

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 23, 2017

Foundation Brings on New Directors to Build Community

Board Members Focused on Community Development

(Golden, BC) – After their Annual General Meeting (AGM) last week, the Board of the Golden & District Community Foundation (GDCF) is continuing to focus on community development.

The twelve directors elected represent the largest board the GDCF has had in years. Chairperson Lynne Romano will stay on as a Director, but has passed the torch to Randy Priest. Randy has a long history of volunteer work in the community with many organizations.

The meeting included a review of last year's activities, including significant improvements to the Whitetooth Affordable Ski Program, which collaborated with Nicholson and Lady Grey elementary schools – with guidance from teacher Andrew McCarthy – to help bring all Grade 4 and 5 students skiing and snowboarding at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort. Flec Demmon, a former director of the Whitetooth Ski Society and current director on the GDCF, explained the history of local ski areas and the fund that provides support to this inclusive winter recreation program each year.

In 2016, the Community Foundation was also able to leverage Community Foundations of Canada's Canada150 grant program and brought in \$9,200 more to local community projects like the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network's (CBEEN) "Wild Voices for Kids" and the Town of Golden's "150 Legacy Link & View."

Glen Ewan, Secretary, reported on the new CBT investment tool that the GDCF placed the majority of its fund in last April. The higher rate of return will result in more funding going out to local charities, and larger bursaries and scholarships to local post-secondary students.

The presentation from Ryan Watmough, Executive Director, also outlined a major goal for 2017. Every 3 years, the GDCF leads in the publishing of an indicator report for Golden & Area A called "Vital Signs." This year's proposed report will include data from the 2016 Census, which has already shown that the community has reversed the shrinking trend of the last 2 censuses and grown since 2011. The data and community priority-setting process in Vital Signs has helped local funders allocate resources and funding to groups that are working to address these key community needs.

Vital Signs will continue to rely on local experts and volunteer researchers, who can lean on the project manager and the Vital Signs community from across Canada and around the world to help collect and analyze local data and share ideas for community development.

About the Golden & District Community Foundation

The Golden & District Community Foundation's mission is to attract and effectively grow permanent funds; provide leadership and administration that helps in addressing significant community needs; and help donors fulfill their philanthropic interests.

To learn more about your community foundation and *Golden & Area A's Vital Signs* report, please bookmark www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca.

Contact Ryan Watmough if your group would like to learn how you become a volunteer and give back.

For more information contact:

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