

BCF AGM President's Report 2026

Dearest friends and family, thank you once again for attending the Burton Charitable Foundation's Annual General Meeting. I want to recognize the solidarity of our members and commitment to charitable giving, even in a world determined to throw wrench after metaphorical wrench into the stability of the world economy. I applaud you for your continued dedication to the democratic process that keeps our Foundation healthy – year in, year out.

It is with a heavy heart that I must announce the death of one of our Board members earlier this year. Our Vice-President, Connor Ross MacDonald. He was found in a wooded area south of Sydney, Nova Scotia by members of Cape Breton Search and Rescue on April 7th, 2026. He was 30 years old. I would like to extend my deepest personal condolences, along with those of the Board and the Burton Charitable Foundation membership to Connor's parents, Peter and Deborah, and the rest of his extended family. He was a devoted Vice-President who often brought novel ideas, spirited opposition, and detailed briefings to the other members of the Board. He will be sorely missed. I will pause here for a moment of silence in his honour.

Thank you. On a positive note, the Foundation continues to have a strong membership, and I am grateful for the parents of new kids who have decided to raise them in a giving tradition by inducting them into the Foundation at a young age. I sincerely hope these new members will grow and learn about how important even a small donation can be to the organizations we help. In the meantime, I think we can all appreciate that the junior members will spread joy throughout the family, and bring more cuteness to the organization than any of us can. Speaking of which, we have welcomed six new family members to the fold – one Santic, three Bennetts, and two Humphreys.

The global economy and the investment markets that reflect it continue to be a subject of great concern. The market has seen many ups and downs this year, and the volatility shows few signs of stopping. The Board has consulted Fiera Capital about their disappointing performance this year, and we have decided to withhold any action for another six months, since Fiera has replaced the Fund's manager recently – which may buoy our investment returns back up to a more reasonable pace. Heather Kaczur will provide the details and answer any questions you may have.

I encourage you to submit your giving nominations for this year's foundation donations – we are always looking for member proposals and the more nominations we have, the better our giving will match the ideals and priorities of every member. It's never too early to consider who you want to send your personal donations to through the foundation – deciding early on these matters will help the Board maintain a high standard and response time for donations rather than requiring a hurricane of paperwork in late December. We consider your nominations twice a year: in February and again in November.

The Burton Charitable Foundation looks forward to an even brighter future. I want to thank you for your support and donations, and I want to personally thank those who reached out to provide kind words after I shared news of my health challenges. This is the family touch we can bring to one another that few other organizations can.

It is a privilege and great honour to serve as your President, and your trust in the Board allows us to continue to confidently guide our Foundation into the future. We will move towards an ever brighter future in 2026-2027.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Longair', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Longair

President, Burton Charitable Foundation