

BCF AGM President's Report 2024

Thank you to all members of the Burton Charitable Foundation for their contributions, participation, and attention over the last year. With your help, the organization has further stabilized from a few shaky years -- and we are well-positioned to continue our work for many years to come. Your dedication has made this possible.

We were able to contribute to smaller projects that had a big impact on a local level in line with the Board's expression of our values when I joined in 2019. We have received more than the normal number of letters thanking us for our contributions and we have done so while directing money to causes you, our members, believe in -- while supporting the financial health of the organization.

We are beginning to see fruit stemming from the conclusion of the Rejuvenation project, and I'm heartened to see that many members of the younger generations of the Burton clan are being introduced to giving early in their lives in continuance of this rich family tradition. I'm happy to report we have also seen a lot of willingness in membership to pitch in when we need help from outside of the board.

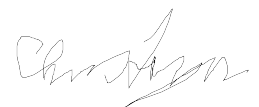
Our investments have weathered what we are told are some of the most volatile recent years without a scratch. As of the time of writing, we have emerged from extremely harsh conditions in 2022 and 2023 with assets above \$800,000 even after our expenses were paid. We spoke with Mike Ligetti of Fiera Capital recently to review our investment strategies, and given its good performance and our goals, the Board decided no changes were needed in our asset mix or investment strategy this year. Our partnership with Fiera has allowed our portfolio to exceed benchmarks and index funds consistently over the long term.

We are saddened to announce the departure of Greg Burton as Vice President of the BCF as increasing work responsibilities have left him unable to shoulder that burden as well. We wish him the very best in his endeavours, and he'll still be present in the foundation, but not in a Board position. This means that we will be electing a new Vice-President this year, as well as adding to the Board. I'd like to let you all know that we are constantly on the lookout for good candidates to bring into the fold so we can preserve the health of the foundation and practice good governance. Anyone who feels they can help contribute to the Foundation or who may be interested in a path to working on the Board are encouraged to e-mail me at president@burtoncharitable.ca.

This year I would like to remind you all, as I do every year, that you don't need to wait until the last minute to make your charitable donations through the BCF. We are happy to accept and process your donations at any time during the year, and the earlier you do this, the easier it is for us to document your contributions and include dedications when sending along those donations.

We also would love to hear from more members which charities they would like to see us support using the foundation's money. We saw excellent engagement in the first few years, and I know we can continue this trend. Even if you've proposed a charity before, feel free to send us another suggestion -- your choices are what dictates where we send the Foundation's money and the more you participate, the more likely it is that your preferred causes see some of our yearly donations.

Thank you for a wonderful 2023-2024. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your President. Let's keep up the good work.



Christopher Longair
President, Burton Charitable Foundation