



BOWEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2025

BICF BACKGROUND HISTORY:

The mission of the Bowen Island Community Foundation is to create the capacity for enriching the quality of life for all current Bowen Islanders and for future generations. The Foundation supports community resilience and a sense of belonging by encouraging individual and organizational engagement in our community through philanthropy. Our Annual Giving campaign slogan is "Community Grows Here" and through Bowen's generosity, its promise is fulfilled year on year.

Incorporated as a BC society in June 2001 and obtaining charitable status in December 2002, BICF membership comprises an all-volunteer Board. The Foundation is one of 206 Community Foundations in Canada, whose model is to seek donations from the local community, stewarding them through investment and granting the proceeds back to the community. This provides disbursements in perpetuity for the community's benefit. BICF draws its investment expertise from the Vancouver Foundation.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

The Foundation receives donations throughout the year from generous and thoughtful donors. The Treasurer reports that **\$224, 687** was donated during 2025, and many more donors were providing an additional contribution to assist with our operating costs. As a volunteer organization, we keep costs to a minimum but like all organizations, we have experienced an increase and so we are most grateful for these contributions. As well as donations, fund disbursements, administration fees and interest on investments are part of our total income and at the year end, BICF's assets held at the Vancouver Foundation and at First Credit Union were more than \$2,600,000, a pleasing increase on the 2024 total. As always, we are so grateful for the trust placed in the Foundation by the Bowen community donating to its work. More information and detail about our finances will be reported by the Treasurer and can be found in the 2025 Gratitude Report available on our [website](#).

Every year has a slightly different pattern of donations, often influenced by external events such as Covid, the Postal Strike in 2024 or general economic downturns. During 2025, we did some data analysis over the last six years to inform the Board in setting some goals. Communications and Board actions for the Giving Season were focused on increasing numbers of donors and retaining

Board of Directors

Chair

Kate Thomas-Peter

Vice Chair

Richard Smith

Directors

Dorothy Buckland

Margaret Butler

Fiona Douglas-Crampton

Steve Elves

Gayle Farrell

Jennifer Hatfield

Jan Seaman

Leila Swann, CPA, CA,

Treasurer/Secretary

Peter Wrinch

Administrator

Quentin Beck

2025 Grant Recipients

BI Arts Council (The Hearth)

Seniors Keeping Young

Bowen Men's Shed

Bowen Slo-Pitch League

Tourism Bowen Island

Bowen Island Conservancy

Bowfest

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge with gratitude that we live and work on the unceded territories of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh), Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Tsleil-Waututh (Selilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh), and Sechelt (Shíshálh) First Nations.



existing donors. As a result, we had the highest number of donors in the last six years (107), our second highest retention of donors from the previous year (50%) and 25 new donors. There is more to do here and it will likely be a further focus for the 2026 Giving Season too.

Our analysis also noted a change in donor wishes. BICF now has 17 different Endowment Funds available for anyone to donate to and an increased number of donors made gifts across several different Funds instead of one and over time, donations to the Community Impact Fund, prevalent in past years, have been slightly down. The Fund is the largest of the Endowment Funds and it works hard, supporting grants to Bowen organizations, scholarships and bursaries and grants for individual crisis support. Demands on it continue to grow. In 2025, we set a goal of donations to the Community Impact Fund of \$30,000 in the Giving Season and were grateful and delighted to surpass this goal with donations to the Fund of **\$62,598**. Donations overall in the Giving Season were the highest of the last six years, with almost **\$138,000** donated between October and the end of 2025. This is humbling at a time of year when there are many calls on the community's generosity.

Because of the generosity of Bowen Islanders in 2025, our 2026 Granting Season has been extremely busy. Applications each year vary but the trend has been steadily upwards. This year, 20 applications for grants were received which was the highest ever and a record 15 projects received a grant. \$102,700 (also a record) was granted to sports (all ages), sports (youth), the arts, community events, health, heritage, the environment and community spaces. Recipients will be celebrated at the 2026 Annual Meeting when the audience will hear all about the creative and thoughtful projects that improve the quality of life on Bowen for us all.

As well as the annual Community Impact Grants, the Foundation provides grants in other ways too. The Neighbourhood Small Grants Program was begun in 2020 to support small-scale, local projects that bring neighbours together to share skills and knowledge, build a sense of belonging and responsibility, respect and celebrate diversity and encourage local solutions. It receives generous funding from the Vancouver Foundation, with additional funding from Bowen Island Municipality and BICF to total \$17,500. Grants are a maximum of \$500 and, as with all volunteer projects, the money goes a long way. Many and varied neighbourhood projects have been funded, such as beach parties, easter egg hunts, removal of invasive species, beautifying a bus stop, cleaning up after storms and many more. BICF Administrator, Quentin Beck, also the NSG Program Coordinator, will speak about the program at the Annual Meeting.

The Community Foundations of Canada is our umbrella organization and in 2025, I attended its biennial conference in Halifax. Listening and learning from each other and from knowledgeable speakers was inspiring and one speaker's words about community kindness and a sense of belonging resonated with me in the Foundation's work with the Bowen community. Tareq Hadhad, the keynote speaker, and his family came to Canada in 2015 as Syrian refugees and settled in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Chocolate had been the family business and they built it again in Antigonish as the successful 'Peace by Chocolate'. Tareq spoke about the



overwhelming community kindness and support to settle he and his family received and again, when building their business. It troubled him that the 'Return on Investment' (ROI) financial measure of business success was insufficient to recognize the community support. He coined the term '*Return on Kindness*' (ROK) as a means of acknowledging the non-financial aspects of building a small business. This, he argued, was a vital measure of building 'belonging', weaving newcomers and businesses into the fabric of community life. This circular model of providing support and a 'Return on Kindness' echoes the Community Foundation model and here on Bowen, there is a high level of 'Return on Kindness'.

The short history that follows demonstrates just how the Foundation has contributed to that sense of 'belonging' on Bowen because of the generous kindness of its community.

In 2027, Bowen Island Community Foundation will celebrate **25 years of being a Charity**. Seven Chairs of the Board, 44 Directors and countless generous community donors big and small, have enabled the Foundation to provide more than **\$700,000** in Community Impact Grants during its 25 years. The list of organizations that have received these grants touches almost every aspect of life on Bowen – health, arts and culture, education, seniors, children, youth, families, sport, gathering places, playgrounds, heritage, diversity and inclusion, festivals and community events, non-market housing development. Some grants recur each year because they are supported by Endowment Funds for specific purposes. Examples of this are more than **\$100,000** given in scholarships and bursaries and more than **\$200,000** granted to other organizations such as the Med Shed, Children's Centre, Youth Mental Health, community members needing help in a crisis, Trails and Greenways, operations costs of the new performance space and the Neighbourhood Small Grants. In 25 years, more than **\$1,000,000** has been returned to the Bowen community from donations to its Endowment Funds. This does not include the Last Mile Funding flow through donation for the Community Centre and Performance space which adds almost \$1,000,000 more. This is a big return on kindness from a small community which the Foundation is privileged to have been trusted to facilitate. There will be much to celebrate in our 25th year in 2027.

This coming year, our regular program of grants, scholarships and bursaries and the Giving Season work will of course continue. Alongside will be more analysis of donation patterns, a review of some organizational structures to make things more efficient and a focus on providing information about Legacy Giving. There is information on our website about Legacy Giving and what a wonderful way it can be to continue to provide support for organizations that a loved one may have supported. The Foundation has been grateful to receive legacy gifts and at the Annual Meeting, a Board Director will speak about a gift from the estate of Maggie Cumming that has, for many years, funded work on trails and greenways on Bowen and provided bursaries for Bowen students who are interested in the environment, in accordance with Maggie's wishes. As an Endowment Fund, it will provide this support in perpetuity and is a wonderful gift to the community.



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As Chair of the Foundation, I am forever grateful for the contributions of others who take some of the load of running the organization. It truly is a team effort and my heartfelt thanks to all BICF's committed volunteer Board members who give their time to making sure the Foundation serves the Bowen community well. We also give a warm welcome to three new Board members who joined us earlier in the year, Steve Elves, Dorothy Buckland and Jennifer Hatfield. The Foundation is already benefitting from their skills, knowledge and experience.

A big thank you to the community volunteers, many of whom are past Board members, who sit on committees, help at events, share their knowledge or expertise when it is needed and by continuing to support the Foundation in all the ways that they do. It would be harder without them. The Foundation's Administrator, Quentin Beck has been in her role for not quite a year but has been a tremendous addition to the team and the smooth running of a busy volunteer organization. We could not do what we do without her and thank her deeply.

And finally, to the Bowen community. Thank you for your continued generosity and trust in the Bowen Island Community Foundation. Your steadfast support of the Foundation is what enables it to support the Bowen community with its creative and purposeful ideas and its determination to keep on improving the quality of life on Bowen Island for all. I am proud to continue to serve as the Foundation's Chair for a further year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. M. Thomas-Peter." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Thomas-Peter
Chair
Bowen Island Community Foundation

2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Knick Knack Nook	New Storage Shed	\$20,000
Bowen All Wheels Society	Phase 1 of Bowen All Wheels Trail Park	\$15,000
Tir-na-nog Theatre School Society	Stage Lighting Equipment	\$10,700
Bowen Island Pickleball Society	Resurfacing BICS Public Courts + Adding Pickleball Lines	\$10,000
Men's Shed	Paving – Safety + Access	\$10,000
Bowen Island Conservancy	Bowen Backyard Biodiversity Handbook	\$7,500
Bowfest	50 th Anniversary Mainstage	\$5,000
Bowen Children's Centre	NERPies Trauma Training	\$4,000
Bowen Island Gymnastics Club	2026 National Gymnaestrada participation	\$4,000
Come Dance With Me (Gail Lotenberg)	Community Dance Project for Community Centre 1 year celebration	\$3,700
Bowen Island Museum & Archives	Japanese Canadian Legacy Project	\$3,000
Lux Shadow Tales (Cat Main & Liz Nankin)	Puppet Show Development and Performance	\$3,000
Bowen Island Public Library	Bowen Island Library's Skw̓xwú7mesh History Book Club Presentations	\$2,700
Bowen Island Community Health Centre	CPR & AED for Everyone	\$2,600
Bowen Island Pride Society	BIPS Annual Parade and Festival	\$1,500
GRAND TOTAL		\$102,700

2025 SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD RECIPIENTS:

STUDENT	EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION	AWARD	AMOUNT
Archer Florendo	Capilano University	Aaron Sluggett Memorial Scholarship	\$1,500
Pelé James	UBC	BICF Academic Scholarship	\$2,500
Beck Morissette	UBC	BICF Academic Scholarship	\$2,500
Nubi Callewaert	Justice Institute of BC	BICF Trades and Training Award	\$1,000
Bret Graham	VCC	BICF Trades and Training Award	\$1,000
Eric Michener	BCIT	BICF Trades and Training Award	\$1,000
Arthur Szabo	UBC	Bowen Island Football Club Founders Award Scholarship	\$1,000
Ryland Bentall	University of Calgary	Bowen Island Golf Association Scholarship	\$1,500
Eric Michener	BCIT	BICF Trades and Training Award	\$1,000
Amelia Sorrentino	University of Northern BC	Brian Biddlecombe Memorial Award	\$3,000
Louw Verwey	University of Manitoba	Kipp Thompson Memorial Bursary for Performing Arts	\$1,000
Shona Campden	UBC	Logan Family Health Care Scholarship	\$2,500
Caiden James-Nasooti	IPS	Margaret Witty Bursary	\$2,000
Lucie Robichaud	University of Victoria	Maggie Cumming Legacy Bursary	\$500
Sadie Ross	McGill University	Maggie Cumming Legacy Bursary	\$500
GRAND TOTAL			\$21,500

2025 NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

COMMUNITY MEMBER	ACTIVITY	GRANT
Dr. Nicholas Lendvoy	Woods and Dru's Halloween SPARK (Spooky Props And Resources for Kids)	\$500
Tania Webb	Bowen Island Bakes - A Community Cook Book	\$500
Sue Fairburn	East Side Community Swimmers	\$460
Emiko Ando	Bowen Bee Club	\$500
Rabia Wilcox	Honour A Life	\$500
Courtney Morris	Crib and Pizza Night	\$500
Courtney McLachlan	Halloween in Deep Bay: Candy in the Cove	\$300
Lisa Brougham	Neighbourhood Mini Greenhouse	\$400
Jennah Dohms	Santa Claus Fun Run	\$500
Kathy Liddle	Bowen Contra Dance	\$500
Sheryl McKercy	Life Ring Station at Sandy Beach	\$500
Kathy Cameron	Here's Bowen Arts Tour	\$500
Shelley Koke	Eaglecliff Neighbourhood Beach Party	\$500
Natasha Currah	Neighbourhood Work Party	\$500
Lorraine Ashdown	The Past, Present and Future of MAID in Canada	\$500
Paola Qualizza	Fix-It Fair	\$500
Judith Heezen	Neighbourhood Preparedness Social	\$500
Kristina Calli	Forster Lane Block Party	\$500
Krista Hennebury	Mending Kits	\$500
Joyce Elaine Cameron	Food Forest Workshops and Celebration	\$500



Kate Lodge	Repair Skill Share Workshops	\$330
GRAND TOTAL		\$9,990

2025 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kate Thomas-Peter, Chair	Steve Elves
Richard Smith, Vice Chair	Gayle Farrell
Leila Swann, CPA, CA, Treasurer/Secretary	Jennifer Hatrield
Dorothy Buckland	Jan Seaman
Margaret Butler	Peter Wrinch
Fiona Douglas-Crampton	

BOARD RETIREMENTS:

Leag Gregg	Greg Gibson
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ADMINISTRATOR:

Quentin Beck

FEATURED ARTIST (2024-2026):

Fae Logie

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Communications Committee	Greg Gibson Brian Houle (photographer)
Finance Advisory Committee	Holly Graff Larry Lunn
Governance Committee	Joanne Gassman
Grants Committee	Henry Campbell Greg Gibson Katie Smith Milway
Helping Hand Committee	Louise McIntosh, Chair Gary Ander Markus Behm Amanda Ockeloen Oydis Dike Peterson
Neighbourhood Small Grants Committee	Murray Atherton Frazer Elliott Joyce Ganong



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	Kevin Manning Donna Scorer Jessica Slater Laura Fitzgerald Jessica Lindsay
Youth at Risk Committee	Neil Boyd, Chair Colleen O'Neil, Bowen Island Health Centre Lorinda Strang, Orchard Recovery Centre Aaron Hanen, BIM Fire Chief