

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 13, 2016

GDCF Invests with CBT

Golden & District Community Foundation is one of first to sign up with CBT

(Golden, BC) Local charities will benefit from the most recent collaboration between two local funders.

Beginning April 1st, the majority of the Golden & District Community Foundation's (GDCF) endowment funds have been invested with the Columbia Basin Trust. This new arrangement materialized after years of discussions and research by The Trust and community foundations in the Columbia Basin.

Since the 2008 financial crisis, bank interest rates have been driven down and investments with high returns and low risk have been very challenging to find. Up until very recently, it was a shrewd decision for the GDCF to have 90% of their funds in preferred rate GICs through the Columbia Valley Credit Union.

In fact, in recent years that secured, high return has been impossible to maintain with traditional investment instruments. And as the GDCF needs to use a modest 1% of the fund balance each year to fund operations, this squeezed the amount of funds to be granted to local charitable organizations and projects.

"Funds for scholarships, bursaries, and our Community Grants Program have been declining, while our endowments have slowly grown," explained Ryan Watmough, Executive Director of the GDCF. "This low interest rate environment has challenged the GDCF's ability to do more good in the community with smaller grants."

The GDCF will invest just over \$1.2M (~90%) of their endowment funds with the Trust at a 5% interest rate – double the return the Community Foundation would get from a GIC and offers even better security than other market-based investments.

"While we will have more funds available for granting each year with this higher interest rate, the Community Foundation will also become more attractive to donors who are looking to ensure that their gift is invested optimally."

Community Foundations exist for the purpose to hold & grow donations; to grant funds to charities that address community needs; and to provide community leadership. The GDCF and the four other participating community foundations in the Basin, with the leadership of the Trust, have made a big step by maximizing their available granting funds.

“In time, we hope that this can strengthen the relationship between community foundations and the Trust and ultimately fulfill a collective impact on regional and community development projects.”

And locally, there is still a tight connection between the credit union and GDCF.

“The Columbia Valley Credit Union has been an exceptional supporter of the GDCF for many years and they will continue to meet our day-to-day banking needs.”

To learn more about the GDCF, please contact me at admin@goldencommunityfoundation.ca and follow us on Twitter @GoldenComFdn.

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.

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