

President's Report

Thank you to everyone for coming today. I'm happy we've been able to schedule this meeting to get our AGM schedule better lined up with the Foundation's yearly activities, even if it means we have a shorter gap between last year's and this year's AGM.

I am happy to report that we have transitioned smoothly from a period of growth and rejuvenation to a period of transition to more stability. My goal as President was to make it easier for the membership to engage with giving, and to make sure we had the good governance practices going forward. We are there, and we have the membership and our Board to thank for their continued efforts.

Our giving efforts continue to make a difference to small organizations across Canada. In addition to the donations from our members, in February we donated another \$10,050 to charitable causes nominated by you. I encourage everyone to think of worthy causes we could donate to and submit them to Kelly at donations@burtoncharitable.ca. We're beginning the search for next year's candidates, and we make those decisions largely based on your suggestions.

On the topic of donations, I'm happy to report more people are making their donations throughout the year rather than in December. Remember that it's never too early to make your donations --it makes things easier for everyone.

Our Capital Fund hit a very shaky market this year but is showing strong signs of recovery this year. We are back to just over \$750,000 – and our potential losses were mitigated by the Foundation's decision to use a more stable, portfolio for our investments that is consistent with our mandate. We continue to monitor our portfolio and meet periodically with our investment managers, Fiera Capital, to keep things on track.

The Foundation continues to look for talent to volunteer for small jobs or to add to our Board of Directors, especially from younger generations. We are actively seeking candidates to take up the torch from Directors who are resigning, and we especially encourage candidates that will improve the diversity of our Board. We are continually working to achieve more gender balance on the board and encourage anyone who feels they can contribute to let me know, personally, via e-mail at president@burtoncharitable.ca.

It has been an honour serving as your President for the past year, and I wish us all success and happiness in the year to come. The Foundation's strength is its membership and shared values as a family. We continue to demonstrate that giving can make a difference in the lives of Canadians – and to pass on those values to future generations of Burton children. Thank you, all.

Christopher Longair
President, Burton Charitable Foundation