000
- Learning Disabilities Society of GVR - \$4,500
- MakeWay Charitable Society - Átl'ka7tsem / Howe
- Sound Marine Stewardship Initiative - \$8,000
- PearlSpace Support Services Society - \$8,000
- Sea to Sky Allies - \$1,800
- Sea to Sky Community Services - \$4,000
- Sea to Sky Community Services - \$5,000
- Sea to Sky Hospice Society - \$5,000
- Snichim Foundation - \$3,000
- Squamish 55+ Community Society - \$4,000
- Squamish Adaptive Mountain Biking Association - \$3,000
- Squamish Chamber of Commerce - \$2,000
- Squamish Climate Action Network - \$4,000
- Squamish Community Christmas Care - \$2,000
- Squamish Environment Society - \$3,500
- Squamish Hospital Foundation - \$2,500
- Squamish Helping Hands Society - \$9,000
- Squamish Minor Hockey Association - \$3,000
- Squamish Youth Triathlon - \$1,700
- Squamish Volunteer Centre Society - \$3,600
- Squamish Windsports Society - \$5,000
- The Squamish Volunteer Centre - \$3,600
- Team Squamish Youth Cycling Association- \$2,000
- UNLimited WORTH Wellness Society - \$5,000
- Vancouver Sea to Sky Metis Association - \$2,000
- Whistler Adaptive Sports Program Society - \$4,500

Thank you for your support. Your partnership made this transformative workshop possible!  
Aiyana Anderson-Maclsaac, Executive Director, Indigenous Women Outdoors



Left: MSI: Herring Spawn Survey | Centre: Squamish Community Christmas Care | Right: The Volunteer Centre Society



## Community Events

# Growing SCF Impact and Funds

The Squamish Community Foundation hosted two community events this year, in alignment with our strategic priorities to Grow our Brand and Grow our Funds.

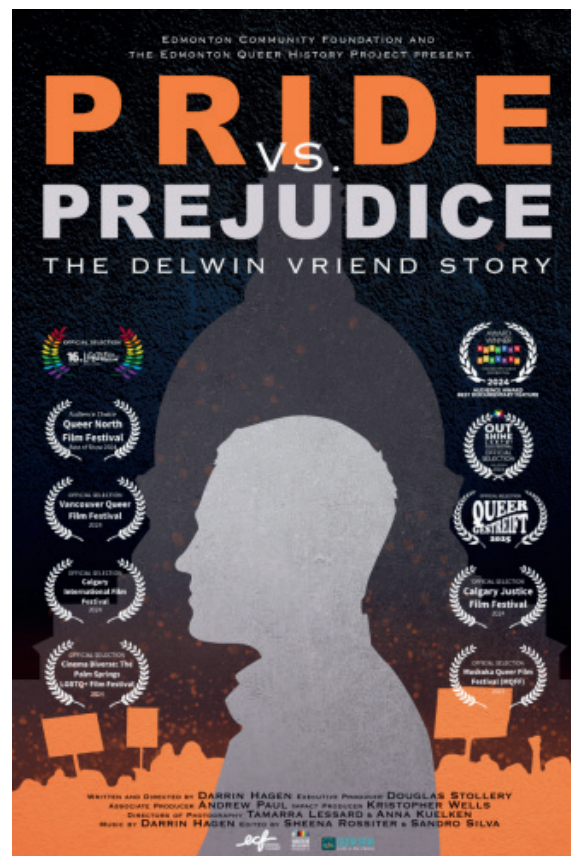
### “Pride vs. Prejudice” Film Screening

In June, we had to postpone our community screening of *Pride vs Prejudice: The Delwin Vriend Story* due to the wildfire but was able to show it in October at the Brackendale Art Gallery.

The film tells the landmark Canadian story of Delwin Vriend, whose fight for equality reached the Supreme Court. Paired with a panel discussion, the evening highlighted both national history and the resilience of our local 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

The event was co-hosted with Pride Squamish, Sea2Sky Allies, and PearlSpace. All proceeds supported Pride Squamish.

The evening had a great turnout - we sold 69 tickets - and the documentary was well received. We also had an engaging Panel discussion.



### ‘Squamish Gives 5%’ Campaign

On November 29, 2025 we held our Second Squamish Gives 5% Holiday Giving Campaign in partnership with several local businesses - Kaos Kids, Emily’s Hair Designs, Euphoria and Base Technology Ltd. These partners agreed to donate 5% or more of gross sales on November 29 to the Foundation’s Smart and Caring Community Fund.

The event was a lot of fun and connected us to local businesses. Our enthusiastic business partners helped us Grow our Brand and Grow our Funds.

Thank you! Next year, we look forward to applying our learnings and connecting with more local partners.





## How To

# Create a Lasting Impact in Squamish

When you donate to us, your money stays in your community and creates 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.

### 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

Gifts of marketable securities or real-estate

Visit [www.squamishfoundation.com/donate](http://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](mailto:kclarke@squamishfoundation.com) | 604-848-8683

## ENDOWMENT FUND SPOTLIGHT:

### Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Legacy Fund

The Howe Sound Biosphere Legacy Fund's purpose is to support the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society. Donations to this fund support specific projects, capacity building and long-term sustainability of the Society and activities to maintain the UNESCO designation. [Learn more about the Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region.](#)

[Make a donation to the Biosphere Legacy Fund](#)



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.

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## Contact

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