

BCF AGM President's Report 2025

Dearest friends and family, thank you once again for attending the Burton Charitable Foundation's Annual General Meeting. I speak to you in good spirits today, knowing that the Foundation is as healthy as it has been in many years, despite all the tumult going on in the world. I want to thank you all for participating in this yearly exercise, even if at times it can feel more like a sleep aid than a crucial meeting.

The Foundation finds itself in the enviable position of having more members than it has ever had, and we are bringing up a new generation of children in the family tradition of giving. I could not be more pleased that many of our new parents have chosen to buy memberships for their kids. I hope that it will be both fruitful to their kids' growth as people, and that they will find what we do inspiring enough to continue as members when they have reached adulthood.

So far, our investments have weathered the worst of the financial turmoil that may continue for some time, given the political situation hampering both the Canadian and the world economies. I believe our strategy to shift most of our investments to take a more balanced approach was a wise one, and since it has delivered good results, the Board is happy with our current investment strategy. At the time of this writing, we have \$842,040 in our capital fund, just slightly above where we started the year.

I would also like to introduce everyone to a new Board Director, Heather Kaczur, appointed last Fall to fill the vacancy left by Hugh Kendall. The Board believes she has done an excellent job, and we will be proposing her formally as a Director. Heather, along with her two children, and her cousin Anne Wessels are from the Blanche and Bob Wessels branch of the family – the first members to join the Foundation from that part of the family. I ask that you consider her candidacy knowing that she has already been a great help to the Foundation, and eased the pressure on other Board members, letting us explore new projects.

I also want to recognize Terri Burton, who volunteered to join the board at the last AGM. Her contributions have been a boon to the BCF, although I expect you all know that since she is now our communications director and writing out to you all regularly.

Speaking of new projects, please keep an eye out for communications about the BCF Next Level project, which is part of our continued commitment to keeping the organization relevant and responsive to your needs. The surest channel for expressing your wishes for the future of the Foundation will be feedback given to the Next Level project, and I strongly encourage you to participate in the project when they reach out to you. We are also pursuing the ability to commit to a monthly donation schedule for those of you who prefer to spread out the expense of your donations over the year. Kelly Clarke is heading up that project so you can contact her at any time.

Please feel welcome to consider and submit your nominees for giving for this year's foundation donations – we need new proposals every year, so don't be shy to submit another one, even if you've

already recommended a charity in the past. It's also never too early to consider who you want to send your personal donations to through the foundation – the more people submit donations in advance, the less pressure there is on the Foundation to complete everything in a frenzy in late December. We consider your nominations twice a year: in February and again in November.

The Burton Charitable Foundation has thrived in the past years, and I would like to thank everyone present for their continued support. Longtime, new, and returning members – you all make what we do possible, you preserve a long family tradition of giving, and I trust that the Foundation helps you to feel just a little closer to the rest of the Burton family.

It remains a great honour to serve as your President, and I thank you for putting your trust in the Board over the past year. I look forward to a stellar 2025-2026.

Christopher Longair

President, Burton Charitable Foundation