

CommunityNews

Issue: Spring 2025



A Message from our Executive Director

Niki Gray, Executive Director

"As I return from maternity leave, I am truly grateful for the dedication and hard work of our team, volunteers, donors, and community partners over the past year. Your generosity and commitment have driven incredible growth, new initiatives, and lasting impact. A special thank you to the interim Executive Director, Chris Christie. Her leadership and guidance has been invaluable in continuing our mission.

Together, we've strengthened our grantmaking, deepened community connections, and laid the groundwork for a future where philanthropy continues to make a meaningful difference. Looking ahead, we remain focused on expanding our impact, fostering innovation, and ensuring lasting support for the causes that matter most.

I'm excited for the road ahead and look forward to reconnecting with you all. Thank you for being part of this journey."

"A thriving community starts with people who care enough to give back. If you're looking to contribute your skills, expand your network, and be part of something meaningful, this is the place to do it."

- Tyler Pocsik, Finance Committee Chair, Board Member

Important Dates

March 3 - WestMET & Lanfine Wind Community Grants Open

March 17 at Noon - Community Grants Deadline

March 28 - WestMET & Lanfine Wind Community Grants Deadline

May 27 at 11:30 - Founder's Day Picnic

New Funds

Established in November - February

- Brooks and District Museum and Historical Society Fund
- Brooks Champion Centre Fund
- Mike and Myrna Stark Family Scholarship Fund
- Prairie Rose School Division Education Fund
- Bert and Evelyn Kleis Family Fund
- WestMET Community Fund

Board Recruitment

We are seeking **volunteer Board Members** who can commit to approximately five hours a month and serve a minimum three year term. Applicants are requested to email a letter of interest outlining their passion for community involvement and business knowledge that will contribute to the mission and leadership of CFSEA to: **Kyle Pudwell at board@cfsea.ca by Friday, April 15.**

Fund Highlight & Donor Highlight

Special Areas Board Donation

The Prairie Crocus Community Fund just got a big boost—\$100,000, to be exact—thanks to a generous donation from the Special Areas Board. The gift will strengthen the fund’s mission to support communities across Special Areas 2, 3, 4, and the MD of Acadia, ensuring local projects and programs thrive for years to come.

For former Chair of the Special Areas Board, Jordon Christianson, the donation is about more than dollars. “This contribution is one of the ways we help address some of the urgent needs our communities have while making sure these funds are here for the long term,” he said.

The Prairie Crocus Community Fund operates on a unique model: the principal is never spent. Instead, it’s invested wisely, with annual returns funding local charities and nonprofits through CFSEA’s Community Grants. Since its launch in 2019, the fund has delivered 48 grants totaling over \$314,000—last year alone, 12 groups received \$74,220.

With this latest donation, the Prairie Crocus Community Fund is poised to continue its work, building vibrant, healthy, and caring communities—forever.



Cindy Goodine, Chair of the Prairie Crocus Community Fund Advisory Committee, expressed heartfelt thanks to the Special Areas Board. “Your support enables us to make a lasting impact and assist more organizations in our community,” she said.

Brooks Champion Centre Fund



“Endowments are a gift that keeps on giving. By creating this fund, we’re providing an avenue for our community to support the mission and vision of the Champion’s Centre in a lasting way—offering people the opportunity to give in ways they may not have considered before.” - Arnie Weber, Board Chair of the Champion’s Centre

Donate to the Brooks Champion Centre Fund:

<https://cfsea.ca/donate/>

The Brooks Champion’s Centre has taken a significant step toward financial sustainability by establishing an agency endowment fund. The new fund provides an opportunity for individuals who believe in the Centre’s mission and vision to contribute through bequests and donations, ensuring long-term support. By promoting the fund, the Centre hopes to encourage contributions from those who might not have previously considered this type of giving.

Remarkably, in the midst of setting up the endowment fund, the Centre received an unexpected bequest from a donor who had previously supported the organization in its first year. This timely contribution affirms the importance and potential of the fund in securing ongoing financial support.

Currently at near full capacity for the past three years, the Centre remains a crucial support system for men who have struggled to fund safe, permeant housing. This fund will help maintain the Centre’s ability to support men in need of stable housing and essential services.

For those who wish to support the Brooks Champion’s Centre, contributions can be made to the newly established endowment fund at CFSEA, as well as through regular donations by mail or e-transfer. The Centre appreciates the generosity of the community, recognizing that support makes a tangible difference in the lives of its residents.

Grants

Community Grants

Community Grants address the greatest needs across the Southeastern Alberta region. They provide essential funding to local charities and non-profit organizations, helping enhance our communities' quality of life.

NEW as of Fall 2024: If you are a registered, non-profit society in Alberta, currently in good standing and have existed for at least five (5) years, you can request up to \$5,000 without completing the Declaration of Affiliation. If you are requesting more than \$5,000, you will still need to complete the affiliate process.

- Up to \$25,000 in funding per grant
- Funding available for programs and projects that support a vibrant, healthy, and caring community
- Equipment or construction based projects up to \$10,000 of funding available

APPLY NOW



Deadline: March 17th at Noon

Lanfine Wind Community Grants

Established by Pattern Energy Group LP, a leader in renewable energy and transmission infrastructure. Charities and Non-Profit groups are invited to apply for one grant each cycle. Organizations MUST be located within the boundaries of **Special Area 3, the Town of Oyen, or the MD of Acadia.**

Opens March 3 | Deadline March 28

Lanfine Wind Community Fund Grant

Supporting Special Areas 3, Oyen, MD of Acadia

Pattern | Lanfine Wind Community Fund | COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Southeastern Alberta

WestMET Community Grants

NEW!

WestMET Community Fund GRANT

Supporting:
SPECIAL AREAS 2, HANNA, & YOUNGSTOWN

Opens: March 3
Deadline: March 28



WestMET Group Canada Ltd. established the WestMET Community Fund, with an initial \$42,880 donation to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta (CFSEA). This new grant stream will support local initiatives and community-based organizations for the people of **Special Area 2, Town of Hanna, and Village of Youngstown.**

cfsea.ca/westmet-communitygrant/
to learn more



Questions about grants? Connect with Sydney at grants@cfsea.ca

Updates and Information

WE ARE HIRING!

GRANTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Temporary Parental Leave Coverage

12-18 Month Leave Coverage
30-37.5 Hours a Week

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of Southeastern Alberta

At CFSEA, we're not just a foundation—we're a vibrant and dynamic organization committed to making a real difference in our communities.

Working with us means you'll be part of a professional team that is passionate about enhancing the health and vitality of the Southeastern Alberta region.

If you're ready to bring your creativity, skills, and passion for philanthropy to an organization that'll support your growth while making a positive impact, we want to hear from you!

Apply today and let's make a difference together!
<https://cfsea.ca/cfsea-staff/>

BOARD LEADERSHIP
SOUTHEAST ALBERTA

Board Development Seminar

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
8:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Medicine Hat College,
299 College Drive SE

TRAINING
LEARNING
NETWORKING

SAVE THE DATE

Building Stronger Boards in Southeastern Alberta!

Board Leadership Southeastern Alberta is a collaborative initiative led by the local Development Officer with the Government of Alberta, supported by a diverse network of community partners. This program is dedicated to strengthening the volunteer sector by enhancing board governance skills and capacity.

We are proud to support Board Leadership Southeastern Alberta initiatives that empower volunteers to connect, share experiences, and gain valuable insights into effective governance and leadership.

Vital Conversations: Insights from Our Community Engagement

Since the release of the 2023 Vital Signs report, we have been engaging with communities throughout Southeast Alberta to better understand the unique needs of our rural regions. Through our Vital Conversations initiative, we have had insightful discussions and identified key issues across the following areas:

Is there an issue you feel needs to be discussed further? Are you interested in hosting a Vital Conversation in your community? Reach out to Lauren at vitalsigns@cfsea.ca to learn more.

- Limited Access to Healthcare Services
- Barriers to Accessible, Timely, and Effective Mental Health Support
- Lack of Employment Opportunities
- Shortage of Affordable and Suitable Housing
- Rising Cost of Living
- Inadequate Provincial Funding for Social Services
- Increasingly Complex Social Needs Straining Service Capacity
- Challenges in Newcomer Engagement and Integration
- Limited Transit Options and Accessibility
- Difficulty Navigating Information and Services
- Need for Better Communication and Coordination Between Service Providers
- Food Insecurity