

Burns Lake & District Community Foundation

President's Report – 2019

The Burns Lake & District Community Foundation is a non-profit society that was formed in 2006 with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life to residents, especially the youth, of the Village of Burns Lake and Electoral Areas B&E of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako. The Foundation provides an opportunity for community members to make a charitable donation for a lasting benefit to the community.

The Foundation consists of two funds – The Burns Lake & District Community Fund and the Dick & Marilyn Nourse Legacy Fund. The principle of each of these funds is invested in perpetuity and the interest earned is made available to registered societies in the Lakes District through an annual granting process. The Foundation also sponsors two \$1000.00 scholarships to two Lakes District Secondary School students who are seeking post-secondary education.

The Foundation currently has a ten-member board of local volunteers who direct the activities of the society. In 2019, there were five regular meetings held plus the presentation session for the grant recipients in May.

Since 2008, almost \$225,000.00 has been shared with a wide variety of local community organizations. In 2018, because the Foundation no longer had a working relationship with the Village of Burns Lake, very few grants were allocated to the non-profit, non-registered societies; thus, in 2019 the Foundation granted over \$38,000.00 to successful registered applicants in the Lakes District.

In 2018, steps were taken to apply to Canada Revenue Agency to become a registered charity. Unfortunately, the application was denied on the basis that the society did not meet the legal requirements. I want to thank John Illes for the efforts that he made towards the charitable registration application; hopefully, all will not be in vain if and when a re-application is made.

There is concern that because the municipality is no longer acting as a qualified donee for the Foundation that there is not an easy route to grant funding to the non-CRA registered societies in the Lakes District. This concern is not just ours, but is being recognized in several other communities across Canada. Community Foundations of Canada is working now on a potential solution with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canada Revenue Agency. That decision will not come quickly, so I am hoping that there will be another route that can be taken. United Way was planning to assist in this 2020 year, but because the events scheduled to receive funding were

cancelled, there was no longer a need for the services of United Way.

Much of the discussion by the directors at the meetings circled around “How can we make this society more prominent in the Lakes District?” and “How can we increase the donations made to the Community Endowment Fund?” Towards the end of the year, some suggestions were made by the directors, but by then, COVID-19 was beginning to rear its ugly head and most activities were halted. Hopefully, society will soon return to a new normal and progress can be made in this area.

As with every year that I have made this report, I would like to sincerely thank all of the directors for their interest in and support of the Burns Lake & District Community Foundation Society. It is because of your time and efforts spent that annual funds can be made readily and easily available to many non-profit organizations within the Lakes District.

Sincerely,

Bernice Magee, President,
Burns Lake & District Community Foundation (Fund) Society